

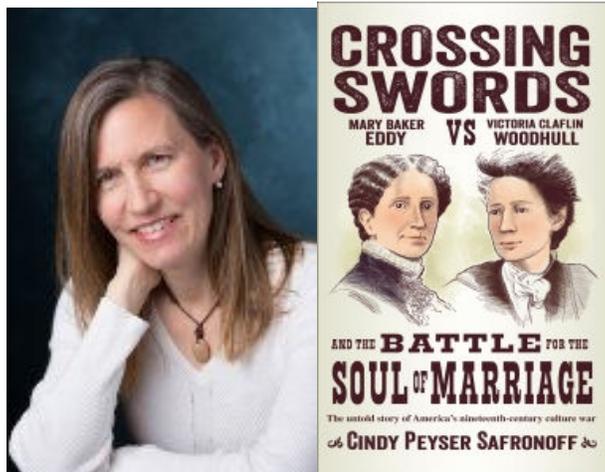
PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE

Author Cindy Safronoff Provides Historical Perspective & Insights Into Women, Power, Marriage & Sex

***The Debate Between
America's First Female Presidential Candidate
& America's First Powerful Female Religious Leader***



“Crossing Swords” Reveals Little Known Details of America’s Suffrage Movement, and Becomes a Harvard Book Store Bestseller

(Seattle, WA – August 23, 2016) Several themes that currently dominate national news coverage – women’s political influence and their access to power, and the impact of the fight for equality on marriage -- also fascinate Seattle based author Cindy Peyser Safronoff. Safronoff’s focus, however, is not on the way these themes are being spotlighted in the 2016 political race, but instead on the way two leaders who influenced America’s suffrage movement held surprisingly opposite views on these important issues. As she began to study the developments that paved the way for the passage of the 19th Amendment, granting women the right

to vote, Safronoff noticed that much had been written about Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, but the views of two equally prominent figures in this movement had not been fully investigated. The remarkable achievements and contributions to women's progress by Mary Baker Eddy, who founded a world-wide religious organization, and Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to represent a political party in the race for the U.S. presidency, have not been as well known. The views of Eddy and Woodhull on marriage and sexuality have never before been juxtaposed. Until now much of the content revealed in *Crossing Swords* remained primarily in footnotes in scholarly works.

Crossing Swords: Mary Baker Eddy vs. Victoria Claflin Woodhull and the Battle for the Soul of Marriage (This One Thing, July 2015) breaks new ground by exploring the views of these two influential women on the topics of marriage and sex, and showing how they compared to other 19th century reformers. Mary Baker Eddy, viewed marriage as an opportunity for partnership between the sexes. Victoria Woodhull, on the other hand, saw marriage as an impediment to women claiming their full power in society. In *Crossing Swords*, Safronoff offers a full examination of their views on marriage and sexuality through their writings and public statements, drawing on news reports, the journals of these important civil rights pioneers, and other documents.



As evidenced by the large turnout when Cindy Safronoff spoke at Harvard Book Store in early August, the ripple effects of the suffrage movement still resonate today, and the issues debated by Mary Baker Eddy and Victoria Woodhull still have not been fully resolved. In addition, perhaps because the 2016 presidential race seems unlike any prior contest for the nation's highest office, it should come as no surprise that many network newscasts are turning to authors and historians to provide the historical context that will help make sense of it

all. Indeed, many Americans seem unaware of the fact that the nation's first female nominee for U.S.

President by a political party was Victoria Woodhull, nearly 150 years prior to Hillary Clinton's success at the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

The outcome of the 2016 Presidential race holds the potential to reshape American history – and, if Hillary Clinton is victorious in November, this will be a milestone year in the fight for full gender equality. Similarly, a tipping point of acceptance of women at the highest levels of leadership throughout the religious sphere seems imminent, with calls for women to fill increasingly significant roles within religious organizations. In *Crossing Swords*, Cindy Safronoff explains the important role that both Victoria Woodhull and Mary Baker Eddy played in laying the foundation for the historic milestones we are witnessing today. Through her book, readers will discover that a much richer debate was actually taking place in the late 19th century regarding ideas of love and marriage than has ever before been acknowledged, an understanding that will result in a deeper level of appreciation for what these issues mean in our society today.

Praise & Awards for *Crossing Swords*

“*Crossing Swords* tells the intertwined tales of Victoria Woodhull and Mary Baker Eddy—two fearless American iconoclasts whose work on sex, love, and women's rights changed the course of American culture. Cindy Peyser Safronoff does a great job of bringing these fascinating women back to life in all of their brilliance and eccentricity for a new generation of readers.”

—Debby Applegate, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher*

“A remarkably even-handed exploration of the little-known debates – and occasional ironic convergences – between two charismatic 19th century women whose support for women's rights was attached to very different views about marriage and sexuality.”

-- Stephanie Coontz, author of *Marriage, a History: How Love Conquered Marriage*

“*Crossing Swords* is a fascinating look at two Victorian woman leaders in the female cultural war of their day. Mary Baker Eddy, the famed founder of Christian Science, battled Free Love while flamboyant Victoria Woodhull championed it. Safronoff deserves our praise for a well-crafted biography about two riveting opposites, who both fought fiercely for their avante garde rights, no matter how far apart, and never gave up.”

-- Myra MacPherson, author of *The Scarlet Sisters: Sex, Suffrage, and Scandal in the Gilded Age*

“*Crossing Swords* is a fascinating analysis of a very modern-day theme: marriage vs. “free love” and the role of women in society. Ms. Safronoff has unearthed a gem of a story that still resonates today!”

-- Suzanne Venker, author of *The Two-Income Trap: Why Parents are Choosing to Stay Home*

Crossing Swords is the winner of nine book awards, including:

- Women's Issues from Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPY)

- Next Generation Indie Book Awards – 2016 Winner in Religious Nonfiction and Finalist in Women’s Issues
- New England Book Festival – 2015 Winner in Regional Literature, 2015 Runner-Up in Spiritual category, and 2015 Honorable Mention in Biography
- National Indie Excellence – 2016 Finalist in History: United States
- Readers’ Favorite – 2015 Honorable Mention in Nonfiction Drama category
- USA Best Book Awards – 2015 Award-Winning Finalist in History: United States category
- Illumination Book Award – 2016 Enduring Light Bronze Metal in Christian Thought category

About Cindy Peyser Safronoff

Whether undertaking a climb of Mount Rainier with an all-woman team or researching little known aspects of the early years of America’s suffrage movement, Cindy Peyser Safronoff has devoted much of her life to exploring the nuances of women’s empowerment. She graduated from the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, and completed the Genealogy and Family History certificate program at the University of Washington. Safronoff has applied all that she has learned through her studies to uncovering a deeper understanding of two iconic figures in the women’s rights movement. Safronoff currently divides her time between the liberal, high-tech city of Seattle and the conservative suburbs of St. Louis – a division that she has found helped her understand differing viewpoints within American culture, such as the clashing views of Victoria Woodhull and Mary Baker Eddy. ***Crossing Swords*** was recently featured in [The Boston Globe](#).

For more information, visit <http://www.crossing-swords.com/>

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