Vote! And Thank a Suffragist!

Tuesday, Nov. 5, is Election Day, and Kentucky voters will have a full slate of state offices and candidates on the ballot. Get to the polls and make your voice and choice known!

While you’re at it, budget some extra time to learn more about Kentucky suffrage pioneers and heroines, those who fought for and secured your right to vote, and pay tribute to them as you do.

The Frazier History Museum, Cave Hill Heritage Foundation, Louisville Metro Office for Women, and the League of Women Voters of Louisville have partnered for Thank a Suffragist on Election Day.

The event includes several commemorative activities, saluting those who fought for suffrage in the ratification of the 19th Amendment almost 100 years ago and for passage of the Voting Rights Act almost 55 years ago.

Fourteen graves of suffragists buried in Cave Hill Cemetery will be marked with flowers on Election Day, and another four will be similarly decorated in Eastern Cemetery, in recognition of their contributions to the suffrage movement.

Free guided tours of these grave sites will be offered on Nov. 5 at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Parking is available inside the Broadway entrance of Cave Hill; the bus will depart from this point for each of the tours.

In addition to those suffragists, more than 200 other suffragist graves will be marked with flags at Cave Hill and Eastern — and the names of suffragists interred at 10 other cemeteries in Louisville will be posted at those cemeteries.

Visitors who would rather do self-guided tours of the located sites at Cave Hill and Eastern can use the Cave Hill mobile app or visit the Information Tent at the Broadway entrance, open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, for directions to the graves.

Further Information:

- Guests can stop by, before or after voting, to sign their names and leave messages to commemorate the history-making efforts of the suffragists.
- The League of Women Voters of Louisville will staff a voter registration table inside the Broadway entrance from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
The suffragists whose graves (in Cave Hill) will be highlighted with flowers are: Susan Look Avery, Emily P. Beeler, Slice Barbee Castleman, Margaret Weissinger Castleman, Julia D. Henning, Caroline Leech, Eleanor Tarrant Little, Jennie Angell Mengel, Abby Mequire Roach, Patty Blackburn Semple, Carolyn Parker Verhoeff, Adelaide Schroeder Whiteside, Emma J. Woerner; and (in Eastern) Fannie R. Givens, Alice Nugent, Georgia A. Nugent, and Mamie E. Steward.

For brief bios of those commemorated, click HERE.

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**VoteNowKy**

Speaking of women and voting, VoteNowKy is a citywide voter education drive focusing on under-voting populations — millennials (born 1980-96), GenZ (born after 1996) and low-turnout precincts — in an effort to boost their showing up at the polls.

Eleven non-partisan, 501(c)(3) women’s groups have teamed to work on this effort. They are Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Eta Omega Chapter; American Association of University Women, Louisville Branch; Coalition of Labor Union Women, Derby City; Delta Sigma Theta; Junior League of Louisville; Louisville Chapter of The Links Inc.; Louisville Metro Office for Women; National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section; National Council of Negro Women; United Nationals Association of the United States of America Kentucky Division and Women Lawyers Association of Jefferson County.

According to VoteNowKy material, more than 95 percent of Jefferson County citizens are registered to vote, but only about 20 percent go to the polls. In the last election, they say, more than a half-million did not vote.

The coalition’s efforts are intended to engage the under-voting groups with information and messages of how their votes can make differences in their lives and futures, and how their votes can fix what they think is wrong with government — and how a non-vote is a vote for more of the status quo.

“‘It’s Your Right to Fix What’s Wrong,’” is their message ... on social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), posters, community events, and published op-eds.

This effort will continue into 2020, a big election year with the presidency and in
Kentucky a U.S. Senate seat in contention.

To learn more about the coalition and its goals, and to read through its trove of voter-education information, visit votenowky.org

Photo courtesy of VoteNowKy

Harriet Tubman, on the big screen ... finally

You want a movie about a superhero?

How about a real-life one ... Harriet Tubman, born to slavery, “rented” out as early as 5 years old to work as a nursemaid and whipped when the baby in her care cried, who broke free of these cruel bonds when she was about 30 years old, escaping from Maryland to Pennsylvania.

If you know the story, you know that Harriet Tubman went back ... again and again and again, to help other people escape slavery and all its cruelties, via the Underground Railroad.

Finally, finally, a theatrical release about her heroic life comes to the big screen Nov. 1, and “Harriet” is opening locally this weekend.

She was called “Moses,” and her quest for liberation of oppressed people included her support for women and women’s rights, too. According to an entry on harriet-tubman.org, “She toured New York, Boston and Washington speaking in favor of women’s suffrage rights.” Harriet Tubman was especially interested in the rights of African-American women. In 1896 when she was already frail, she was invited as a guest speaker at the first meeting of the National Association of Colored Women.

“Harriet” stars Cynthia Erivo in the title role, and was helmed by Kasi Lemmons, an African-American woman director.

For more:

https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/harriet-tubman
http://www.harriet-tubman.org/women-rights-suffrage/

Suffrage stamp
The U.S. Postal Service has announced its series of Forever stamps to be issued in 2020 ... among them, the 19th Amendment: Women Vote stamp.

The announcement of the stamps included this note about the suffrage stamp:

“With this stamp, the Postal Service commemorates the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees women the right to vote. Inspired by historic photographs, the stamp features a stylized illustration of suffragists marching in a parade or other public demonstration. The clothes they wear and the banners they bear display the official colors of the National Woman’s Party — purple, white and gold. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp with original art by Nancy Stahl.”


Also of special interest to women among next year’s stamps, one that features the late Gwen Ifill, trailblazing and esteemed journalist who made her name in broadcast and print platforms, and who moderated two vice-presidential candidate debates.

Next community meeting is Nov. 14

The next community meeting to share information about suffrage events is 2 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Frazier History Museum.

Please come and let others know what you are planning to mark the centennial of women’s suffrage and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, and to learn more about other groups doing the same.

Save the dates
More details to come, but please save the dates for these important suffrage and voting rights events at the Frazier History Museum:

**March 19, 2020**: The opening of the Women Vote 100 suffrage exhibit

**May 21, 2020**: An interview with Angela Dodson, author of "Remember the Ladies," a book about the milestones in the long struggle for the vote and the impact of women on politics since.

**June 7-12, 2020**: Frazier Play Festival, featuring six plays about suffrage and voting rights

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**Stay in the loop!**

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

- Please visit [fraziermuseum.org/womenvote](http://fraziermuseum.org/womenvote) for everything related to Women Vote 100
- The above details and more are found on the [Women Vote 100 calendar](http://fraziermuseum.org/womenvote) that will be updated and kept throughout the commemoration.
- We encourage your organization to [add an event to the calendar](http://fraziermuseum.org/womenvote)
- To get an idea of what has been planned for 2020, please read [this overview](http://fraziermuseum.org/womenvote) by Penny Peavler, Frazier History Museum Board Member.
- And, of course, please keep current with the newsletter and if you would like your voice heard, fill out our [form!](http://fraziermuseum.org/womenvote)
- [Sign up](http://fraziermuseum.org/womenvote) to receive our monthly newsletter!

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**fun facts**

In 1919, the year before the 19th Amendment was ratified, guaranteeing women (or many women; women of color would be challenged for years to come) the right to vote in the United States, only 15 states had full suffrage for women, another 20 allowed women to vote in some elections, and 12 states wouldn’t allow women to vote at all. That’s a short 100 years ago.

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Jeannette Rankin, a Republican from Montana, was the first woman to serve in Congress ... her first term was 1917-
An ardent suffragist and committed pacifist, she was one of 50 members of Congress to vote against the U.S. entering the first world war, and she was the only member of Congress to vote against the U.S. entering the second world war. She was also the representative who, in 1918, opened congressional debate on a constitutional amendment for women’s suffrage.

For her anti-war vote in the 1940s, she was hissed by fellow representatives and chased by reporters into a phone booth, where she called police for help. More condemnation followed, but editor William Allen White wrote of her:

“Probably a hundred men in Congress would have liked to do what she did. Not one of them had the courage to do it. The Gazette entirely disagrees with the wisdom of her position. But Lord, it was a brave thing! And its bravery someway discounted its folly. When, in a hundred years from now, courage, sheer courage based upon moral indignation is celebrated in this country, the name of Jeannette Rankin, who stood firm in folly for her faith, will be written in monumental bronze, not for what she did, but for the way she did it.”

She continued to work on behalf of peace and civil rights throughout her life. She died at age 92 in 1973. She bequeathed a property she owned in Georgia to “mature, unemployed women workers,” and a scholarship in her name is awarded to low-income women aged 35 and older.

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**Wise Words**

From Jeannette Rankin:

“Men and women are like right and left hands; it doesn't make sense not to use both.”

And, maybe Ms. Rankin was the first “nasty woman”? She also said:

“If I had my life to live over, I would do it all again, but this time I would be nastier.”