

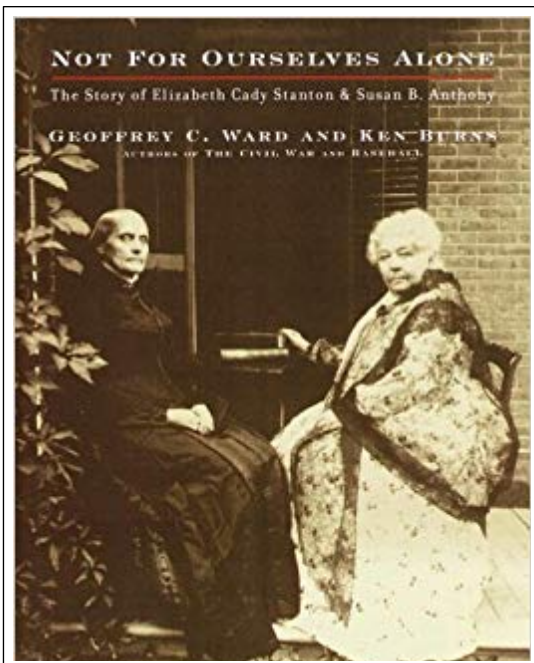


Bennington (VT) Branch



Newsletter – January 2020

Women's Suffrage Film Series ***Saturdays at 2:00 pm on January 18,*** ***January 25, and February 1, 2020***

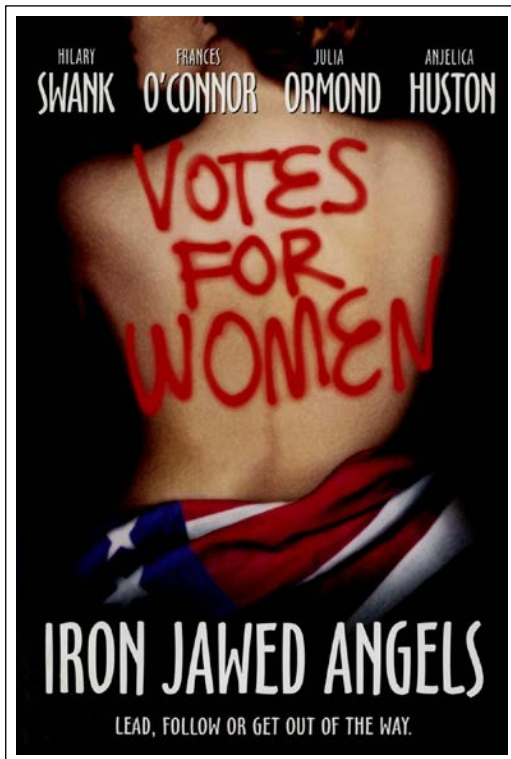


The three-part Women's Suffrage Film Series is co-sponsored by the Bennington Branch of AAUW, the Bennington Free Library, and the Bennington Center for the Performing Arts – Home of Oldcastle Theatre. Three Saturday afternoon screenings, followed by discussions, will trace the American women's suffrage movement from just after the Civil War through the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. All programs will begin at 2:00 pm and are free and open to the public.

Not for Ourselves Alone (Part Two) will be shown on January 18 at Oldcastle Theatre. This documentary by Ken Burns sets the stage for the series through an intimate, loving and sometimes fiery portrayal of the suffrage movement's "miracle partnership" between Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. A discussion will follow the film.



Also at Oldcastle Theatre, ***Suffragettes in the Silent Cinema*** will be shown on January 25. Following the movement into the "modern age," this documentary—which contains clips from a variety of silent films—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 for messaging by anti-suffragists and suffragists alike. Director, historian and novelist Kay Sloan will introduce the film via Skype; the discussion afterwards will be led by Jyotika Viridi, professor of Cinema Studies at the University of Windsor in Ontario. (continued on page 2)



We switch to the Bennington Free Library on February 1 for *Iron Jawed Angels*, a feature film by Katja von Garnier. This film casts aside sepia-toned images of earnest women suffragists in favor of plucky, wildly funny (and, yes, sexy) suffragists who took the fight for the 19th Amendment to the streets and risked everything to get it across the finish line. It traces the generational transfer of leadership from Carrie Chapman Catt (Anjelica Huston) to Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and other young activists.

Trivia

The word *suffrage* is derived from the Latin word *suffragium*. During the Roman Empire it referred to a *voting-tablet, a ballot, a vote, or the right to vote*. In medieval Latin the word *suffragium* meant an ecclesiastical intercessionary prayer. In the 17th century, the English word *suffrage* regained the earlier meaning of the Roman *suffragium, a vote or the right to vote*.

From the Parlor to the Polling Place

Saturday, February 29 at 2:00 pm

Singer and historian Linda Radtke, in period garb and a “Votes for Women” sash, will highlight 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. Add it to your calendar now and invite your friends!

AAUW Calendar

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 1:00 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting at the home of Wilma Johnson. Information: Suzanne Kirkpatrick suzykirkpa@gmail.com (314-496-5628).

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 12:00 noon

Book Group meeting at the Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. The book to be discussed is *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 sections to discuss on January 15: *Women and Girls*, *Food*, and *Materials*. You may also want to read the short introductory section to the book.

Information: Mary Feidner

mfeidner@comcast.net (442-7845) or Margaret Howland howlanma@yahoo.com (802-681-7555).

Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Not For Ourselves Alone (Part Two), a documentary by Ken Burns, opens the Women's Suffrage Film Series at Oldcastle Theatre. The film screening will be followed by a discussion. See page 1 for details.

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 1:00 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting at the home of Margaret Howland.

Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Suffragettes in the Silent Cinema continues the Women's Suffrage Film Series at Oldcastle Theatre. The film screening will be introduced by director Kay Sloan via Skype and followed by a discussion led by Jyotika Viridi, a professor of Cinema Studies. See page 1 for details.

AAUW Calendar continued

Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Iron Jawed Angels, a feature film by Katja von Garnier, will be screened in the Rotary Room of the Bennington Free Library followed by a discussion. See page 2 for details. This concludes the Women's Suffrage Film Series.

Monday, February 3, 2020 at 12:30 pm

First Monday Meeting at the Federated Church of East Arlington on Ice Pond Road. The guest speaker will be Debbie Holmes, a representative of the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI), the only private agency in Vermont to offer training, services, and support to visually impaired Vermonters. Ms. Holmes teaches living and technological skills to help maintain independence.

Bring a sandwich for your lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. To let us know that you will attend, please contact either Jan Day mday2837@comcast.net (442-9299) or Nancy Schoerke nts1016@comcast.net (447-0829).

Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Save the date for a members-only program entitled Suffragist Monologues. More in next newsletter.

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 12:00 noon

Book Group meeting at the Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. The book to be discussed is *A Spark of Light* by Jodi Picoult.

Please bring recommendations for books to read the rest of the winter. Information: Mary Feidner and Margaret Howland.

A film series about important activist 20th century women will be shown at Images Theater in Williamstown starting on January 13. This series is not sponsored by AAUW, but may be of interest to members. Additional information at www.imagescinema.org/events.