

VOICES AND VOTES: DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA

Sarasota County's Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Public Library was selected by Florida Humanities to host the traveling Smithsonian exhibit titled Voices and Votes: Democracy in America. The exhibit will be at the library, which is located at 2801 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota from Aug. 15 to Oct. 10, 2020.



March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Aug. 28, 1963 by Rowland Scherman
Courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration

Sarasota County is excited to be the first library system in Florida to host this traveling exhibit, which is based on an exhibit currently on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

With 2020 being both an election year as well as the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment granting American women the right to vote, the exhibit serves as a great opportunity to educate the public about American democracy.

In addition to the exhibit at the library, there will be a series of virtual programs held thanks to a grant from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

VOICES AND VOTES DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA | VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Register for all virtual programs online at scgov.net/library and sort programs using the "Voices and Votes" filter in the online calendar.



Registrants will be emailed a Zoom invite prior to program. Visit zoom.us for more info.



To learn more about ClickMeeting, visit clickmeeting.com.

VIRTUAL KICKOFF: JOIN US FOR A DOLLY MADISON "SQUEEZE" FOR A NEW GENERATION OF AMERICANS

Saturday, Aug. 15 | 2-3 p.m.

In celebration of the exhibit's arrival in Sarasota, we'll be hosting a digital "squeeze" in the tradition of First Lady Dolly Madison. While possibly most famous for rescuing the George Washington portrait when the British set the White House on fire in 1814, Madison



did her part to save early American democracy by humanizing political foes and making strong difference of opinion tolerable (almost fun) in regular social gatherings that were so well-attended they became known as a "squeeze." Here we'll do our best to squeeze as many Sarasota citizens as possible onto a Zoom call, then we'll pose conversation topics to quickly rotating small groups — almost as if you were right there at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

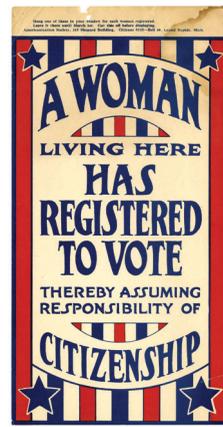


OUR VOTES COUNT: WOMEN AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN SARASOTA COUNTY

Aug. 15 to Oct. 10

FACILITATOR: SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORICAL RESOURCES STAFF

This local exhibit calls attention to the women who were among the first to register to vote in what is today's Sarasota County. For the first time, their names will be brought to light and celebrated during the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States.



"A Woman Living Here Has Registered to Vote," window sign for a home, 1919
Courtesy of National Museum of American History



National Woman's Party march for woman's suffrage, Washington, D.C. Feb. 14, 1917
Photograph, gift of Alice Paul Centennial Foundation, National Museum of American History



Smithsonian Institution



The "Voices and Votes: Democracy in America" exhibit and related programming are brought to you by Florida Humanities and the Smithsonian Institution. We would also like to thank the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their generous support of this initiative and the Pulitzer Prizes for their partnership. Local support has been provided by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

Created by Sarasota County Communications 7.20.20

VOICES AND VOTES DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA



Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Public Library



AUG. 15 TO OCT. 10, 2020

100 YEARS OF IMPACT: WOMEN AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Tuesday, Aug. 18 | 3-4 p.m.

FACILITATOR: BONNIE SILVESTRI, SARASOTA COUNTY ADA COORDINATOR

Celebrate women gaining the right to vote on the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. This program will take us through milestones in women's rights from the 1900s to present.



NPR: BLOCKED FROM THE BALLOT PODCAST CONVERSATION

Wednesday, Aug. 26 | 2-3:30 p.m.

FACILITATOR: BONNIE SILVESTRI, SARASOTA COUNTY ADA COORDINATOR

Listen to a series of NPR podcasts relating to voter obstacles and join a panel-led conversation on the various topics covered throughout the series. Participants do not have to listen to all podcasts to join in on the conversation.



"The Chain of States" as it appeared on Continental paper money, 1776
Courtesy of National Museum of American History

"RISING OUT OF HATRED: THE AWAKENING OF A FORMER WHITE NATIONALIST" BY ELI SASLOW BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, Sept. 3 | 1-2 p.m.

FACILITATOR: ZINA JAYNE, SARASOTA COUNTY LIBRARY MANAGER

Join us for a lively discussion about the book "Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist" by Eli Saslow. This book examines the journey of former white nationalist Derek Black as life experience challenges his stronghold on the racist principles that he was raised to believe in.



DEMOCRACY IN FLORIDA: A WORK IN PROGRESS

Thursday, Sept. 10 | 6-7 p.m.

FACILITATOR: DR. STEVE NOLL, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA HISTORY DEPARTMENT MASTER LECTURER

When American revolutionaries waged a war for independence, they took a leap of faith that sent ripple effects across generations. They embraced a radical idea of establishing a government that entrusted the power of the nation not in a monarchy, but in its citizens. That great leap sparked questions that continue to impact Floridians: who has the right to vote, what are the freedoms and responsibilities of citizens, and whose voices will be heard? This talk is a springboard for discussions about those very questions and how they are reflected in Florida stories spanning over 300 years.



LOCAL COLOR SERIES

Monday, Sept. 14
Noon to 1 p.m.

FACILITATOR: RENEE GILMORE, ABC7 ANCHOR

This is the first program of three in a series (future dates TBD) where we come to know each other better around issues of race. This program will be an idea-generating, deeply real (possibly even joyful) Hamilton-inspired technicolor town hall about race in our community.

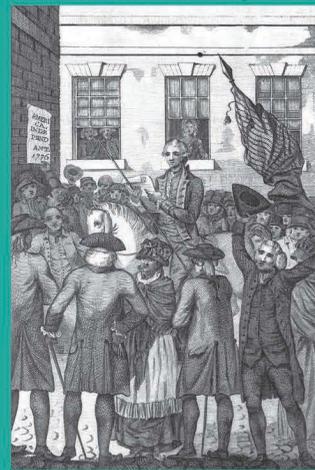


OUR VOICES COUNT: WOMEN AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN SARASOTA COUNTY

Thursday, Sept. 17 | 3-4 p.m.

FACILITATOR: LINDSAY OGLES, SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORICAL RESOURCES COLLECTIONS CURATOR

Learn about women's suffrage in Sarasota County through early voter records and local media coverage. Cast your vote for history!



"The Manner in which the American Colonies Declared Themselves Independent," London, printed about 1783.
Courtesy of Library of Congress

BRAVER ANGELS: REUNITING AMERICA

Saturday, Sept. 19

Braver Angels: Reuniting America is a 50-minute documentary about what happened before, during and after a Braver Angels Red/Blue workshop in Waynesville, Ohio. It was directed by four-time Emmy award-winner Jim Brown, and produced by musician Peter Yarrow. (Please note that Braver Angels was known as Better Angels until April 2020.) To learn more, visit braverangels.org.



DR. MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE COMES TO LIFE

Thursday, Sept. 24 | 6 p.m.

FACILITATOR: ERSULA KNOX ODOM

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955) was the founder of Bethune-Cookman University. She served as a New Deal government official — she was one of the 20 highest-level offices held by women in the administration, and the highest held by an African-American woman. She was the founder of FDR's "black cabinet" and served as president of the National Association of Colored Women. Ersula Odom's in-character performance brings Dr. Bethune to life before your eyes.



DEPOLARIZING WITHIN WORKSHOP

Thursday, Oct. 1 | 5-7 p.m.

Braver Angels brings together all Americans in a working alliance to depolarize America. Join this workshop to foster skills to help you lessen the effects of polarization when you encounter them in your political conversations.



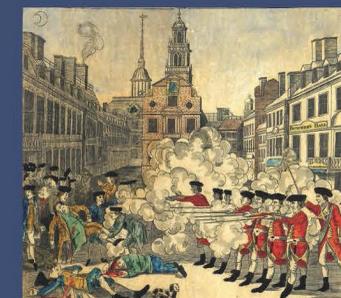
Take this workshop if you are interested in:

- Becoming more aware of your own inner polarizer and finding ways to counteract that impulse.
- Learning how to be critical without stereotyping, dismissing, ridiculing or showing contempt.
- Building skills for intervening in a constructive way in social conversations that veer into contempt and ridicule for people who hold other political views.

BRAVER ANGELS DEBATE

Thursday, Oct. 8 | 5-7 p.m.

A Braver Angels debate is a different kind of debate in which a group of people think together, listen carefully to one another, and allow themselves to be touched and perhaps changed by each other's ideas. When done well, everyone walks out a little closer to the truth, more aware of the validity in opposing views, and with tighter community relationships. The topic of this debate will be "Resolved: The universal voting age in the U.S. should be lowered to 16."



"Bloody Massacre in King Street," engraving by Paul Revere, 1770.
Courtesy of National Museum of American History

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