Happy 100th Birthday, League of Women Voters of Louisville!

On Feb. 17, the League of Women Voters of Louisville will celebrate the national league’s 100th birthday with a party featuring costumed suffragists, cake, champagne — and, because it’s in their DNA as an organization, plenty of education about voting, the fight for suffrage (past and present) as well as its own history.

Nationally, the non-partisan league formed six months ahead of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Locally, the Louisville chapter formed several months after that tectonic event. But both have been around ever since, engaging citizens and community in grassroots efforts to register voters, to get out the vote, and to inform and educate voters about pressing issues of the day.

The means to that end: Among its efforts, the local league, which has about 250 members, reaches out to the young in voter registration and mock elections in high schools and colleges, holds voter registration at new citizens’ naturalization ceremonies, helps with local-local Metro Council meetings with constituents at public libraries, and hosts candidate forums and debates throughout the community in advance of elections. They also study, in-depth, issues such as immigration, environmental challenges, health care, and gun safety.

They epitomize what democracy demands: an educated, engaged citizenship to keep this grand experiment going.

Every day, in every way, they answer the question: What is a vote worth? In a word: Everything. To every citizen, to every community, no matter where.

So, yes, their birthday party will offer fun and celebration, but not even then will they forget this mission of building community and taking responsibility for it.

In addition to the cake and costumes, they will have an action table with cards about pending legislative issues and a timeline sharing League history.

The open house/birthday party will be from 5 to 8 p.m., Feb. 17 at the League’s Lang House headquarters, 115 S. Ewing Ave. For more
Spreading the word...

We hope you saw the Feb. 2 spread in The Courier Journal’s Forum section, which featured a column by Tina Ward-Pugh, director of the Louisville Metro Office for Women, and a calendar of suffrage events in Louisville and other parts of Kentucky.

You can find the column here: https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2020/01/30/101-year-old-louisville-woman-recalls-fight-against-segregation/4601647002/

You can find the calendar here: https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2020/01/30/19th-amendment-and-voting-rights-act-louisville-celebrations-events/4601060002/

Ward-Pugh shared the story of Evelyn Glass of Louisville, who turns 102 years old in July, and how her life embodies what a vote is worth, what engaged citizenry looks like, and how much of a difference a person can make in her own life and the life of her community. She is a living example of the power of the 19th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act. Glass was one of the first African-American nurses in Louisville and was active in the fight to integrate professions, lunch counters, neighborhoods, amusement parks and more.

In the first of a series of videos that will be made throughout the year by Louisville Metro Government, you can see and hear Evelyn Glass talk about her life here: youtube.com/watch?v=JxiCTKd_0Qc.

More about the videos in next month’s newsletter and Forum presentation of the events commemorating the anniversaries of the 19th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act.

The CJ will feature this news, as well as the calendar, on the first Sunday of each month. We thank them for helping to spread the word.

And you will receive this newsletter via this email around the first of the month, too!

Don’t forget the poster contest! Deadline is coming right up

The deadline for this creative suffrage event is Feb. 24. Submitted designs MUST include and/or tie together both the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage and the 55th anniversary of Voting Rights Act in a portrait/vertical format that can be incorporated into the poster design. There is no submission fee and a grand prize winner will receive $2,000. For rules, more information and submission, visit https://www.louisvillevisualart.org/poster-contest

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**Look at the logo!**

Community groups holding events commemorating the 19th Amendment and/or the Voting Rights Act now have a great, new logo, created by Bandy Carroll Hellige, to appear with their announcements.

Thanks to them for doing the logo.

Look for it!

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**Be part of the calendar!**

If you want to be part of the calendar, please send your information in this format to Pam Platt at pammerz@att.net with SUFFRAGE CALENDAR in the subject line. Please use this format:

DATES:
NAME AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EVENT:
PLACE:
SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:
CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:

If your event is coming up soon, please send the info by the 20th of the month prior to the event, in order to make the calendar in all its iterations!

In the near future, suffrage events will be added to Louisville Tourism's gotolouisville.com calendar, so stay tuned for details about that, too.

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**Save the Dates!**

Here’s a look ahead at 19th Amendment-related events already planned for this year. We will have more details on them, and other events, the closer we get to them.
Feb. 1-8 – Stage One in Louisville, “Lawbreakers!”

Described by Stage one as “a fast and furious history of women’s suffrage,” the venue also provides these details: “Stepsisters Maya and Kiara travel back in time to the beginning of the American women’s suffrage movement. Along the way, they meet many key figures – Susan B. Anthony, Ida B. Wells, Alice Paul, Sojourner Truth, and many more – as they explore the complexities, struggles, and heartache that led to women’s right to vote. Written by Diana Grisanti and commissioned by StageOne, Lawbreakers! (a fast and furious history of women’s suffrage) honors and celebrates the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment.”

For more information, go to Stage One: https://stageone.org/our-season/lawbreakers/

Feb. 17 — 100th birthday party and open house celebrating the birth of the League of Women Voters, the nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to citizen advocacy in our democracy. The League of Women Voters of Louisville will host displays, games, costumes, food, champagne, birthday cake, and a special appearance by founder Carrie Chapman Catt. This also serves to launch the group’s fund drive to support its voter service and voter education efforts. 5 to 8 p.m., LWVLouisville headquarters, 115 S. Ewing Ave., Louisville. (502) 895-5218.

March 19 — Opening of "What is a Vote Worth", a Suffrage Voting Rights Act Exhibit at the Frazier History Museum; panel and tours.

March 20 — Public ribbon cutting at the Frazier

March 26, 27 — Two-day event with the University of Louisville History Department; guest speaker is Ellen DuBois, a professor of history and gender studies known for her pioneering work in the same fields.

April 21 — Trailblazers panel discussion with local women who have made a difference, at the Frazier.

April 30 — The Pegasus Parade with a Celebration of Women

May 21 — Angela Dodson, author of “Remember the Ladies,” appears at the Frazier

Ellen DuBois (left), Angela Dodson (right)
June 2 — **Elaine Weiss**, author of “The Woman’s Hour,” appears at the Filson

June 8-11 — **Suffrage Play Festival at the Frazier**

July 14 — **Louisville Storytellers Project** presents “**Perseverance and Hustle**,” a special event commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, featuring true, first-person stories from Kentucky women who are impacting our state. Join us at the Frazier History Museum; doors open at 6 p.m., and storytelling starts promptly at 7 p.m. For tickets, which are $12 for general admission and $8 for students, go to [https://tickets.storytellersproject.com/](https://tickets.storytellersproject.com/) and click on the words Louisville Storytellers Project 2020. Then click on Louisville Storytellers Project: Women of the Century.


Aug. 21 and 22 — **Tina Cassidy**, author of “Mr. President, How Long Must We Wait?,” appears at Women’s Equality Day events in Louisville

Please check our calendar for even more events!
[https://fraziermuseum.org/womenvoteevents](https://fraziermuseum.org/womenvoteevents)

Elaine Weiss (left), Tina Cassidy (right)

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**Let us hear from you!**

We realize many organizations will be scheduling a variety of special programs throughout 2020 to honor suffrage, and we want to include your information in our newsletters. Please let us hear from you by filling out this form:

[https://fraziermuseum.org/wsnewsletterideas](https://fraziermuseum.org/wsnewsletterideas)

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*The Una* was the first American publication to be owned, edited and published by a woman. That would be
Paulina Davis, a suffragist who worked for women’s equality with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

The first issue of *The Una* was published in February 1853 and its masthead noted it was dedicated to “the elevation of women.” Print was as difficult then as it is now: Davis produced the publication for almost three years until financial problems caused her to close it.

But ceasing *The Una* didn’t end her public life. She continued to educate women, especially in the area of physiology (some point to her as the impetus for women becoming interested in being physicians), and worked for equal rights for women and African Americans.

A life worth remembering: [https://www.britannica.com/biography/Paulina-Kellogg-Wright-Davis](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Paulina-Kellogg-Wright-Davis)

Speaking of women physicians, **Elizabeth Blackwell**, considered the first woman doctor of medicine in modern times, was born Feb. 3, 1821 in Gloucestershire, England. Her family moved to the U.S. and were active in anti-slavery efforts.

According to Britannica, she graduated from medical school at Geneva Medical College in the U.S. in 1849 (she was ostracized and harassed ... nevertheless, she persisted and graduated first in her class), opened the Woman’s Medical College in New York in 1868, and was appointed professor of gynecology at the London School of Medicine for Women in 1875.

Bonus fun fact: She taught school in Henderson, Ky.

**Wise Words**

“The most common way people give
"up their power is by thinking they
don't have any."

— Author Alice Walker