

FRIENDS OF FORT TRUMBULL STATE PARK  
2021-PROGRAM  
The 101<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in the United States  
Struggles and Achievement

Last year when we had to cancel our program because of Covid-19, I told you all that "We would be back-better than ever". I am pleased to announce that in 2021 we will be able to present our previously scheduled program on Women's Suffrage with a few adjustments.

Mindful of the Covid-19 situation, we have planned the first three programs-April, May and June- as Zoom presentations. Then, in July, we hope to be able to meet in person. If conditions with the virus make it seem safe to meet, Cliff Carter and his committee will provide us with the Covid-19 Protocols we will be using. If we decide that it is still not safe to meet in person, we will continue to present the programs via Zoom. We hope to set up a Zoom practice session before the April presentation so that you all can test your connections. We will send out more information shortly.

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The struggle for Women's Suffrage dates to our country's founding in 1776. While John Adams was in Philadelphia working on the founding of the nation, his wife, Abigail Adams wrote him to please "Remember the Ladies" in the "new code of laws". She then went on to say in what might or might not have been an ironic tone, "If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies, we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation."

When John wrote back that he could not help but laugh at her "saucy" letter, he failed to realize that his wife had joined a long line of American women who would fight for women's rights. Seventy-two years later, "the ladies" began the struggle to gain what they had not obtained at the founding of the country-the right to vote. It would take another 72 years before their goal was achieved with the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920, not long after the end of World War I.

Our programs will begin with Abigail Adams during the Revolutionary War and continue with an examination of a Connecticut Heroine- Prudence Crandall. Another Connecticut resident, Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, will be the subject of an historical play.

The Women's Hall of Fame will provide speakers who will discuss the Connecticut women who fought on a local, state, and national level for the vote- advocates such as Isabella Beecher Hooker, and female firsts like Ella Grasso.

Returning for a night of music, will be Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle with Songs of the Women's Suffrage Movement. We will then conclude our programs with a presentation by the Thames River Heritage Park on *Women of the Thames*.

We are excited to be able to finally present this important series of programs. We hope you all will be able to take part.