



M W P C

Mendocino Women's Political Coalition

100th Anniversary of Women Winning the Vote



August 26, 1920

19th Amendment

WOMEN WON THE VOTE!

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS & ONWARD . . .



mendocinowomen.org

**Ukiah & Mendocino County Celebrate
the 100th Anniversary
of Women Winning the Vote**
by Katarzyna Rolzinski

As you take note of the banner crossing State Street at Clay Street, you may not connect the significance of "Women Won the Vote." Voting for women in the United States only became a reality 100 years ago. The determining vote occurred on August 18, 1920 with final ratification on August 26, 1920, the date celebrated annually as Women's Equality Day since the 1973 designation by the U.S. Congress.

A publication of the MWPC, PO Box 1440, Ukiah, 95482

Published 6 times a year. Editor - Val Muchowski

Do you have an item to include in the next newsletter?

Call Val Muchowski (895-3543), or e-mail it to vjmuchowski@gmail.com

Calendar

August 17

Street Banner Flies
Ukiah Civic Center Lit
purple, gold, white

August 18

Proclamation
County Chambers
9 am

August 19

Proclamation
Ukiah Civic Center
6 pm

August 26

Women's Equality Day
Wear purple, gold, white
Flags fly on State St.

November 3

VOTE!!



18th Supervisor Carre Brown will enter a Centennial Proclamation to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. Awareness, education, and celebration are the purposes of these displays and proclamations. To celebrate this August 26, 2020 Centennial birthday party, adults and families are invited to visit the Civic Center display, and in solidarity with the Suffragists, you may choose to wear the suffragist colors.

When the nation's founders drafted the U.S. Constitution in 1787, they made no mention of women. At the time, women were excluded from political and much of public life. Enslaved women were excluded entirely, and white women were



Val, Carrie Brown, Mo Mulheren, Katarzyna Rolzinski

under the protection and authority of their husbands or fathers. In most cases, women could not vote, own property, make contracts, go to court, or control any money they earned. The Founders purposefully made it hard, but not impossible to change the Constitution. In 1869 the first amendment proposing suffrage for women was introduced in Congress. It took 50 years and 900 proposals for Congress to pass a resolution that ultimately became the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Why was there such resistance to opening the polls to women? Some men and women argued, among other reasons, that for women to be involved in politics would negatively change their role in the family and take power away from men. Others be-

Everyone is encouraged to share the importance of the banner and the display at the Ukiah Civic Center sponsored by the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition (MWPC) with the City of Ukiah. Both of these displays will be on view beginning August 17th and continue for two weeks. The Civic Center display will include a banner, four large posters telling the suffrage story, a mannequin dressed as a suffragist, and lighting focused on the building with the suffragist colors: purple, justice; gold, courage; and white, purity.

At the August 19th Ukiah City Council meeting, Councilwoman Maureen "Mo" Mulheren, will present the City Council Proclamation to recognize and celebrate the 19th Amendment Centennial; on August

lieved the decisions for voting belonged solely to the states. In 1909, the Woman Suffrage Party was formed in New York by Carrie Chapman Catt. Like suffragists, anti-suffragists formed organizations to resist a federal woman suffrage amendment. The National Association Opposed to Woman's Suffrage was formed in 1911 and had branches in 25 states.

The voices of women came forth in myriad ways. For women to win access to the polls, a diverse group of "suffragists" individuals who supported giving voting rights to women fought for more than 70 years using many different strategies. Women organized into activist groups to voice their opinions about the anti-slavery movement, the sale and consumption of alcohol, working conditions, and public education. Some focused on amending the U.S. Constitution while others worked to change state election laws; suffragists lobbied privately in their parlors and publicly in the halls of Congress; they wrote articles, circulated petitions, organized boycotts, signed public petitions and pledges; gave speeches, organized marches, and were sometimes imprisoned for their protests.

The constitutional amendment that finally did pass Congress bore Susan B. Anthony's name. It came up before the House of Representatives in 1918 with the two-thirds votes needed for passage barely within reach. President Woodrow Wilson pushed the amendment through and the states started ratifying, but the process was stalled just one state short of success. Many states quickly approved the 19th Amendment and by the end of March 1920 only one additional state was needed for ratification.

One hundred years ago this month all eyes turned to Tennessee, the only state yet to ratify. The resolution sailed through the Tennessee Senate, but when it moved to the House it was received with vigorous opposition. The



women and their allies knew they had a one-vote margin of support in the House. Then the Speaker, whom they had counted on as a "yes," changed his mind. Suddenly, Harry Burns, the youngest member of the House, a 24-year-old "no" vote from East Tennessee, got up and announced that he had received a letter from his mother telling him to "be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt." Burns switched sides saying, "I know that a mother's advice is always the safest for a boy to follow." Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment and moved it to pass.



The ratification of the 19th Amendment was a turning point moment in American history that dramatically changed the electorate. It enshrined in the United States Constitution fuller citizenship for women and a more expansive democracy for the nation. The actual text of the 19th amendment appears simple today:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

19th Amendment, August 18, 1920

Before the 19th Amendment ratification 15 states had already granted women at least some voting rights, however, because states decide voter qualifications, millions of women remained unable to vote after the 19th Amendment for other reasons. All adult women didn't gain the vote until 1935. The lack of U.S. citizenship limited voting rights for many Native Americans and Asian immigrant women. All Native Americans were granted U.S. citizenship in 1924. Asian immigrants could not become citizens until 1952. African American voters, especially in the South, faced discriminatory measures made to keep them from the polls. Voting restrictions

included: the poll tax; white primaries; inaccessibility of polls; restrictive registration hours; and other more subtle restrictions. Many Latin American and other immigrant or indigenous citizens faced language barriers to voting.

Most of those practices were outlawed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a landmark civil rights legislation, that outlawed discriminatory voting laws and practices designed to keep black and other voters of color from the polls. This act enfranchised millions of new voters. In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down an important provision to enforcing the law. In recent years, some states have passed elections laws that advocate support to prevent fraud, but critics argue that they are intended to suppress voting rights; thus, many restrictions may still be in place.

The past 100 years since the ratification of the 19th Amendment have seen voting rights expanded to millions more women and many ongoing struggles against voter discriminations have succeeded. Much work, however, is still ahead to expand and protect voting rights today. The best protection for our voting rights is to use the most powerful political tool we possess our voice, our vote.

Comments on the 19th Amendment Centennial banners and exhibit display are welcome: katarzyna@pacific.net



the vote that they had fought to win, state by state. Women worked for over 40 years before making California the 6th state to allow women to vote by winning a special election, Proposition 8, on October 10, 1911. The states to vote for suffrage before California were: Wyoming, Utah, Washington, Colorado, and Idaho.

The California campaign was unique and particularly memorable. Suffragists consciously and cleverly used repetitive, attention-getting advertising including electric

signs, giant billboards, pennants, campaign buttons, post cards, grocery bags, and hundreds of thousands of leaflets in five different languages. The vitality and excitement of the campaign brought Votes for Women more firmly into the popular culture and helped ensure victory in an extremely close contest.

The California contest was led by politically skilled women and men who waged a legendary eight-month “whirlwind campaign” to approve Amendment 8 on the ballot that would enfranchise women. The strongest anti-suffragist campaign came from men who feared that women would vote to ban alcohol, prostitution, and gambling. They spent over a quarter of a million dollars in San Francisco and Oakland in their attempt to defeat the vote that would expand voting rights to include women. They argued that if women had the ballot, it would be bad for business, for every brothel-keeper, every owner of a dive and saloon. They concentrated their campaign in slum districts.

The suffragists realized that business and saloon interests were sure to campaign for defeat of women’s suffrage in urban areas, and so they tried to make up for this in the rural districts. Though many men were active in the California suffrage campaign, there was a very large group of neutral men voters who hardly viewed



California, Mendocino County and Ukiah: Winning the 19th Amendment for Women’s Right to Vote

Here we are in Mendocino County celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, giving the women across our nation



Jini Reynolds

suffrage seriously. Building up solid political strength in the southern parts of California and the rural districts, the suffragists beat back strong opposition in the San Francisco Bay Area, where it was defeated nearly 3 to 1. The women of California appealed to the men of the smaller towns and rural counties.

The whirlwind campaign came to a dramatic finish in San Francisco with a final great rally at Dreamland Rink. On Election Day, October 10, 1911, suffrage leaders expected the San Francisco and Oakland vote to be negative, but they hoped that it would not be too extreme. There were over 1,000 volunteer workers in San Francisco on Election Day. Judging by the vote in the cities on election night and for two days following, the suffragists believed that woman suffrage had lost. The results from the rural counties came in very slowly, but they were favorable.

When the final count was completed, success was declared Woman Suffrage had passed in California! Out of a total of 246,487 votes, the suffrage amendment carried by a mere 3,587. That was an average majority of one vote in every voting precinct in the state of California. Here is how Mendocino County voted: **YES: 1,285** and **NO: 1,273**. Our Mendocino County legacy is that the Vote for Women passed by only 12 votes!

At the southwest corner of Pine and Stephenson Streets in Ukiah is a beautiful Victorian-style house that was known for many years as the Sanford House Bed & Breakfast. This house was built by John Bunyan Sanford, a prominent California state politician at the time of the California Suffrage vote. He also owned and published Ukiah's newspaper, The Dispatch-Democrat. In research-

ing the archives of the Dispatch-Democrat around the time of the California Vote for Women, Mr. Sanford was most prolific on the subject of suffrage.

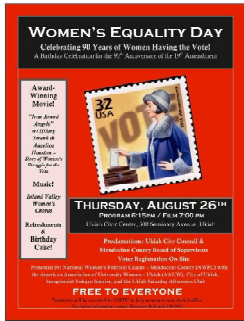
In 1894, Sanford was elected to the State Assembly, re-elected in 1896 and 1898. In 1902, he was elected to the State Senate, re-elected in 1906 and 1910. He served 18 years in the Legislature of California and became its longest serving member. He was the chairman of the Democratic Legislative Caucus for 14 years. Our local Senator Sanford was appointed to write the argument against woman suffrage.

A few days before the election, October 6, 1911, Senator Sanford wrote in Ukiah's Dispatch-Democrat: *"Because man is man and woman is woman, nature has made their duties and functions different and no constitutional amendment can make them the same. Immunity from service in executing the law would make women irresponsible voters. Because the suffrage is not a question of right or of justice but of expediency, and if there is no question of right or of justice, there is no cause for woman suffrage. Because it is a demand of a minority of women and the majority of women protest against it."*

Our local Grace Hudson Museum is the base for the National



Lauren Simmott



Collaboration for Women's History Sites. The paternal grandmother of Grace Hudson, Clarina Nichols, was a suffragist and friend of Susan B. Anthony. One of Nichols' strongest crusades was her work involving an underground for women to retain their children after divorce. Nichols is buried in Potter Valley, and her legacy continues in the book, "Revolutionary Heart: The Life of Clarina Nichols and the Pioneering Crusade for Women's Rights," by Diane Eickhoff.

We women living here today are the products of the suffragists who fought for us, for our right to vote, and for us to be able to vote to try to shape the way we want to live. Now we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that was ratified on August 26, 1920. The Mendocino Women's Political Coalition (MWPC) and the City of Ukiah have created two Centennial displays for the community to view beginning August 17th and will continue for two weeks to encourage increased awareness, education, and celebration. Take note of the banner across State Street at Clay Street and the unique display in the front of the Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Avenue, which will have exterior lighting of purple, gold, and white, the colors of the suffragists. Everyone is encouraged to visit the Civic Center including families and children. Comments on the displays are encouraged: katarzyna@pacific.net or mdavison@cityofukiah.com.

Ukiah City Council and Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Present Proclamations to Celebrate 19th Amendment Centennial

On August 18th Supervisor Carre Brown will present to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, and on August 19th City Councilwoman Maureen "Mo" Mulheren will present to the Ukiah

City Council: Proclamations to acknowledge the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition (MWPC) and their work with the City of Ukiah to promote awareness, education and celebration of the 19th Amendment Centennial and the importance of women to possess the right to vote. Beginning August 17th and continuing for two weeks there will be a banner, "Women Won the Vote" crossing State Street at Clay Street. Also, there will be an exhibit in front of the Ukiah Civic Center on Seminary Avenue with a banner, posters telling the suffrage story, a mannequin suffragist, and the suffragist colors of purple, gold, and white lights shining on the display.

10 Top Centennial Sites to Visit

Women's Vote Centennial Initiative (WVH) - www.2020Centennial.org

National Votes for Women Trail - <https://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail>

National Women's History Alliance - <https://nadditionalwomenshistoryalliance.org>

American Journalism - www.SuffrageandtheMedia.org

Turning Point Suffragist Memorial - www.suffragistmemorial.org
 Women and Social Movements - <https://documents.alexanderstreet.com/VOTESforWOMEN>

Women Leading the Way - www.Suffragettes2020.com
 Suffrage Centennials - www.suffragecentennials.com/
 and www.SuffrageWagon.org

Vision 2020 - <https://drexel.edu/vision2020/>

"19th Amendment and Women's Access to the Vote Across America,"
National Park Service - <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/womenshistory/women-s-access-to0the-vote.htm>



Wild Women

Dear Wild Women and Friends,
"Women, be joyful today."

It is our Centennial. It is our day, Women's Equality Day. Today we celebrate the Perfect 36. The ratification of the 19th Amendment.

This victory for Equality moves me beyond words: 900 local, state, and national campaigns, by foot, by petition, by parade, by speeches, by lobbying, by imprisonment, by non-violent, direct action. All tactics and principles we can praise and imitate.

Be joyous with us, in celebrating the constitutional right to vote.

Our August emailing features:

Carrie Chapman Catts radiant and inspiring speech, Be Joyful Today
A virtual gift of our Suffrage Films for you, August 18 - August 27

The invitation to enjoy August 26 with films and festival from The National Women's History Museum

The Suffrage Emporium of woman made items, Susan B Anthony items, masks, sashes

Carrie Chapman Catt National Women Suffrage Association convention on February 13, 1920 in Chicago, Illinois

*March, march many as one,
Shoulder to shoulder and friend to friend.*

Be Joyful Today

Suffragists were never dismayed when they were a tiny group and all the world against them. What care they now when all the world is with them?

March on, suffragists the victory is yours.

The trail has been long and winding; the struggle has been tedious and wearying, you made sacrifices and received many hard knocks. Let us celebrate today and when the proclamation comes, I beg you to celebrate the occasion with some form of joyous demonstration, in your own home state. Two armistice days made a happy ending of the war. Let two ratification days, one a national and one a state day, make an ending of the denial of political freedom to women.

Ours has been a movement with a soul, a dauntless, unconquerable soul ever leading on. Women came, served and passed on, but others came to take their places while the same great soul was ever marching on through hundreds, nay a thousand years. A soul immortal directing, leading the women crusade for the liberation of the Mothers of the Race. That soul is here today and who shall say that all the hosts of the millions of women who have toiled and hoped and met delay are not here today and joining in the rejoicing that



Carrie Chapman Catt

their cause at last, at last has won its triumph.

Women be glad today. Let your voices ring out the gladness in your hearts. There will never come another day like this. Let the joy be unconfined and let it speak so clearly that its echo will be heard around the world and find its way into the soul of every woman of any and every race and nationality who is yearning for opportunity and liberty still denied her sex.

Be joyful today.

Carrie Chapman Catt

Wild West Women Films Presents
The Centennial Film Festival
August 18 ~ August 27

Your Home

We hope you have fun with your own private showing of our three suffrage films. Have a suffrage party with the family and all you are sharing quarantine. All screenings are free.

Votes for Women

California Women win the Vote

Inez Milholland: Forward into Light

CLICK HERE for Vimeo Showcase

Your password is www2020

AUGUST 26 events

sponsored by the National Women's History Museum

August 26, 2020

11 a.m. PT, 2 p.m. ET

Screening of

Finding Justice: The Untold Story of Women's Fight for the Vote.

Finding Justice: The Untold Story of Women's Fight for the Vote tells the story of how a 2,000-pound bronze bell became a celebrated



symbol of the women's suffrage movement. The creation of suffragists in Pennsylvania who were agitating for the right to vote, the Justice Bell helped rally support around the cause in the last crucial years leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment. Click to Register for this free event www.justicebell.org <https://wildwestwomen.org/our-projects/justice-bell/>



August 26, 2020

5 p.m. PT, 8 p.m. ET

**Inez Milholland ~ Forward into Light
screening and discussion panel**

Join this free virtual screening of two short films about suffragist Inez Milholland: *Inez Milholland - Forward Into Light* and *Into Light*. The films will be followed by a panel discussion with actress Amy Walker, producer Martine Melloul, and *Forward Into Light* filmmaker and advisor Martha Wheelock. *Inez Milholland - Forward Into Light*, will introduce you to Milholland, the woman who rode the white horse as a Joan of Arc on March 3, 1913. This film will be followed by *Into Light*, which takes us to Blanchard Hall in Los Angeles, on October 23, 1916, as Milholland addresses 1,500 cheering and curious attendees. The outcome of that evening would be an inspirational and emotional impetus for the final push for woman suffrage.

CLICK here to register for this free event

<https://www.intolightofficial.com/>

<https://wildwestwomen.org>

August 26, 2020
6 p.m. PT, 9 p.m. ET
Women Take the Stage
Concert and Rally

The National Women's History Museum is pleased to partner with top musicians, changemakers and activist icons for Women Take the Stage: a free, multi-ethnic concert and rally to increase votes by and for women before the November election. Livestreaming on the centennial of the 19th Amendment, the event acknowledges that we have yet to achieve free, fair and safe elections for all.

Viewers will be inspired by performances and stories from Gloria Steinem, Dolores Huerta, Lily Tomlin, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Indigo Girls, BETTY, the B-52s' Kate Pierson, CA First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, poet Staceyann Chin, anti-racism leader Rev. Jacqui Lewis, and many more. Opening the show is NY's groundbreaking Attorney General, Letitia James.

CLICK here to register for this free event
<https://womentakethestage.org/>

Voting Rights for All
After the 19th Amendment . . .

The 19th Amendment did not guarantee that all women and men in the United States could vote. Securing this essential right has been a long struggle that for some, continues on to this day.

1924 Indian Citizenship Act - Native Americans deemed U.S. citizens, but states continue to decide who votes. Many continue to disenfranchise Native Americans.

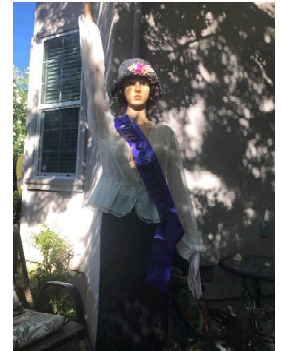
1943 Magnuson Act - Chinese in America granted the right to become citizens, and therefore vote (the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 previously prevented this).

1962 New Mexico is the last state to enfranchise Native Americans.

1965 Voting Rights Act - African Americans and Native Americans continued to face exclusion from voting through mechanics like poll tax, literacy tests, and intimidation. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was enacted to eliminate these practices..

Suffragist for Civic Center display: being dressed on Katarzyna's patio with Jini Reynold's skirt and gloves;

Katarzyna's hat, and City of Ukiah's Marianne Davison's blouse, (not quite finished).



KZYX: Johanna talked with Katarzyna Rolzinski
Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote.

On Thursday, August 13 at 9am Johanna "Wildoak" for Wildoak Living, KZYX radio talked with Katarzyna Rolzinski, at 9:30a.m.

about local events planned this month to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote.

9 am - 10:00a.m. on KZYX, Mendocino County Public Broadcasting. 88.1, 90.7 and 91.5 FM and on on the web at kzyx.org

If you missed the live broadcast, you can listen at <https://jukebox.kzyx.org/>



Cathy Monroe,
Katarzyna Rolzinski

A Note from Katarzyna . . .

About a year ago, I volunteered to take the lead on a MWPC project to celebrate the 19th Amendment Centennial. This past January I was fortunate to go to San Diego to attend the National Women's History Alliance Networking Conference to focus on the 19th Amendment Centennial. Upon my return, I formed a committee: Maureen "Mo" Mulheren, Jini Reynolds, Cathy Monroe, Kristy Kelly, Michelle Hutchins, Sharon Marshall, Bonnie Tillotson, and Wendy DeWitt. We met on March 10th for a most productive meeting at Mo's office. Each woman was delegated a particular part in our celebration plans. We had the sites of the Redwood Valley Grange

and the Community Room of the Grace Hudson Museum set for women and girls to make suffragist sashes. We were planning on having a march from the Courthouse to the Ukiah Civic Center, where we were going to have a program, show the film: Iron-Jawed Angels, and serve a special 100-year birthday cake. Education was to be a large focus of our plans with films to be shown in schools with MWPC members to give talks to accompany them. Films were also going to be shown at the Redwood Valley Grange. There were even more ideas being considered when the pandemic came upon us. We creatively came up with the idea to have a program of awareness, education, and celebration without bringing people together. Thus, with wonderful support from the City of Ukiah, we are presenting the State Street banner and the exhibit in front of the Ukiah Civic Center.

It took an enormous amount of coordinating and organizing to create these displays, and I began thinking of my efforts as my "last hurrah" because after nearly 24 years of having a lead position with NWPC/MWPC, I am retiring from the Sage Circle upon the execution of this project. I, along with the Sage Circle members want to know if these displays made a difference; remember to go by the Ukiah Civic Center display when the lights are shining on it. Please send an email of your response to the displays: katarzyna@pacific.net

Please Print and Save

