Women's Equality Day
Hundreds attend celebration

About 300 people packed the third-annual Women’s Equality Day celebration on Aug. 24 at the Frazier History Museum. The event was sponsored by Louisville League of Women Voters, the Frazier History Museum, and the Louisville Office for Women.

The spirited gathering included rousing spoken-word pieces by poets Hannah Drake and Mackenzie Berry; a keynote speech by Coline Jenkins, great-great-granddaughter of suffrage pioneer Elizabeth Cady Stanton; a proclamation by Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer; a moving “on their shoulders” presentation of women’s rights figures and their quotations set to audience-held flashlights and a singing of “This Little Light of Mine”; and a flashmob led by Girl Scouts to Lady Gaga’s suffrage version of “Bad Romance.”

This celebration of struggles and triumphs marked the 99th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Next year’s gathering will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the amendment, as well as the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, both milestones in American suffrage. Mark your calendars for late August 2020 now!

They wrote, “... it is clear that every woman has a responsibility to register to vote. To inform herself. To vote in every election. For women to hold at least half of all elective offices. And for women to carry on our foremothers’ fight ... now, against voter suppression and against money in politics and unfair influence ... and for equal rights for women and girls of all colors, races, and religions. And to regard every vote cast, every office held, every victory won, as a celebration of suffrage. And as encouragement for tomorrow.”

Click HERE to read the entire piece.

The column also features editorial cartoonist Marc Murphy’s special Women’s Equality Day cartoon.

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Another women’s history marker unveiled in Kentucky

Josephine Henry was a woman ahead of her time. Born in Newport, Ky., in 1846, and later moving to Versailles, she fought for legislation before the turn of that century, which would change law to grant married women in Kentucky the right to own property ... and to be more than their husband’s property.

By that time, Kentucky was the only state where married women effectively had no civil rights. Henry, who co-founded the Kentucky Equal Rights Association with Laura Clay, campaigned indefatigably in person and in writings for the Kentucky Married Woman’s Property Act, which passed in 1894. She was seen as instrumental in its passage.

On Aug. 25, a National Votes for Women’s Trail Marker was dedicated to Henry at her home in Versailles.

Among those present were Coline Jenkins, great-great-granddaughter of suffrage pioneer Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Dr. Kathi Kern, a University of Kentucky professor and author of “Mrs. Stanton’s Bible.” They addressed guests; the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Chorus sang inspirational songs. The Stanton-Henry connection was real, in their lifetimes, too: In addition to her Kentucky suffrage work, Henry also served on Stanton’s “The Women’s Bible” revising committee.

The Henry marker is the fourth such historical marker paying tribute to Kentucky suffragists who improved the lives of people in the commonwealth with their work for equal rights.

For more about Henry, click here

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Coming up! Mark your calendars...

September 17: Young voter
As we approach the centennial of a woman’s right to vote and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, we continue to utilize the valuable curriculum resource www.whatisavoteworth.org, a partnership between the Frazier History Museum and Jefferson County Public Schools.

On Sept. 17, Constitution Day, schools across America look to engage young people to help celebrate the birthday of America’s government, and this year JCPS will use the day to inform students about the voter registration process, and recognize their voice as a voter.

JCPS students who qualify to register will be able to access www.whatisavoteworth.org, sign up, and hopefully vote in the upcoming General Election.

The goal of this resource is to make connections from the past to present day, empower the next generation on becoming engaged community members, and using their voice to make a difference and Be a Voter!

Sept. 21: Salute to Woman Power Fashion Show

The nonprofit Wesley House Community Services holds its annual fundraiser on Sept. 21, a fashion show with a “woman power” theme. It salutes the 100 years of women’s right to vote, the 150 years of United Methodist Women, and the 116 years of Wesley House’s existence.

The show will be 5:30 to 8 p.m. Sept. 21 at Kosair Charities, 4120 Bardstown Road, Louisville; in addition to fashion, the program will include cocktail hour, food and music. The fundraiser is especially important to the organization this year. As has happened with many nonprofits in the area, Wesley House has seen its funding cut and the annual fashion show provides needed support to the social service agency’s many programs. Tickets are $35 each, and may be purchased online. A variety of sponsorships and table levels also is available. Please call 502-968-8231.
Wesley House Community Services empowers families through child development services for working parents, out-of-school activities for at-risk youth, English and Spanish as a Second Language, pre-owned clothing store, and other services that help people and communities help themselves.

Click for more information about Wesley House

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**Not your mothers’ (and grandmothers’) Barbie dolls**

In case you missed the news story, Mattel issued two new Barbie dolls in time for Women's Equality Day... the Rosa Parks, which pays tribute to the African-American civil rights heroine, and the Sally Ride, modeled after the first woman astronaut in the United States. Both are part of the “inspiring woman” series of Barbies. The series already has honored aviator Amelia Earhart, mathematician (and “hidden figure) Katherine Johnson, and artist Frida Kahlo. According to USA Today, the dolls come with information about each of the women's contributions to history and society in their respective fields.

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**fun facts**

Franklin Delano Roosevelt became the first president whose mother was eligible to vote. Sara Roosevelt lived to see her son win his third term in 1940.

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The 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was first proposed and rejected in 1878, then reintroduced every year for the next 41 years. In 1984, Mississippi became the last state to ratify it.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

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**Wise Words from our predecessors**

"But when at last woman stands on an even platform with man, his acknowledged equal everywhere, with the same freedom to express herself in the religion and government of the country, then, and not until then, will he be able to legislate as wisely and generously for her as for himself." - Elizabeth Cady Stanton