

League in Action August 19, 2020

President's Message

LATE BREAKING NEWS (I always wanted to say that.)

Governor Northam is set to propose the use of drop boxes for this election at the Special Session of the General Assembly which began in August 18!

This, of course, is a huge priority for the League, especially in light of the problems with the Postal Service. We will be monitoring this Session, which is expected to last at least a week -or two...of face it, no one knows anymore.

Be prepared to see some Action Alerts coming as this legislation and others important to us come up.

Here are some links, if you wish to stream the Session. <u>http://virginia-senate.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3</u> <u>https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+oth+MTG</u> <u>https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/membersAndSession.php?secid=1&activesec</u> <u>=0#!hb=1&mainContentTabs=0</u>

As you read this newsletter you will see many opportunities for voter action – some require contact – some none. **Please sign up** as you are able.

One thing everyone can do is spread CORRECT information. We were astonished this week to learn that some well meaning people wanted to bundle ballots together for the elderly and sick and FedEx them to the registrar or carry them en masse. That is called "ballot harvesting" and is illegal in VA. I posted this on our Facebook page (**please like and follow** our social media pages so that you can share this information.)

Please consider posting to neighborhood listservs and Nextdoor, etc. It is another way to battle misinformation.

We have been getting this question way too many times. You are not allowed to pick up, or mail in, or drop off anyone else's ballot in Virginia. That is called "ballot harvesting" and it is against the law. Everyone must mail or return their own ballot.

We are hoping, that when satellite locations are approved, people will be able to drop their ballots there, however, unless the law is changed, you cannot touch anyone's ballot but your own.

You cannot group together a bunch of friends ballots and put them in FedEx or anything else.

Highlights of the month:

Jackie Rivas making contact with the Virginia Hospital Center to assure that the medical staff will get proper voting information for 2020.

Debbie Churchman getting permission for our signs to be on bike paths, community centers and for 3000 fliers to go to students at the "grab and go meal program sponsored by Arlington County Schools.

21,000 postcards and counting......

We will recognize EVERYONE when this is over for all the work they are doing. Boy, are we having a party!

Thanks for all you do.....

Joan

Read LWV VA statement commending the Governor of Virginia on voter protection proposals



Take Action: Honor the Legacy of Congressman Lewis

Last week, we celebrated the 55th anniversary of the signing of the original 1965 Voting Rights Act. With the passing of the voting and civil rights champion Congressman **John Lewis**, and the growing instances of voter suppression across the country, our fight for voter protection remains steadfast.

Contact your Senators to ask them to pass the "John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act" today.

Here is the link

Fight the attack on the Post Office

Here is the link to information

SPECIAL ELECTION UPDATE

We have more tasks... some require no contact, some a little contact and some more contact so that is how we ranked them!

For more information on any of these, contact us at <u>LWVarlingtonva@gmail.com</u>. The information is at my house – so email me to let me know when you want to pick up. Contactless:

Calling Senior Residences – We have many covered and many not yet covered. We need someone to call them to be sure they have the proper materials and information. There is much confusion over early voting, dropping off ballots – and we need to be sure they have correct information.

Putting up yard signs along bike trails. We have received permission to put our yard signs on the bike trails!

To sign up please click here

No Contact

Pandemic Postcarding - We have hit 20,000 cards and counting!! <u>Contact Joan</u> to find out how you can postcard from home!

Some Contact:

Distribute fliers – We still need fliers in stores especially in Buckingham, Green Valley, and Cherrydale.

More Contact:

In person voter registration. We are now going to participate in "Census Palooza" with the Census 2020 people. On August 29, between 10 AM and 2 PM, they are setting up tables in Buckingham (Gates of Ballston) and Barcroft (near

Doctors Run Park.)

As with all of our other in-person programs, we will have full PPE.

Sign up here (And note we have a few spots for AFAC open in September still.)

Help Spread the Word!

We have prepared a social media outreach plan from now until the election to flood all forms of social media with information, facts and fun ways to participate in voting! **Please help us spread the message by "liking", "tagging", "retweeting" and "sharing" all posts, images and videos.** And if you yourself are active on social media, please always tag the Arlington league to increase traffic!

If you would like to get involved with our online/social media outreach please contact **Rachelle Walker** <u>m.rachelle.walker@gmail.com</u>. Thanks!

Ready for November? More ways to get the word out

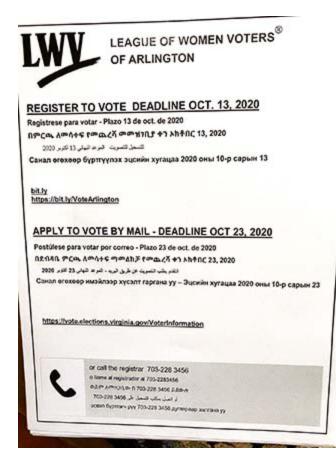
Amharic poster



Brennan Center Facts on Voter Fraud - Spread the Word!



Bags getting ready to go to schools in Arlington Grab and Go food program. 3000!



Voting Video to Share - wherever you share

voter registration video produced by some of our memberts

Posters Produced by Student Member Emily Wosje

REQUIRED VOTER IDS

ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ARE ACCEPTABLE IN VIRGINIA:

- Voter confirmation documents
- . Virginia driver's license (even an expired one)
- Virginia DMV-issued photo ID
- United States passport
- Employer-issued photo ID
- Student ID issued by any community college or university located in the U.S.
- . Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID
- . Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID
- Virginia Voter Photo ID card

MORE INFO: WWW.ELECTIONS.VIRGINIR.GOV

 A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document containing the name and address of the voter

VOTE 411 UPCOMING ELECTION DATES VIRGINIA GENERAL

- Registration Deadline: Oct. 13th
- Absentee Ballot Request Deadline: Oct. 23rd
- Early Voting: Sept. 18- Oct. 31st
- Election Day: Nov. 3rd



LWY



- for you to post to your sites and on Nextdoor and list serves

Temporary Job Opportunity: Voting registrar temporary jobs have posted

Arlington County's paid positions for this election are now posted online.

Arlington County is hiring for voting registration.

More information and apply here

Fall Workshop: A Time Increase your Political Skills, Leadership and League Skills

Joan Porte First VP LWV VA

We move into fall and the zenith of the 2020 election season with the League of Women Voters of Virginia virtual Fall Workshop. We will start off with a reception on the evening of Sept 11, 2020. One of the many things lost to us by the COVID 19 pandemic is the ability to meet other League members, exchange ideas and talk strategy. Therefore, after a commemoration of the anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks, **we will kick off the Workshop with a virtual reception** which allows members to break into small meeting rooms to discuss how they are managing two issues during COVID 10. First, how you are handling virtual messaging for the 2020 election and how are you keeping your league visible during quarantine.

The formal part of Workshop begins at 9:00 A on Saturday, September 12, 2020. Morning speakers offer information two important issues related to the 2020 Election, getting people to the polls, and stopping the suppression of the votes.

After a break in which you will have the option to mingle with other members in virtual break room if you wish, we will continue with a **afternoon session where the focus will be on League management including a deep dive into position study and league leadership development**.

Don't miss this chance to connect with members from all over the Commonwealth

as you learn new ways to make your League more influential, effective, and efficient.

AGENDA

9 AM - 10 AM **How to Get Out the Vote** (GOTV) - **Maggie Bush**, LWV US Break

10:05 AM - 11: 05 AM **How to Combat Voter Suppression** - **Andrea Miller**, Poor People' Campaign of Virginia

11: 05 AM - 12:00 PM Break (the virtual meeting rooms will be open if you want to have informal discussions.)

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - Leadership Development - Kelly McFarland Stratman - LWV US

Break

1:05 - 2:05 PM - Deep Dive into League Positions - Betsy Lawson - LWV US

Timetable

Virtual Reception – 7 PM – 8:30 PM – Sept 11 Workshop – 9AM – 2 PM – Sept 12

Please RSVP here to get your Zoom link. (Links will be sent three times in the two days prior to the meeting.) \$20

Voter Registration Information in 8-13 Arlington Connection



Plan Ahead: The Election is Closer Than You Think

Read Shirley Ruhe's write-up and interview with Joan here

Committees

Aug 19 – 7 PM – Election Integrity – contact Lisa Koteen Gerchick, <u>lkoteengerchick@gmail.com</u>

> Aug 24 – 7PM – **Housing** – contact **Carol Brooke**, <u>changetheclimate555@gmail.com</u>



Centennial Corner – Mid-August 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 19th 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).

After Suffrage: Getting Women to the Polls

When the 19th Amendment was ratified, a big question loomed: Would women vote? Evidence suggests that close to half of all eligible women did – at least in the presidential elections after suffrage. Despite being disenfranchised based on their race in many states, Black women also turned out at impressive levels. Nevertheless, for the first 50 years after ratification, women were less likely to vote than men. Today, women are more likely to vote than men.

Why did it take years for women's voting rates to catch up to (and now exceed) men's? Scholars have offered some theories. For one, voter-mobilizing organizations led and populated by men – such as political parties and unions – had a big head start. They had massive resources and many decades of experience getting male voters to the polls. As political scientists Christina Wolbrecht and Kevin Corder note, "gender differences in organizational capacity had consequences for the representation of women's interests after suffrage." The League of Women Voters, for example, had "virtually no experience with GOTV, and their energies were divided by the work of studying, recommending, and advocating on behalf of policy proposals." What's more, women's organizations had to undertake "a long-term effort to overcome social norms that discouraged participation," battling "a federal structure that not only did not facilitate but also often discouraged voting," according to Wolbrecht and Corder.

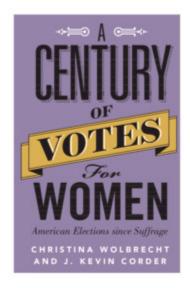
Federalism turned out to be a critical part of the story. "National averages obscure that women's turnout varied considerably across states in 1920," Wolbrecht and Corder found. This variation was the product of two forces: electoral competition (which incentivized parties to mobilize women to vote) and restrictive laws (which kept women, particularly Black women, from the polls). In Virginia, which had restrictive laws and little electoral competition, just 5% of

women voted. In Kentucky, which had few restrictions and a lot of competition, 50% did, according to the study. The authors note that the turnout gap between Virginia women and Kentucky women far exceeded any state's male-female turnout gap in 1920. Thus, the scholars conclude that **"whether women voted after suffrage appears to be more a function of where they lived and their state and local electoral institutions than of their gender alone."**

Largely due to Jim Crow laws, the racial gap in women's voting was an issue in the decades after suffrage. According to Wolbrecht and Corder, a Black newspaper in Chicago reported in 1920 "that those seeking to mobilize black women as voters had faced murder, kidnap, and threatened lynching [and] signed threats of arson against homes and businesses." Nevertheless, Black women faced down structures of oppression. In Richmond, for example, fully 13% of Black women registered in 1920 (compared to 27% of White women), according to a study by historian Suzanne Lebsock. Black women's voting surged with the civil rights efforts of the 1950s and 1960s. Black women now have higher voter turnout rates than any other race-gender group, according to Census data from the 2012 election.

Fully incorporating women as voters was an intensive process, led by the League, civil rights organizations, and other civil society groups. **Reaching gender parity in voting took more than half a century.** And, as we know, the cause of voter engagement is never done.

This contribution is adapted from Christina Wolbrecht and J. Kevin Corder, "Turning Rights Into Ballots: The Uneven Integration of Women Into Electoral Politics After Suffrage," <u>PS: Political Science & Politics</u>, 53(3), 2020, 478-483. The book-length version of their article is Wolbrecht and Corder, <u>A Century of Votes for</u> <u>Women</u> (Cambridge University Press, 2020). The Lebsock study is "Woman Suffrage and White Supremacy: A Virginia Case Study," In <u>Visible Women: New</u> <u>Essays on American Activism</u>," ed. **Nancy A. Hewitt** and Suzanne Lebsock (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993), 61-100.

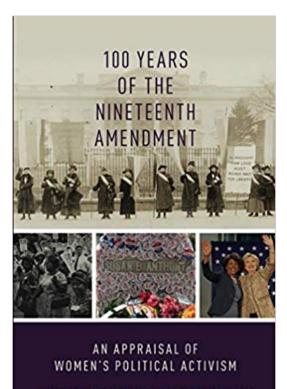


LWV-Arlington's Krysta Nicole Jones Records Suffrage Minute on Start TV



See Krysta's spotlight on Fannie Barrier Williams <u>here</u>

Books That Have Come Across Our Desk



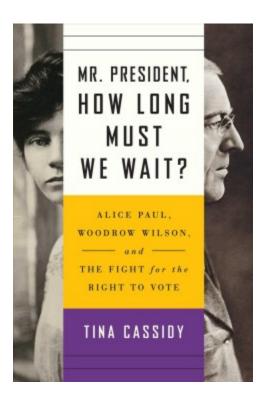
DITED BY HOLLY J. MCCAMMON & LEE ANN BANASZA

<u>100 Years of the</u> <u>Nineteenth Amendment</u>, edited by Holly J. McCammon and Lee Ann Banaszak.

From the book description: "The volume looks back at the decades since women won the right to vote to analyze the changes, developments, and even continuities in women's roles in the broad political sphere. ...[Although] women have made substantial strides in the political realm—voting at higher rates than men and gaining prominent leadership roles—

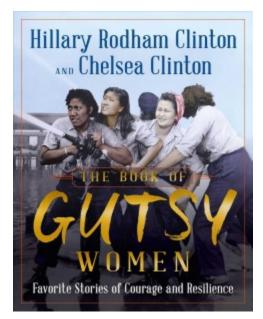
barriers to gender equality remain.

Women continue to be underrepresented in political office and to confront gender bias in a myriad of political settings...[S]everal chapters discuss the failure of the Nineteenth Amendment to provide full political rights and representation to African American, Latina, and poorer women. The work also considers women's extrainstitutional activism in a wide variety of settings, including in the feminist, civil rights, environmental, and far-right movements."



<u>Mr. President, how</u> <u>long must we wait? :</u> <u>Alice Paul, Woodrow</u> <u>Wilson, and the fight</u> <u>for the right to vote</u> by Tina Cassidy

"The author of Jackie After O examines the complex relationship between suffragist leader Alice Paul and President Woodrow Wilson, revealing the life-risking measures that Paul and her supporters endured to gain voting rights for

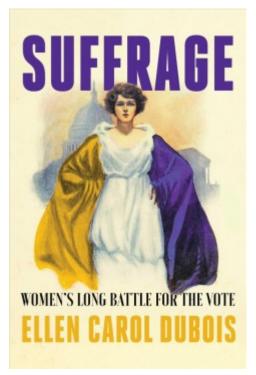


American women." (Courtesy Hoover Public Library, AL)

<u>The book of gutsy</u> <u>women : Favorite</u> <u>Stories of Courage</u> <u>and Resilience</u> by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton

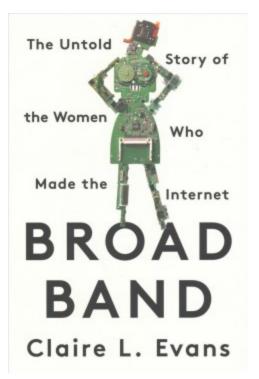
The authors "share the stories of the gutsy women who have inspired them -- women with the courage to stand up to the status quo, ask hard questions, and get the job done. Ensuring the rights of women and girls remains a big piece of the

unfinished business of the twenty-first century.While there's a lot of work to do, we know that throughout history and around the globe women have overcome the toughest resistance imaginable to win victories that have made progress possible for all of us. The book features Dorothy Height, Edie Windsor, Diana Nyad, Rachel Carson, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Mary Beard, Wangari Maathai, Harriet Tubman, and Malala Yousafzai." (Courtesy Hoover Public Library, AL)



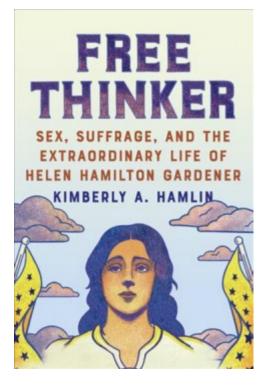
Suffrage : women's long battle for the vote by Ellen Carol DuBois

"Published to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, a highenergy chronicle of the movement for women's voting rights shares bold portraits of its devoted leaders and activists. By the author of Feminism and Suffrage." (Courtesy Hoover Public Library, AL)



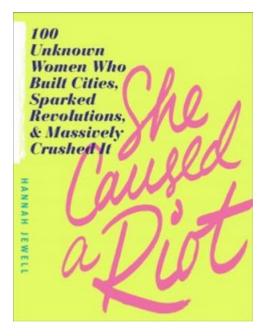
<u>Broad band : the</u> <u>untold story of the</u> <u>women who made</u> <u>the Internet</u> by Claire Lisa Evans

The YACHT lead singer and VICE reporter celebrates the lesserknown contributions of women to the history of technology, sharing brief profiles of such boundary-breaking innovators as Ada Lovelace, Grace Hopper, Elizabeth "Jake" Feinler and Stacy Horn. (Courtesy Hoover Public Library, AL)



<u>Free thinker : sex,</u> <u>suffrage, and the</u> <u>extraordinary life of</u> <u>Helen Hamilton</u> <u>Gardener</u> by Kimberly A Hamlin

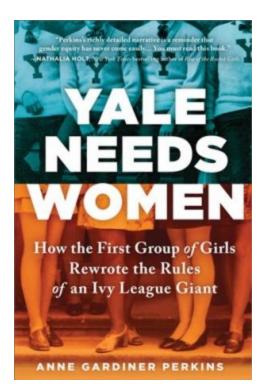
"Describes the life of the author, suffragist and civil servant who pretended to be married to her lover, openly opposed sexist piety, debunked "science" that claimed women's brains were inferior and worked tirelessly for the Nineteenth Amendment." (Courtesy Hoover Public Library, AL)



<u>She caused a riot :</u> <u>100 unknown women</u> <u>who built cities,</u> <u>sparked revolutions,</u> <u>and massively</u> <u>crushed it</u> by Hannah Jewell

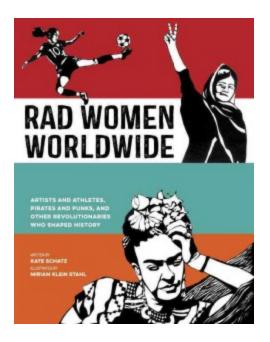
A look at 100 mostly obscure women from history offers brief portraits of women who span centuries and the globe. The women featured include leaders from ancient history, warriors with impressive kill counts, scientific geniuses, writers, suffragettes, fun-loving vixens, Nazi fighters, and revolutionaries.

They all share a fierce determination to succeed and an unwillingness to accept limitations. And yet, their stories have been largely ignored by history. (Courtesy Hoover Public Library, AL)



<u>Yale needs women :</u> <u>how the first group of</u> <u>girls rewrote the</u> <u>rules of an Ivy</u> <u>League giant</u> by Anne Gardiner Perkins

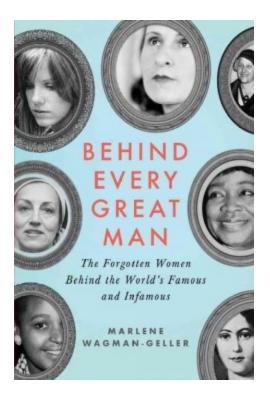
"The first woman editorin-chief of the Yale Daily News celebrates the first class of women admitted to Yale in 1969, sharing compelling insights into the Ivy League exclusion of women who were eventually accepted as an incentive for male students." (Courtesy Hoover Public Library, AL)



<u>Rad women</u> <u>worldwide : artists</u> <u>and athletes, pirates</u> <u>and punks, and other</u> <u>revolutionaries who</u> <u>shaped history</u> by Kate Schatz

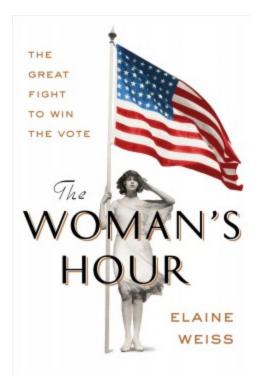
"From the author and illustrator of the New York Times best-selling book Rad American Women A-Z, comes a bold new collection of 40 biographical profiles, each accompanied by a striking illustrated portrait, showcasing extraordinary women from around the world,

including Hatshepsut, Malala Yousafzi, Ann Bancroft and many more." (Courtesy Hoover Public Library, AL)



Behind every great man : the forgotten women behind the world's famous and infamous by Marlene Wagman-Geller

"Details the lives of forty women who stood behind their famous husbands and supported them, including such figures as Gandhi, Einstein, Picasso, and Malcolm X." (Courtesy Hoover Public Library, AL)



<u>The woman's hour :</u> <u>the great fight to win</u> <u>the vote</u> by Elaine F. Weiss

"An uplifting account of the 1920 ratification of the constitutional amendment that granted voting rights to women traces the culmination of seven decades of legal battles and cites the pivotal contributions of famous suffragists and political leaders." (Courtesy Hoover Public Library, AL)

Major Events to Watch For

- 8/22 8/23 Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, NY. "Equality Weekend-Seneca Falls". Also on Facebook and YouTube is the taping of their annual Convention Day event, including women suffrage skydivers. That event will be livestreamed on facebook here. They are also planning a "Ratification Race", as part of a larger partnership with the National Park Foundation.
- 8/26 Unveiling of the "Women's Rights Pioneers Monument" on

Central Park's Library Walk. (New York City) The 3 statues are of **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, **Sojourner Truth**, and **Susan B. Anthony**. The unveiling will be accompanied by *Talking Statues* monologues, voiced by famous actresses taking the roles of these women.

- 8/26 <u>Turning Point Suffragist Memorial</u> (Lorton, VA) Videos and commentary will be launched, celebrating the women's suffrage movement and the memorial itself. The memorial is under construction, with a live dedication postponed until spring 2021.
- 8/26 "Forward into Light" project of the federal Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission. Buildings and landmarks across the country will light up in purple and gold to honor the suffrage centennial.
- "Look Up to Her" (Mt. Rushmore, SD) Images of 14 female leaders of the suffrage and civil rights movements will be projected on each side of the 4 presidents for 2 weeks, starting on or about August 18.
- The <u>2020 Women Vote stamp</u> can now be <u>pre-ordered</u>, although the usual launch ceremonies will be delayed until 2021.



- Aug 26, 7 pm: Suffrage at 100 (Women & Politics Institute, American U). Dr. Stacie Taranto and Dr. Leandra Zarnow, co-editors of the new book, <u>Suffrage at 100: Women in American Politics Since</u> <u>1920</u> will discuss women's engagement in electoral politics over the past one hundred years. Details and registration <u>here</u>.
- 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, <u>Vanguard: How Black</u>
 <u>Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All</u>, "the epic history of African American women's pursuit of political power -- and how it transformed America." Details and registration <u>here</u>.
- Sept 9, 6 pm: <u>She Votes!</u> (Women & Politics Institute, American U. Award-winning journalists Lynn Sherr and Ellen Goodman, co-hosts of the <u>She Votes! Our Battle for the Ballot</u> 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 <u>here.</u>

Museum Exhibits

Virginia has its own suffrage history. Although racism resulted in the General Assembly's defeat of all suffrage efforts, there were women and men suffragists, Black and White, working towards that goal for years. Fortunately, recognition of their efforts is on display in various places around the state. There are several museums in our wider region with relevant exhibits. Some are available to visit now, and others plan to do so before too long.

Virginia museums are operating under varying social distancing rules, so check before you go:

- Virginia Museum of History and Culture (Richmond) Open
- Lucy Burns Museum (Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton) Open
- Brandywine River Museum of Art (Chadds Ford, PA) Open thru 9/27/20
- Library of Virginia (Richmond) Currently open to researchers only
- **Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center** A partial travelling exhibit from the Library of Virginia is currently there.

There are many online exhibits as well, including those from museums that do plan to re-open at some point.

- National Archives. "Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote"
- National Women's History Museum. "Crusade for the Vote."
- Alice Paul Institute. "For Democracy: Celebrating 100 Years of the 19th Amendment."
- Library of Congress. "Shall Not Be Denied."
- Carol Simon Levin, <u>Remembering the Ladies</u>. 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. Ensuring the rights and opportunities of women and girls remains a big piece of the

unfinished business of the twenty-first century.

Panels, Videos, and Podcasts Goodies

(and these are just a few)

- Streaming now! "<u>The Vote</u>," PBS's two-part, four-hour documentary on the struggle for the 19th Amendment. The website has lots of supplementary film clips and learning materials, as well.
- "<u>She Votes</u>" an 8 part audio documentary, starting on 7/22.
- "<u>After the March</u>", which tells the story of Alice Paul's 1917 imprisonment.
- "<u>One Woman One Vote</u>" Virtual Film Festival. A variety of suffrage and feminist films are available for free through 11/3/20.
- "<u>Carrie Chapman Catt: Warrior for Women</u>". A film produced by Friends of Iowa PBS and showing on PBS stations in our area.
- The WSCC has partnered with Nashville's all-female singer-songwriter collective, Song Suffragettes, to host weekly <u>livestreamed performances</u> every Monday in August at 6pm(CT)/7pm(ET) in celebration of the centennial. The series will be available for free via the <u>Song Suffragettes'</u> <u>YouTube channel</u>.
- And in order to have some memorabilia to commemorate women winning the vote, a wonderful catalogue of suffrage-related products is now available that pulls together the offerings from many different organizations in <u>one place</u>.

Looking Ahead

In fact, many organizations are looking at August 2020 as the beginning of the

centennial year. And, there's even a centennial angle to 2022, which is the 100th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the constitutionality of the 19th Amendment.

It's Arlington's Centennial, Too

The County has launched a <u>webpage</u> to showcase news of the County's "naming centennial" and associated events. Be sure to sign up for email updates.

Meanwhile, check out this "<u>story map</u>" from 1920, courtesy of the Arlington Historical Society.

Resources

Twitter users are getting ready to share thoughts and information on the suffrage centennial. Here are some accounts to follow. (We will add more as we learn of them.)

@WomenVote100@DailySuffragist@SuffCentennials@2020centennial@CentOfSuffrageAlicePaulInstit@INSuffrage100@Suffragist

@WomensVote100
@Suff_Postcards
@100thSuffrageDC

US Mint Releases Women's Suffrage Coins to Honor Centennial



From the US Mint: The United States Mint's 2020 Women's Suffrage Centennial Silver Dollar celebrates the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment's ratification with a distinctive silver dollar coin marking a signature achievement in our Nation's history. By giving millions of women citizens the right to vote, it profoundly changed our Nation by moving it closer to its promise of inclusion and equality. These inspirational designs not only pay homage to the Amendment's adoption, they also honor the many pioneers, activists, and foot soldiers in the movement who fought bravely and tenaciously for decades to make it a reality.

Read the press release here

Visit the catalog order page here

Look for next newsletter September 2



Scan and Register Online Today!

