PRESS RELEASE The Film Society of Summit

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**Panelists to Explore Social Protest and Change, 100 Years Ago and Today**

**August 18, 2020** – On Tuesday, August 25 at 7 pm, the Film Society of Summit and the Summit College Club/AAUW will co-host a virtual discussion of the 2004 movie ***Iron Jawed Angels,*** comparing the social protest strategies of American suffragettes with those of today’s protests for racial equality. The program, ***Then and Now: 100 Years of Social Protest and Change,*** is being offered in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

Panelists include Wendy Donat, Summit High School AP History teacher; Lauretta Farrell, D. Litt., Executive Director of the Kean University Human Rights Institute; and Chelsea Leon, a student leader, founder of a local chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, and active volunteer and change advocate at Kean. The discussion will be moderated by Lisa Reznik of the Film Society of Summit and Karen Kaplan of Summit College Club.

“With protests happening across the country right now, there’s incredible relevance in the story of these brave women, a century ago,” said Ms. Kaplan. “Our discussion will not only focus on history, but what the suffragists offer for the current moment.” The Summit College Club, a branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) promotes equity for women and girls through education, research, and advocacy.

Ms. Reznik, founder of The Summit Film Society, noted that film has always been a powerful tool for teaching history and influencing public thought. “Most FSS discussions focus on new independent films. For this program, we’ve selected a more commercial film that’s appropriate to compare the issues we’re facing today and how we can learn from the past.”

***Iron Jawed Angels*** stars Hilary Swank as suffragist leader Alice Paul, Frances O’Connor as activist Lucy Burns, Julia Ormond as Inez Milholland, and Anjelica

Huston as Carrie Chapman Catt. The film can be viewed on HBO (available through Amazon Prime), Netflix, or on DVD through a local library.

The panel discussion is free to join on Zoom: **Link to join the Zoom Webinar:**

Please direct any questions to The Film Society of Summit, summitfilm@gmail.com or (973)885-1985.