

Gathering Guide for the Host

WHEN SHOULD I HOST?

Women's History Month in March, Galentine's Day, or the month your state ratified the 19th Amendment all present perfect hosting opportunities. The week before November elections and the month of August when the final needed state ratified the 19th Amendment offer other wonderful gathering dates.

IS GATHERING AT A TIME OTHER THAN DINNER OKAY? The short answer is absolutely!

For Brunch:

Have friends and family over for scones and other brunch favorites, including mimosa toasts to your favorite suffragists.

For Luncheon or Tea:

Let *Our Seats at the Table* serve as a program for a ladies' luncheon. Tea is the time to break out your grandma's antique teacups and to perhaps find bespoke tiered trays to display finger sandwiches and mini tarts. What could be more fun!

THE TABLE

Here are some flourishes that can make your gathering extra special.

THE LINENS

White tablecloths with yellow or purple napkins are perfect—as the suffragists wore yellow, purple, and white sashes at parades nationwide.

FLOWERS FOR THE TABLE

Suffragists opted for yellow roses or other yellow flowers to distinguish themselves from the anti-suffragists who wore red roses.

PLATING

Guests should have their meal plated before the readings start so that most everyone remains seated for the celebration. Plan to have water and wine glasses filled (or mimosa glasses if you opt for a Sunday brunch). Also, each place setting should have a small glass of cider or juice for an alcohol-free toast to teetotaler Alice Paul.

THE NITTY-GRITTY

The prep is almost done. It's time to get this party started!

Please pre-read *Our Seats at the Table* to decide which pages you would like your guests to read. Each section includes an assortment of read-aloud material, historical trivia, and conversation starters. Choose a smattering of toasts, songs, and poetry for your selections—perhaps one or two of each.

If it's not possible to provide a copy of *Our Seats at the Table* at every place setting, guests can share books (or bring their own).

After everyone takes their seats, welcome them to your table, conveying the hope that everyone will participate in the readings, and that you'll let them know when it's their turn. It may also be a good idea for guests to do simple introductions if there are new faces in the group.

The most straight-forward way to direct the readings is to let the first reader know the page where they should begin reading, before guiding the person to their right to the next passage, and so on.