

ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES WOMEN 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Gayle Converse Media Relations, gcprod@bellsouth.net 404.989.0534

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.” - 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution



WELCOME to the February 2020 newsletter of

Alexandria Celebrates Women -- 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote.

We've launched Alexandria's efforts to commemorate this year's Centennial of Women's Suffrage and create a fitting homage to our City's unsung suffragist sisters. We welcome your ideas, support and enthusiasm!

We would like to know what you and your organizations need in order to commemorate next year's important anniversary! If you have a friend that you would like to receive this newsletter, let us know and we can add to our email list. Please bring your ideas and questions to the next meeting or send them to gcprod@bellsouth.net

THE BASICS

The **19th Amendment to the United States Constitution** (Amendment XIX – often referred to as the “Susan B. Anthony Amendment”) granted American women the right to vote, a right known as women’s suffrage. The Amendment prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. When the Amendment was ratified August 18, 1920, it ended **almost a century of protest**. <https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/19th-amendment-1>

IMPORTANT – SURVEY!

We ask that you please take a minute to click on the following link and complete the brief survey at the link below. Thank you! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T5GRH2G>

CALENDAR

Check our google docs calendar for women’s events and observances!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nyQyZhuvhwCG0IOuTIBN1LI_wGPPjThzWJGvueRIDE/edit?ts=5d9376c9#gid=0

ITEMS OF INTEREST

ERA EXPLAINED

On **Saturday, March 14**, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Alexandria’s Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, join Julia Tanner, ERA chair for the Arlington League of Women Voters and founder of Virginia Equal Rights Coalition, who will explain the work that has been done to bring about ERA ratification, noting key leaders, messaging, imagery, and actions. Registration preferred.

<https://alexlibraryva.org/event/3986155>

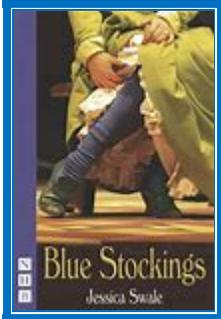
ESPIONAGE IN THE CIVIL WAR -- The Contributions of Women in the Profession

Free program Saturday, March 21, 2:00pm - 3:30pm Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, *Second Floor*

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The City of Alexandria is celebrating Black History Month throughout February with special events and activities. For additional information, visit alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory

BLUE STOCKINGS FUNDRAISER MAY 5, 2020!



Mark Your Calendars! Spring 2020 fundraiser for our historic marker! Alexandria

Celebrates Women will host a special evening at the Little Theatre of Alexandria <http://thelittletheatre.com/tickets/> **Tuesday May 5, 2020**. The evening will be highlighted by a performance of “**Blue Stockings.**” The play follows the story of four young women fighting for education and self-determination against the larger backdrop of women’s suffrage written by director and writer, Jessica Swale. <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/plays/blue-stockings-iid-153717>

*Funds will be used to purchase and install an historic marker on the site of the federal court that once stood in Alexandria – a hearing where imprisoned suffragists from the **Occoquan Workhouse** were brought (Please see Workhouse history below).*

EMPOWERING GIRLS

This **Saturday, February 8** from 10:30 a.m.-Noon at the James M. Duncan Branch Library 2501 Commonwealth Avenue join Alexandria Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker and the Spitfire Club -- an extracurricular book club for girls that seeks to create a world in which every girl feels empowered to be the strong and capable protagonist of her own story. The book, "Sofia Valdez, Future Prez" by Andrea Beaty will be featured. Following the story, care packages and cards for local organizations fighting homelessness will be created. register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/volunteer-with-the-vice-mayor-spitfire-club-tickets-87750324583?aff=efbeventtix&fbclid=IwAR2QX60ZHN-dWyedawozr0ux4hc8O8v4_AA6ljyXo1MUTCZ6RTXjx_9boGM



ABSENTEE VOTING for Virginia's March 3 Democratic Party Presidential Primary Election began in Alexandria Thursday, January 16. **The deadline for casting an absentee ballot in person is 5 p.m. Saturday, February 29, 2020.** In-person absentee voting takes place at the Office of Voter Registration and Elections (132 N. Royal St., Suite 100)

Regular Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed January 20 and February 17)
Saturdays, February 22 and 29, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Extended Evening Hours:

Monday, February 24, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Tuesday, February 25, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Wednesday, February 26, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Thursday, February 27, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

For complete information on this election, including mail deadlines, voter registration requirements, sample ballots, precinct maps and photo ID requirements, visit alexandriava.gov/Elections or call 703.746.4050.

NEW LUCY BURNS MUSEUM

Renovation of the former office/cell block building in Building 2 at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton has been completed. The Lucy Burns Museum opened to the public January 25, 2020, with a **grand opening celebration scheduled for May 9, 2020**. New Museum hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wed-Sat; Noon-5 p.m. Sun. To schedule a tour, please call 703-584-2972 and leave a message. <http://workhousemuseums.org/building-2-and-2a-2/>



Lucy Burns, 1913

National Woman's Party records, Library of Congress

Many women were jailed for participating in National Women's Party (NWP) demonstrations. Although Lucy Burns was arrested numerous times, one imprisonment included the Occoquan Workhouse, where on November 14-15, 1917, the infamous "Night of Terror" occurred. As other suffragists were tormented, prison guards handcuffed Lucy's arms above her head, forcing her to remain in that position throughout the night. Lucy led the prisoners on hunger strikes to protest their treatment. In response, these women were brutally force-fed.

<https://www.nps.gov/people/lucyburns.htm><http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2020/jan/22/new-lucy-burns-museum-highlights-suffragists-and-a/>

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND CULTURE "Celebrating Virginia Women" New Exhibit Opening March 8

Organized in conjunction with the Virginia Women's Suffrage Centennial, the VMHC is opening a new exhibition, ***Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today***. This exhibit celebrates a century of women's social and political activism in Virginia and highlights the efforts and impact of a selection of female changemakers. 428 N Arthur Ashe Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia 23220, Tel. 804.340.1800

<https://www.virginiahistory.org/exhibitions/agents-change-female-activism-virginia-women's-suffrage-today>



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY -- MARCH 8, 2020

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com>

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH <https://www.womenshistorymonth.gov>



Details in our March 2020 newsletter!



U.S. POST OFFICE TO ISSUE NEW FOREVER STAMP

Inspired by historic photographs, the stamp features a stylized illustration of suffragists marching in a parade or other public demonstration. The clothes they wear and the banners they bear display the official colors of the National Woman's Party — purple, white and gold. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp with original art by Nancy Stahl. *Issue date TBA.* usps.com/shopstamps

FAIRYGODBOSS offers a women's career community, expert career advice, job openings and company reviews to help you advance your career. <https://fairygodboss.com>

SHOP THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
WomensVote100.Shop

NEWS

- ***Alexandria Times, January 23, 2020 -- "Alexandria Celebrates Women: 100 Years of Women's Suffrage"***
https://alextimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/01_23_2020-Alex_Times_WEB-rev.pdf
- ***Connection Newspapers -- "Turning Point Suffragist Memorial to Be Built at Occoquan Regional Park: \$2 million project to be dedicated Aug. 26, 2020"***

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2018/sep/17/turning-point-suffragist-memorial-be-built-occoqua/>

- **USA TODAY: “Women’s pay lags as they often work for free, says new report”**
Women in the U.S. typically spend two more hours per day than men cooking, cleaning and doing other unpaid tasks, says a new report from Oxfam.
<https://apple.news/AWQXPraVeQ6ez7rAgBh9pEw>
- **CBS News: “Virginia Approves Equal Rights Amendment January 15, 2020”**
- The state House and Senate *approved* the proposed amendment with bipartisan support, well over a generation after Congress sent the ERA to the states for ratification in 1972.
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/equal-rights-amendment-approved-in-virginia-reigniting-hope-for-ratification/>
- **The Hill:** On January 30, 2020, the attorneys general of Illinois, Virginia and Nevada filed a lawsuit demanding the *ratification* of the Equal Rights Amendment.
<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/480683-illinois-virginia-nevada-sue-demanding-ratification-of-equal-rights>

NATIONAL KEY DATES:

1848: Seneca Falls Convention – National-level launch of the movement for women’s rights

Following the Convention, the demand for the vote became a centerpiece of the women’s rights movement. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, along with Susan B. Anthony and other activists, raised public awareness and lobbied the government to grant voting rights to women.

August 18, 1920: Tennessee legislature ratifies 19th Amendment

Tennessee becomes the last of the necessary 36 states to secure ratification.

August 26, 1920: 19th Amendment officially certified by the U.S. Secretary of State

U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby **certified** the 19th Amendment and made the adoption of the Amendment official. Every year on this date, we celebrate **Women’s Equality Day** in commemoration.

VIRGINIA KEY DATES

November 27, 1909 - A group of women, including Ellen Glasgow, Mary Johnston, Kate Langley Boshier, Adèle Clark, Nora Houston, Kate Waller Barrett, and Lila Meade Valentine, found the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia.

1917-- Women suffragists force fed at the “Occoquan” Workhouse

November 23, 1917 -- Suffragist prisoners released from Workhouse to attend hearing in Federal Court in Alexandria, VA Judge ruled that women protesters had been unlawfully imprisoned at Workhouse

August 1920 - Virginia women gain the right to vote after the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution becomes law.

1924 - Kate Waller Barrett of Alexandria serves as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

February 21, 1952 - The Virginia General Assembly ratifies the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, thirty-two years after it became law.

RESOURCES

Virginia Museum of History and Culture <https://www.virginiahistory.org/what-you-can-see/story-virginia/explore-story-virginia/1876-1924/virginia-and-women's-suffrage>

Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association <https://suffragistmemorial.org/suffragist-memorial-site-surroundings/>

Women's Suffrage Museum (Lucy Burns Museum) "From the White House to the Workhouse to the Franchise"
<https://workhousemuseums.org/history/importance-of-womens-suffrage/>

Encyclopedia Virginia "Woman Suffrage in Virginia"
https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Woman_Suffrage_in_Virginia

William & Mary (W&M) Women's Law Society "Women's Suffrage in Virginia"
<http://wmpeople.wm.edu/site/page/wmws/womenssuffrageinvirginia>

League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area (LWVFA) <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>

League of Women Voters Centennial <http://www.lwvna.org/Centennial.html>

The National Women's History Museum "Crusade for the Vote: Suffrage Resource Center"

www.crusadeforthevote.org/educational-resources

www.crusadeforthevote.org/partners

<https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/online-exhibits>

<https://www.womenshistory.org/exhibits/creating-female-political-culture>

Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission <https://www.womensvote100.org/about>

Suffrage Sisters media@womensvote100.org

General inquiries | staff@womensvote100.org

Virginia History <https://wmpeople.wm.edu/site/page/wmws/womenssuffrageinvirginia>



For more information contact Pat Miller at AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com