



ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES WOMEN

100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

JULY 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 July 2020 newsletter of Alexandria

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

We hope that you, your families and friends are well and safe during this time. Most essential workers in the United States are *women*. If you are experiencing changes in your routine – whether currently working from home or being asked to return to your workplace, you might be worrying about finances and quarantine fatigue. Additional worry about mental health and risk of exposure to COVID-19 are affecting most of us.

We salute those of you who work in essential industries, including cleaning services, grocery and drug stores, farmer's markets, transportation, federal, state and local government, active duty U.S. Military and Reserves, teaching, U.S. Post Office, and other delivery businesses. We thank the region's brave first responders and their equally brave families: medical personnel, firefighters, law enforcement, and City and County maintenance crews and volunteers.

We hope the *herstory* and educational links that follow can serve as a part of a plan to encourage your child's enthusiasm for American history.



A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

The National Women's History Museum has paused over the past few weeks to listen and reflect on how we can authentically respond to this critical moment. The recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have shaken our nation to our core and highlighted the ugly and violent disparities in the safety, well-being, and justice faced by Black Americans – disparities that have existed throughout our country's history. Racism continues to plague this nation, as communities of color are routinely subjected to violence at the hands of power, which is enabled by the shameful silence and inaction of others.

At the National Women's History Museum, we recognize the power of history to engender meaningful dialogue and to inform our future. But history is only as complete as the voices it includes. As an institution fighting for the representation of all women, we work to champion voices that have been traditionally underrepresented and even excluded from the traditional narrative.

Diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion are fundamental to our Museum, but we realize that we can, and must, do even more. Our programming, our staff, our organizational culture, our partnerships, and our leadership must better reflect our values. As we move forward this summer, we will lean into the critical work of determining how our renewed commitment will serve our institution and our nation, both internally and externally. We pledge to ensure that these values are embedded in all of our work and all of the history that we present, from staff and leadership to programming, scholarship, and exhibitions.

In the coming months, we will share our progress with you and all of our constituents. Our Museum must be a space to engage in dialogue around contemporary history.

Our Museum was not designed to be a passive container of culture; it is a space where we use history to spark imagination, raise courage, ignite possibilities, and engage in thoughtful, meaningful explorations of the history of all women. We will continue our work to ensure that Black and Brown women's voices are not only heard, but listened to and amplified.

We are grateful to have a powerful platform in which to tell women's stories, and we recognize our responsibility as a steward of women's history to bear witness by not simply standing in solidarity, but acting in solidarity.

To all of our constituents and communities, let us hear from you. We will not sit on the sidelines. We will listen, and we will act, and we will be held accountable.

Black Lives Matter.

--National Women's History Museum

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>

HERSTORY



Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission Webinar – “An Inside Look at Washington, D.C. Exhibits”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J089IhzkTkA&t=347s>

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. NWHM resources include online exhibits, digital classroom resources, electronic field trips, and biographies.

The **Virginia Museum of History & Culture’s “Share Your Story”** is seeking to document the COVID-19 impact in the Commonwealth through your stories. <https://www.virginiahistory.org/node/2852?promo=821>

She Donned her Skirts above her Calves and took the Tennis World by Storm

<https://www.si.com/tennis/2019/06/27/suzanne-lenglen-tennis-wimbledon-life-death>

Long before Serena and Venus Williams soared to international fame there was Suzanne Lenglen, a French tennis player who captivated the world in the 1920s with her controversial habits that included wearing red lipstick, drinking alcohol, cursing, exposing her bare arms, and donning skirts above the calves. The bold tennis star, who's been called the "most polarizing women's tennis player of her generation," was the first to shirk the bulky tennis undergarments of the time. From age 15 onwards, Lenglen won 250 championships over her 12-year career. She is pictured here at Wimbledon.



1926: Suzanne Lenglen -- Photo from Hulton Archive.

Susan B. Anthony fined \$100. for attempting to vote – June 18, 1873

On June 18, 1873, the trial of Susan B. Anthony for casting her famous vote in the 1872 presidential election came to a dramatic conclusion — though not in the manner she had hoped.

Anthony argued that women were guaranteed the right to vote by the newly ratified Fourteenth Amendment, which said that “all persons born and naturalized in the United States...are citizens of the United States,” and as such cannot be denied the “privileges and immunities” of citizenship — including the privilege of voting.

Presiding over the case was Circuit Justice Ward Hunt, who had apparently decided the case before the trial even began. After the attorneys on both sides were finished speaking, the judge read from a piece of paper he pulled from his pocket, “The Fourteenth Amendment gives no right to a woman to vote, and the voting by Miss Anthony was in violation of the law.” After reciting the rest of his comments, he directed the jury to deliver a guilty verdict — a move that outraged Anthony, her attorney, and even some jury members.

On the day of her sentencing, Anthony was asked by Hunt whether she had anything to say.

“Yes, your honor, I have many things to say; for in your ordered verdict of guilty, you have trampled underfoot every vital principle of our government,” Anthony said. “My natural rights, my civil rights, my political rights, my judicial rights, are all alike ignored. Robbed of the fundamental privilege of citizenship, I am degraded from the status of a citizen to that of a subject; and not only myself individually, but all of my sex, are, by your honor’s verdict, doomed to political subjection under this, so-called, form of government.”

Anthony was fined \$100, but the judge told her that she would not be committed until the fine was paid, which effectively took away any grounds for an appeal. (Anthony never paid the fine.)

Some of Anthony’s critics insisted that her conviction reduced her to a common criminal — but in the end, her trial underscored the point that, as one newspaper put it, “She has voted, and the American Constitution has survived the shock.” <https://legal.thomsonreuters.com/blog/susan-b-anthony-fined-1873/>

VOTING



Alexandria Office of Voter Registration and Elections

Registration is open online <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections> for absentee ballots For the **November 2020 Election**. As of July 1, 2020, “no-excuse” absentee ballots will be available.

To promote social distancing, the Office of Voter Registration and Elections is open by appointment only. Voters are encouraged to request absentee ballots online and to register to vote online through the Virginia Department of Elections. For questions regarding registration, absentee voting or to request and appointment, email voters@alexandriava.gov or call **703.746.4050**.

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/changes as they become available. FYI: **Interesting Read! *National Geographic* – “How Bicycles Transformed the World”**

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/06/how-bicycles-transformed-world/>

National Girls Initiative

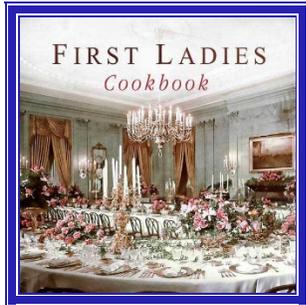
Through their advocacy, in 1898, The National Florence Crittenton Mission was established, known today as **National Crittenton**, with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Alexandria’s Kate Waller Barrett became president of the Mission. Its ***National Girls Initiative*** uses a collaborative approach to catalyzing system change for girls in, and at risk of entering, the juvenile justice system through the delivery of training and technical assistance—from webinars and customized state support, to toolkits and other resources. <https://nationalcrittenton.org/national-girls-initiative/>

PBS American Experience -- <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/vote-black-women-200-year-fight-for-vote/?fbclid=IwAR3a5aTCDWBnCiWyT7mDXQaTLQFd7rN8a5H5O9HbU5uLeBhIOD08sd8ISiw>

PBS American Experience -- <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/collections/women-american-history/>

National Women's History Museum



First Ladies Cookbook!

The National Women's History Museum (NWHM) is offering *Cooking with the First Ladies*
<https://shop.womenshistory.org/products/first-ladies-cook-book>

The NWHM YouTube channel is also offering free cooking lessons using recipes from the book!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RiaHI0acaM&t=5s&utm_medium=email&utm_source=nwhm&utm_content=3++Youtube+page&utm_campaign=NWHM_EM_EN_6MO_200529_1_1&source=NWHM_EM_EN_6MO_200529_1_1

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>



NEWS



PBS: American Experience, PBS' signature history documentary series, has produced a new film, *The Vote*. This two-part, four-hour documentary chronicling the dramatic culmination story of the hard-fought campaign waged by American women for the right to vote, premieres July 6-7, 2020 on PBS. *The Vote* brings to life the unsung leaders of the movement and the deep controversies over gender roles and race that divided Americans then—and continue to dominate political discourse now on the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment

US News & World Report – “Kids around the world are out of school. Millions of girls might not go back” <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/kids-around-the-world-are-out-of-school-millions-of-girls-might-not-go-back/ar-BB15qrtz?ocid=msedgdhp>

Government Executive -- “19 Facts About The 19th Amendment On Its 100th Anniversary” <https://www.govexec.com/workforce/2020/06/19-facts-about-19th-amendment-its-100th-anniversary/166007/>

National Geographic – “Millions of Women Volunteers form India’s Frontline COVID-19 Response” <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/06/millions-women-volunteers-form-india-frontline-covid-19-response/>

Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University – “Gender Differences in Voter Turnout” In recent elections, voter turnout rates for women have equaled or exceeded voter turnout rates for men. Women, who constitute more than half the population, have cast almost ten million more votes than men in recent elections. <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/resources/genderdiff.pdf>

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

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



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