



League in Action

March 4, 2020

President's Message

Our Arlington members continue to make an incredible impact on the legislative system!

Congratulations to Lisa Koteen Gerchick! The State Board of Elections Chairman **Bob Brink** appointed her the Chair of the Advisory Review Workgroup.

Our Voter Access Chair, Pam Berg, testified before the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee on behalf of LWV Virginia on the National Popular Vote.



"The League of Women Voters of Virginia asks for the Committee's support of National Popular Vote. For the past 100 years we have been guided by our core principles, one of the most cherished being that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote. Today we continue the fight to ensure that every vote matters when electing the President. One person, one vote is an idea every Virginian and every American can get behind. The time has come for our President to be elected in this just and simple way. To pass this bill now is to be on the right side of history."

It was an honor to represent the League before the Black Employees Union of Arlington for their Black History Month Presentation. [See my remarks here.](#)

Joan

HELP NEEDED: Arlington Independent Media

Krysta Jones is recording our new radio podcast with Arlington Independent Media but **she needs people** to help get the show up and running.

If you have any interest in producing or writing – you will get training- let her know! krysta.n.jones@gmail.com

OAR BREAKFAST

The LWV Arlington is taking a table at the fundraising breakfast for OAR – Offenders Aid and Restoration. The event takes place on **Tuesday, 2 April** from

7:45am-9:00am at the Crystal Gateway Marriott (1700 Richmond Highway (Jefferson Davis Highway)). **Please RSVP to Pam Berg as soon as possible but no later than 26 March** at pberg16@comcast.net; or **703-309-2057**. The event is free; but OAR will request donations.

This is a terrific organization and a great event...especially for those of you who want to take specific action but are limited in time and commitment opportunities. It is easy: Eat breakfast, give a donation...done!

You are cordially invited by:

PAMELA BERG



**SECOND CHANCE
FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020
7:45AM - 9:00AM
DOORS OPEN AT 7:15AM**

**CRYSTAL GATEWAY MARRIOTT
1700 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY,
ARLINGTON, VA 22202**

Enjoy a free, hot breakfast, hear from community leaders, and get inspired by the stories of lives impacted. I hope you will join me and other friends and colleagues on April 2nd.

RSVP is required—Please call Pamela Berg at 703-309-2057

[Read the Virginia Voter here](#)



Arlington and Fairfax members in Richmond March 2
fighting gerrymandering

EVENTS

March 5

Celebrate two Arlington League Members and Other Female Leaders:

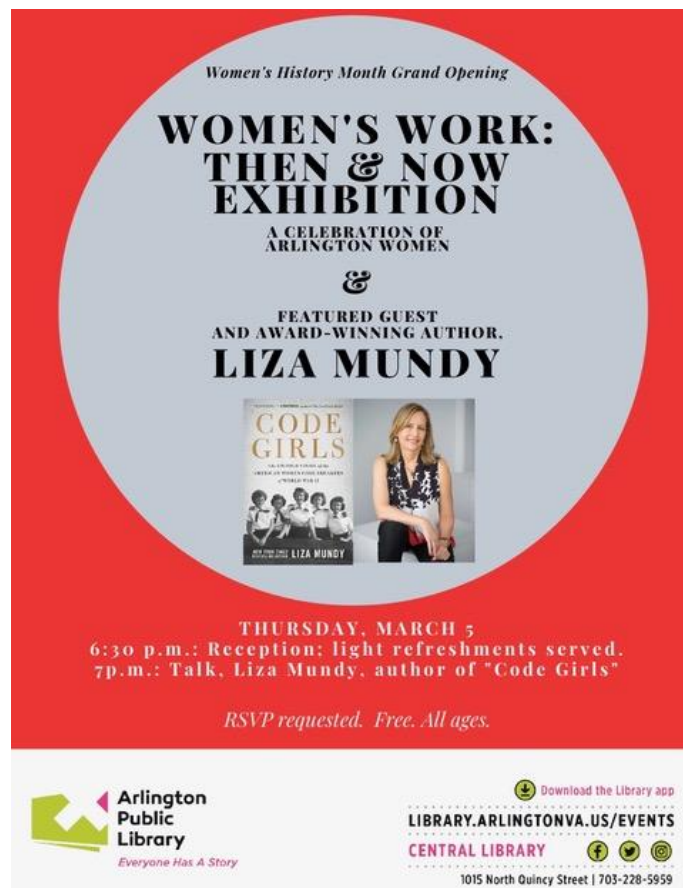
Huge congratulations to Arlington League leaders **Seema Kakad Jain** and **Nancy Tate!** They will be featured in an exhibit, "**Women's Work: Then and Now,**" displaying exemplary female leaders over more than a century of Arlington history.

Please join us in celebrating Seema, Nancy, and the other honorees on **Thursday, March 5**, at the Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. The reception is at 6:30, followed by a talk by Liza Mundy about her book *Code Girls*.

The exhibit, which runs throughout March at the Arlington Central Library, commemorates Women's History Month. The exhibit features 29 women leaders nominated by 20 community organizations.

The Arlington League nominated Seema and Nancy because they so perfectly fit the exhibit's goal of celebrating "groundbreakers, trailblazers, visionaries and leaders influential to your organization's work and mission."

[RSVP here](#)



March 7

LWV National Capitol Area (LWV NCA) Workshop

March 7, 2020 10 AM – 1 PM

Truthfulness in Voting and Voter's Rights across the US

Panelists include:

- Dr. Susan Moeller** of the Merrill School of Journalism at the University Maryland
- Yuripsy Morgan** of WBAL radio
- Colin McGuire**: columnist for the **Frederick News Post**

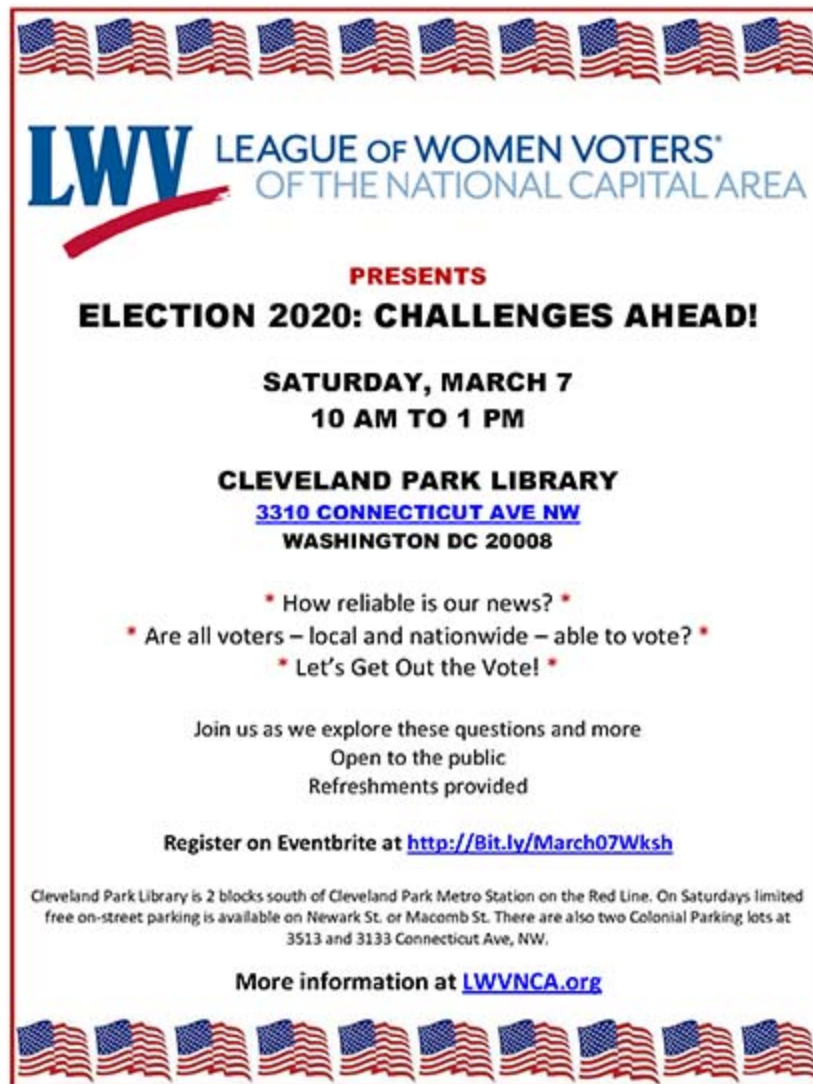
Denise Rolark Barnes, publisher of the Washington Informer, will moderate this

panel.

The Second Session will raise our awareness beyond our immediate NCA area to issues facing the nation regarding Voting Rights. Are we making progress in stopping the cleansing of the registration lists in Ohio? What is happening with the ability of Native Americans to get to the polls? Are polls open and freely available to peoples of all colors? Do convicted felons have the ability to vote freely?

The workshop is free.

[RSVP here](#)

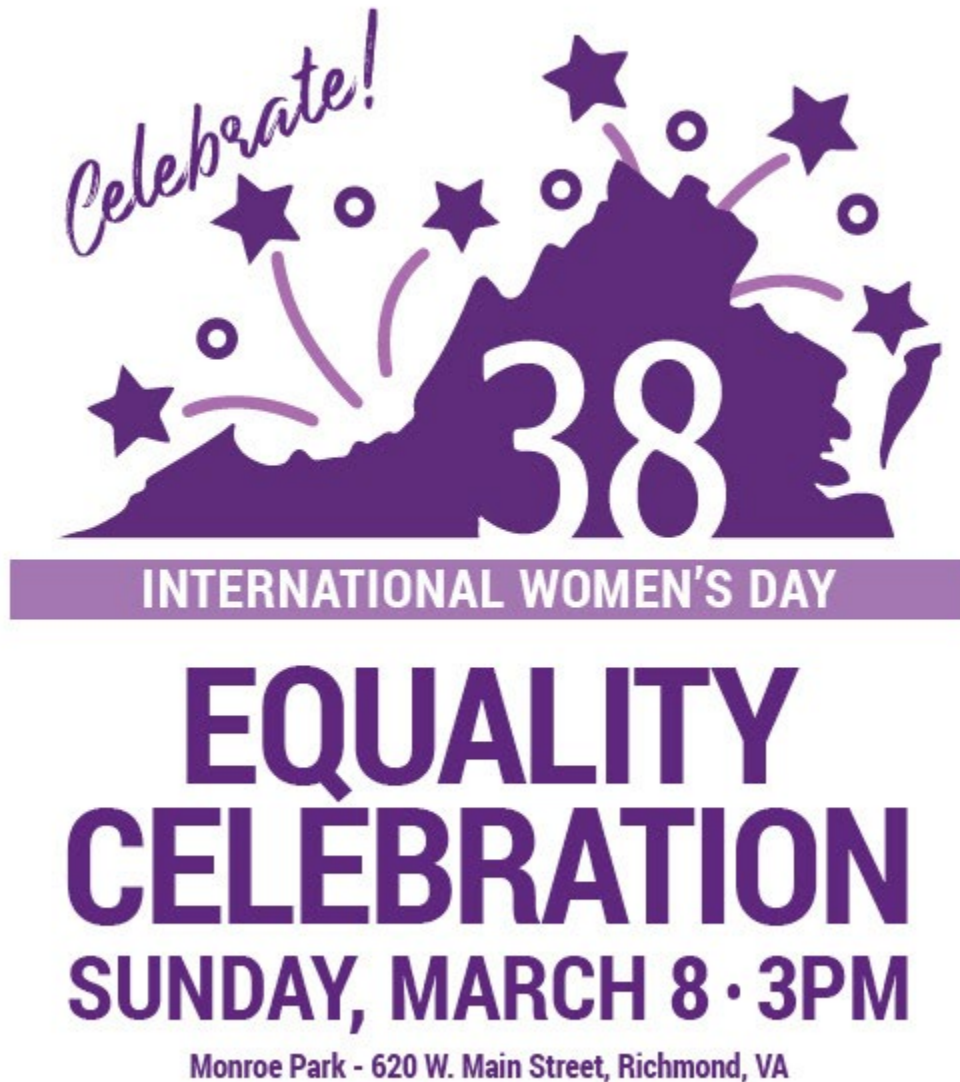


March 8

Celebrate That Virginia Was Number 38!

Parade message from Julia Tanner: I am happy to coordinate carpools to Richmond for the VARatifyERA parade in Richmond March 8. I expect to drive down on the 7th and return on the 9th.

Some of you might want to go down and back March 8. Please let me know - jktanner1@gmail.com.



Celebrate!38

Join the First Lady, Pam Northam, on Sunday, March 8th as we celebrate Virginia's ratification and International Women's Day with a family friendly event

filled with speakers, live music, parade puppets, banners, and a procession to the Virginia State Capitol to capture a photo of our historic moment.

Confirmed guests of note include the First Lady of Virginia, members of the Virginia Museum of History and Culture's new exhibit "Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia From Women's Suffrage to Today", and Virginia legislators.

This celebration is historical, and YOU are invited to join the party!

Which era of ERA will you represent?



Our procession to the Capitol will highlight four primary equality eras:

1920 (19th Amendment / Suffrage) - wear white!
Title IX - wear athletic uniforms / cap & gown / purple!
38th State / Virginia's Ratification - wear red!
Future State / Gender Equality is in our Constitution - wear blue

Once we reach the steps at the Virginia State Capitol we will assemble for a photograph to capture the historical moment. Red, white, and blue color waves will be prominently featured in the photo and we need plenty of participants in those colors. So pick your favorite equality era and plan to join that part of the procession. Parade puppets and banners will make it easy to find your group.

March 16

New Member Dinner: All members who have joined the LWV Arlington in the past in 2019/2020 are welcome to our New Member Dinner on **March 16** at 6:30 PM at William Jeffrey's Inn. 2301 Columbia Pike. **Krysta Jones**, who is now leading the LWV Virginia, New Member Task Force, will introduce you to the ins and outs of "leaguedom."

This is a non-hosted event but join us to learn about the League and meet fellow new League members. Contact **Krysta Jones** - krysta.n.jones@gmail.com

March 28

Save the Date:

Post Legislative Session

This is proving to be a whirlwind legislative session. Make sure you mark your calendar for our Post Legislative Session, where you will be able to question our

delegates about what they did - and did not do – this year.

March 28 – 2:15 PM – at the studios of the Arlington Independent Media.

Committees

March 4 – 7 PM **Sips and Civility** – contact **Carol Brooke**

changetheclimate555@gmail.com

March 10 – 7 PM – **Redistricting** – contact **Ann Sharp**

sharpab2828@gmail.com; **Jackie Rivas** jackiejr@verizon.net

March 15 – 1:30 PM – **Book Group** (NEW TIME) contact **Joan Porte**

Joan@joanporte.com

Desk 88: Eight Progressive Senators Who Changed America by Sherrod Brown

March 18 – 7 PM – **Election Security** - contact Lisa Koteen Gerchick

lkoteengerchick@gmail.com

CENTENNIAL CORNER

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the LWV, the 19th Amendment, and Arlington County

The **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. The 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).

Centennial Soiree Success

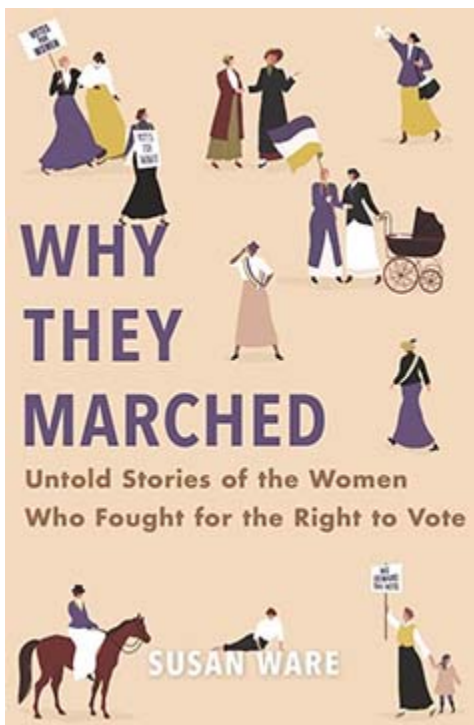
On February 18, the **LWV-Arlington Centennial Committee and Sips and Civility Committees** hosted a Centennial Soiree at Mrs. Peacock's Champagne Lounge. Approximately 50 people – and several in 1920s and suffragette attire – toasted to the 100 years of activism of the League of Women Voters and the passage of the 19th Amendment. We also celebrated the many men and women who fought for the right to vote for all women through a challenging trivia game.

Thank you for helping us celebrate! And a special congratulations to **Connie Potter**, our trivia winner.



[Read facts about the leaders who led us to the vote here](#)

Book Review: *Why They Marched* by Susan Ware



Why They Marched tells the stories of 19 diverse women – some you’ve probably heard of and others you likely haven’t – that played a role in the suffrage movement. Paired with each personal narrative of the women, Ware describes an accompanying “object” that provides a visual lens through which to think about suffrage and the time period. For example, Ware

describes the work of early suffragist and abolitionist **Sojourner Truth**, while also describing Truth's famous photographs of herself that she sold both to support herself financially and to support her causes.

Although Ware describes the work of some of the obvious suffragists such as **Susan B. Anthony** and **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, some of my favorite chapters were about lesser well-known suffragists. For example, through **Emmeline Wells**, we learn about the fight for suffrage by Mormon women, including women in polygamous marriages. Through journalist **Alice Stone Blackwell**, who cared deeply about Armenia and the refugee crisis that was unfolding at the time, we learn about the intersection between the suffrage movement and international human rights advocacy and education.

I recommend *Why They Marched* for a broad and refreshing view of the many ways that women demonstrated leadership on the question of suffrage.

Details: *Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote* by Susan Ware, Published 2019, 360 pages. **[Check it out at the Arlington Public Library.](#)**

Review by Seema Jain

Upcoming Events in the Arlington Area

- Thurs., March 5, 6:30-9 pm, **Author Talk with Liza Mundy, Author of *Code Girls***, preceded by the formal opening of an exhibition at Central Library that pays tribute to the lives of Arlington women past and present, including our very own Arlington Leaguers **Nancy Tate and Seema Jain**; Central Library Auditorium. More details and registration information [here](#).
- Thurs., March 12, 7-9 pm, **Life in Arlington in the 1920s**, a photographic presentation by author Peter R. Penczer, taking us from rural Alexandria County to Ballston Field in the 1920s; get a sense of what life was like in Arlington in the 20s, including how people worked, had fun, and issues about which people were concerned; Marymount University, Library Auditorium. More details, including parking information [here](#).
- Mon., March 16, 7-9 pm, **Arlington County's 100th Anniversary Celebration**, an event to celebrate the date that Arlington became Arlington one hundred years ago. Includes a panel of Arlington women leaders, a Girl Scout presentation of rosettes, and birthday cake; Ellen M. Bozman Government Center (Courthouse Plaza), County Board Room (3rd Floor); details [here](#).
- Wed., March 18, 7-8:30 pm, **The Struggle for Women's Suffrage in Virginia**, a talk by our very own LWV-Arlington **Nancy Tate** about the suffrage movement in Virginia, and in Arlington, and the resulting evolution of the League; Shirlington Branch Library, Campbell Room; details [here](#).

Exhibits in the DC Area

- [Women's Work: Then & Now](#) exhibit at Arlington Central Library; featuring

29 Arlington women from the past and present; runs from March 5 through April 2, with an opening celebration on March 5 featuring Liza Mundy, author of Code Girls (details above).

- Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote exhibit at the National Archives Museum (Hours: 10 am – 5:30 pm, exhibit running daily until Jan. 3, 2021).
- Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote exhibit at the Library of Congress (Hours: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday-Saturday until Sept. 2020).
- American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith exhibit at the National Museum of American History (Hours: 10 am – 5:30 pm daily); check out the table on which Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote the Declaration of Sentiments, Susan B. Anthony's red cape, and other suffrage items.
- Portrait Monument to Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony at the Capitol Building; check out the exhibit in the Capitol Visitor's Center (Hours: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday-Saturday).

Look for next newsletter March 18





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