

Celebrating
100
years of
Women's Right to Vote

FIGHTING FOR SUFFRAGE

Women weren't "given" the vote—they FOUGHT for 72 years to get it.

- The first woman's rights convention was held in 1848. It grew out of the abolition and temperance movements.
- The names of suffrage fighters on this trail are just a few of many hundreds who devoted much of their lives to WIN THE VOTE FOR WOMEN. Many are unknown today.
- The 19th Amendment gave women the vote, but that was not the end. The fight for equality goes on.
- AAUW-Morgan Hill and South County Women's Equality Series hopes this trail **educates** you on the history of women's suffrage, **inspires** you to learn more about the people involved, **engages** you in the story, and **encourages** you to VOTE!



Educate
Inspire
Engage
VOTE

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Elizabeth Cady Stanton
1815-1902

Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1848 with 2 of her 3 sons. She also had 3 daughters.

- Cady Stanton was a lifelong, tireless advocate for full rights of citizenship for women.
- In 1848 she and Lucretia Mott, organized the First Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY.
- There, she presented the Declaration of Sentiments that included a call for woman suffrage.

"The prejudice against color, of which we hear so much, is no stronger than that against sex. It is produced by the same cause, and manifested very much in the same way."

— Elizabeth Cady Stanton

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TOWARD REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY



Jeannette Rankin
1880-1973

- First woman elected to Congress in 1916.
- Elected to represent Montana 4 years before women got the vote! She served a second term from 1941-1943.
- Suffragist and women's rights advocate. Helped Montana women gain the vote in 1914.
- Introduced the 19th Amendment to Congress in 1919.
- In 2020, 127 women serve in the United States Congress, comprising 23.7% of the 535 members.

"I'm No Lady, I'm a Member of Congress"
— Jeannette Rankin

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Inez Milholland
1886-1919

- Milholland was a passionate activist for women's suffrage.
- In 1913, she led the massive suffrage parade in Washington, DC, riding a white horse.
- She campaigned relentlessly until her death at age 30.
- Hailed as a martyr for suffrage, she became the first woman to be given a memorial service in the nation's Capitol.



"Not to know what things in life require remedying is a crime...It leaves you at the mercy of events—it lets life manipulate you—instead of training you to manipulate life."

— Inez Milholland

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Zitkala-Sa
Yankton Dakota Sioux
1876-1938

- As a Yankton Dakota Sioux, Zitkala-Sa worked for women's suffrage and Indian rights.
- Her theories of Native American Indian resistance were influential in helping the suffragists implement a strategy to pass the 19th Amendment.
- She was a writer, musician, and educator who with William F. Hanson created The Sun Dance Opera. It is based on a sacred Sioux ritual banned by the US government.
- In honor of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, her image will be projected on Mount Rushmore

"I fear no man. Some times I think I don't even fear God"
— Zitkala-Sa

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TOWARD REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY



Frances Perkins
1880-1965

- First U. S. Secretary of Labor, 1933-1945
- Principal architect of the New Deal including the Civilian Conservation Corps & Public Works Administration.
- Largely responsible for US adoption of social security, unemployment insurance, minimum wage and over-time laws, and 40-hour work week.
- Capable, fearless, tactful and politically astute.

"The door might not be opened to a woman again for a long, long time, and I had a kind of duty to other women to walk in and sit down on the chair that was offered and so establish the right of others...to sit in the high seats."

— Frances Perkins

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Alice Paul
1885-1977



- Paul was the leader and strategist of the campaign for the 19th Amendment.
- Along with Lucy Burns, Paul applied militant tactics to the campaign that both had learned in England with Women's Social & Political Union.
- She and Burns organized the huge 1913 parade along Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington, DC, the day before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration
- Because Paul's approach was too militant for the National American Woman Suffrage Association, she formed the National Women's Party in 1916.

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Carrie Chapman Catt
1859-1947

- Chapman Catt was a powerful political leader in the U.S.
- She was President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).
- She worked to change suffrage laws state by state.
- After the 19th Amendment was passed by Congress in 1919, Chapman Catt organized a 14-month campaign for ratification.
- In 1920 she established the League of Women Voters to educate women on how to use their vote.

*"To the wrongs that need resistance, To the right that needs assistance,
To the future in the distance, Give yourselves."
— Carrie Chapman Catt*



ARGUMENTS AGAINST SUFFRAGE: 1915

Vote No On Women's Suffrage Because...

- 90% of the women either do not want it or do not care.
- It means competition of women with men instead of cooperation.
- 80% of the women eligible to vote are married and can only double a husband's vote.
- It can be of no benefit commensurate with the additional expense involved.
- In some states more voting women than voting men will place the government under petticoat rule.
- It is unwise to risk the good we already have for the evil which may occur.

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Susan B. Anthony
1820-1906

FIGHTING FOR SUFFRAGE

- For 50 years Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton worked closely together, first for abolition and then for woman suffrage.
- In 1869 they formed the American Woman Suffrage Association to push for a constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote.
- Anthony was an unflagging campaigner for woman suffrage, traveling widely throughout the country giving many speeches a year.
- In 1872 Anthony was arrested for voting in her hometown of Rochester, NY; convicted and fined. She refused to pay.
- In 1878 Congress was first presented with the "Susan B. Anthony" Amendment. This amendment ultimately became the 19th Amendment.

"There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers."
— Susan B. Anthony

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The 19th Amendment

- The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex.
- Initially introduced in Congress in 1878, it failed to pass. It was reintroduced every year following.
- Finally passed in the House of Representatives on May 21, 1919 and the Senate on June 4, 1919 and sent to states for ratification.
- August 18, 1920, Tennessee, the last of the necessary 36 states, ratified the Amendment.
- August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was certified and became law.

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Francis E. W. Harper
1825-1911

FIGHTING FOR SUFFRAGE

- Francis E. W. Harper was a co-founder of the American Woman Suffrage Association and the National Association of Colored Women.
- In the 1860's Harper drew crowds to listen to her speeches at a time when a woman speaking in public was illegal.
- Harper's novel *Iola Leroy* about a plantation owner's daughter who thinks she's white but learns her mother was a slave, is still in print.
- She frequently called out Susan Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton for their denigration of black men, but continued working with them to help achieve "universal freedom".

"There is something wonderful, my friends, in the power of an idea."
— F. E.W. Harper, 1867



TOWARD REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

- **The 19th Amendment** gave women the right to vote but **Alice Paul** (1885-1977) did not believe it would be enough to ensure that men and women were treated equally regardless of sex.
- **Alice Paul** and the **National Women's Party** proposed a simple amendment to the U.S. Constitution to end the legal distinctions between men and women in matters of **divorce, property, employment and other matters**.
- **After nearly 40 years** of contentious debate and outright opposition, the amendment was passed by both the House and the Senate and sent to the States for ratification. It required 38 States to ratify by **1979**. The date passed without ratification.
- **As of January 2020** all 38 States have ratified the Amendment. The House passed a resolution to eliminate the original deadline; the Senate has a similar resolution pending. Once passed, gender equality will be enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.

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The Silent Sentinels

- In 1917 the National Woman's Party silently protested in front the White House, the first to ever picket the White House.
- Protests continued for 2-1/2 years in all kinds of weather.
- The women were harassed, arrested, and unjustly treated while in jail. When some went on hunger strike, they were force-fed.
- Even after President Wilson announced support for women's suffrage amendment in 1918, protests continued until the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate passed the amendment the following year.

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Ida B. Wells Barnett
1862-1931

- Ida B. Wells-Barnett, born a slave, co-owned a newspaper and became internationally famous for her work as one of the first investigative journalists, exposing the lynching of Black Americans.
- Her editorials on lynching made 20% of the black population of Memphis, TN leave, prompting a mob to destroy her newspaper office.
- In 1883 she sued the train company that would not let her sit in the "Whites Only" "Ladies Car" She only lost in the state Supreme Court.
- In 2020 she was posthumously honored with a Pulitzer Prize special citation.

*"The way to right wrongs is to shine the light of truth upon them."
— Ida B. Wells-Barnett*

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William Lloyd Garrison
1805-1879

FIGHTING FOR SUFFRAGE

- Garrison, during his lifetime was considered a radical advocate for abolition, temperance and women's rights. A co-founder of the American Anti-Slavery Society, he published his own anti-slavery newspaper, The Liberator.
- A social reformer, Garrison pushed women in the abolition and temperance movements to become activists for women's rights.



Frederick Douglass
1818-1895

- Frederick Douglass, an illiterate slave when he escaped north, taught himself to read and write and became the most famous orator of his time.
- His speeches were influential in disseminating arguments in favor of universal suffrage and women's rights.
- Douglass supported Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her resolution for woman's suffrage, speaking out in support of it during the debate at the Seneca Falls convention.

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Lucy Burns
1879-1966

- Burns met Alice Paul in England and joined the activists led by Emmeline Pankhurst in the fight for women's rights in the UK, tactics they would later use in the U.S.
- In 1914 Burns was the first woman to speak about suffrage before the House of Representatives.
- A committed member of the National Woman's Party, Burns was arrested numerous times and spent more time in jail than any other suffragist.

"I think, with never-ending gratitude, that the young women of today do not and can never know at what price their right to free speech and to speak at all in public has been earned."

— Lucy Burns

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Sojourner Truth
1825-1911

- One of the first Americans to use photography to build a cult of celebrity around herself.
- Sued her former slave master for selling her 5 year old son and won.
- Her fame came from the witty manner in which she agitated for abolition and women's rights.
- Copyrighted her own image.

"If women want any right more than they'd got, why don't they just take them and not be talking about it."
— Sojourner Truth

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Mary Church Terrell
1863-1954

FIGHTING FOR SUFFRAGE

- Terrell became an activist shortly after learning that a childhood friend, Thomas Moss, had been lynched. She became one of the first people to speak publicly on the epidemic of Black lynchings occurring in the South at that time.
- Mary Church Terrell was invited by Susan B. Anthony to join the National American Woman Suffrage Association, working on concerns of black women.
- She and her daughter were Silent Sentinels as members of the National Woman's Party.
- In 1948 Terrell became the first Black member of the American Association of University Women after winning an antidiscrimination lawsuit.
- She successfully fought in the 1950's to integrate Washington DC eating places using tactics like boycotts, picketing, sit-ins and lawsuits.

"Lifting as we climb"
— Mary Church Terrell

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Frances Willard
1839-1898

- From 1879 to 1898 Willard was the national president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)
- WCTU supported women's right to vote as a means to protect homes and families from the problems caused by alcohol.
- The liquor industry was firmly against woman suffrage, fearing that if women had the vote, they would prohibit alcohol.
- In her time she was one of the most famous figures in national life.

"In externals we advance with lightening express speed, in modes of thought and sympathy we lumber on in stage-coach fashion."

— Susan B. Anthony

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Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee
1897 -1966

- Ping-Hua Lee gained fame riding a horse leading 10,000 marchers in the New York suffrage parade of 1912.
- Admitted into Barnard College at 16, she advocated for suffrage in a series of newspaper essays directed at Chinese students, even though no Chinese could vote.
- Her speech in 1915 at the Woman's Political Union, "The Submerged Woman" was covered by the New York Times.
- In honor of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, Lee's image will be projected on Mount Rushmore.

"Feminists want nothing more than the equality of opportunity for women to prove their merits and what they are best suited to do."

— Mabel Ping-Hua Lee

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TOWARD REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY



Shirley Chisholm
1924-2005

- First black woman elected to Congress in 1968.
- Represented New York's 12th Congressional District in U.S. Congress from 1969-1983.
- Secretary of the House Democratic Caucus 1977-1981.
- Member of the NY State Assembly from 1965-1968.
- First woman and first black woman to run for Democratic Party's presidential nomination.
- Advocated for education, health care, child care services and decreases in military spending.

*"Tremendous amounts of talent are lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt."
— Shirley Chisholm*