



Alexandria Celebrates Women

DECEMBER 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 December 2020 newsletter of Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW). **Happy Holidays!** Along with a variety of holidays and additional observances, December is *Handwashing Awareness Month, Universal Human Rights Month, World AIDS Awareness Month...and Egg Nog Month!*

Because it became necessary to postpone most commemorations in 2020, it is hoped that many 19th Amendment Ratification Centennial celebrations will be able to proceed in 2021. **“National Women’s Suffrage Year” is being celebrated from August 2020--August 2021.** ACW will keep historic information, including the milestones in the fight for women’s suffrage, in our newsletters this year.

Locally, the dedication of the *Turning Point Memorial* in Occoquan has been postponed indefinitely, [Turning Point Suffragist Memorial](#) however the historic marker ACW has been preparing, in partnership with the Office of Historic Alexandria, is nearing completion! We hope installation (near the corner of South Saint Asaph and Prince Streets in Old Town) will occur before the end of this year with a formal outdoor dedication planned for later in 2021 (we'll keep you posted!). Additional information on the marker is listed in this newsletter.

Details regarding Alexandria's women of past and current history, plus ACW activities can be found in this monthly newsletter, in the ACW monthly *Alexandria Times* column and on the ACW Website [Alexandria Celebrates Women](#)

We hope that you, your families and friends are well and safe during this time and we hope the *herstory* and educational links that follow can serve as a part of a plan to encourage your family's enthusiasm for American *herstory*.



Events & Items of Interest

[An Opportunity to Honor Suffragists in Alexandria](#)

The Office of Historic Alexandria is working with Alexandria Celebrates Women to install an historic marker to commemorate the location of an important American suffrage movement federal court case. The marker will be installed on the site where the Federal District Court in Alexandria was housed in the early 20th century. The third-floor courtroom was located in the old Customs House which stood on the corner of South St. Asaph and Prince Streets in Alexandria.

Suffragist Prisoners at Occoquan

in November 1917, 32 suffragists were arrested in Washington, D.C. for allegedly "blocking traffic" on a Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalk. They were sent to the District of Columbia workhouse at nearby Occoquan, Virginia. The women were subjected to undue hardships and torture, resulting in the infamous November 14, 1917 "Night of Terror." A number of women prisoners were threatened, beaten and hurled against walls and floors. A few days later, force feedings began. The suffragist prisoners were eventually freed from Occoquan following a hearing in Alexandria's federal courthouse.

The goal is to raise \$4,750 in order to fund this amazing monument. Please visit https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=RBW5ZJTT824V4&source=url to donate. We greatly appreciate your help in achieving recognition of the women who bravely endured imprisonment and brutality in their efforts to gain the vote for all women – across the nation and here in Alexandria.

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED!
You are helping to make this historic marker a reality!

YOU are Alexandria's Modern Heroines!

From the National Women's History Museum: [National Women's History Museum](https://www.nwhm.org/)

December 6: NWHM Presents! *A Call to Spy* with Writer and Actress Sarah Megan Thomas

Join NWHM as we host a virtual event with writer, producer, and actress Sarah Megan Thomas to discuss her latest movie, *A Call to Spy*. The film tells the incredible true story of three ordinary women who became extraordinary heroes during WWII as members of the female espionage operation commissioned by Winston Churchill that changed the course of history.

Experience this film on demand, then join us for a moderated conversation and Q&A presentation.

December 13: Virtual Tour of NWHM's forthcoming exhibit, "Representation with a Hyphen: Latinas in the Fight for Women's Suffrage"

Join us for a free virtual walkthrough of our latest exhibit (launching December 8th), hosted by NWHM Public History Research Intern and exhibit curator, Mariana Brazão.



Alexandria Times, November 24, 2020 – “Women in State and Federal Office” [Women in state and federal office | Alexandria Times | Alexandria, VA \(alextimes.com\)](#)

USA Today, Nov. 29, 2020 – “Fuller sticking with Vanderbilt football after historic kick” [Fuller sticking with Vanderbilt football after historic kick \(usatoday.com\)](#)



Herstory

Florence Nightingale – a Woman who Successfully Battled a Pandemic

The World Health Organization (WHO) designated 2020 as the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife,” recognizing the vital contribution of nurses and midwives towards achieving universal health coverage. 2020 is also the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale.

Nightingale, known as “The Lady with the Lamp,” was a British nurse, social reformer and statistician best known as the founder of modern nursing. She was born May 12, 1820, in Florence, Italy. During the 1850’s cholera outbreak in London, Nightingale’s innovations to improve sanitary conditions in hospitals greatly influenced the quality of health care in the 19th and 20th centuries. [Florence Nightingale – Biography, Facts & Nursing - HISTORY](#)



Career

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 – everyone!



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>

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”**
<https://www.crusadeforthevote.org/educational-resources>
<https://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>

Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW) recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of Alexandria, Virginia's women of the past, present and future. The volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization acknowledges the distinguished history of Alexandria's heroines while celebrating the empowerment of Alexandria's modern woman. <https://alexandriacelebrateswomen.com/>

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

