

Panorama

Valley Stream Historical Society

Pagan-Fletcher Restoration

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Volume XXXXVI No. 6

March 2020

Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2020
at 7:30pm

*The Auditorium at
Valley Stream Village Hall
123 So. Central Avenue
Valley Stream*

*Please note the date and place for the
Society's next general membership
meeting.*



*National Women's
History Alliance*

In 1980, the National Women's History Project (NWHP) was founded in Santa Rosa, California by Molly Murphy MacGregor, Mary Ruthsdotter, Maria Cuevas, Paula Hammett, and Bette Morgan to broadcast women's historical achievements.

Women's History Month



To celebrate Women's History Month, the Society is pleased to welcome Elizabeth Kahn Kaplan who will present a program entitled: "America's Eight First Ladies from New York State."

Ms. Kahn Kaplan earned a B.A. in History and Music from C.C.N.Y., a Master of Arts degree in Social Studies from Hunter College Graduate School and completed post-graduate work in School Administration at both Hunter College and Teachers College of Columbia University.

Upon her retirement as a teacher and school administrator, Kahn Kaplan pursued a second career in Art History. She undertook a year's extensive training as a volunteer docent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Kahn Kaplan has also been an interpreter at the Long Island Museum of American Art, History and Carriages in Stony Brook. In short, she is a very accomplished woman with a number of publications and articles written by her.

Humanities New York is sponsoring Kahn Kaplan's presentation.

The NWHP was started by a group that successfully lobbied Congress to designate March as National Women's History Month. Since 1980 the project has established the theme for women's history each year and provided resources and materials for education and celebration of the women honored.

In 2018, the project became known as the National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA). This was done in order to support the study and celebration of women's history all year long.

Today, NWHHA is known nationally as the only clearinghouse providing information and training in multicultural women's history for those who are interested in women's contributions to US history.



Photo of members of the Society dressed in costumes at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration on February 16, 2020. The photo was taken in the Buckley exhibit room.

Valley Stream Historical Society

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The Centennial of the 19th Amendment

The Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution officially extended the right to vote to women.



Opposition to women having the right to vote predated the Constitutional Convention of 1787. In not allowing women the right to vote and hold office, it was determined that they would be protected from the evils of politics.

In July, 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York (Elizabeth Cady Stanton's hometown), the Seneca Falls Convention launched the movement for women's rights. After the War Between the States, women put aside their desire to be treated as equals in favor of the rights of newly freed male slaves.

A number of states allowed women to vote prior to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. In 1869, two organizations were formed, the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association, each with the same goal of a constitutional amendment allowing women the right to vote. In 1890 the organizations merged.

In January, 1918, and with the support of both political parties and President Wilson, the amendment passed with the minimum two thirds vote in the House of Representatives but failed in the Senate. In 1919 it passed both chambers, 304-89 in the House of Representatives on May 21 and 56-25 on June 4 in the Senate. There was much opposition in the South but Tennessee by one vote on August 18, 1920 became the 36th state to ratify the amendment ensuring its adoption.

While voting rights could no longer be denied because of race or sex, after the 15th and 19th Amendments, many voters still faced ballot restrictions, including registration rules, literacy tests, poll taxes, and moral and residency requirements.

In every presidential election since 1980, the proportion of eligible women who voted exceeded the proportion of eligible men who voted.

As of 2018, there were 81.3 million women registered to vote in the United States. They make up 53% of the entire electorate.

*Information provided by
The Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.
and the American Bar Association*

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