



PRESS RELEASE

Gomez Mill House c. 1714
Oldest Home on the Historic register in Orange County
11 Mill House Road, Marlboro NY 12542
845-236-3126 [www. Gomez.org](http://www.Gomez.org)

POLITICS AND PETTICOATS: EXPLORING THE LIVES OF THE EARLY FEMININE RADICALS

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(June 15, 2011) Do we really understand why so many Jewish women became outspoken, left wing radicals during the early twentieth century? In particular, what do we know about difficulties facing Martha Gruening, an owner of the Gomez Mill House from 1918 to 1926, who tried to operate this Marlboro, N.Y. property (now a house museum) as a school for all races and creeds? What about the forces that propelled her contemporary, Emma Goldman, known as “Red Emma,” to become one of the era’s most feared radicals?

A fuller exploration of these topics will be offered at the Gomez Mill House on Sunday, July 17, at 1 p.m, as part of a regular series called “**Sundays at the Mill House.**” The lecture, titled “*Politics and Pettitcoats,*” will be given by Andrée Aelion Brooks, a journalist and author who has been studying these women.

Ms. Brooks was formerly a contributing columnist and new writer for the New York Times. She now specializes in writing and teaching about the uncommon stories of Jewish history. Her work has won many awards. Every summer she gives a lecture at the Mill House and over the years, these have become popular annual events. More information on Brooks can be found at: www.andreeaelionbrooks.com.

The experiences of these two women -- pioneers in their time – echo the theme of the Gomez Mill House Historic Site, which is named after an international merchant of Jewish origin, Luis Moses Gomez. Born in Spain, Gomez first participated in the lucrative Caribbean trade. He then moved to New York City in the early days of the colonies, and later became one of the first Jews to buy land in Northern Orange and Southern Ulster Counties, where he established a trading post up the Hudson River.

“Sunday at the Mill House” is an ongoing program of lectures and presentations on subjects related to the history of the Gomez Mill House. It will be held under the great tent on the lawn in front of the house. Light refreshments will be served. There is no charge to attend. For more information call 845-236-3126. Or send an email to gomezmillhouse@juno.org. The website is: www.gomez.org