

Women's Hall of Fame

24TH ANNUAL INDUCTION

Class of 2020

CONGRATULATIONS TO



Barbara Allen



Evelyn O. A. Darden



Lori A. Fuchs



Terri L. Hill



Tracey L. Williams

COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM



The Commission for Women was created in 1980 to promote the economic, social and political equality of women in Howard County.

www.howardcountymd.gov/CFW • 410-313-6400 (VOICE/RELAY)

SPECIAL NOTICE

Following guidance from the CDC, our state and the Health Department to avoid large gatherings due to the current COVID-19 public health state of emergency, we were forced to make the difficult decision to cancel the Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony scheduled for March 26, 2020. Our top priority is always the safety and well-being of all Howard County residents. The fact that we cannot hold a live induction ceremony and public celebration in no way diminishes the significance of our inductees' accomplishments and contributions to our community. This commemorative program was created to thank these five extraordinary women for all that they have done – and continue to do – for Howard County. Congratulations!



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If you need this information in an alternate format, call 410-313-6400 (voice/relay).

National Women's History Month

Increasing Awareness and Honoring the Role Women Have Played in History

The impact of women's history might seem abstract to some, and less pressing than the immediate struggles of working women today. But to ignore the vital role that women's dreams and accomplishments play in our own lives would be a great mistake. We draw strength and inspiration from those who came before us – and those remarkable women working among us today. They are part of our story, and a truly balanced and inclusive history recognizes how important women have always been in American society.

— National Women's History Project (NWHP) website

Women's History Month grew out of an effort in the late 1970s to increase recognition in the public's awareness and K-12 curriculum of the role women have played in history. It started in Sonoma County, California as a "Women's History Week" celebration held the week of March 8 (International Women's Day).

The following year, the idea spread to other jurisdictions and by 1981, the effort generated its first Joint Congressional Resolution, co-sponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and then Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD).

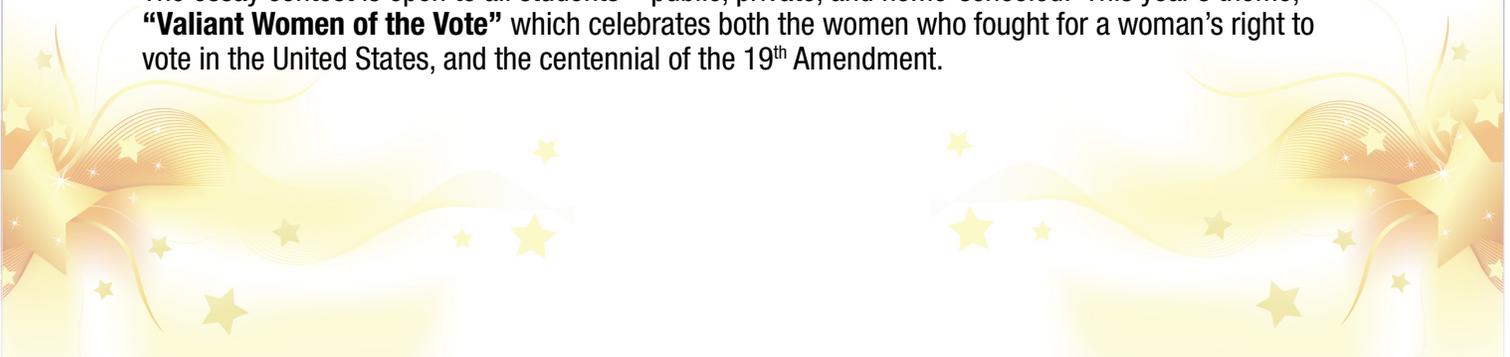
As word spread, departments of education in many states began to encourage National Women's History Week celebrations as a means to achieve equity goals within classrooms. Maryland was an early leader in developing and distributing curriculum materials to all public schools.

In 1987, the national celebration of women expanded to the entire month of March. Every year since, a resolution naming March "National Women's History Month" has been passed by Congress with bipartisan support. Today, National Women's History Month activities across the country are coordinated by the National Women's History Project (NWHP), which sets the annual theme, produces educational materials, and honors women nationally for their accomplishments.

Howard County Commission for Women History Month Essay Contest

The Commission for Women's goal in holding the Women's History Month essay contest is to have students recognize the diverse achievements of women and their role in history. As the NWHP website states, "the knowledge of women's history provides a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. This perspective can encourage girls and women to think larger and bolder and can give boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience."

The essay contest is open to all students – public, private, and home-schooled. This year's theme, "**Valiant Women of the Vote**" which celebrates both the women who fought for a woman's right to vote in the United States, and the centennial of the 19th Amendment.





HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Congratulations to the Women's Hall of Fame Inductees of 2020!

In March of every year since 1996, the Howard County Commission for Women has inducted up to five outstanding women into the Women's Hall of Fame during Women's History Month. This year's five inductees join the ranks of the 109 exemplary Howard County women who have been inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame since its inception.

My sincerest congratulations to Barbara Allen, Evelyn Darden, Lori Fuchs, Terri Hill, and Tracey Williams. All of these women stand out for their positive influence in our community, their expertise in their fields, and their commitment to making Howard County a better place for all.

For decades, these women have made extraordinary contributions to Howard County in the areas of philanthropy, social change, law, medicine, and education. I am confident that they will continue to use their time and talents to strengthen our county for many years to come.

Thank you for your selfless dedication to our community.

Thank you to the Department of Community Resources and Services and their Commission for Women for highlighting these distinguished women, and ensuring they receive the recognition they deserve.

Sincerely,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive



Women's Hall of Fame

24TH ANNUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY

Greetings from the Howard County Commission for Women!

As we celebrate 40 years as the Howard County Commission for Women, I want to share with you some of the progress we've made to bring awareness to the economic, political and social issues of women in our county. Through our Speaker Series, we have had the opportunity to bring powerful and knowledgeable speakers in to meet and engage with phenomenal women in our county who are also looking to make a difference.

Each year during the month of March we celebrate National Women's History Month, and the 2020 theme is, "Valiant Women of the Vote." We honor the women who have come before us who offered their shoulders, supporting and sacrificing themselves to guarantee our right, as women, to vote. Their passion fueled the drive to pass the 19th Amendment that guaranteed women the right to vote in 1920. The Women's Suffrage Centennial in 2020 is a perfect opportunity for both women and men to expand our work for universal freedom, justice, and equality.

During Women's History Month, we also want to shine a light on the accomplishments of five Howard County women who make up our 2020 class of inductees to the Women's Hall of Fame. Over the course of many years, these extraordinary women have shared their time and talents as professionals, as volunteers and as mentors to empower others in our community. On behalf of the Howard County Commission for Women, we celebrate you and stand in awe of your accomplishments. We are pleased to induct you into the Howard County Women's Hall of Fame as our Class of 2020!

Sincerely,

Kashonna J. Holland, Chair
Howard County Commission for Women

Howard County Women's Hall of Fame

2020 Barbara Allen
Evelyn Darden
Lori Fuchs
Terri Hill
Tracey Williams

2019 Buffy Beaudoin-Schwartz
Georgia L. Eacker
Cathy Malkmus Hudson

2018 Patricia Emard Greenwald
Debra Ann Slack Katz
Joan Webb Scornaienchi

2017 Mary Catherine Cochran
Sandra Nix Harriman
Stacie Hunt
Dr. Abbie Diane Martin
Margaret (Peggy) Schultz

2016 Martha Shirlene Bauman
Mae A. Beale
Frances Louise Brown
Ruth Davis Brown
Mamie Johns Perkins

2015 Honorable Lenore Gelfman
Mavis Polson Lewis
Colette Roberts
Courtney Watson
Margaret "Peg" Whyte

2014 Bessie Bordenave
Ossie Clay
Becky Mangus
Caroline Sherman
Felicita Sola-Carter

2013 Linda Joy Burke
Joanne Davis
Bernadine Hallinan-Smith
Tahira Musarrat Hussain
Grace Kubofcik

2012 Carol Beatty
Mary Ellen Duncan
Razia Kosi
Frances Mason
Linda Odum

2011 Katherine K. Rensin
Ann H. Ryder
Sr. Catherine Phelps, SSND
Arlene Sheff
Diana Ulman

2010 Lynne Ann Battaglia
Alice Gail Clark
Carol Filipczak
Ethel B. Hill
Becky Lessey

2009 Gail Bates
Carroll Kitzmiller
Doris Slack
Gloria Washington-Wallace
Beverly White-Seals

2008 Evelyn Bolduc
Pam Mack
Ann Mech
Jane Walker

2007 Eva Anderson
Joetta Cramm
Gertrude Crist
Mary Ann Scully
Natalie Woodson

2006 Francis M. Dawson
Roberta E. Dillow
Leila Hajek
Carolyn Kelemen
Robin Steele

2005 Virginia Bates
Yolanda Bruno
Phyllis Madachy
Judith Pittman
Sue Song

2004 Susan Buswell
Andrea Ingram
Ellen Kennedy
Mary Snodgrass

2003 Shirley Collier
Donora Dingman
Priscilla Hart
Valerie Lash
Donna Rice

2002 Peg Browning
Wylene Sims Burch
Barbara Lawson
Maxine Mullican
Toby Orenstein

2001 Joan Athen
Sharon Bedke
Lucille Clifton
Doris Ligon
Patricia Rouse
Almira Hart Phelps

2000 Pearl Atkinson-Stewart
Vivian Bailey
Ruth Keeton
Dorothy Moore
Jean Toomer

1999 Joyce Boyd, MD
Willa Jean Brooks, EdD
Ruth Conway
Helen Buss Mitchell, PhD
May Ruth Seidel

1998 Elizabeth Bobo
Maggie Brown
Anita Iribe
Deborah Kendig
Malynda Madzel

1997 Leola May Dorsey
Dr. Mary Hovet
Jean Moon
Doris Stromberg Thompson
Celona Banks Walden

Barbara Allen



The Executive Director of James' Place, Inc., Barbara Allen holds a Bachelor of Science in Management and Organizational Psychology from Arizona State University and graduate certificates in Technical Management from Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She became a reluctant advocate for families dealing with loss of a loved one from addiction in 2003 when her son, Jim, died from the disease. Having already lost one brother and later losing her niece and another brother to substance-related causes, she recognized things needed to change.

Angry at how she and loved ones were treated, Barbara began researching the history of addiction, criminal justice systems, reform, medical research and anything related to this disease. Over time, she met thousands of other struggling parents, grandparents, siblings, spouses and friends across the country. As a result, Barbara founded James' Place, in 2006, a Howard County-based nonprofit which provides advocacy to support changes in laws, increase funding for treatment, detox and other recovery services; educational programs to **"Shatter the Stigma"** of this disease; and funding – financial support for individuals leaving treatment for a recovery house. With Howard County Public Schools, funding is also provided to at-risk teens for early substance use assessments.

Barbara has also held key roles with The Compassionate Friends (TCF), a national organization supporting bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings after the death of a child. She served as TCF's regional coordinator from 2006-2012, on its National Board of Directors, and founded the Patapsco Valley Chapter in 2014 to serve Howard County and surrounding areas.

As a member of 14 different coalitions in Howard County and the state of Maryland, this has become her life's work. Today, Barbara divides her time between supporting those who have lost loved ones; working to eliminate stigma; and bringing hope through needed changes to prevention, treatment, insurance parity, recovery housing and laws.

One of the best testaments to her impact is how individual lives are affected. Comments from recipients of JPI funding for recovery houses include:

After receiving JPI funding, Laquenta continued with her recovery, obtained her commercial driver's license and got a job with the state. She wrote, "I'll be celebrating three years sober and many other accomplishments. Each accomplishment makes me think of you. You're a blessing to many."

From Eric, who now runs his own business, "Just wanted to let you know I am seven months clean today. Thank you so much for helping make this a reality."

And this, from Dylan, "Thank you so very much for being a shining light and an inspiration in this dark world. Recovery is going well, received my 30-day chip the other day and still reaching for the stars."

Barbara's tireless work has been recognized in Howard County and across the State of Maryland. She received the Governor's Citation from Governor Larry Hogan in May, 2018, and was appointed by Governor Hogan to the Maryland Behavioral Health Advisory Council beginning in 2016, serving as co-chair. In 2019, she was appointed to the OTP Workgroup by Maryland Secretary of Health Robert Neale, and most recently was appointed to Lt. Governor Rutherford's Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health. Barbara is also the founding chair of the Howard County Opioid Crisis Community Council and serves on the Opioid Intervention Team, Recovery Oriented Systems of Care, and Local Health Improvement Coalition.

Evelyn Darden



A resident of Howard County and a native of Annapolis, Evelyn Darden was the 11th African American woman admitted to the Maryland Bar. She is a maternal descendant of Rev. Samuel Green, Sr., a Marylander and visionary founder of Morgan State University, who was also an underground railroad conductor and first cousin to Harriet Tubman. Evelyn is a graduate of Morgan State University and the University of Maryland School of Law, and completed the Harvard Law School Institute for Lawyers, with a special emphasis on Class Action Torts and Constitution Law. She is currently a principal at Addison-Darden, a mother-son law firm which she founded in April 1988.

Evelyn's legal career began in 1976, spanning four decades of representation at the local, state and federal levels. Her early legal training began at Johnson and Smith under the tutelage of the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Johnson, a trail-blazing civil rights attorney. As an associate at Johnson and Smith, and later as supervisory trial attorney at the Baltimore District Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), she was responsible for several major class action Title VII cases against Fortune 500 companies in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia. Her class action civil rights cases focused primarily on black and female police officers, firefighters, longshoremen, and steel workers in Maryland and across the nation who had been deprived of equal pay, promotions and other benefits, and who had suffered the consequences of wrongful discharge, demotions and failure to hire. As a result of these Title VII class action lawsuits, sweeping changes were made in the Baltimore City Police Department and Fire Department.

Evelyn Darden was one of the first African American women to serve as an Assistant Attorney General for Maryland. In January 1983, she accompanied Kurt L. Schmoke to the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office and was assigned to the Special Narcotics and Homicide units. She prosecuted numerous jury trials and was responsible for eliminating several major drug rings in Baltimore City. Her extensive trial experience included a five-year partnership with trial attorney Johnny Cochran, who nominated her for the National Trial Lawyer of the Year for Public Justice Award In 2002. Her trial experience also earned her a two-term position on the Board of Governors for the Maryland Trial Attorneys, where she served on the legislative committee and was instrumental in lobbying to repeal the Parent-Child Immunity Law. In private practice, she has consistently focused on keeping Maryland families safe and securing justice and monetary awards for victims of negligence.

Evelyn earned national recognition and the Maryland Trial Lawyer of the Year Award for the landmark \$4.5 million settlement in Gary J. v. State of Maryland, including an education fund for 900 male juveniles who were physically and emotionally abused at the Juvenile Boot Camps in Western Maryland. She continues to serve the community as a volunteer, a Pro Bono counsel for several organizations, and an international motivational and cultural awareness speaker. A video documenting Evelyn Darden's accomplishments may be found at <https://Vimeo.com/64330854>.

Lori Fuchs



A native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Lori Fuchs moved to Howard County in 1989. She now lives in southeast Howard County with husband of 37 years, Steve and has two daughters Sarah and Leah. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master's degree in Organizational Development from Johns Hopkins University. She completed her master's program, one class at a time, earning a 4.0 average while working full-time and raising two daughters.

Professionally, Lori worked for more than 20 years in the human resources field for companies including Coca-Cola Enterprises, PACE and BGE Home. In 2001, shortly after 9/11, Lori felt the pull to "finish" raising her daughters and "retired" from full-time employment. Since then, she has worked tirelessly as a volunteer in a wide variety of organizations.

After completing the Leadership Howard County Leadership Premier program in 2002, an experience that anchored her service commitments, Lori served as a committee member and chair for many LHC committees, including Leadership Premier Steering, session planning and learning enhancement committees, LHC Board of Directors, Recruiting, and Strategic Planning.

Lori was an active member of the Parent-Teacher Associations at Bollman Bridge Elementary School, Patuxent Valley Middle School and Hammond High School (HHS) and served in many leadership roles for the HHS Boosters, including events and concessions chair, secretary and vice-chair. She continues to serve Hammond as the football scoreboard operator on Friday nights, and was recently inducted into the Hammond High School Athletics Hall of Fame.

Lori and her husband, Steve, were also members of the James Madison University Parents Council for four years, serving as Council Chairs in 2008-2009. She is an active member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church (EUMC), where she has led a team at Elizabeth's House, chaired outreach, sat on the Administrative Council, attends regular study group and has volunteered her consulting expertise in service to EUMC and the EUMC Preschool.

Over the years, Lori has stepped up to fill numerous volunteer and professional roles as well, working as a "buddy" to a disabled adult through Best Buddies, as a member of the advisory boards of the Women's Giving Circle and Family & Children's Services, as a Humanim Community committee member, and a board member and event chair for Carroll Baldwin Hall in Savage. She also founded the Leadership Alliance networking program; served as a member and consultant for the Horizon Foundation Southeast Council; and was a member and vice-chair of the Howard County Commission for Women. While serving on the Commission for Women she established and led the annual Feminine Hygiene Product Drive.

Throughout the years, Lori has served in other volunteer/professional capacities, including as a coach with Howard Community College' StepUP program for four years; working for the Association of Community Services, at Howard Community College in a grant position; and as a volunteer career/life coach. One of Lori's volunteer coach engagements, with the Leadership Essentials program – first with LHC and later with Loyola University Maryland led to her current role, as the contract Program Manager for Leadership Essentials Howard County, a six-month leadership development program.

Terri Hill



State Delegate Terri L. Hill, MD, is a practicing plastic surgeon and second term member of the Maryland General Assembly for District 12, having been first elected in 2014. She represents communities in Baltimore and Howard Counties; and sits on the House Health and Government Operations Committee, serving on the Government Operations and Health Facilities and the Public Health and Minority Health Disparities subcommittees. Previous subcommittee assignments were Estates and Trust, Pharmaceuticals, and Health Insurance. She has also served on Justice Reinvestment, Aid-in-Dying, and Affordable Care Act workgroups, and is a member of the Women Legislators of Maryland, Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, Maryland Latino Caucus, and EMS and Fire Caucus. Her professional and life experiences inform her work, promoting legislation to address issues of equity, behavioral and somatic health, economic justice, social justice, environmental justice, sustainability, and community empowerment.

Terri is a 1977 graduate of Wilde Lake High School, having attended Faulkner Ridge Elementary and Wilde Lake Middle Schools. She received her A.B. in Bio-electric Engineering from Harvard University and M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She completed her general surgery and plastic surgery training at Columbia - Presbyterian Medical Center (now New York – Presbyterian Medical Center), and a craniofacial fellowship at the University of Miami. Board certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, she established her solo plastic surgery practice in 1991, which encompasses a range of cosmetic, traumatic, congenital, oncologic and reconstructive care including craniofacial, hand and extremities, burn, breasts and body procedures, from neonatal to geriatric patients. Professional associations include the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, American Medical Association, National Medical Association, and Maryland Medical Society. She is a mentor, has volunteered on missions for Operation Smile, and sat on the Central Maryland American Red Cross Board of Directors.

Delegate Hill was a founding member of the Thurgood Marshall Democratic Club of Howard County and the Howard County Chapter of the National (Political) Conference of Black Women, and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Iota Lambda Omega Chapter. She remains involved in church and political, professional, community and service activities. Her numerous honors and awards include the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. North Atlantic Region Health Promotion Achievement Award; Associated Black Charities' Small Business Women on the Move Award, the Baltimore Archdiocese Mother Mary Lange Leadership Award, and Towson University's Distinguished Black Marylander Award. She has been honored as Legislator of the Year by the Maryland State Medical Society, Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. She is an Honorary Member of Omega Beta Iota, the Osteopathic Political Honor Society.

In Terri's own words, none of these achievements would have been possible without the Lord's grace, mercy and guidance; she is particularly appreciative of her family, friends, teachers, mentors, colleagues, patients, constituents and supporters who have fostered her continued growth. Her daily goal is to be a positive force for the community and better discern and follow God's purpose for her life.

Tracey Williams



Born in Newport News, Virginia, Tracey L. Williams has lived in Ellicott City for over 20 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Old Dominion University and a master's degree in Clinical Social Work from Norfolk State University. She holds an Advanced Certificate in Administration and Supervision from the McDaniel College and is a certified Pupil Personnel Worker and certified School Social Worker in the state of Maryland. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in Innovative Social Work from the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. A licensed therapist, Tracey works for Howard County Public School System as a Pupil Personnel Worker.

Tracey is passionate about making life better for underserved populations, dedicating a great deal of her personal and professional time to helping those in need. As an advocate for the rights of the homeless, she received the 2016 William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award; as a champion for children aging out of foster care, she served as a member and vice-chair of the Howard County Department of Social Services (DSS) Board for several years. While on the DSS Board, she wrote and received a grant from the Maryland Association of Social Services Board and coordinated with local community organizations to hold launch parties and workshops for students aging out of foster care. Tracey currently serves as a member of the Bridges to Housing Stability Board where she advocates for the needs of homeless families and supports the initiatives to provide affordable housing in Howard County.

Tracey is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega Chapter, and served as its president from 2014-2017. During her leadership, the sorority received the NAACP Helping Others Award, the North Atlantic Region (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.) Erma Baron Helping People Award, and the North Atlantic Region, Chapter of the Year Award. While serving as president, Iota Lambda Omega implemented the first expungement fair ever held in Howard County, Maryland.

The immediate past president of the Continental Societies, Inc., Southeastern Howard/Laurel Chapter. Tracey and the chapter received the 2018 Getting Ahead Award from the Howard County Multiservice Center for their support of the program. She currently serves on the Continental Societies, Inc. National Membership Committee, and previously served as the National Treasurer, National Honorary Member Chairman, and National Nominating Committee Chairman of The Society, Inc.

Tracey currently serves as the First Vice-President of the African American Community Roundtable of Howard County (AACR). She was drawn to the work of the AACR because of its mission to "improve the overall quality of life for African Americans throughout Howard County. To fulfill this mission, the AACR is focused on ensuring that families are connected to critical resources that ultimately empower residents and encourage social and economic well-being." Tracey lives this mission everyday as she serves the needs of students in the Howard County Public School System and families in the Howard County Community.

Tracey feels blessed to have had so many accomplishments and opportunities to serve the community, but she says that her "greatest accomplishment" is her family. Tracey is married to Trent B. Williams and they are the proud parents of two adult children, Tiara and Tatiana Williams.

HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY WINNER 2020

Aniya Diggs

Glenelg Country School



The Valiant Voting Efforts of Sojourner Truth

I am not going to die, I'm going home like a shooting star were the powerful words spoken from Sojourner Truth, a civil and women's rights activist of the nineteenth century. Truth was born a slave in New York in 1797. She developed a strong sense of determination and boldness as she paved the way for women like me, to have a voice in present day voting.

Truth grew up experiencing the harsh consequences of slavery, as she was a victim of physical labor, mistreatment, auctions, and violent punishments. In 1827, Truth was able to escape the perils of slavery and she bought her freedom for \$20 with the help of an abolitionist family. At that moment in her life, her journey was just beginning. Throughout the 1820s and 30s she had been exposed to religious revivals that had groomed her to become a prominent public speaker. As she worked for a local minister, she grew to be a charismatic preacher on the evils of slavery. Truth's efforts were so significant that she had opportunities to meet powerful abolitionists and activists like Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony. In 1851, Truth helped to lead a women's rights conference, as she spearheaded the women's rights movement. Truth delivered her **Ain't I A Woman?** speech, which is now recognized as one of the most famous abolitionist and women's rights speeches in American history. In her speech, Truth said, "Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him. If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them." It is evident that she believed in racial and gender equality and through her speaking efforts she promoted female empowerment to her audience.

Throughout this journey, she made several sacrifices in order to stay focused on her task.. She had to rethink her morals and priorities in order to stay true to her activist focus. Truth emphasized the importance of suffrage for both enslaved men and women. From the determined and bold actions of Sojourner Truth, she has shown me and millions of other girls around the world how to be a valiant woman of the vote firmly believe in women's rights and our opportunities to vote, as I am a registered voter and plan to promptly express my ideas once I approach voting age.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY WINNER 2020

Taylor Rogers

Murray Hill Middle School



The Valiant Voting Efforts of Ida B. Wells

Valiant Women of the Vote to me means that a group of women had the courage and determination and used it to help their communities fight for a women's right to vote. These women used their determination and courage for the rights of their own gender and for those who struggled against many forms of voter suppression including poll taxes, literacy tests, and voter roll purges. I want to recognize Ida B. Wells who was an inspiration to many.

Ida B. Wells was an extraordinary historical American woman and a woman from the original suffrage movement. I want to recognize Ida B. Wells not just for helping in the process of getting rights for women to vote but for possessing courage and determination. Ida B. Wells view of women's enfranchisement was sensible and political. She believed that if we increased the women's vote that women's interest would be represented in laws. She also believed in women's right to vote, but she also saw enfranchisement as a way for black women as well as all women no matter color or sexuality to become politically involved in their communities. Ida B. Wells also wanted black women to use their votes to elect African Americans to influential political offices.

Ida B. Wells actions inspire me because she was a civil rights activist and a person who persevered until things were right. She is someone who inspired change by protesting. Ida B. Wells is someone who fights for the cause of others, not just her own, and paves the way for change in political, economic, or social spheres. Ida B. Wells is my natural national hero.

This concludes my message of who I feel is a valiant woman of the vote. Ida B. Wells was a prominent black suffragist, natural hero, and most definitely a valiant woman. Her determination and courage has given me, other girls, and women a voice in politics. She was also an embodiment of strength to people that were trying to make changes. Her actions helped a lifetime of people and she deserves to be recognized for such determination and courage.

HIGH SCHOOL FIRST RUNNER UP 2020

Chloe McGeehan
River Hill High School

“Everything the Cause had accomplished — every state won, every piece of legislation, every change of heart and shift in policy — was once considered utterly impossible. Until it wasn’t.”

Elaine Weiss is a contemporary author raising awareness on the history and importance of votes for women in the 21st century. She utilizes her literary powers to write impactful lines such as the one above to reach the American public on issues of voting rights. Passed by joint resolution, the Woman’s Suffrage Amendment was approved by Congress and sent to the states for ratification on June 4, 1919. August 18, 2020, will mark exactly one century since the 19th Amendment was at last added to the Constitution; however, women’s suffrage is far from over and celebrating our valiant women of the vote today is now as important as ever. ...

Weiss may not have been alive to fight for the actual passing of the 19th Amendment, but, in raising awareness on the original suffrage movement through her platform as a writer ... female authors like Elaine Weiss are relevant and should be celebrated for illuminating our suffragette shadows that still survive today.

Excerpted from full submitted essay. For full essay, go to www.howardcountymd.gov/cfw



HIGH SCHOOL SECOND RUNNER UP 2020

Bryn Schwartz
Centennial High School

“I am very moved by [Stacy Abrams’] efforts, and hope to live by and learn from her wise words: ‘I live my life with an assumption that I have the right to do the things I think I should do, and that my gender and my race should not be limitations.’”

While it is hard to imagine a time when women in the United States could not vote, it was very much a reality ... Today, women are still valiantly fighting for voting rights. One woman’s efforts in particular have recently gained national attention. Stacy Abrams was the Democratic nominee for Governor of Georgia in 2018 and narrowly lost, many believe, because of voter suppression and gerrymandering. ...

Stacy Abrams’ efforts to fight for voting rights shows textbook valiance. Her determination to bring awareness is bringing national attention to the issue, and it’s working. Ultimately, for a society to function and progress, we must fully focus on the fight for a fair vote. With valiant women like Stacy Abrams leading the way, we will prevail, just like the valiant Suffragettes before us.

Excerpted from full submitted essay. For full essay, go to www.howardcountymd.gov/cfw



MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRST RUNNER UP 2020

Nyla Whitfield
Murray Hill Middle School

“Thanks to women back then and women today, we are now allowed to vote and stand for our rights and beliefs.”

Susan B. Anthony ... was a women’s rights activist... and a leader in the women’s suffrage movement. In 1872, she was arrested for voting in Rochester, New York. She argued in court that she had a right to vote because of the recently adopted 14th Amendment in the United States. ...

It took the National Women’s Rights Association far more difficult strategies of campaigning that would ensure voting rights for women. That struggle lasted for 45 years until the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. It’s because of women like Susan B. Anthony that other women are able to grow up in the future and go to school, drive cars, get real jobs, do sports, vote, be who we want to be, and express our religious beliefs and rights that us women should stand for in this world.

Excerpted from full submitted essay. For full essay, go to www.howardcountymd.gov/cfw



MIDDLE SCHOOL SECOND RUNNER UP 2020

Gabriella Morais
Lime Kiln Middle School

“We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

Declaration of Sentiments

When people read this quote, they probably believe they are reading a section of the Declaration of Independence, the document that set America free from Great Britain, but this document, the Declaration of Sentiments, did not set everyone free from Britain’s rule. There was still a large part of the American population that was not free. This population of people decided they wanted to have their freedom and so a small group of people got together to have a tea party. Eleven days later, thirty-two men and sixty-eight women signed the Declaration of Sentiments and the document became legitimate at the first Seneca Falls Convention starting the Women’s Rights movement.

In conclusion, the women’s rights movement will be remembered forever ... it shows how something as small as a tea party can launch something as big as a nation-wide movement allowing for all people to be treated equally.

Excerpted from full submitted essay. For full essay, go to www.howardcountymd.gov/cfw





About the Commission

The Howard County Commission for Women was created in 1980 to promote the economic, social, and political equality of women in Howard County. The Commission works with local organizations to support women in the community and raise awareness of the issues concerning women in the County. Members of the Commission are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Kashonna Holland, CHAIR

Meg Boyd, VICE-CHAIR

Jessica Epps, RECORDING SECRETARY

Judy Zhou, STUDENT COMMISSIONER

Mae Beale

Farida Guzdar

Dr. Rhonda Jones

Maxine F. Kellman-Allen

Dianne Paulus

Lanlan Xu

Cheryl Mattis, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Meetings are open to the public and usually held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. For more information, call 410-313-6400 (voice/relay).

For additional information about the Howard County Commission for Women, visit us at www.howardcountymd.gov/CFW.