

ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES WOMEN

100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

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“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 April 2020 newsletter of Alexandria Celebrates
Women -- *100 Years of Women's Right to Vote.*

A Special Message

Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW) sends its wishes for health and happiness to you and your family during the COVID 19 outbreak. All women are concerned about health and wellbeing, isolation and economic stability at this time.

Many of us are able to work from home during this crisis. Others have experienced the temporary or permanent loss of their jobs. Our hearts go out to all. We extend our sincere thanks to those brave professionals who are risking their lives to safeguard our health, feed our populations, protect us from harm, ensure the delivery of the U.S. Mail and essential items, and other vital services.

The COVID19 crisis reminds us of another time when Alexandria's women were looked to as a source of social and economic fortitude during one of the world's deadliest pandemics. More than 100 years ago – before the 19th Amendment was ratified – women nursed U.S. soldiers and others fallen victim to the 1918 Influenza outbreak and stepped in to fill military and civilian jobs traditionally held by men who were now sick or away fighting in World War I.

Alexandria's women also comprised most of the volunteers in local hospitals, made bandages and grew gardens. They worked in airplane factories and other industries. Wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters played a major part in keeping this city afloat. Look for more on the roles the women of our community played during the "Great War" and the "Great Influenza" in the ACW column this month in the *Alexandria Times*.

We salute the brave women of Alexandria – past, present and future.

In solidarity,

Pat & Gayle

THE BASICS

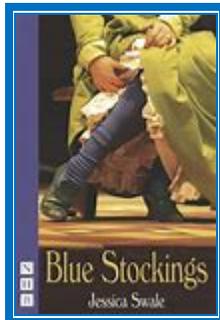
The **19th Amendment to the United States Constitution** (Amendment XIX – often referred to as the "Susan B. Anthony Amendment") granted American women the right to vote, a right known as women's suffrage. The Amendment prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to 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>

CANCELLATIONS, POSTPONEMENTS & ITEMS OF INTEREST

Women's History Bike Ride



The March 21, 2020 **Women's History Bike Ride** for Alexandria has been **rescheduled for August 15, 2020**. More than 100 people had registered for this free family-friendly event, sponsored by the Alexandria Pedestrian Bicycle and Safety Committee, the Alexandria Spokeswomen and Alexandria Celebrates Women. We will send event details in the future.



Blue Stockings

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the May 5, 2020 ACW fundraiser performance of “**Blue Stockings**” at the Alexandria Little Theatre (LTA) has been **postponed**. The LTA is reviewing its 2020 season and if the show and fundraiser are rescheduled, we will be happy to let you know.

Career

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

Share Your Story

The **Virginia Museum of History & Culture** are seeking to document the impact in our state through your stories. While we can't preserve everything, we are interested in collecting stories, observations, images, sound files, or moving images as quickly as possible. Over time, we hope to collect objects, diaries, documentaries, and more. <https://www.virginiahistory.org/node/2852?promo=821>

The National Women's History Museum (NWHM)

The **National Women's History Museum** reminds us of the **free resources** it offers on the NWHM website www.womenshistory.org! The virtual museum is open 24/7.

“Whether you are transitioning to a work from home environment or taking over educating young ones, our online resources can be a fun and inspirational break – an opportunity to explore and learn about trailblazing women and their remarkable contributions to our world.

As people increasingly practice social distancing and confine themselves to their homes because of COVID-19, we wanted to share some of the great, free resources we offer for at-home learning and teaching. In addition to our extensive collection of content designed for general audiences, we also have incredible resources specifically tailored for students and educators.” NWHM resources include online exhibits, digital classroom resources, electronic field trips, and biographies.

A Message from the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (WSCC)

“For the past year, the **Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission** has been planning programs and initiatives to recognize the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and to amplify women's history. We are grateful to our wonderful partners, many of whom have been planning for the centennial of women's right to vote for years if not decades. Now, we all find ourselves in Women's History Month 2020 with our country and the world facing an unprecedented health crisis. But, if there's one thing we can learn from the suffragists, it's perseverance. In that spirit, the WSCC is working with its partners to

adapt centennial commemoration plans to the evolving situation with COVID-19.”
<https://www.womensvote100.org/>



- **MSN – March 31, 2020** Last year, NASA astronaut Jessica Meir made history as part of the first all-woman spacewalk, along with fellow astronaut Christina Koch. The goal of the October 18th spacewalk was to replace a failed power controller on the International Space Station, but it became a powerful symbol of how the astronaut program—and the world—has changed since NASA first began recruiting women astronauts in 1978. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/lifestyle/causes-gender-equality/jessica-meir-is-shooting-for-the-moon/ar-BB10Eezz?ocid=spartandhp>

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>

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



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