



Newsletter – December 2019



Votes...for Women?

The suffragette “hikers” led by General Rosalie Jones at the Capitol, about to march up Pennsylvania Avenue, February 27, 1913. Press Photograph by Underwood & Underwood.

Collection of Middlebury College Museum of Art.



December Holiday Party

Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 2:00 pm (note 2:00 pm start time)

The Old First Church Barn, 1 Monument Circle, Old Bennington

Refreshments, libations, live music by Rosin the Beaux – with a suffragist twist!

Hostesses: Judy Murphy, Jennifer Kern, Liz Luca, and Sheila Mullineaux

(The hostesses will bring the goodies. Members do not need to bring food.)



Suffrage Parade on 5th Avenue, New York, October 23, 1915. Photograph by Underwood & Underwood. Collection of Middlebury College Museum of Art.

Coming in January 2020!

One Woman, One Vote: Women's Suffrage in Film

is a three-part public film series at Oldcastle Theatre, co-presented by the Bennington Branch of AAUW and the Bennington Performing Arts Center. Three Saturday afternoon screenings, followed by discussions, will trace the American women's suffrage movement through the unlikely friendship between Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony (*Not For Ourselves Alone*, January 18), to its evolution into a mass movement—along with the birth of film—in the modern age (*Suffragettes in the Silent Cinema*, January 25), to the generational transfer of leadership, with Alice Paul and other young activists taking the fight for the 19th Amendment to the streets (*Iron Jawed Angels*, February 1). All programs begin at 2:00 pm and are free, with donations at the door going to BPAC to help defray theater costs.

Preview of Additional Planned Suffrage Programs:

Early February, 2020 at 2:00 pm (date to be announced in the next newsletter). Members only event at Unitarian Fellowship.

“Getting to Know You”: During an interactive afternoon we’ll get to know several of the important Suffragist leaders as we get better acquainted with each other. We will “play” around with the suffragists’ words by taking turns reading parts in a short play about suffrage. Time permitting, we’ll also read a few dramatic monologues featuring well known suffragists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, along with lesser-known women such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Lawyer Inez Milholland, who led the woman’s suffrage parade in Washington, D.C. in 1913, riding her white horse and dressed in a long white cape with a crown.

Program Preview continues on page 3.

Preview of Planned Suffrage Programs

Continued from page 2

Saturday, February 29 at 2:00 pm

“From the Parlor to the Poling Place”: Singer and historian Linda Radtke, in period garb and a “Votes for Women” sash, highlights the decades-long persistence of Vermonters, both women and men, in the suffrage movement. Music was essential to the movement: each state convention of suffragists began and ended with songs such as “Shall Women Vote?” “New America,” “Giving the Ballot to the Mother” or “Voting as we Pray,” as well as rousing Christian hymns. Both the songs and stories in Radtke’s engaging Vermont Humanities Council presentation highlight Vermonters’ efforts from 1840-1921, as they lobbied in churches, at “parlor meetings” at town halls and at the State House for total enfranchisement. The event will take place at the Bennington Performing Arts Center—Home of Oldcastle Theatre.

March 21, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Born a slave in New Paltz, New York, Isabella Baumfree walked away from slavery and in her travels evolved into Sojourner Truth: maid, laundress, evangelist, abolitionist, and suffragist. This Vermont Humanities Council program, presented by Kathryn Woods, tells Sojourner Truth’s story in her own words, speeches, and songs. The event will take place at the Bennington Performing Arts Center—Home of Oldcastle Theatre.

Potential Field Trips in the Planning Phase

Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum in
Adams, MA

Women’s Rights National Historical Park in
Seneca Falls, NY

Suffrage Centennial Parade and Celebration –
Montpelier, August 22, 2020.

AAUW Calendar

No First Monday Meeting in December

All members are encouraged to attend the Branch Holiday Party on December 7 at the Old First Church Barn.

Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 2:00 pm

Branch Holiday Party at the Old First Church Barn. Refreshments, libations, music, and good cheer—with a suffragist twist! See page 1. (If you have room in your car, offer another member a ride to Bennington.)

Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 1:00 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting at the home of Kathy Wagenknecht. No Scribble Sisters Meeting later in the month. Information: Suzanne Kirpatrick suzykirkpa@gmail.com (314-496-5628).

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 12:00 noon

Book Group Holiday Party at Chauncey’s Restaurant in Arlington. After lunch, members will read or recite a favorite poem. Information: Mary Feidner or Margaret Howland. Please let Mary or Margaret know whether or not you plan to attend so that we can have an accurate count for the restaurant.

Wednesday, January 15, 2010 at 12:00 noon

Book Group Meeting at Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* edited by Paul Hawken. Since we can’t read and discuss the entire book, we have chosen the following three section to discuss on January 15:

Women and Girls
Food
Materials.

AAUW Calendar continues on page 4

AAUW Calendar Continued

Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 2:00 pm

First program in the film series, "One Woman, One Vote: Women's Suffrage in Film," at Oldcastle Theatre, co-presented by the Bennington Performing Arts Center. *Not For Ourselves Alone*, a documentary by Ken Burns and Paul Barnes, sets the stage for the series through an intimate portrayal of the suffrage movement's "miracle partnership": the unlikely lifelong friendship between Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. An extended excerpt from this three-hour public television special will allow time for a discussion afterwards. Free, but donations at the door will help BPAC cover theater costs.

Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Second program in the film series, "One Woman, One Vote: Women's Suffrage in Film," at Oldcastle Theater. *Suffragettes in the Silent Cinema*, by author and historian Kay Sloan, is a time capsule from the dawn of women's suffrage as a mass movement. It looks at how the new medium of film was used by anti-suffragists and suffragists alike for messaging in the "modern" age.

Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Final program in the film series, "One Woman, One Vote: Women's Suffrage in Film," at Oldcastle Theater. *Iron Jawed Angels*, a feature film by Katja von Garnier starring Hilary Swank as Alice Paul and Anjelica Huston as Carrie Chapman Catt, shows how defiant young activists took the women's suffrage movement by storm.

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 12:00 noon

Book Group Meeting at Martha Canfield Library. *Spark of Light* by Jodi Picoult.

Update on Burcu Seyben

During an emotional public AAUW meeting on April 10, 2018, Burcu Seyben, a visiting faculty member at Bennington College, told us her personal story of fleeing Istanbul in the wake of President Tayyip Erdogan's widespread crackdown on educators. She explained that after a peaceful demonstration by faculty concerning the treatment of Kurds in Turkey, both public and private Universities in Istanbul were closed on Erdogan's order and faculty members were arrested and interrogated. As some of her university colleagues were being imprisoned, Burcu fled with her husband and young son, first to Berlin, Germany and then to the United States.

Bennington College granted Burcu a one-year faculty position and found a safe place for Burcu to live with her husband and young son. Through the efforts of Jane Burkhardt we received the following information from Janis Young about Burcu's current life:

Burcu joined the faculty of the College of Southern Idaho, a junior college that also holds classes for three Idaho state colleges. CSI is in Twin Falls, Idaho which is in the Magic Valley, a basin/desert-like part of southern Idaho. Twin Falls also serves northeastern Nevada and parts of northern Utah. CSI runs a program and is a center for refugees which it began during the Serbian/Bosnian war. Lucky for Burcu's son, Lecin, his elementary school has a lot of diversity.

Twin Falls is the American home to Chobani the Greek yogurt company. Osgur, Burcu's husband, says that the yogurt and company are really Turkish. He has a job at Chobani and is talking to them about sponsoring a film festival (the town is 4 hours from Sundance in Utah).

Burcu is quite busy at school teaching several courses and preparing to direct the spring play. They live half way between her college and Lecin's school. Lecin is doing well – he loves an after school program at the college that involves computers. The family is excited at this point to be in Twin Falls where the median age is 32, the weather dry and not as cold as here, the people diverse, and the air fresh.

Print this Page and cut around black line. Tape on the inside of the green cover of membership booklet.

If you did not receive a membership booklet, contact Gudrun Hutchins, vtgudrun@comcast.net or 802-823-7220 and she will mail you one.

November 2019 Update of 2019-2020 Membership Directory

We welcome New Members:

Mary E. Brady University of Wisconsin
PO Box 1744
(25 S. Main Street #3)
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410-925-8302
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Catherine (Kate) Canning Anna Marie College
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Marianne DeKoven Harvard University
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Kay Wisniewski Trinity College
1906 Rte. 7A Drexel University
Arlington VT 05250
(cell) 267-212-3591
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Members who did not renew their membership (cross out)

Mary Gerisch Miriam Silver
Kathy Houran Magdalena Usategui
Alice Miller Grace Wreaks
Jackie Ostrander