What persisting looks like

One-hundred and four years ago this month, thousands of women jammed the streets of New York City to march for the right to vote. It would be several years before the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution would be ratified, ostensibly guaranteeing that right to all women throughout the nation (tell that to women of color, who had to fight for another 45 years until the Voting Rights Act worked for them, too), but the women of New York were making a push for an upcoming state referendum that would allow them to vote.

What a push it was. Tens of thousands of participants. Even more spectators. A sense of history being made, and about to be made.

An October 2015 Time magazine article remembered, “The parade was the peak of a series of grand suffrage parades in the city—spectacles that had gone from boos, threats and police action to dignified, entertaining events that showed the might and maturity of a women’s movement that was ready to vote.”

To read the whole article, click HERE

HERE is another accounting from the Feminist Majority Foundation

The October 1915 parade offers an object lesson for today: Women already had been working for 65 years for the vote. Accounts vary about how many actually marched that day, but it was a tremendous turnout, tons of news coverage, great enthusiasm among supporters ... and then, a few weeks later, the referendum failed.

Another few years, it passed.

And then the Constitution was changed, too.

Women were persisting for equality, and were being criticized for it, long before we put such sentiments on T-shirts.

We persist still, because we’re not “there” yet.

Something to think about as we prepare to enter the centennial year of the 19th Amendment, and the 55th anniversary year of the Voting Rights Act.
Speaking of voting ...

The deadline to register to vote in Kentucky’s November elections rapidly approaches. It’s Oct. 7 at 4 p.m.

**THIS** WAVE3 story has all the information you need to know about who, what, where, why and how.

People marched, protested and sacrificed for hundreds of years for us to have this right. Use it!

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Happy Birthday, Enid Yandell

The yearlong celebration of Louisville-born sculptor/humanitarian/suffragist Enid Yandell, in honor of the 150th anniversary of her birth year, continues in her birth month of October, with ongoing exhibits at the Filson Historical Society, the Speed Art Museum and the 21C Museum Hotel.

Additionally, a few special events either including her work or dedicated to her art and legacy are happening right around her Oct. 6 birthday.

**Oct. 1, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Louisville Free Public Library:** Panelists Hannah Drake (spoken word artist and activist), Sarah Lindgren (Louisville Metro Public Art Administrator) and Susan Rademacher (Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy) will discuss the history and future of public art in the United States. [Register](#) at (502) 574-1623.

**Oct. 3, 5 to 7 p.m., Filson Historical Society:** Enid Yandell Lecture and Birthday Bash; Lecture by Dr. Juilee Decker, Yandell biographer. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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A leader, in her own right ...

Her husband, Ralph, was perhaps more widely known, but Juanita Abernathy also was on the front lines of the struggle to win and ensure the right to vote for African Americans.

She epitomizes what civil rights giant and Congressman John Lewis described as how women served the movement as “the doers ... the organizers ... the advocates ... the backbone.”

She was pregnant, and at home with their toddler daughter on the January 1957 day when their home was fire-bombed by Klansmen who confessed to the crime during the Montgomery bus boycott. (The perpetrators were acquitted by an all-white jury.) She
crafted and helped execute the car-pooling plan that made sure participants got to work without taking the buses.

Her long life included that marriage to Ralph Albernathy, her role as a parent to their five children, her work in the civil rights movement, traveling the world as an emissary for peace, serving as a teacher and an advocate for meals for disadvantaged students, and enjoying success as a businesswoman.

That singular life ended in September when Juanita Abernathy died at age 88. To read the New York Times’ obituary, click HERE

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**Speaking of persisting ...**

From the University of New Mexico’s Women’s Studies program, October is full of firsts in women’s strides for excellence and equality in almost all walks (even space walks!) of life.

Take a look:

**Oct. 3, 1904** - Mary McLeod Bethune opens her first school for African-American students in Daytona Beach, Fla.

**Oct. 4, 1976** - Barbara Walters becomes the first woman co-anchor of the evening news (at ABC).

**Oct. 4, 1993** - Ruth Bader Ginsburg joins the U.S. Supreme Court as its second woman justice.

**Oct. 8, 1993** - Toni Morrison becomes the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

**Oct. 10, 1983** - Dr. Barbara McClintock receives the Nobel Prize for Medicine for her discovery in genetics about mobile genetic elements.

**Oct. 11, 1984** - Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan is the first U.S. woman astronaut to "walk" in space during Challenger flight.

**Oct. 15, 1948** - Dr. Frances L. Willoughby is the first woman doctor in the regular U.S. Navy.

**Oct. 16, 1916** - Margaret Sanger opens the U.S.'s first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Oct. 23, 1910** - Blanche Stuart Scott is the first American woman pilot to make a public flight.

**Oct. 24, 1956** - Rev. Margaret Towner is the first woman ordained a minister in the Presbyterian Church.

**Oct. 28, 1958** - Mary Roebling is the first woman director of a Stock Exchange (American Stock Exchange).
Kathryn Sullivan (left) and Toni Morrison (right) made history in October.

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**Stay in the loop!**

We're here to keep you in the loop about the Women Vote 100 commemoration.

To stay up-to-date on activities related to the 19th Amendment centennial as well as the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, visit the Women Vote 100 calendar that will be updated and kept throughout the commemoration.

We encourage your organization to add an event to the calendar.

To get an idea of what has been planned for 2020, please read this overview by Penny Peavler.

And, of course, please keep current with the calendar and if you would like your voice heard, fill out our form!

*Sign up* to receive our monthly newsletter!

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**Wise Words from our predecessors**

As mentioned earlier, Mary McLeod Bethune opened her first school for African-American students in Florida on October 1904. Forty years later, she would co-found the United Negro College Fund. Her life continues to leave an indelible mark on the lives of those who have followed her.

So should her words:
“A woman is free if she lives by her own standards and creates her own destiny, if she prizes her individuality and puts no boundaries on her hopes for tomorrow.”

Read more about Mary McLeod Bethune’s life by clicking HERE.