

# "BUZZ IN THE BURG" - GPBPW NEWSLETTER

GREATER PITTSBURGH BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

March 2021



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## Women's History Month

**GPBPW Honoring**  
**Alma Speed Fox**

Last month Alma Speed Fox celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is a living legend in Pittsburgh, revered as the mother of Pittsburgh's Civil Rights Movement and one of the area's first African American feminist leaders. Alma served on the city's front lines for more than 75 years, fighting for civil rights, women's rights, and LGBT rights.

She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and moved to Pittsburgh in 1949. She became involved with the NAACP's Pittsburgh Branch, eventually serving as its executive director from 1966-1971, at the height of the nation's Civil Rights Movement. She served as the Eastern area equal opportunity manager for the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines (1971-1983), held a seat on the Pittsburgh Human Relations Commission for three decades, and served as a member of the board of directors for the National Organization for Women. In the 1960's she co-founded Freedom Unlimited Inc., a non-profit organization that offered a variety of support activities for the Hill District. One such activity is a food drive held around the winter holidays, and another example is a home repair project for elderly citizens of the community.

In 2018 Mayor William Peduto presented Alma Speed Fox with one of Pittsburgh's highest civilian honors, the "Key to the City". She was the first woman to receive this honor. Throughout her life Alma has been a dynamic trailblazer. She was one of the original members of the East Liberty BPW, which was later named Greater Pittsburgh BPW. GPBPW is proud to recognize Alma Speed Fox, especially during Women's History Month. She MADE history in Pittsburgh.

## US Women's Highlights

- March 1, 1987** Congress passes a resolution designating March as Women's History Month
- March 2, 1903** The Martha Washington Hotel opens in New York City, becoming the first hotel exclusively for women
- March 3, 1913** Women's Suffrage Parade in Washington, DC, where over 8000 women gathered to demand a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to vote
- March 4, 1933** Frances Perkins becomes United States Secretary of Labor, the first female member of the United States Cabinet
- March 8, 2014** National Catholic Sisters Week [www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org](http://www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org) established to raise awareness of the contributions of Catholic sisters
- March 12, 1912** Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls together in Savannah, Georgia, for the first-ever Girl Scout meeting
- March 12, 1993** Janet Reno is sworn in as the first woman U.S. Attorney General
- March 13, 1986** Susan Butcher won the first of 3 straight and 4 total Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Races in Alaska
- March 17, 1917** Loretta Perfectus Walsh became the first woman to join the navy and the first woman to officially join the military in a role other than a nurse
- March 20, 1852** Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin is published and becomes the best-selling book of the 19th century
- March 21, 1986** Debi Thomas becomes first African American woman to win the World Figure Skating Championship
- March 23, 1917** Virginia Woolf establishes the Hogarth Press with her husband, Leonard Woolf
- March 31, 1888** The National Council of Women of the U.S. is organized by Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, and Sojourner Truth, among others, the oldest non-sectarian women's organization in the U.S.
- March 31, 1776** Abigail Adams writes to her husband John who is helping to frame the Declaration of Independence and cautions, "Remember the ladies..."



## **March is Women's History Month: Let's Remember the Women Who Started the Movement for Equal Rights and the Vote- Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton**

Many of today's women are unaware of just how bad conditions were for women living in the 1800s. During that time women were denied many rights, including being denied a college education or entrance into professions, the rights to divorce and custody of their children and the right to vote. In 1848 with the First Women's Rights Convention-often called the Seneca Falls Convention-and the Declaration of Sentiments women began to have hope. This Declaration provided examples of how men oppressed women: preventing women from owning land and earning wages, from voting, gaining a college education, participating in public and church affairs, compelling them to submit to laws created without their representation, subjecting them to a different moral code than men and maintaining a culture that made women dependent on and submissive to men. As one of the organizers of the Convention, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was at the forefront of the movement for women's rights.

It was not until 1851 that Stanton met Susan B. Anthony, a teacher, social reformer, and abolitionist. On the surface Anthony was different than Stanton. Stanton was married with seven children, Anthony was unmarried. Yet, it was because of their circumstances that they were able to form a team and work together for fifty years promoting women's rights and especially the right to vote. Stanton provided the writings, speeches, and intellectual capital for their partnership and Anthony the organization and business acumen. Together they worked on issues like the right to vote, allowing women to gain joint custody of their children after divorce and the right to own property and participate in business transactions.

It is important to note that they teamed up to take care of more humble endeavors, as well. As mentioned previously, Stanton was married and had a household to manage, Anthony who was single would watch Stanton's children and take care of her house. That gave Stanton the freedom to write. Then, Anthony would travel around the country making speeches and organizing. Stanton could not do this because of her family obligations. Anthony spoke at every session of Congress on behalf of women's suffrage from 1869 to 1906,

In the late 1860s two organizations emerged: one to pursue suffrage on state level, the American Woman Suffrage Association and the organization founded by Anthony and Stanton, the National Women's Suffrage Association, working on the national level. By the early 1890s through the efforts of Anthony, the two organizations merged into National American Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA) under Stanton's leadership.

Stanton and Anthony worked together for 50 years and near the end of their lives they reflected together on their work and agreed that much progress had been made. In a letter to Stanton, Anthony wrote:

"We little dreamed when we began this contest, optimistic with hope and buoyancy of youth, that half a century later we would be compelled to leave the finish of the battle to another generation of women. But our hearts are filled with joy to know they enter upon this task equipped with a college education, with business experience, with the fully admitted right to speak in public-all of which were denied to woman fifty years ago. They have practically one point to gain-the suffrage; we had all."

They handed the baton to a younger generation to accomplish that goal, their successors in the suffrage movement Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt. Stanton died on October 26, 1902 from heart failure and Anthony on March 13, 1906 from heart failure, 18 and 14 years, respectively before the Nineteenth amendment was adopted in 1920, but through Stanton's intellect and Anthony's organization, women achieved the right to vote.

Submitted by Shirley Duffy

### **References:**

Old Friends Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Made History Together

<https://www.neh.gov/humanities/2014/julyaugust/feature/old-friends-elizabeth-cady-stanton-and-susan-b-anthony-made-histo>

Stanton/Anthony Friendship

<http://www.rochester.edu/sba/suffrage-history/stantonanthony-friendship/>

Susan B. Anthony Center

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/susan-b-anthony>

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

<https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/elizabeth-cady-stanton>

# "GPBPW Thanks" Celebrate & Share

Celebrate and Share founders, JoAnn Forrester, and Bonnie DiCarlo, hosted a virtual Black History event to benefit GPBPW. The event was **Policewomen in Charge: Challenges and Opportunities on February 25, 2021**



The above panel consisted of RaShall M. Brackney, Chief of Charlottesville Police Department in Charlottesville, VA; Cerelyn (CJ) Davis, Chief of Durham Police Department in Durham, NC; Bisa French, Chief of Richmond Police Department in Richmond, CA; Cynthia Herriot-Sullivan, Interim Chief of Rochester Police Department in Rochester, NY; and Susan Manheimer, former Chief of Oakland Police Department in Oakland, CA.

The panelists were amazing, as they shared personal stories of the challenges and opportunities that they faced reaching top leadership positions in the policing profession. But most inspiring was their words of wisdom, their professionalism, their empathy for the communities they serve and their leadership qualities. Thanks to JoAnn and Bonnie, GPBPW received a \$500.00 donation from proceeds for this event.

## Women running for judge in 2021

*"Take time to learn more about these female candidates"*

### Supreme Court

(1) Opening

**Maria McLaughlin**  
**Paula Petrick**

### Superior Court

(1) Opening

**Jill Beck**  
**Tamika Lane**  
**Megan Sullivan**

### Commonwealth Court

(2) Openings

**Lori Dumas**  
**Amanda Green Hawkins**  
**Sierra Street**  
**Megan Sullivan**

### Allegheny Co. Common Pleas Court

(9) Openings

**Pauline Calabrese** (GPBPW member)  
**Alyson Cowan**  
**Rosemary Crawford**  
**Nicola Henry-Taylor**  
**Sabrina Korbel** (GPBPW member)  
**Lisa Middleman**  
**Tiffany Sizemore**  
**Beth Tarasi Sinatra**  
**Chelsa Wagner** (GPBPW member)  
**Wrenna Watson**

Submitted by Legislative Chair, Bonnie DiCarlo



**Brain Injury Awareness Month**, recognized each March since 1993, provides an important opportunity to bring attention to the prevention of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and to promote strategies to improve the quality of life for persons living with TBI and their families. There are an estimated 2.8 million people treated for traumatic brain injury or brain injuries in the United States each year. Children are at the highest risk of brain injuries. A brain injury is a blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the function of the brain. The most common brain injuries happen from a sports injury or a car accident. Symptoms of a brain injury can be immediate or delayed. This can include blurry vision, confusion, and difficulty concentrating. Brain injuries may be classified as traumatic or non-traumatic to describe the cause of the injury.

According to the Department of Defense, one of the keys to recognizing a concussion and getting treatment early is identifying these symptoms:

- H** – headaches or vomiting
- E** – ears ringing
- A** – amnesia, altered consciousness or loss of consciousness
- D** – double vision and/or dizziness
- S** – something is wrong, or not quite right

Learn more about supporting those with brain injuries, prevention and more. Visit <https://www.biausa.org/> to learn more. Use #BrainInjuryAwarenessMonth and #ChangeYourMind to share on social media.

Submitted by Diane Richard



GPBPW Members Support Twilight Wish



- 10 Reasons to Join GPBPW**
- E**mpowerment
  - M**entoring
  - P**olitical Advocacy
  - O**pportunity
  - W**omen Helping Women
  - E**quality for Women
  - R**eform
  - I**mpact
  - N**etworking
  - G**uidance

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**President Maurita Bryant's theme; "Make Equity a Reality, not a Dream"**



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