

ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES WOMEN

100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

MAY 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 May 2020 newsletter of Alexandria Celebrates

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

We hope that you, your families and friends stay well and safe during this time. 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. To all mothers: Thank you for all you continue to do and *Happy Mother's Day!*

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

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>

HISTORY



Alexandria's Kate Waller Barrett

During the 1918 Flu Pandemic and World War I, Alexandria suffragist, social reformer, and physician Kate Waller Barrett* opened her own home to ill and disabled returning American soldiers. She was asked by the U.S. War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities to speak to American soldiers regarding venereal disease. Barrett's work became international when in 1919, she journeyed to France and Turkey as a special agent of the United States Immigration Bureau to examine the intended U.S. deportation of women and girls on moral grounds. Also, in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson sent Barrett to serve as an observer to the Versailles Peace Conference.

By 1920, women made up more than 20 percent of the American workforce (Today, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, women make up about 47% of the U.S. labor force). As women gained leadership positions and greater economic potential, they began to increase their advocacy for various women's rights issues – including equal pay, social and financial independence – and the right to vote. No longer able to disregard the essential position that women played in American society, politicians began to listen.

The triple combination of a flu pandemic, a world war and a tenacity demonstrated by Alexandria's women became a part of what had taken more than a century to achieve – the right of equal representation for all American women.

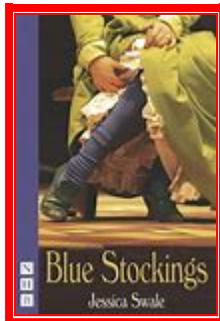
**In our May *Alexandria Times* column, we'll further explore the remarkable life of Alexandria's Kate Waller Barrett and her unique work to gain the vote for American women.

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.



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.

ACTIVITIES

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>

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

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

"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/>

Mother's Day is May 10! Gifts and Suffrage Centennial Memorabilia from the WSCC "Suff" Shop:

<https://www.womensvote100.shop/>

VOTING

When We all Vote is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization launched in 2018 by co-chairs Michelle Obama, Tom Hanks, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Janelle Monae, Chris Paul, Faith Hill and Tim McGraw to change the culture around voting using a data-driven and multifaceted approach to increase participation in elections. <https://www.whenweallvote.org/partner-with-us/>

June 23 is a Republican Party Primary Election for U.S. Senate. “To promote social distancing, the office of Voter Registration & Elections is currently open by appointment only. Voters are encouraged to request absentee ballots online and residents not currently registered to vote are encouraged to register to vote online through the Virginia Department of Elections.”

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections> For questions about registering to vote, absentee voting or to request an appointment: email voters@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4050.

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



- **Alexandria Times April 23, 2020** -- The “Great Influenza,” the “Great War” and Alexandria’s Women The 1918 “Great Influenza” combined with the “Great War” (World War I) generated political and socioeconomic side effects just two years before the 19th Amendment’s ratification in 1920 – critical developments in which Alexandria’s women would play key roles. https://alextimes.com/wpcontent/uploads/2020/04/04_23_2020-Alex_Times_WEB.pdf
- **History Channel** -- “**History of Mother’s Day**” <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day>
- **CARE** – “Although men and the elderly are said to be at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19, women and girls living in poverty and amid humanitarian crises face unique challenges.” usacarenews@care.org

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 "Ocoquan" 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>



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