

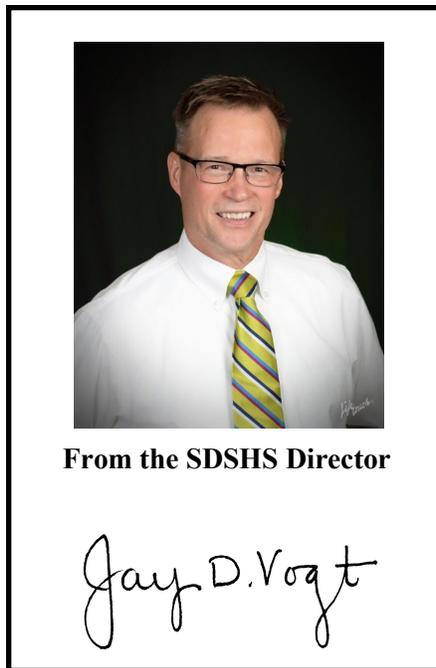
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Foundation's HER VOTE. HER VOICE. celebrates Women's Suffrage

The South Dakota Historical Society Foundation is launching the HER VOTE. HER VOICE. campaign—commemorating 100th anniversary of women achieving the right to vote. This fundraising drive seeks to take advantage of the centennial of Women's Suffrage and draw attention to the exceptional work of the State Historical Society.

In 1918, the voters of the South Dakota amended the State Constitution granting equal suffrage rights to women in state and local elections. This was at least the sixth attempt since 1890 to do so. In 1919 Congress sent the 19th amendment to the states for ratification, and on December 4th in special session, the South Dakota Legislature ratified the amendment. In 1920, three-fourths of all the states had ratified the amendment securing women the right to vote in all elections nationwide.

The State Historical Society has already made significant contributions in commemorating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. In the Observation Gallery at the Cultural Heritage Center, we have opened the temporary exhibition, "The Right is Ours: Women Win the Vote," which emphasizes the activities, events, and people involved in the South Dakota suffrage movement. The archives received a modest kiosk from the National Archives entitled "Rightfully Hers" on display in the Cultural Heritage Center Lobby, and historic equal suffrage materials are on display in the research room. The Society will publish three books related to women's suffrage. "Born Criminal: Matilda Joslyn Gage, Radical Suffragist" appeared in 2018, and the anthology "Equality at the



Ballot Box: Votes for Women on the Northern Great Plains" was released in 2019. Coming out in 2020 will be a children's book, "The Voice of Liberty." The latest issue of "South Dakota History" is a historic preservation issue which features an article on the women's suffrage movement sites throughout the state, part of the women's suffrage trail.

The Foundation has launched an ambitious Women's Suffrage-themed fundraising campaign: HER VOTE. HER VOICE. The funds raised from this campaign are to start an endowment for the Foundation, fund a three-year oral history program with emphasis on women leaders, develop a communications/marketing strategy, and digitize a portion of women's records. One-half of

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John Gebhart is a new staff member at the Codington County Heritage Museum in Watertown. Gebhart is taking care of updating the database with new donations to the museum.

The museum hosted its annual Holiday Open House on Dec. 8. For activities, Gail Ramynke played music on the accordion, a sing-a-long was led by Roger Foote of the Lake City Ukuleles and Diane Pinkney shared Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas stories.

The Minnehaha County Historical Society has a free History Talk the third Thursday of each month at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls. January's Talk, on the 16th, featured Sioux Falls historian and author Wayne Fanebust discussing "Pettigrew and Dakota Territory." Fanebust will discuss how Dakota Territory was greatly impacted by Sen. R. F. Pettigrew.

Current officers of the society include: President — Ron Sauby of Sioux Falls, Vice President — Rick Lingberg of Sioux Falls, Second Vice President — Trevor VanConant of Sioux Falls, Treasurer — Jerry Kerkhove of Brandon, Secretary — Sandy Dean of Hartford, Archivist — David Brechtelsbauer of Sioux Falls, President Emeritus — Randy Maas of Sioux Falls, and Directors — Daren Anderson of Hartford, Linda Hasvold of Sioux Falls, Tim Nicolai of Sioux Falls, Diane Olson of Sioux Falls, Dale VanConant of Sioux Falls and Jim A. Carlson of Sioux Falls.

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National Music Museum pieces on display in Italy

Cremona, Italy, is a destination for musical-instrument lovers—hometown of violin-making giant Antonio Stradivari and the birthplace of classical stringed instruments. It is fitting that the National Music Museum (NMM), of Vermillion, South Dakota—itsself home to five Stradivari instruments, as well as other Cremonese masterpieces—has been invited to exhibit at the Italian city's Museo del Violino (MdV).

Nine priceless Renaissance and Baroque stringed instruments from the National Music Museum's collections will be at the Museo del Violino as part of a yearlong "Reunion in Cremona" show on now through October 18, 2020.

A violin masterwork by famed maker Nicolò Amati, as well as *one of only two* existing mandolins and *one of five existing* guitars by master-of-masters Antonio Stradivari are among the National Music Museum's treasures that recently journeyed to Italy under special security and are now on display.

Many of the offerings are from



This King Henry IV violin by brothers Antonio and Girolamo Cremona, Italy, ca. 1595, is now on display in Cremona. (Photo by Byron Pillow)

the NMM's venerable Witten-Rawlins collection. The NMM's Cremonese strings benefit from this historic context while also complementing the stringed treasures preserved by the Museo del Violino itself.

National Music Museum Director Matt Collinsworth says that the timing was right for this 'reunion': "The NMM is currently undergoing a historic time of its own in South Dakota, closed to the public since last October for

an architectural metamorphosis. Underway is a 16,000 square-foot expansion with increased gallery, concert, and administration space, as well as a reimagining of the overall exhibit design and the visitor experience." Paolo Bodini, CEO of the Museo del Violino, says, "The National Music Museum's decision to stay 'open' while their own building undergoes metamorphosis and to bring a substantial part of their fine string-instrument collection to Cremona—the town that gave birth to all these wonderful instruments—is a great joy and satisfaction to us. We are proud to be considered a trusted partner by a prestigious a museum as the NMM and we hope to continue the collaboration for many years to come."

The National Music Museum is slated to reopen after construction and renovation ends, in 2021. (Updates are posted on the NMM Facebook page and website, nmmusd.org)

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the funds raised will go toward the endowment, and unless contributions are designated to a specific project, the three other projects are in priority order. The Society will also seek to strengthen its collection of women's suffrage artifacts and documents.

Governor Kristi Noem has appointed a delegation to promote the campaign and recognize the history of women's suffrage in South Dakota. Chaired by former First Lady Patricia Miller and co-chaired by Tracy Saathoff of Sioux Falls, the delegation consists of 15 additional women leaders from throughout the state. Governor Noem also proclaimed December 4, 2019, as "Women's Vote Centennial Celebration Day." The anniversary will be highlighted with celebrations in various cities on August 18, 2020.

Foundation CEO Catherine Forsch is coordinating the campaign, and if you or your organization are interested in learning more, call Catherine at 605-222-8354. Thank you. jdv

More Field Reports

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The newest exhibit at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls, "The Bottle and the Ballot: Prohibition and Women's Suffrage," examines a time in our country when consuming alcohol was a crime and women didn't have voting rights. Both of those issues were at the forefront during the Progressive Era, a time of political and social reform in America. The exhibit commemorates the centennial anniversary of the 18th and 19th amendments.

Current museum board members include: Chair — Arthur Kriens III, Vice Chair — Kim Koblack, Sec/Trea — Tim Schendel, Alliance Liaison — Greg Olson, and Directors Jeff Barth, Nikki Gronli, Dianne Metli, Pat Starr, Liz Squyre, Allison Struck and Roger Terveen.

Museum Alliance board members include: President — Greg Olsen, Treasurer — Marcy Bird, Secretary — Bill Hoskins, and Directors — Shelly Anderson, Marty Davidsohn, Sandy Dean, Jennifer Dumke, Cindy Konda and Bev Oliver.

All history organizations are encouraged to complete the American Association for State and Local History's second annual "National Visitation Survey." The purpose of the survey is to identify trends related to in-person visitation to historical organizations across the United States and Canada. To take the 5-minute survey, go to surveymonkey.com/r/visitation2020. This fall, AASLH will share the survey findings. For more information call 615-320-3203 or email info@aaahl.org.

The Midwest Archives Conference will convene for its annual meeting May 6-9, 2020, in Des Moines, Iowa. The 2020 Program Committee invites poster proposal submissions on all aspects of archival practice and research, as well as from allied and related fields. Proposals are due by Jan. 17. For more information call 313-577-4027 or email alison.stankrauff@wayne.edu.
