



NEILL-COCHRAN HOUSE MUSEUM

A Century of Austin History: 1855-1958

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 22, 2015

CONTACT: A.P. Perry

TIME: 2:00PM-4:00PM

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Neill-Cochran House Museum's Modern Times Series presents

Oveta Culp Hobby and the Women's Army Corps: A Lecture by Debra Winegarten

"Your Job: To Replace Men. Be Ready To Take Over." So said the WAC Field Manual in 1943. Also in that year, a woman, the director of the newly re-branded WAC, was promoted to the rank of Colonel in the United States Army. Neill-Cochran House Museum presents an afternoon of conversation about the life and military career of prominent Texan Oveta Culp Hobby with local writer and sociologist Debra Winegarten.

Oveta Culp Hobby (1905-1995) had a lifetime of stellar achievement. During World War II, she built a women's army from scratch, leading it through notable resistance from male soldiers and from American society at large. Becoming Director of the WAC, Hobby was the first Army woman to attain the rank of colonel. President Eisenhower would later choose her as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, making her the second woman in history to be appointed to a president's cabinet. Outside of the government, Hobby worked with her husband, former Texas governor William P. Hobby, to lead a media empire that included the Houston Post newspaper and radio and TV stations. Later in her life, she also supported the Houston community in many ways, from advocating for civil rights for African Americans to donating generously to the Houston Symphony and the Museum of Fine Arts.

Ms. Winegarten's most recent book, *Oveta Culp Hobby* (UT press), written for young adults, is the first biography of this important woman and the winner of the 2015 Best Biography award from the Texas Association of Authors.

Ms. Winegarten at the historic Neill-Cochran House Museum at 2:00 pm on Sunday, November 22nd, 2015. Complimentary refreshments provided. Presentation begins at 2:30 pm.

Admission is \$10 to the general public, \$5 to students with valid ID, and free to members of the Friends of the Neill-Cochran House Museum. Space is limited; while tickets are available at the door, we encourage patrons to register online at <http://www.nchmuseum.org/november-22-oveta-culp-hobby-and-the-womens-army-corps/>

Parking is available free to patrons in the museum lot located off of 23rd street between San Gabriel and Leon.

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