



# The Birthplace Banner

THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

VOL. XVI—No 1.

ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS, NOVEMBER 2025

FREE

## AFTERNOON HIGH TEAS BREW COMMUNITY & CONVERSATION



In collaboration with our summer special exhibit: *Votes for Women*, we brought Alva Belmont's 1914 Conference of Great Women to life through our Afternoon Tea Series in our garden. Featuring women artists, writers, poets, and performers, this series highlighted important

women's voices in the spirit of Alva Belmont and Susan B. Anthony. This series has motivated both our community to learn from female artists, and the artists to be inspired by Susan B. Anthony and Alva Belmont's work.

*Continued on page 4.*

## HOW TEA BECAME A SYMBOL OF SUFFRAGE: *The Alva Belmont Exhibit Debut*



While change brewed in pubs during the American Revolution, the fight for women's suffrage largely developed through tea parties. The contrast of having revolutionary discussions at a posh social event is representative of the intersectionality Alva Belmont ardently advocated for. Despite being a 19th-century so-

cialite, Belmont understood that the women's rights movement depended on collaboration and a strong sense of community. She recognized that real progress could only come when women worked together across social boundaries, combining their voices, resources, and influence to advance a shared cause.

She utilized her privilege to build on what Susan B. Anthony and the first wave of suffrage leaders had started by connecting the cause with the New York Elite.

*Continued on page 2.*

## LEADING BY EXAMPLE: Museum Director Completes Berkshire Leadership Program

James Capuzzi, Museum Director, was one of 30 individuals who graduated from the 2025 Berkshire Leadership Program this past June. This program featured a two-day retreat and weekly four-hour-long sessions

as participants learned about Berkshire County's varied economy. **"I appreciated the opportunity to get to know Berkshire County better. As a transplant to the area, learning about the varied industries and**

**room for economic growth was inspiring,"** James said. Topic areas included Hospitality & Tourism, Creative Economy, Food & Agriculture,

*Continued on page 7.*



## A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE: Mass Cultural Council Awards Museum \$10,400 Grant

Thanks to the **Mass Cultural Council**, The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum, Inc., now receives an annual Operating Grant for Organizations of \$10,400.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the State Legislature showed strong support for the Mass Cultural Council programs in this year's state budget. Local representatives Senator Paul Mark and Rep. John Barrett



**Operating Grants for Organizations Program**

**\$10,400 Grant for**  
The Susan B. Anthony  
Birthplace Museum

continue to champion the arts in Berkshire County.

*Continued on page 6*





Pictured left: Board President Carol Crossed visited the Marble House exhibit in Newport, RI. Pictured above: The Berkshire Eagle covered our exhibit in detail for Independence Day.

## HOW TEA BECAME A SYMBOL OF SUFFRAGE: The Alva Belmont Exhibit Debut

Continued from page 1

Belmont was particularly passionate about labor reform and women in political office, founding the Political Equality League in 1909. While most wealthy women were against women's suffrage because their freedoms were not limited due to their privilege, they listened to women like Belmont. What set her apart was her ability to bring

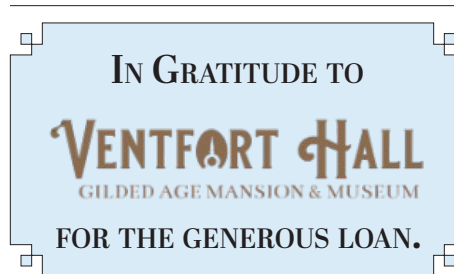
together women from all classes. As she said, **"I don't believe in individual work in any case. All the work for a cause must be collective."**

Belmont held both the 1909 Suffrage Rally and the 1914 Conference of Great Women at her Marble House in Newport, Rhode Island, transforming

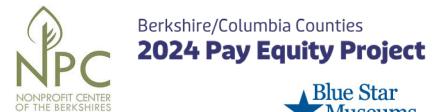
her mansion into a gathering place for activists and reformers. Through her leadership, wealth, and influence, Belmont helped elevate the women's movement into the national spotlight.

Thanks to **Ventfort Hall** loaning us a reproduction of the *Votes for Women* tea set, we opened the Museum opened an Alva Belmont exhibit, designed by spring intern and M.A. candidate Irina Eichmann.

This exhibit is our interpretation of Marble House and specifically Belmont's Chinese Tea Room where the tea set would have been used. Guests also meet the women from the 1914 conference. **"One gets the sense of the connectedness that was important to Alva Belmont"** says Carol Crossed, Museum founder.



THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM IS A PROUD AFFILIATE OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:



## Channel 13 Highlights Susan on the Move

In addition to traditional field trips, the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace now offers the opportunity to bring Susan directly into classrooms. **Channel 13 Albany** visited our Museum to feature our plans for this year's Mass Cultural Council grant, such as sending volunteers to schools to reenact Susan B. Anthony.

Along with the reenactment, we planned activities for students to experience Susan's era, including making protest signs and marching around the schools. As James Capuzzi, our Executive Director, told Channel 13, **"We will...come to you and bring everything, reinvigorate students, and get them that living history, that experiential learning."**



Director, James Capuzzi, was interviewed by Channel 13 about his plans to implement new programs using the grant.



In partnership with the **Berkshire Scenic Railway**, our suffrage reenactors Muriel Dyas and Lisa Avery performed the **"Prison Special"** based on the 1919 nationwide train tour of the "Democracy Limited," where twenty-six middle-class women toured the country, visiting fifteen cities to share their experi-

ride to speak about early 1900 suffrage protests, arrests and imprisonment. Equipped with "Votes for Women" and "Free Women Now" protest signs, enthusiastic train riders participated in a moment of powerful silence in honor of those advocates who fiercely fought to secure their right to vote.

## Democracy Limited Returns!

ence in prison and promote women's suffrage. Citizens were appalled at what these women endured, and this tour helped drive the final push towards women's voting rights.

During the second year of our "Democracy Limited" reenactment, Dyas and Avery led the hour-long

For the first time, this event featured a reception at the Berkshire Scenic Railway's Adams Depot station, allowing guests to interact with our reenactors and share their own connections to suffrage. This event inspired riders to "Vote Like Susan," and provided a unique glimpse into the historic "Democracy Limited."

## The Birthplace Banner

A publication of news and note from the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum

Editors

Carrie Miller  
James Capuzzi

Copy Editor

Jessica Brennan

Contributors

Katie Lin

Story Ideas/Questions/Comments  
info@susanbathonybirthplace.org

SUSAN B. ANTHONY  
BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM  
67 East Road, PO Box 244  
Adams, MA 01220  
413.743.7121

[www.susanbathonybirthplace.org](http://www.susanbathonybirthplace.org)

The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation, dedicated to preserving the birthplace and raising public awareness of the wide-ranging legacy of the great social reformer, Susan B. Anthony, who was a pioneering feminist and suffragist as well as a noteworthy figure in the abolitionist, Restellism (opposition to abortion), and temperance movements of the 19th century.

As part of its mission, the Museum highlights the familial and regional influences which shaped Miss Anthony's early life, by displaying the textiles and furnishings of that period, as well as the literature and memorabilia associated with her later career.



# VOICES OF FREEDOM

## Independence in Action

### Marching In Memory

Adams, MA

#### Museum Team Joins Memorial Day Parade

Memorial Day originated in Susan B. Anthony's lifetime, and we were honored to march in the Adams Memorial Day Parade. The family affair featured director James Capuzzi, his wife Christie Capuzzi, daughter Lucy Capuzzi, and summer intern Zayne Vance. Marching alongside veterans, service members, and community organizations, we celebrated and honored those who served, fought, and died for a truly free United States.



### Echoes of 1876

Adams, MA

#### Reenactment of the Declaration of Women's Rights Returns

We continued our tradition with the second annual July 3rd reenactment of Susan B. Anthony's 1876 speech, "The Declaration of the Rights of the Women of the United States," across from the statue of Susan B. Anthony in the Adams Town Common.



Our incredible reenactors read excerpts from both the Declaration of Independence and Anthony's speech, and invited the audience to read along with the inspiring ending. As they entered the July 4th weekend, guests were able to reflect on what Independence Day means to them as citizens, men, and women, and on what Anthony accomplished. We give special thanks to Rainbow Shack for donating ice cream vouchers for the guests.

### Stars and Stripes in Step

Williamstown, MA

#### Museum Joins Williamstown 4th of July Parade

Susan B. Anthony staff and summer interns Jessica, Meara, and Sarah (pictured right) proudly walked in this year's Williamstown Hometown Parade, handing out Birthplace Banners, brochures, stickers, bookmarks, and candy to hundreds of parade-goers.



Bearing replicas of suffrage protest signs, they shared the spirit of the movement with smiles and enthusiasm, spreading awareness of Susan's legacy.

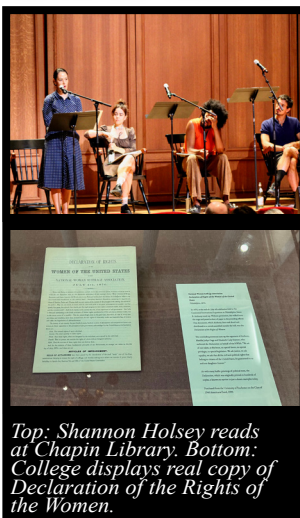
### Susan Takes the Stage

Williamstown, MA

#### Partnering with Williams College to Revive the Voices in Historic Founding Documents

"We ask justice, we ask equality, we ask that all the civil and political rights that belong to citizens of the United States, be guaranteed to us and our daughters forever."

Susan B. Anthony's inspiring words from the "Declaration of the Rights of the Women" were included, for the first time, at Williams College's Sawyer Library's Historic Document reading. The Declaration of Independence and Preamble to the U.S. Constitution was read in full, as well as excerpts from Frederick Douglass' "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" and John Quincy's Fourth of July, 1854, Address at Reidsville, New York.



Top: Shannon Holsey reads at Chapin Library. Bottom: College displays real copy of Declaration of the Rights of the Women.

## In the Spirit of Anna Osborn Anthony

On February 9th, the Museum hosted Susan B. Anthony's 205th birthday celebration at the historic G.A.R. Memorial Hall in the Adams Free Library. We invited author and researcher Jeanne Gehret, shown right, as our keynote speaker. Gehret presented her unique insights into the Anthony family, particularly her studies on Susan's brother Daniel Anthony.



Dressed in character as Daniel's wife Anna, Jeanne brought the Anthony family's legacy to life once again in Adams. "I love to see the pride that Adams takes in its famous reformer. It was a joy to answer questions for this attentive audience and to perform in this beautiful historic hall," Gehret said.

Over 50 attendees gathered for the annual reception, enjoying birthday cake, refreshments, and beautifully crafted baked goods from Shire Cottage Bakery. Each guest brought home a keepsake teacup sticker inspired by Susan's beloved childhood toy. The event offered a warm and lively occasion to honor Susan's birthday, reflect on her tireless dedication to justice and equality, and bring together friends and supporters who continue to be inspired by her life and work.

Signed  
by  
Susan

Located by Ginny Duvall of the Adams Historical Society while re-cataloguing, *The Rejected Stone* is a book signed by Susan B. Anthony as a gift to her grandfather Humphrey Anthony in 1862. Written by Moncure Daniel Conway, this collection of essays argues that America's foundation lacked justice by allowing slavery. The Museum will display the book in a special exhibit opening Memorial Day Weekend 2026.



## Anthony Kin at the Hearth

Members of our Ancestral Board of Anthony Family Descendants return to Adams for a reunion and to commemorate Susan's 205th Birthday.

We were pleased to welcome descendants of the Anthony family to dinner the night before the birthday celebration, providing them the opportunity to share their family's history at the event itself. While Susan never had direct descendants, there are many Anthony Family descendants that are still connected to the family's legacy and history in Adams. Two descendants serve on our board, Eric Anthony and Lucy Anthony Czaja, and others in attendance have given to the museum in the past and present. Leila Pisano, second from the left, served as office administrator, and Doris Wolf blew out the candles on Susan B. Anthony's birthday cake this year.



Top: Anthony descendants gather for reunion. Middle: Reunion dinner arrangement. Bottom: Descendant blows out Susan's 205th birthday candles.

ARE YOU A DESCENDANT OF THE ANTHONY FAMILY?  
Consider joining our Board of Descendants

For vetting purposes, please contact [edofsbabm@gmail.com](mailto:edofsbabm@gmail.com) with ancestry documents. Honorary members receive lifetime memberships and a certificate.



# SERVICE EVERY SEASON



## Interns Bring History to life All Year Long

### Winter

**Delaney Thurston**, UMass Amherst '25, created a 2025 events calendar, promotional materials for Susan's Birthday, and a new monthly donor e-newsletter. She graduated from UMass Amherst this past spring and now works for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

**Kayla Bay**, Harvard College '25, re-searched Adella Logan Hunt, a suffragist from Sparta, Georgia, for future reenactments and speaking events. She also contributed to an upcoming exhibit on suffrage tea fundraisers.

**Ella Schneider**, Harvard College '27, contributed new donor materials, promotional designs, and exhibit space analysis during her internship.

### Spring

**Irinia Eichmann**, American University of Rome MA Student, designed the narrative and layout of our 2025 exhibit *Votes for Women: How Tea Sparked a Suffrage Revolution*. She selected quotes from Alva's life, drafted the narrative, designed the quotation pillowcases, and the Chinese Tea House panel banners, and provided a framework to tie the exhibit materials to the tea set itself.

### Summer

**Sarah Briggs**, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts '26 and **Zayne Vance** University of Mississippi '25 started their internship by installing our summer exhibit, and finished with an Afternoon Tea Service.

Sarah reworked our school outreach curriculum, ensuring offerings were aligned with state standards. She also planned and performed in our 2nd annual July third reenactment. Zayne researched for next year's special exhibit on *The Rejected Stone*, applying his extensive Civil War knowledge. He also wrote a short suffrage play "High Tea" which debuted at our September tea.

**Jessica Packard**, Skidmore College '26, and **Meara McClusky**, St. Lawrence University '26, executed our July 4th events, launched a new DIY Zine event, and led our summer fundraising campaign. Jessica also built a little free library shaped like the Birthplace and installed memorial bricks for Women's Equality Day. Meara contributed sticker designs, artwork and exhibit design for a special exhibit, and a new library outreach program on suffrage communication.

### Fall

**Elizabeth Ronilo**, American University of Rome, helped with the 2024 Birthplace Banner, annual giving letter, and other activities.

Continued from page 1

## AFTERNOON HIGH TEAS BREW COMMUNITY & CONVERSATION

In a similar way to Alva's soirees, our afternoon teas create a space for people of all ages to connect and exchange ideas.

With afternoon tea events from April through September, we entertained 130 attendees from Berkshire county and beyond. Guests enjoyed finger sandwiches, scones, and conversations with a variety of creatives. Members of the museum are able to attend any and all tea events for no additional cost. The Museum and all special exhibits are open to tea guests in addition to the program and tea service.

### Highlights from the 2025 Afternoon Tea Series

**JUNE: POETRY READING BY NANCY MANNING & KAREN CIOSEK**  
Connecticut poets Nancy Manning and Karen Ciosek joined us in May to read their feminist poetry. While the final poem ended in a triumphant song, many of their poems centered on the loss, grief, and changes that occur throughout a woman's life. A touching and moving performance from two inspiring women.

**JULY: ARTIST PRESENTATION BY LAURA CHRISTENSEN**  
Award-winning Williamstown artist Laura Christensen presented works from her *Imagining Shaker Sisters* exhibit currently on display at the Hancock Shaker Village, offering guests a captivating contemporary art response to vintage photographs.

**AUGUST: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH SARAH HOBIN**  
Taking us from audience to activist, Sarah Hobin of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts' (MCLA) Gallery 51 brought tea guests together in conversation and in reflection, challenging attendees to bridge perceived differences and find commonalities as women in community.

**SEPTEMBER: WORLD PREMIERE OF "HIGH TEA: A SUFFRAGE DIALOGUE"**  
Former Museum intern Zayne Vance debuted his original short play, set at a fictional suffrage tea where opposing views spark lively debate, performed by Lisa M. Avery, Wanda Libardi, and MCLA students.

### In Gratitude to Our Tea Series Sponsors



## INTRODUCING

## Susan B. Anthony Style BIRTHDAY PARTIES

HOST YOUR NEXT BIRTHDAY PARTY AT THE  
SUSAN B. ANTHONY BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM!

Enjoy unique, suffrage-inspired experiences including:

SUFFRAGE SUNFLOWER SOIREE

SUFFRAGE STYLE SPECTACULAR

VOTES FOR WOMEN TEA PARTY

EMPOWERING WOMEN EXTRAVAGANZA

Step back in time and celebrate your special day with a touch of history!

For more information, call (413) 743-7121 or visit us online at [bit.ly/partylikeits1820](https://bit.ly/partylikeits1820) to learn more and to reserve your child's birthday party!



Elizabeth McKay

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Elizabeth McKay joined the Museum as a volunteer in 2024, and has only increased her dedication and contributions to the museum this year. A resident of Williamstown with experience working in non-profit organizations, McKay brought organizational strategies and assisted with an overhaul

of our customer relations management software, allowing us to better connect with donors, community, and constituents. Brimming with new ideas to improve the Museum's internal efficiency and outreach efforts, McKay is a great addition to the Museum's growing volunteer community.



### Carry Susan's Torch VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Join our community of volunteers who keep Susan B. Anthony's story alive through hands-on help in the gift shop, gardens, and special events that celebrate her enduring legacy.



# STAND WITH SUSAN

Help Us Preserve, Educate, & Inspire



## DONATE

**Your support keeps Susan's story alive.** Every donation helps the Museum preserve the legacy of a champion women's rights advocate, welcome visitors to her birthplace, support educational programs, and engage the community in the importance of Susan's lasting impact.

### WAYS TO GIVE



Online

To donate online via PayPal, please visit, [www.susanbanthonybirthplace.com/donate](http://www.susanbanthonybirthplace.com/donate), or scan the QR code to the right with your device.



In the Mail

To donate via mail, please make a check payable to the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum and mail it to:  
Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum  
P.O. Box 244, Adams, Massachusetts 01220



On the Phone

To donate securely via phone, please call 413-743-7121 to arrange a donation.

The Museum's mission to share Susan B. Anthony's story depends on the generosity of its community, and we are deeply grateful for each and every gift. Your contribution helps to inspire future generations.

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Reflections on a Year of Growth and Gratitude



Dear Friend of the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum,

As I write this letter from my desk at the

Birthplace, I am struck by the orange glow on Mt. Greylock as we arrive at peak Fall foliage, a view shared by Susan B. Anthony. I am thankful for your commitment to

preserving Susan B. Anthony's inspiring legacy. Our Museum is ever expanding, as house tour attendance significantly increased thanks to our special exhibit *Votes for Women: How Tea Sparked a Suffrage Revolution*. We continued our flagship reenactments throughout the year, presenting 44 programs across the region that brought Susan B. Anthony's story to life through engaging, educational performances. We welcomed seven undergraduate interns, two graduate student interns, and four new

volunteers who brought Susan's message to 450 students through school presentations and field trips. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

Your generosity adds fuel to the fire of Susan B. Anthony's life and mission, a fire that warms the hearth at her birthplace in Adams and burns even brighter throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I am honored and grateful to have your continued investment and support, and I ask that you make a financial contribution to the Museum this year.

At the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum your gift has a real impact on elementary, middle, and high

school students, college students, families, and the retired community as they engage with Susan B. Anthony's legacy of social reform at the museum and in Berkshire County.

Thank you for considering making a gift this year. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

James Capuzzi  
Executive Director

## OUR IMPACT



## BECOME A MEMBER

**BE A PART OF HISTORY: Join Us**  
Join our member community. Choose a membership that suits



Each membership offers a range of benefits, including free admission, discounts for guest visits and gift shop purchases, special event invitations, and perks at participating NARM & ROAM Museums. Visit [www.susanbanthonybirthplace.com/memberships](http://www.susanbanthonybirthplace.com/memberships) for specific details. Your membership is important to us.

## INTERN

**BRING HISTORY TO LIFE: Intern With Us**  
The Birthplace offers internship opportunities year-round, ideal for students from academic backgrounds, including **history, museum studies, women's studies, and business**. Interns take part in a range of projects, gaining hands-on experience in museum operations, programming, and visitor engagement. To apply, email a resume and cover letter to [info@susanbanthonybirthplace.org](mailto:info@susanbanthonybirthplace.org).

## TRIBUTE

### WALK IN HER FOOTSTEPS: Place A Brick

Honor someone special with a personalized brick along *Walking the Path with Susan*, a walkway guiding visitors from the garden to the Museum. Visit [susanb-anthonybirthplace.com/brick-walkway](http://susanb-anthonybirthplace.com/brick-walkway) to leave a lasting tribute.



The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible in the U.S.



# COLLABORATION & CONNECTION: Strengthening Berkshire's Bonds



## SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY'S COMMUNITY DAY

Taking place in Lenox, the Museum was one of several non-profit organizations featured to engage residents in family-friendly activities.

## VOLUNTEER & GET ON BOARD EVENTS IN SOUTH BERKSHIRE COUNTY

In a similar fashion, our staff tabled at two **Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires** events geared towards people interested in volunteering or joining nonprofit boards.



## PITTSFIELD FIRST FRIDAYS

We also participated in Downtown Pittsfield's First Fridays, a monthly street fair where the Museum engaged residents of Pittsfield in button-making, protest sign drawing, and more.

## NORTH ADAMS DOWNTOWN CELEBRATION & MASS MOCA'S COMMUNITY DAY

Connecting with our neighbors in North Adams is a priority. We were grateful to join other nonprofits and museums in tabling at these two great events this year.

## THUNDERFEST & RAMBLEFEST

Our first commitment is to Adams, Susan's Birthplace, and we again tabled at Thunderfest in the Winter and Ramblefest in Fall, even taking the Museum up to the Greylock Glen Outdoor Center on Ramble Monday.

## CONTINUED COMMITMENT

Collaboration is not limited to public outreach, as the Museum continued its commitment to the Adams-Cheshire Community Roundtable, 1Berkshires, and the Berkshire/Columbia County Pay Equity Collective.

## NEW COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

We also joined the Adams Visitor Experience Committee, the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires, and Mass-Creative this year, expanding our connections and advocacy.



Alabama Heritage Magazine

Alva Belmont's comments in the August 13th, 1909 New York Times article "Suffrage Armory at Mrs. Belmont's" highlight the nature of the women's suffrage movement as collaborative and in community. Drawing on our 2025 exhibit, Museum director James Capuzzi gave a talk on Alva Belmont, her biography, and her transition to major supporter of the women's suffrage movement.

Born in Alabama, Alva's family accumulated wealth through successful

business dealings in England. They were able to weather the civil war in Europe, where Alva attended a private boarding school in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. Upon their return to the United States, the family settled in Manhattan, where Alva met and married Williams Kissam Vanderbilt. He inherited his family's fortune, and the Vanderbilts built a massive Manhattan property as well as Marble House in Newport, RI.

# An Elegant Revolution Director James Capuzzi Presents at Ventfort Hall

"I don't believe in individual work in any case. All the work for a cause must be collective."

Alva later divorced William and married his friend Oliver Perry Belmont, keeping Marble House for herself.

When Oliver died suddenly, Alva had a realization, perhaps guided by her labor activist daughter Consuelo, that she could exist as a woman independent of a husband. Building on what Susan B. Anthony and the first wave of suffrage leaders had started, Alva used her in-



fluence and resources to attract wealthy supporters and connect the women's suffrage cause with the New York elite living in Newport.

Her Conference of Great Women and famous *Votes for Women* tea set combined the elegance of high society with the revolutionary idea of women's equality under the law. Her fundraising efforts and personal donations helped fund the Women's March in 1913, and her support encouraged other wealthy women to join the fight for the right to vote.

# THE VOICE OF SUSAN B. ANTHONY

## "Herstorically Speaking" Engages Audiences Statewide

Historical reenactments continue to bring Susan B. Anthony's legacy to local communities. Muriel Dyas, pictured right, with *Herstorically Speaking*, performs as Susan B. Anthony, reflecting on Anthony's life and approaching the thought of aging with hope for a better future. Dyas brought her inspiring performance throughout Massachusetts this summer, from Adams to Shrewsbury to Hillcrest Academy's Multicultural Day, reaching over 340 attendees across fourteen organizations.

Her performances are free to

the public, and audiences attest she "drew one of the largest crowds of patrons of all ages." New for 2026, Muriel Dyas performs Mary Surratt, the controversial woman hanged for her involvement in Abraham Lincoln's assassination.



You can book Susan B. Anthony for your organization by emailing [edofsbabm@gmail.com](mailto:edofsbabm@gmail.com).

# A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE: Mass Cultural Council Awards Museum \$10,400 Grant

Continued from page 1

"Public support enables the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum to provide quality educational programming for students, immersive experiential learning for college students and adults, and free public programs for the entire community," stated Paul Mark, MA State Senator.

"This operating grant is a sign of commitment from the Mass Cultural Council to Berkshire County,

Adams, and the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum. This grant signifies that The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum provides significant public value through its programs and services." said Museum director James Capuzzi.

This trust and freedom enable us to bring Susan B. Anthony's inspiring legacy to residents of Adams, Berkshire County,

Continued on page 7.



## Trivia Night at Hot Plate Brewing

While Susan was a strong advocate for temperance, she did not go so far as to support Prohibition, believing it would be detrimental to the cause of women's suffrage. In this spirit, we continued our Trivia Night program with Hot Plate Brewing Co. in Pittsfield, MA, one of only 3% of craft breweries in the U.S. owned by women, making it a natural partner for the Museum. For our second trivia night, we broadened the questions and added

visuals based on feedback from the Adams Historical Society.

Hosted by Head Docent Martin Loughman, the evening drew 48 participants who enjoyed learning about Susan B. Anthony, women's history, and the Berkshires in a relaxed, engaging setting. Teams competed in categories including Susan, Her Friends, and the Berkshires and Women in Film: Places of Suffrage History, with the winning group answering 70% of questions correctly.

## Test Your Knowledge!

- 1) Susan B. Anthony died in which year?
- 2) What is Susan's middle name?
- 3) How old was Susan when she left Adams?
- 4) Where did Susan meet Elizabeth Cady Stanton?
- 5) True or False: Susan attended the Seneca Falls Woman's Rights Convention.

Answers on page 8.



Head docent Marty Loughman leads trivia night.



# LEADING BY EXAMPLE | Museum Director Completes Berkshire Leadership Program

Continued from page 1

Education, Health & Wellness, Housing, and Advanced Manufacturing. Each session was hosted by a different company or organization in Berkshire County. "The session on Hospitality & Tourism was the most impactful. Learning from Tanglewood and The Mount gave me new ideas and perspective for collaboration," said James.

Participants in the program were tasked with creating a project and executing it during the two months of the program. "We quickly identified youth in Berkshire County as a demographic in need of particular attention. There is so much in the county for young people, but accessing it is a challenge," James related. The solution? The Berkshire Youth Resource

Guide. This online and dynamic guide reduces transportation barriers, and promotes equitable access, and connects youth with local attractions, events, safe hangout spots, and essential services. James served on the outreach team, ensuring the guide made it into the hands of youth-serving organizations.

**"Our hope is that youth can find ways to build community and access the best of Berkshire County."**

Along the way, James made connections with other nonprofit leaders and business owners, and a few new friends. "Berkshire County is a small community but very welcoming. I am grateful to 1Berkshire for giving me a scholarship to attend this program, and to Abbie Von Schlegell for recommending me."



30 Berkshire Leadership program graduates and their families & colleagues filled Greenock Country Club in Lee this past June.

## WITH GRATITUDE TO BERKSHIRE TACONIC | Museum Receives \$5,000 for Planning and Growth



We are pleased to accept a \$5,000 grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation for Planning and Technical Assistance.

These funds will allow the Museum to review its operations and organizational structure, laying the groundwork for a strategic planning process.

We are grateful to Berkshire Taconic for their continual support of the Museum and our work in Berkshire County, and look forward to improving our internal operations to better serve our community. In addition to this grant, we received educational grants from Berkshire Taconic allowing us to take Susan B. Anthony out of her Birthplace and bring her to schools throughout the county.



## CRAFTING A REVOLUTION: Zine-Making Workshop at the Birthplace

The Museum hosted our first ever zine-making event this summer, led by summer intern Meara McClusky. We discussed the history of zines and how activists used feminist zines and pamphlets to advocate for women's suffrage, such as Susan B. Anthony's *The Revolution*. We hosted this DIY zine-making workshop in our garden for participants to create their own 8-page zine while sipping boba tea.

The feminist connection to zines was a fun angle to relate modern culture to Susan B. Anthony's advocacy and appealed to all ages. Written expres-

sion has proven intellectual, physiological, and emotional benefits—it's an easy way to boost cognitive function, build community, and improve mental health. We will bring the Zine-making workshop to Lee Library next Spring, and intend to offer it to all of our libraries with holding passes in 2026.

The Museum has been working to become more involved in the literary world, including visiting the Berkshire Athenaeum and the Lee Library for Children's Storytime to read Claire Murphy's book *"Marching with Aunt Susan."*

## HUMANITIES IN PRACTICE | Niagara University Hosts Museum Director for Talk

Last Fall, Museum director James Capuzzi was invited to speak to a class of Niagara University history students by Dr. Shannon M. Risk, a Susan B. Anthony scholar who gave a talk at the museum in the summer of 2024.

Earlier in her career, Dr. Risk served as interim executive director of the Susan B. Anthony House in Rochester, NY, and asked James to speak on the different career possibilities post graduating. James shared his journey from undergraduate Classical Studies & Italian student to a Sustainable Cultural Heritage Masters Degree, and the different skillsets that humanities students possess.

Students learned about different opportunities outside of academia, and the best strategies for leveraging their soft skills.

## IN THE NEWS | Rare Historic Documents Come to Light

The Museum was featured in the *Berkshire Eagle*, as reporter Sten Spinella interviewed executive director James Capuzzi about a recent discovery of two documents signed by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1853.

**"Now that we know how great these two women ended up becoming, and the influence they had on American society, it's almost like you've recovered Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen signed cards from their first year in the NBA,"** Capuzzi said.

Capuzzi explained that the museum has plaster casts of Stanton's and Anthony's hands made in 1895, representing the two women's collaboration in the fight for women's suffrage. The Museum hopes to use donations to obtain these signed documents and display them in a new exhibit, illustrating the same values of collaboration between two iconic feminist figures.

### ARE YOU A DESCENDANT OF A SUFFRAGIST?

*We Invite You to Join Our New Ancestry Board of Suffrage Descendants!*

Van Voorhis & his descendant, Dorothy Hayes

Tubman & her descendant, Jade Lee

In addition to the Honorary Board of Anthony descendants, the Museum has founded a new board honoring the descendants of Anthony's suffrage colleagues. Julia Wendt learned about the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace and met Carol Crossed when she was featured in a film about great heroes in Western New York. One of those was Julia's ancestor Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was born in Johnstown and lived her early married life in Seneca Falls. Julia spent road trips visiting these homesteads and shared history of suffrage pioneers.

Crossed's antenna was up. Which other Anthony colleagues may have descendants who are lovers of

suffrage history? This question has brought forward other descendants like Jade Lee, a relative of Harriet Tubman and Dorothy Lyons Hayes, the great-great granddaughter of John Van Voorhis, a suffrage supporter who provided counsel to Susan B. Anthony at her famous trial for voting illegally in the 1872 Presidential election.

Board members Eric Anthony and Colleen Spellecy research and vet descendant candidates for this growing Honorary Board.

***If you are the descendant of a suffragist and would like to join us, contact edofsbabm@gmail.com.***

Continued from page 6

## A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE |

Mass Cultural Council Awards Museum \$10,400 Grant

and the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Rep. John Barrett III stated that "These funds will help preserve

Susan B. Anthony's historic birthplace in Adams, MA, and will allow for expanded guided tours, school outreach, and free public programs for people of all ages." Mass Cultural Council's mission is to advance the Commonwealth's cultural sector by celebrating traditions and talents, championing its needs, and investing public resources.



## DESIGNER HANDBAGS IN THE GIFT SHOP?

*Purses with a Purpose* by the Abigail Riggs Collection Donated to the Museum



*"Miss Lucy called the doctor.  
The doctor called the nurse.  
The nurse called the lady  
with the alligator purse."*

Who was the lady with the alligator Purse?  
Why Susan B. Anthony, of course.

"Purse with a Purpose" is the appropriate name of the Susan B. Anthony handbag designed by The Abigail Riggs Collection, from *AbigailRiggs.com*. Other famous women include Jackie Bouvier Kennedy and Annie Oakley.

**"The Collection was borne from my desire to teach my children about empowerment and generosity,"** said Gail Riggs, PhD, MSW, Founder and Creative Director.

We are grateful to Gail Riggs for a generous donation of these treasures to the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace. Anthony's notable quote **"Failure is Impossible,"** is lovingly stitched on the backside. It has a faux alligator exterior with luxurious suede interior, the perfect size for your personal computer. The retail price is \$797. Look for a discounted purchase price through the Museum just in time for Christmas.



Thanks to Riggs's generosity, the Birthplace will now offer the exclusive handbag in **four elegant colors—tan, purple, red (shown above), and camel—each beautifully crafted and soon available through the Museum.**

## VINTAGE TWEETS TOURS SUFFRAGE COUNTRY | Schedule a Program!

The *Vintage Tweets: Suffrage-Era Postcards* program will return in 2026 with new presentations led by Museum founder and Board President Carol Crossed. Building on over 60 programs and years of traveling exhibits across the Northeast, the upcoming talks will focus on suffrage postcards that once carried the messages that fueled a movement.

Upcoming presentations include stops in Palmyra, West Sparta, and Butler, NY, each highlighting local suffrage stories and the postcards that helped shape them. Additional programs are currently being scheduled. To schedule a presentation for your library, group, or historical society, visit the link below.

Stay tuned for updates at  
***vintagetweetsbook.com***.

Copies of *Vintage Tweets* are currently \$55 in our Museum Gift Shop.

### A Thanksgiving Greeting



*Suffrage postcard from Vintage Tweets Book*

## WHERE HISTORY MEETS INSPIRATION | Susan B. in the Classroom

Funded by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, our school outreach program returned to Williamstown Elementary. Also for the first time, we expanded to Lee Elementary this year where we presented *Your Neighbor, Susan B. Anthony* to over 200 fifth and sixth graders.

After listening to Susan herself (Muriel Dyas of *Herstorically Speaking*), students completed timelines of Susan's life, designed their own protest signs, and marched around the gym. 6th graders at Williamstown Elementary learned about local government organization and wrote letters to their town's Select Board. Students all received a list of important suffrage vocabulary, recommended library reading, and free admission tickets to visit the museum.

*Your Neighbor Susan B. Anthony* spread beyond the Berkshires, as Mosier School in South Hadley invited the Museum to bring Susan to 140 third graders eager to ask "Susan" questions for nearly half an hour about her life, family, childhood, and more.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S.

DEC	Mrs. Claus comes to Adams
FEB	Susan's 206th Birthday Celebration
MAY	Monthly High Tea, April - October New Exhibit: <i>The Rejected Stone</i> Justice & the American Founding
JUL	Declaration of the Rights of Women Reenactment



TO RECEIVE NEWS ON UPCOMING EVENTS AND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED, SIGN UP FOR THE MUSEUM'S E-NEWSLETTER BY VISITING  
[www.susanbathonybirthplace.com/newsletters](http://www.susanbathonybirthplace.com/newsletters)

## STAY CONNECTED



THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY  
BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM  
67 East Road  
Adams, MA 01220  
(413) 743-7121

Summer & Spring (Late May - October)  
10:00am - 4:00pm, Thursday - Monday  
Winter & Spring (November - Mid May)  
10:00am - 4:00pm, Friday - Sunday  
For exact days and hours, visit the website below.

[WWW.SUSANBANTHONYBIRTHPLACE.ORG](http://WWW.SUSANBANTHONYBIRTHPLACE.ORG)

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## SBABM BUZZ

A Sample of SBABM Media features in 2025

THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE |  
FEB 9, 2025  
*For the rest of February, Adams will be celebrating the birthday of a local icon*  
NEW ENGLAND PUBLIC MEDIA |  
FEB 11, 2025  
*Suffragist Susan B. Anthony influenced by childhood Quaker roots in Adams*

THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE |  
MARCH 27, 2025  
*Documents linking Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the early years of their friendship are for sale*

THE BERKSHIRE EDGE |  
JUNE 17 2025  
*BITS & BYTES: Susan B. Anthony Birthplace 'Votes for Women' Exhibit*

THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE |  
JULY 4, 2025  
*'Susan was going to be heard.' Participants gather at the Adams Town Common for reenactment of S.B.A speech*

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN  
TIMES | JUL 24, 2025  
*Agitator comes to Wilbraham*

IBERKSHIRES | JULY 24, 2025  
*How Tea Shaped the Women's Suffrage Movement*

THE BERKSHIRE EDGE |  
AUG 23, 2025  
*From Vegas to the Berkshires: An Eagle summer intern shares her favorite spots from a summer in western Massachusetts*

### Trivia Question Answers

1. 1906
2. Brownell
3. Six Years Old
4. Seneca Falls, New York
5. False