

Local History

# Ruth Carpenter van Litt (1867-1937)



## East Patchogue Suffragist Leader & Pioneer Woman Politician Political Dynamo & Power-Broker



- In 1918 she **led the 1<sup>st</sup> registration of women for the Republican primaries.**
- In 1920, the very year women got the vote, Ruth Litt was the **1<sup>st</sup> woman to sit on the NYS Republican Executive Committee.**
- In 1924, she **wrangled with State & County Republican officials, was denied delegate status to the National Republican Convention,** though she won in Suffolk. Her chief opponent was properly vilified and was never again elected to office.
- She became **Vice-Chair, Suffolk County Republican Committee.**
- In 1929, she was 1 of 16 world delegates founding the **Berlin Open Door International** (to promote world equal rights for women in industry).
- **A founder of Patchogue's Christian Science Church.** (Ocean & Roe Aves.)

Sources: *Patchogue Advance*, May 24, 1918: 3; April 2, 1937: 1,2..  
Courtesy Long Island Advance

For more about women's suffrage on Long Island, in New York City, in New York State and on the national stage, visit the Celia M. Hastings Local History Room website (<https://history.pmlib.org>) or stop by the Celia M. Hastings Local History Room.

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD  
**LIBRARY**

54-60 East Main Street • Patchogue, NY 11772 • 631-654-4700 • [www.pmlib.org](http://www.pmlib.org)