

## on the **100th** **Anniversary** **of the 19th** **Amendment,** women's issues aren't over yet.

**By Katie Lewis**

One thing that American history proves is that peaceful protest works.

On August 8, 1920, exactly 100 years to this month, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was formally ratified by all states. This provided American women with the simple civic duty of suffrage, and allowed them for the first time to truly become part of what holds together our democracy: the right to vote.

While the ratification may sound like the end of a movement, when recalling the progress women have made in society today, it should really be seen as a single milestone in the winding trail of women's history. Nevertheless, suffrage was monumentally important in propelling society to open (even reluctantly) for a group of people who wanted more than to simply watch democracy happen. Since then, we've seen society progress to

allow women to do things that they never could have legally done if the 19th Amendment had never been passed. Few American women today have been denied by law the right to vote, but we have since lived with the triumphant effects of that day in 1920.

So what more can be done? What point to American women have yet to meet?

Today in the Constitution, women and men are equal counterparts of society. But real life doesn't often reflect that, even in the futuristic, unpredictable world of 2020. Modern women are often denied a job, paid less, or simply disrespected or overlooked for something they have no control over. Not only are these problems that men do not ordinarily experience, they are problems that no one should experience. It would be contradicting the very thing American suffragists stood for to put everything down [Cont. pg 2]

## Congress- **WOMAN** DMP at work

**By Olivia Martin-Johnson**

Women in the workforce are prone to experience prejudices that men may not experience. In other words, many women are able to share experiences where they have had to make extra efforts to receive the same recognition as men in workplace. Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (DMP) of Florida's 26th district shared her experiences with me, how these prejudices affected her and how she had to make a stronger effort to receive the same distinction in the workplace.

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell served as the Director of Development at Florida International University from 2003 to 2007. While in that capacity, DMP explains, "I had to fight for equal pay. Once I noticed that my male counterparts were making more money than I was, I argued for pay equality. Thankfully for my perseverance, I was able to achieve it."

Mucarsel-Powell has put much emphasis throughout her career in working towards justice for women. As a Congresswoman, she has fought to pass legislation for women's rights. To name a few, Ms. Mucarsel-Powell has helped pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. This legislation "prohibits gender-based pay disparities". DMP also felt women made more of minimum wages than men did and [Cont. pg 3]

[19th Amend. cont. from pg 1] and say “our work here is done.” While the problems may not be as blatant, the modern wave of feminism strives to continue following this ideology and pushing for further change. It’s not meant to be hateful or over-dramatic or to drag men down— it’s just people calling for an equal place in society. In other words, leaving feminism behind would be losing all the progress that has already been made.

Additionally, the 19th Amendment wasn’t the definitive government response to the many years of progress and protest; some women could vote before its passage, and

many were still left out afterwards. Previous to 1920, voting rights varied in different states. In fact, 15 states granted women full voting rights before the 19th Amendment ever existed. According to historian Nancy Hewitt and the Editorial Board at the New York Times, after the Amendment was passed, many election officials continued making efforts to prevent women, especially nonwhite women, from voting. Some of these included grandfather clauses, poll taxes, and literacy tests aimed to suppress black and immigrant voters. It took decades of relentless activism and lawmaking, including the abolition

of Jim Crow and extensions to the Voting Rights Act, to truly grant all American citizens the right to vote.

The passage of the 19th Amendment was a crucial milestone in American women’s history, but it didn’t solve all problems American women faced (and still face.) Another thing that American history makes clear is that there is a lot of progress yet to be made. So this November, if you’re eligible, remember what these women fought for and go out and vote! It’s crucial now more than ever.

# Giveaway

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

What do you know about the Women’s Suffrage Movement? On the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment’s passage, what better way to celebrate your rights than with this fun puzzle?

Print the newsletter and fill out the word search. Once completed, send us your results and we will send you a prize!  
femexplained@gmail.com



Suffragists stand in front of the White House in 1917.  
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PROHIBITED SENECA FALLS STRUGGLE SUFFRAGE SUPREME COURT



**You mean a woman can open it?**

## so i've got a red whistle in my purse

By: Juliana Vair

i really wish i could go on runs at night but i'm not too crazy about the idea of getting hooked by the gills of getting tripped at the ankle i really wish i didn't wince a little bit every single time i walk by the men in the street and i wish i didn't pull down my shorts and feel like i was doing something offensive whenever i tied my shoes oh well rest in peace tank tops let's bring out the hoodies

# O.M.G. This used to be okay?

By: Olivia Martin-Johnson

Yes, this was acceptable. This Ketchup 1953 ad for HyTop twist-off bottle cap created by Alcoa Aluminium ran accompanied by the text: "Easily—without a knife blade, a bottle opener, or even a husband!". The advertisement

implies that a woman is dependent upon her husband even to open a bottle. This idea of having an "unintelligent housewife" is a form of casual sexism, an understood action 50 years ago. This ad has, thankfully, received criticism. For example, the New

York Daily News stated that the woman in the advertisement is "clearly stunned and possibly delighted" at being able to open the bottle easily. The Independent news source claimed that it enforced the stereotype of a woman as an unintelligent housewife.

[DMP cont. from pg 1]

became a proponent of the Raise the Wage Act. This piece of legislation would help raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, "by raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour we would be providing opportunities to 35% of women in the workforce that \$7 an hour cannot provide. This bill centered around women as they make up the majority of the minimum wage receivers," explained Mucarsel-Powell. The Representative has also helped the cause of women in violence specifically on the Violence Against Women Act, an "ongoing fixture in the Nation's response to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking", Ms. Mucarsel-Powell said.

Ms. Mucarsel-Powell explains that the role of women has changed drastically in her lifetime. Even

though she believes men have an advantage in certain industries and opportunities, women are slowly breaking barriers and are creating a strong front. "I think we need to start from the beginning where men were the breadwinners of the family. Now, this is not always the case. Women are giving men a run for their money. It has taken us a long time to break the understood society, but we are doing it. In 2018 we saw the largest representation of women in Congress. With women finally beginning to get to places of power, I am confident we will see positive change in the near future," said Mucarsel-Powell.

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell was born and raised in Ecuador. She immigrated to the United States at the age of 14. She began working while in high school to help her family. She shared that she

worked just as hard in school as she did at work as she was determined to receive a scholarship and take the burden of college payments off her parents. She earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Pitzer College in California and a master's degree in International Political Economy from Claremont University in California. Her focus on International Political Economy was rooted from her past as an immigrant from another country. "I chose International Political Economy because I wanted to do work that would help bring third world countries up by helping them create an independent economy," said Mucarsel-Powell.

Mucarsel-Powell is an example of perseverance. She has fought for women's inequality and in turn has created an equal workplace and society in her district.

# A Sprinkle of AZUCAR

By Elizabeth Rivabem

Miami natives and tourists alike know that La Calle Ocho in Little Havana is the Miami hub for Cuban culture. Every nook and cranny bursts with Cuban art, music, and food, but the murals painted by local artists aren't the only sights to see. If you walk past one of many domino parks, you'll see the biggest ice cream cone you've ever seen! Mounted on a colorful storefront, the specially-commissioned scoops of ice cream tower over passerby.

Azucar Ice Cream is home to this enormous decoration and even bigger flavors. When you step onto the tiled floor of the parlor, you'll hear the chatter of customers as their eyes rove over the endless menu on the blackboard. The flavors range from their signature abuela maria (guava, cream cheese, and Maria cookies) to the adventurous platano maduro (sweet plantain), not to mention their seasonal flavors (stay tuned for the upcoming pumpkin flan!). An employee wearing a t-shirt designed with quirky Cuban

phrases will ask for your order while a painting of Celia Cruz, Cuban singer and icon, watches over the store.

The sweet tooth behind the company? Cuban-American supermom Suzy Batlle, who founded Azucar in 2011. Struggling after the Great Recession, Batlle realized that she needed to find a way to support her family. So, she drew inspiration from her abuelitos, or grandparents in Spanish; her grandfather was a sugar mill engineer and her grandma made delicious frozen desserts. With the encouragement of her children, Batlle decided to go to— you guessed it— ice cream school! What was once a way to make ends meet became a successful enterprise under Batlle's leadership. In fact, the establishment has gained recognition by several press/media and was chosen as one of the

US' top small businesses by Goldman Sachs.

Although Azucar's prosperity exceeded her expectations, Batlle remains humble. She has become focused on helping the community, whether by being an active member of the Miami Dade College advisory board or creating sugar-free options for her diabetic customers. An inspiration for Latinas everywhere, Batlle stays strong during the Covid-19 pandemic. Azucar continues to bring smiles to people's faces, one ice cream cone at a time.



## About Feminism Explained

Feminism Explained (F.E.) is a monthly newsletter. Its intent is addressing the negative connotations associated with the word 'feminism'. In today's society, it is somewhat common to hear people say they do not believe in feminism due to its "radical ideology." As feminists, we know this not to be true. Feminism is not radical, nor is it dangerous. Feminism is simply the desire for equality amongst the genders.

What you can expect: F.E. Monthly newsletter will include interviews with women in high power positions. These women will be speaking about obstacles they faced, if any, to get to their positions. They will share the hardships they endured and how their present position continues to demonstrate the ongoing struggles many women must face to have influential places in society. F.E. will include statistics, providing facts and examples of gender inequality locally, nationally, and internationally. F.E. will also feature historical events, reminding us how our ancestors fought to allow modern women to function as we do today. Our newsletter will highlight initiatives taken on by women and the positive difference we can make in the world.

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