



Alexandria Celebrates Women

January 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 January 2021 newsletter of Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW). Happy New Year!

Twenty-twenty proved to be a year when our community, our nation and our planet appeared to come to a halt – a standstill surrounded by countless change – a time for priorities.

Traditionally, women bear the brunt of change – and you prioritized with flying colors. You strategized on safe and inventive ways to connect with friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family. We applaud and encourage your creativity and courage and wish you a healthy and happy new year. We *will* get through this.

Martin Luther Junior Day will be observed Monday, January 18. Volunteer Alexandria invites you to participate in National Service Day January 18, to assist in keeping Dr. King's legacy of service to others alive in communities across the country.

Volunteer Alexandria has posted numerous projects that can be done at home, at work, as a family or a team. Projects include making care packages, creating Valentine's cards, donating shoes and cleaning up parks. Visit <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/mlkday2020> to sign up for a project.

January is National Birth Defects Prevention Month and Cervical Health Awareness Month. It's also National Hot Tea 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 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 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](#)
- [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](#)

For more tips on staying healthy during the holidays and throughout the year, visit [12 Ways to Have a Healthy Holiday Season | Health Equity Features | CDC](#)

From the National Women's History Museum: [National Women's History Museum](#)

"2020 was a monumental year for women as we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and elected diverse women across our country. Women are having an impact at the local level all the way up to the Supreme Court and the White House. A lot has changed for women since the 1920s, but our work is nowhere near done. Here at the National Women's History Museum, we're working every day to educate, empower, and inspire with our educational programming, our virtual resources, and our ultimate goal of a museum dedicated to women's history in our nation's capital!"



Alexandria Times, December 24, 2020 – “Inspiring Alexandria women of the past and present”
[12_24_2020-Alex_Times_WEB.pdf](#) (Page 21)

Alexandria Times, December 31, 2020 -- [12_31_2020-Alex_Times_WEB.pdf](#) This issue contains a mention of the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment (page 3), a recap of the founding of ACW (“Budding nonprofit” page 6) and a recap of Pat Miller’s *Speak Easy* interview (page 8).

National Geographic, December 2020 -- “One of these Astronauts may be the First Woman on the Moon” [nationalgeographic.com](#) NASA has announced the selection of 18 astronauts—nine of them women—to train for the first crewed U.S. missions to the moon in 48 years. NASA revealed its revised Moon missions will be under its Artemis program. Artemis is the Greek goddess of the hunt, the wilderness, wild animals, the Moon and chastity. The goddess Diana is her Roman equivalent



Herstory



Jeannette Pickering Rankin (1880-1973), a member of the House of Representatives who was elected in 1916 as the first woman to serve in the U.S. Congress. Library of Congress

In 1872, just seven years following the end of the American Civil War (and before she was arrested on obscenity charges) Ohio’s Victoria Woodhull became the first woman to run for president of the United States.

Forty-four years later, women's rights advocate Montana’s Jeannette Pickering Rankin became the first woman elected to federal office, winning a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1916.

Fast forward to 1971, when Shirley Chisholm of New York became the first African American woman elected to Congress. A year later, she ran for President.

Woodhull, Rankin and Chisholm represent three of the American women who have paved the way in politics and civic engagement for all women.



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 “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”**
<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

