Letter: Marguerite A. Salomon to Ida M. Tarbell, December 14, 1926

Salomon, Marguerite A.

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Miss Ida N. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

The Fourth Get-Together Dinner of its women members will take place on Tuesday evening, April 26th, in the dining room of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, 32 Court Street, Brooklyn.

Our women's dinners have become events of outstanding importance in this community and at each of these we have had speakers of prominence.

I am writing now to ask if you will be our guest and a speaker at the forthcoming dinner.

In order to acquaint you with the women membership of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, I beg to give you herewith some data concerning them.

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, unlike most chambers of commerce, has opened up the membership to women on the very same basis as the men. They come to us as members of the Chamber, not as an auxiliary. So broadminded in this respect is our President and Board of Directors that we have three women on the Board of Directors. One of them is Miss Mary E. Dillon, President of the Brooklyn Borough Gas Company, one of the outstanding women in the business world, and the only woman to have attained a position of such high distinction in the gas industry. The Brooklyn Borough Gas Company is the company which supplies all the gas for Coney Island and environs. Another one of our women directors is Mrs. Mabel C. McCurrach, who owns and manages a large factory which makes neckwear for men. The third member of the Board is Miss Louise G. Zabriskie who is known in Brooklyn for her philanthropic work. Miss Zabriskie is also very active in the naturalization work of the Colonial Dames in Brooklyn.

Our women members are about 350 in number, and represent every phase of the business, professional and social world.
There are several outstanding women amongst our members, the foremost being Dr. Elisa M. Mosher, the oldest practicing woman physician in the United States (she celebrated her fiftieth anniversary as a practicing physician in 1925). We have a group of prominent women lawyers, among whom is Reba Talbot Swain, who is an attorney general of the state. We have outstanding banking women; the only woman varnish manufacturer in this country; a woman who manufactures asbestos roofing; an undertaker; a pharmacist, etc., etc.

These women are naturally alert and interested in everything which pertains to the advancement of women.

Because our Chamber of Commerce invites women into membership on the same basis as the men, they do not like to segregate women; but we think occasionally it is a good plan for the women to get together, so last year we decided upon a dinner. The dinner was such a success — our dining room was packed to capacity — that we held the Second Get-Together Dinner in the Spring. This dinner, as was the Third, was also a success, and our women have asked for another. That is the reason for the Fourth Get-Together Dinner.

At each of our dinners we have two or three speakers. The guests at our Third dinner were Mrs. Douglas Robinson and Laura Spencer Porter. We have found that our speakers have gone away enthusiastic about this group whom we assemble.

I hope that we may have a favorable reply from you in the very near future.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Marguerite A. Salomon,
Manager, Members' Activities Department.

MAS:LDA