



Alexandria Celebrates Women

February 2021 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

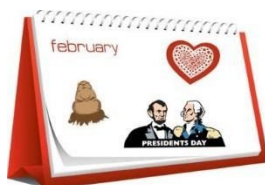
Constitution



Welcome to the February 2021 newsletter of Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW).

ACW applauds you – you have strategized on safe and inventive ways to connect with friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family. We applaud and encourage your creativity and courage during the COVID pandemic. We *will* get through this.

February is Black History Month and American Heart Month. The 5th is National Go Red Day. Among other observances and holidays in February: President’s Day is celebrated Feb. 15; Thank a Mail Carrier Feb. 4 and enjoy Feb. 6 – it’s National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day!



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 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 history.



Events & Items of Interest

Announcing the first Celebrate Women Awards!

Alexandria Celebrates Women will host its first Awards event Monday March 29, 2021. These Awards will honor the valiant women in our midst who are on the front lines of the COVID battle. The 2021 Celebrate Women Awards will be a FREE online event. Please look for details in the ACW March newsletter!

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!

Alexandria Library Marks Black History Month

The Alexandria Library marks Black History Month with programs for all ages: [Events - Alexandria Library \(alexlibraryva.org\)](http://alexlibraryva.org)



From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Whether you plan to spend time with others that live in your home or connect with family and friends virtually, the HHS Office on Women’s Health offers tips to keep you and your loved ones healthy and safe.

- [Wear a mask \(or two!\)](#)
- [Wash your hands](#)
- [Use social distancing](#) and avoid crowds
- [Practice good sleep habits](#)
- [Eat heart-healthy](#) meals and snacks
- [Get active](#) for at least 2 ½ hours each week
- [Monitor your blood pressure](#) and stress levels
- [Take time to focus on your mental health](#)



Alexandria Times, January 21, 2021 – “Women have been Essential Workers Since Alexandria’s Beginning” [01_21_2021-Alex_Times_WEB.pdf](#) (page 4)

CNN, January 19, 2021 -- “For the first time in NFL history, a woman will officiate at the Super Bowl”
[Sarah Thomas will be the first woman officiate in a Super Bowl - CNN](#)

New York Times “In Her Words,” December 24, 2020 – Global leaders comment regarding a post-pandemic world. [Women and Leadership: Looking Beyond the Global Health Crisis - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#) **“We have to turn to our many talented girls and women to tackle the challenges we face today.”** — *Mariya Gabriel, a Bulgarian politician (New York Times, Dec. 24, 2020)*



History

“...Don’t ever stop. Keep going. If you want a taste of freedom, keep going.”
– Harriet Tubman

With the exception of the Susan B. Anthony \$1.00 coin, no women or people of color have ever been depicted on United States currency in circulation. The U.S. Treasury is resuming efforts to feature 19th century abolitionist Harriet Tubman on the \$20.00 bill (the move would replace Andrew Jackson). [What to know about getting Harriet Tubman on the \\$20 bill \(usatoday.com\)](#)

Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland and forced to work in the fields at a young age. She escaped when she was approximately 27-years old and over the years, organized the escapes of many enslaved people, via the Underground Railroad. There is evidence of enslaved individuals in Alexandria using the Underground Railroad in their journey for freedom. [Underground Railroad Tour in Alexandria Virginia](#)



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!

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>

If you are looking for emergency child care: 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](#)



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.crusadeforthethevote.org/educational-resources>
<https://www.crusadeforthethevote.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