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**Alexandria Celebrates Women**

**December 2021 Newsletter**

**Editor:** Gayle Converse

**“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 2021 issue of the Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW) newsletter. We wish you very merry holiday season!

Among many December observances: [Hanukkah (November 28 – Dec. 6)](https://www.bhg.com/holidays/hanukkah/traditions/hanukkah-history-traditions/), Christmas (Dec. 25) and Kwanza (Dec. 26 – January 1), we offer a few notes regarding some lesser-known celebrations: for those of us with a sweet tooth, there’s National Gingerbread House Day (Dec. 12), National Cocoa Day (Dec. 13), National Hard Candy Day (Dec. 19),  National Pfeffernüsse Day (Dec. 23), and National Chocolate Candy Day (Dec. 28).   December also hosts National Handwashing Awareness Month, World AIDS Awareness Month and Human Rights Day (Dec. 10).

ACW has continued its tradition of bringing you history information, including the milestones in the fight for women’s suffrage, in our newsletters this year. You can find information regarding Alexandria’s women of *past, present and future* in the ACW monthly *Alexandria Times* column and on the ACW Website [Alexandria Celebrates Women](https://alexandriacelebrateswomen.com/) – and speaking of Websites…ACW is looking for a Webmaster. If you or someone you know is interested and would like to learn more regarding the position, please contact Pat Miller at [pmiller1806@comcast,net](mailto:pmiller1806@comcast,net) .

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

 **Events & Items of Interest**

**From UN Women:**

[16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](https://16dayscampaign.org/)

The [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](https://16dayscampaign.org/" \t "_blank) is an annual international campaign that kicked off November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls and runs until Human Rights Day (see above). Founded in 1991 at the inaugural Women’s Global Leadership Institute, the initiative continues each year under the stewardship of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

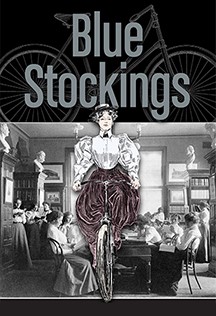
Globally, one in three women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence at some point in her lifetime, usually from an intimate partner.

This year’s observance highlights the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had and continues to have on women. The pandemic has resulted in the rapid escalation of all forms of violence against women and girls, to which the world was unprepared to respond. It has also laid bare several inequalities which are being manifested in risk factors for violence against women and girls. These include food insecurity, unemployment, undue burden of both paid and unpaid care work, increased migration flows, disability, abuse of elders, and the threat of social unrest and disasters.

The loss of household income and protracted school closures may also place adolescent girls at an increased risk of sexual exploitation, harassment, early unions and child marriage. The United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) maintains that globally 1 in 4 women was a child bride.

In support of this civil society initiative, the [United Nations Secretary-General’s UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women](https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/unite) calls for global actions to increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations.

The global theme for this year’s 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which will run from 25 November to 10 December 2021, is **“Orange the world: End violence against women now!”** The color orange is worn as a symbol of a brighter future for women and girls, as work continues towards ensuring that one day, they will live lives free of violence.

 Join us March 8, 2022 for the Little Theatre of Alexandria production of “Blue Stockings!”

The women’s suffrage movement is Great Britain is the backdrop. The play chronicles the story of four women fighting for an education and is set in 1896 at Cambridge University. Ticket information in upcoming ACW newsletters. [2021\_22 Season - LTA (thelittletheatre.com)](http://thelittletheatre.com/2019_20-season/)

**Special announcement From the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program: GIFT CARD DONATIONS NEEDED**

The Alexandria Domestic Violence Program/Sexual Assault Center (DVP) is preparing for its annual Children’s Holiday Toy and Gift Card Drive. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the emphasis this year is on gift card donations for families who have been victims of domestic and sexual violence. The DVP reports that your donation might be the only gift these children will receive in 2021.

**Gift cards from Target, Wal-Mart, Amazon, VISA, CVS, Walgreens *and grocery stores* are welcome. The DVP will accept donations through December 10, 2021.**

For drop off locations, please call the Domestic Violence Hotline 703.746.4911. If you are not able to drop off, a pick- up of your donation can be arranged. For further information, please contact: Yeme Mehari at 703.746.4911 [yeme.mehari@alexandriava.gov](mailto:yeme.mehari@alexandriava.gov)

**Women Impacted by Pandemic Need Your Help**

The Alexandria Domestic Violence Safehouse – a place of refuge for many women impacted by the pandemic – needs your help. When women and their families are able to leave the shelter, there is a **need for housewares -- silverware, pots and pans, dishes.  You can assist by clicking here** <http://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/effb54910b8145f2ba507c26a79eb5a6>

A picture containing application

Description automatically generated Volunteer Alexandria Holiday Toy Drive

Volunteer Alexandria is hosting its annual Holiday Toy Drive. Donations and volunteers are needed. Volunteers are needed to load, sort, count and inventory the donated toys. Children are encouraged to volunteer and help.

This Volunteer Alexandria event is in partnership with the Alexandria City Department of Community and Human Services. The annual Holiday Community Toy Drive, which will serve 300 families and 700 children engages volunteers six and older. [Volunteer Alexandria | Holiday Toy Drive 2021 - Gift Sorting](https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001drogUUAQ)

**New Alexandria Women’s History Walk**

Discover where Alexandria’s women of the past and present have lived, worked and made history on Alexandria Celebrates Women’s new Women’s History Walk! The extensive self-guided journey is designed to enable history seekers to explore *as little or as much as you like at your own pace.* The new Walk includes an optional extended tour. ACW will post the route soon! If you would like a free guided tour, please contact Gayle Converse at [AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com](mailto:AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com)

**Replay of Celebrate Women Awards**

Alexandria Celebrates Women was proud to host the first *Celebrate Women Awards* March 29, 2021.The virtual event honored women who have had a hand in caring for all Alexandrians during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Awards show benefited the Alexandria Domestic Violence Safehouse. A replay of the Awards show can be found at [Alexandria Celebrates Women](https://alexandriacelebrateswomen.com/).

**From the National Women’s History Museum (NWHM)**

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Enjoy the NWHM free virtual museum at [www.womenshistory.org](https://click.everyaction.com/k/31733035/293584819/-1447255758?refcode=NWHM_EM_TY_1MO_210701_1_1&refcode2=d859415a-87da-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNy8xLzkwNTYxIiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogImQ4NTk0MTVhLTg3ZGEtZWIxMS1hN2FkLTUwMWFjNTdiOGZhNyIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiZ2Nwcm9kQGJlbGxzb3V0aC5uZXQiDQp9&hmac=13KeBiFkmjlF9t4zpeP82YGosXbOxOENZp88MRjGu5U=&emci=ccbf312f-86da-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=d859415a-87da-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=13040861)

**History**

**From the National Women’s History Alliance**

* **December 1, 1955**– Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white person; her arrest sparks the modern civil rights movement in the US
* **December 5, 1935** – Mary McLeod Bethune creates the National Council of Negro Women
* **December 7, 1941** – Capt. Annie Fox receives the first Purple Heart awarded to a woman for her service while under attack at Pearl Harbor
* **December 9, 2002** – Award-winning ABC News journalist, Michele Norris, becomes the first African American female regular co-host of National Public Radio’s news magazine, *All Things Considered*, she stepped down in 2012
* **December 10, 1869** – Wyoming is the first territory to give women the right to vote
* **December 10, 1938**– Pearl S. Buck receives the Nobel Prize for Literature for *The Good Earth*
* **December 14, 1961** – President’s Commission on the Status of Women is established to examine discrimination against women and ways to eliminate it
* **December 14, 1985** – Wilma Mankiller is sworn in as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma – the first woman in modern history to lead a major Native American tribe

  **NEWS**

***Alexandria Times***, November 25, 2021 – “A Long Way from Skirts and White Gloves” [FULL112521.pdf (alextimes.com)](https://alextimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/FULL112521.pdf) page 19



**From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office on Women’s Health**

**30th Anniversary**

This year the Office on Women’s Health (OWH) celebrates its 30-year anniversary. From the beginning, the mission of the OWH has involved connecting women and girls with up-to-date, actionable health information. Today, the OWH continues that tradition using a variety of digital platforms. We invite you to explore the OWH website ([womenshealth.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA5MzAuNDY3MjA2NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy53b21lbnNoZWFsdGguZ292Lz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.7W2etzXRftaIvB024i46sWbOZHPNNHncT_wz_pVBh7E/s/1190608154/br/113192388422-l)), Twitter ([@womenshealth](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA5MzAuNDY3MjA2NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3R3aXR0ZXIuY29tL3dvbWVuc2hlYWx0aD9yZWZfc3JjPXR3c3JjJTVFdGZ3JTdDdHdjYW1wJTVFZW1iZWRkZWR0aW1lbGluZSU3Q3R3dGVybSU1RXByb2ZpbGUlM0F3b21lbnNoZWFsdGgmcmVmX3VybD1odHRwcyUzQSUyRiUyRnd3dy53b21lbnNoZWFsdGguZ292JTJGbm9kZSUyRjEyMzQlM0Z1dG1fbWVkaXVtJTNEZW1haWwlMjZ1dG1fc291cmNlJTNEZ292ZGVsaXZlcnkmdXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.3az1JqnzLOTkRTtObX866b3V16QrPbyOCxgs18RBYBc/s/1190608154/br/113192388422-l)), or sign up to receive the [OWH blog](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA5MzAuNDY3MjA2NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy53b21lbnNoZWFsdGguZ292L2Jsb2c_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.4hWPk8au5MqkOAOvqZd_GU57ZU8HLsLLD6od_6Og3_Y/s/1190608154/br/113192388422-l) for the latest news, updates and health guidelines.

**COVID-19**

**For the latest COVID-19 guidelines, please visit:**

[Office on Women's Health | womenshealth.gov](https://www.womenshealth.gov/office-womens-health)

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)

[Choosing Safer Activities | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html)

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 **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 have affected 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!

**If you are looking for employment:** The City of Alexandria's Workforce Development Center (WDC), a partner of the American Job Center network, offers staffing solutions that provide businesses with employees who are skilled and ready to work. As a certified One Stop Center, WDC serves a variety of skill levels from those with advanced degrees and years of experience to those with limited education and experience. It provides services and resources for job seekers including access to the WDC Career Center, career readiness workshops, career assessments and customized hiring events. <https://www.alexandriava.gov/WorkforceDevelopment> <https://www.vec.virginia.gov/alexandria>

**If you are a business looking for employees:** The WDC provides a range of business services at no cost to businesses, including job placement, recruitment, labor market information and certified Business Services Specialists to assist in workforce planning. WDC operates the Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW) Program, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA - Adult Employment, Dislocated Worker and Youth and Young Adult), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment Training (SNAPET), TeensWork! (public and private programs), Refugee Employment Program, Disability Employment and Veteran Services. <https://www.vec.virginia.gov/alexandria>

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/WorkforceDevelopment>

**Child Care:** Please see “Fueled by the pandemic, the child-care crisis is keeping moms out of work”in our **NEWS** section above.

The Alexandria Emergency Child Care Collaborative supports all families in need of child care and works to match them with open providers. [COVID-19 Emergency Child Care: Information for Parents and Providers | City of Alexandria, VA](https://www.alexandriava.gov/dchs/childrenfamily/default.aspx?id=115165)

 **The Basics**

The **19th Amendment to the United States Constitution** (Amendment XIX – often referred to an 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suffrage) 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>

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 ***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 Bosher, 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 those 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) <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.lwvnca.org/Centennial.html>
* **The National Women’s History Museum** “Crusade for the Vote: Suffrage Resource Center”

https://[www.crusadeforthevote.org/educational-resources](http://www.crusadeforthevote.org/educational-resources)

https://[www.crusadeforthevote.org/partners](http://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**](file:///C:\Users\converse\Documents\Adobe\Women's%20Suffrage%20Centennial%20Commission) <https://www.womensvote100.org/about>
* **Suffrage Sisters**[*media@womensvote100.org*](mailto:media@womensvote100.org)
* **General inquiries** | [staff@womensvote100.org](mailto: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/*](https://alexandriacelebrateswomen.com/)

For more information contact Pat Miller at [AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com](mailto:AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com)

