

## Centennial Corner – September 2, 2020

**Centennial Corner** is a regular feature of the **League in Action** e-newsletter to celebrate *three centennial anniversaries in 2020*: the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the creation of the League of Women Voters, and the naming of our county as Arlington County. Centennial Corner will:

- Highlight important **moments and leaders** in these three histories;
- List **upcoming events** relevant to the anniversaries; and
- Flag suggestions for additional **reading and other resources**.

The Arlington League's **Centennial Committee** is proud to produce this feature and would welcome your feedback and suggestions for future content. Please send ideas to **Seema Jain** ([seema.kakad@gmail.com](mailto:seema.kakad@gmail.com)).

### Feature

**Yes, our GOTV efforts this year are challenging, but our LWV-Arlington predecessors faced challenges too.** For example, in 1964, also a presidential election year, the 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution—outlawing the poll tax as a qualification for voting in federal elections—was ratified. Nevertheless, there was lots of confusion and uncertainty in the community regarding the effect of the new laws on voter registration. And so the Arlington League partnered with Arlington County to distribute non-partisan information on the new registration laws. As reported by then President of the Arlington League Ellen Bozman in April 1964, the League began distributing 20,000 paper fliers (a copy of which is below) to apartment buildings and to the public to provide some clarity to the public in preparation for the upcoming election. And as you can see below, the message they were conveying was not the simplest. So take heart, LWV-Arlington members, even in a pandemic, we are just part of a long tradition of GOTV.

## Events

**Sept 2, 6 pm: How Black Women Broke Barriers** (Women & Politics Institute, American U)  
Dr. Martha S. Jones, of John Hopkins University, will discuss her forthcoming book, [\*Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All\*](#), “the epic history of African American women's pursuit of political power -- and how it transformed America.” Details and registration [here](#).

**Sept 9, 6 pm: She Votes!** (Women & Politics Institute, American U)  
Award-winning journalists Lynn Sherr and Ellen Goodman, co-hosts of the [\*She Votes! Our Battle for the Ballot\*](#) podcast, will discuss the complex history of the women’s suffrage movement, and its enduring significance during their tenure reporting on women’s rights and social change issues. Details and registration [here](#).

**Sept 10, 7 pm: Runyon vs. McCrary: Arlington and the Desegregation of Private Schools.** (Arlington Historical Society)  
Arlingtonian and lawyer Richard Samp will discuss the 1976 U.S. Supreme Court case *Runyon vs. McCrary*, which extended the ban on racial segregation to private schools, and involved a segregated pre-school here in Arlington. Samp will discuss the people and places involved in this Arlington-focused case and its interesting aftermath. Details and registration [here](#) (Note: register by Sept 9).

**Missed it Live? Not too Late.**

**Aug 18 Premiere of “Finish the Fight,”** a digital play commissioned and produced by the New York Times to bring to theatrical life the biographies of lesser-known activists who helped to win voting rights for women. A recording of the performance is available to stream [here](#).

**Aug 26 Unveiling of Women’s Rights Pioneers Monument in Central Park.** Monumental Women unveiled the Women’s Rights Pioneers Monument featuring New Yorkers Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Sojourner Truth (abolitionists, suffragists, and women right’s pioneers). Re-watch the live event [here](#).

## Journalism to Check Out

[\*\*The 19<sup>th</sup>\\*\*\*](#). A non-profit, non-partisan newsroom reporting on gender, politics, and policy. “In short: The 19th Amendment remains unfinished business, a fact we acknowledge in our logo with an asterisk — a visible reminder of those who have been omitted from our democracy. The expansion of the franchise continues today, and The 19th aims to capture this ongoing American story.” The 19<sup>th</sup> offers a daily and weekly [newsletter](#).

[\*\*The Lily\*\*](#), published by the Washington Post. The Lily was the first U.S. paper by women. “Enter The Lily of 2017. A revival. A comeback. A publication for women, sure. But the curious ones. The ones who have something to say and who want to be heard. Our mission is two-fold: Empower with news and information and promote inclusivity by exposing diverse voices. The Lily of today is a place for the curious.” Lily Lines [newsletter](#) is published on Mondays and Thursdays.

## Film

**Streaming now!** “**The Vote**,” PBS’s two-part, four-hour documentary on the struggle for the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The website has lots of supplementary film clips and learning materials, as well. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/vote/>

## Online Exhibits

The COVID-19 crisis has shuttered or caused the postponement of many suffrage-related programs. However, some exhibits exist in some form online. Here are a few, with more to be added in forthcoming Centennial Corners.

The National Archives. “Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote”  
[https://www.archivesfoundation.org/women/?gclid=EA1aIQobChMIwvGq-pzA6AIVDniGCh2JUQ80EAAAYASAAEgJLifD\\_BwE](https://www.archivesfoundation.org/women/?gclid=EA1aIQobChMIwvGq-pzA6AIVDniGCh2JUQ80EAAAYASAAEgJLifD_BwE)

National Women’s History Museum. “Crusade for the Vote.”  
<http://www.crusadeforthevote.org/online-exhibits>

Alice Paul Institute. “For Democracy: Celebrating 100 Years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.”  
<https://www.alicepaul.org/2020-exhibition/>

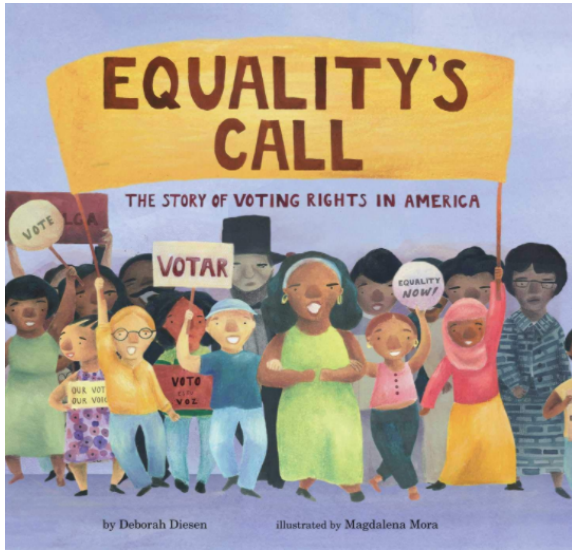
Carol Simon Levin, *Remembering the Ladies*. The author has made available a free electronic version of this book, which profiles 69 women who fought for women’s political inclusion and participation. <https://tellingherstories.com/book-remembering-the-ladies/>

## It’s Arlington’s Centennial, Too

The County has launched a [webpage](#) to showcase news of the County’s “naming centennial” and associated events. Be sure to sign up for email updates.

Meanwhile, check out this “[story map](#)” from 1920, courtesy of the Arlington Historical Society.

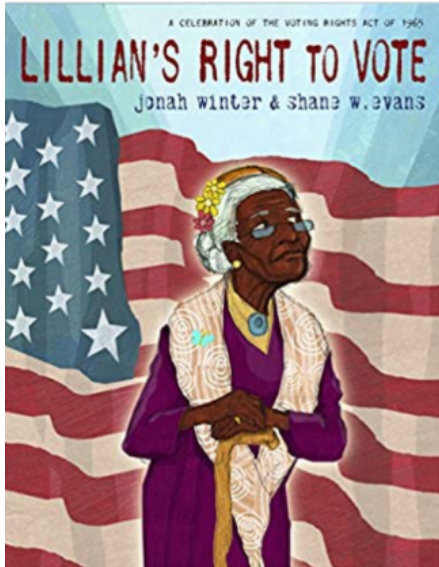
## Books about Suffrage for the Youth In Your Life



[Equality's Call: The Story of Voting Rights in America](#) by Deborah Diesen. “The founders of the United States declared that consent of the governed was a key part of their plan for the new nation. But for many years, only white men of means were allowed to vote. This unflinching and inspiring history of voting rights looks back at the activists who answered equality’s call, working tirelessly to secure the right for all to vote, and it also looks forward to the future and the work that still needs to be done.” Recommended for ages 3-8.



[Heart on Fire: Susan B. Anthony Votes for President](#) by Ann Malaspina. “On November 5, 1872, Susan B. Anthony made history--and broke the law--when she voted in the US presidential election, a privilege that had been reserved for men. She was arrested, tried, and found guilty: "The greatest outrage History ever witnessed," she wrote in her journal. It wasn't until 1920 that women were granted the right to vote, but the civil rights victory would not have been possible without Susan B. Anthony's leadership and passion to stand up for what was right.” Recommended for ages 5-9.



[Lillian's Right to Vote](#) by Jonah Winter & Shana W. Evans. “An elderly African American woman, en route to vote, remembers her family’s tumultuous voting history in this picture book publishing in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.” Picture book; recommended for ages 5 to 9.



[Finish the Fight](#) by Veronia Chambers. From the book description: “Who was at the forefront of women's right to vote? We know a few famous names, like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, but what about so many others from diverse backgrounds—black, Asian, Latinx, Native American, and more—who helped lead the fight for suffrage? On the hundredth anniversary of the historic win for women's rights, it's time to celebrate the names and stories of the women whose stories have yet to be told.” Recommended for ages 8-12.