

 **Alexandria Celebrates Women**

 **May 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 May 2021 newsletter of Alexandria Celebrates Women (ACW).

**The month of May** brings flowers along with important holidays and observances: May Day (May 1), Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3-7), Cinco de Mayo (May 5), Mother’s Day (May 9), and Memorial Day (May 31). Despite the fact that May is National Salad Month, May 11 is celebrated as National “Eat What You Want 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.

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](https://alexandriacelebrateswomen.com/)

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

**History** 

 **The History of Mother’s Day**

Mother’s Day has been celebrated in the United States for the past 113-years. May 10, 1908 is considered the first official national celebration of the holiday.

* According to the Pew [Research Center](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/08/facts-about-u-s-mothers/), approximately 24 percent OF American moms are single parents. Almost 68 percent are married.
* Mother’s Day sports the white carnation as its official flower. *National Geographic* reports that founder of the U.S. holiday, Anna Jarvis, compared carnations to a mother’s love, stating, “The carnation does not drop its petals but hugs them to its heart…and so too, mothers hug their children to their hearts.”
* In 1934, Franklin D. Roosevelt chose “Whistler’s Mother” by James Abbott McNeill Whistler as the backdrop of a U.S. Postage stamp to honor Mother’s Day. [When Is Mother’s Day 2021, and What Is the History of Mother’s Day? (parade.com)](https://parade.com/1192582/lindsaylowe/mothers-day/)

  **Events & Items of Interest**

**Library of Congress to Host “Motherhood and the Military”**

Since the Revolutionary War, holding the conventional roles of cooks, nurses or seamstresses, mothers have volunteered to serve in the military. Since 2015, American women have served in designated frontline combat roles. As part of its *Veterans History Project* (VHP), the Library of Congress will host a special virtual event **Thursday, May 6 at 12 p.m. EST.** “Motherhood and the Military” will explore the often-unrecognized contributions of American mothers in the military through the personal experiences of four women veterans.

Event registration can be made through the [VHP Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/vetshistoryproject). [Veterans History Project Spotlights Military Mothers with May Panel Discussion | Library of Congress (loc.gov)](https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-21-018/veterans-history-project-spotlights-military-mothers-with-may-panel-discussion/2021-04-26/?loclr=ealn)

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

A replay of the Awards show can be found at [Alexandria Celebrates Women](https://alexandriacelebrateswomen.com/).

**Historic Marker is A Reality!**

**Historic marker commemorating women’s suffrage installed in Alexandria**

  

 *South St. Asaph and Prince Streets*

**Alexandria Celebrates Women** worked with the Office of Historic Alexandria for the creation and recent installation of a new “tabletop” marker in Old Town. The marker is located on the site which housed the Federal District Court 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.** Information is live at Visit Alexandria [Twitter (thread)](https://twitter.com/AlexandriaVA/status/1366508027650711552) and [Instagram Stories](https://www.instagram.com/stories/visitalexva/2520006934241974947/). Please take a moment to visit this exciting piece of our City’s history! A formal dedication is being planned for later this year (date TBA).

*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.*

ACW greatly appreciates 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 have helped to make this historic marker a reality! *You are Alexandria’s Modern Heroines!***

**NEWS** 

***Alexandria Times*, April 22, 2021 --**  “Extraordinary Women in Extraordinary Times” [04\_22\_2021-Alex\_Times\_WEB.pdf (alextimes.com)](https://alextimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/04_22_2021-Alex_Times_WEB.pdf)  (pages 44 & 45)

# ***Washington Post*, April 27, 2021** -- “A quarter of women say they are financially worse off a year into pandemic, Post-ABC poll finds” [Poll: A quarter of women say they are financially worse off a year into pandemic - The Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/04/27/poll-women-pandemic-worse-off/?wpmk=1&wpisrc=al_news__alert-economy--alert-national&utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wp_news_alert_revere&location=alert&pwapi_token=eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJjb29raWVuYW1lIjoid3BfY3J0aWQiLCJpc3MiOiJDYXJ0YSIsImNvb2tpZXZhbHVlIjoiNTk2Y2NmZGNhZGU0ZTI0MTE5ZDc2NDdiIiwidGFnIjoid3BfbmV3c19hbGVydF9yZXZlcmUiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy53YXNoaW5ndG9ucG9zdC5jb20vYnVzaW5lc3MvMjAyMS8wNC8yNy9wb2xsLXdvbWVuLXBhbmRlbWljLXdvcnNlLW9mZi8_d3Btaz0xJndwaXNyYz1hbF9uZXdzX19hbGVydC1lY29ub215LS1hbGVydC1uYXRpb25hbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWFsZXJ0JnV0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX2NhbXBhaWduPXdwX25ld3NfYWxlcnRfcmV2ZXJlJmxvY2F0aW9uPWFsZXJ0In0.B9Wwatoe0V-D5jCqApqDFn3IgLT5BSezm_wcspi-DPA)

**COVID-19**  

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

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)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**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](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>

|  |
| --- |
|  |

***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 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](https://www.virginiahistory.org/what-you-can-see/story-virginia/explore-story-virginia/1876-1924/virginia-and-women%E2%80%99s-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%3A%5CUsers%5Cconverse%5CDocuments%5CAdobe%5CWomen%27s%20Suffrage%20Centennial%20Commission) <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/*](https://alexandriacelebrateswomen.com/)

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

 