

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

August 26, 2024

**Dedication of
National Votes for Women Trail Marker
To Honor**

Julia Brown Asplund

**Dr. Karen Abraham Courtyard at Hodgin Hall
University of New Mexico**

Program Presentations

Bobo Room, Hodgin Hall, 3rd Floor

Refreshments

Library, Hodgin Hall, 2nd Floor



Sponsored by

League of Women Voters of New Mexico Education Fund

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

UNM Board of Regents Historic Preservation Committee

UNM College of University Libraries & Learning Services

Dedication of the National Votes for Women Trail Marker

Dr. Karen Abraham Courtyard, Hodgin Hall

Welcome: **Starlyn Brown**, President

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

Dedication: **Dr. Amy Jackson**, Associate Dean

UNM College of University Libraries & Learning Services

Julia Brown Asplund was the first professionally trained librarian at the University of New Mexico, from 1903 to 1905. She was also appointed as the first woman Regent of the University from 1921-23. Julia was a leader in New Mexico's fight for women's suffrage between 1911 and 1920. She served as president of the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs from 1914-16 and helped to organize the automobile parade of more than 150 women to challenge New Mexico's U.S. Senator Thomas Catron on his views about women's right to vote in October 1915. A few months later in February 1916, she was instrumental in forming the New Mexico chapter of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage and served



as a vice chairman. This organization was pivotal in lobbying for ratification of the 19th Amendment by the New Mexico legislature in 1920. She was nominated to run for governor by the New Mexico Women's Party (successor of the Congressional Union) in 1920, but declined the nomination. Julia devoted the rest of her professional life to expanding library services throughout the state. She lobbied for state financial support and served in many leadership positions to improve library access and quality, including appointment as the first chair of the State Library Commission from 1941-54. She was particularly committed to providing books to children in both English and Spanish.

Program Presentations

Bobo Room, Hodgin Hall, 3rd Floor

Welcome: **Hannah Burling**, Co-President
League of Women Voters of New Mexico

“One of Our 50 Is Missing: Suffrage History in New Mexico and Why It Matters”

by

Cathleen D. Cahill,

Walter L. Ferree and Helen P. Ferree Professor

in Middle-American History, Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Cahill earned her PhD at the University of Chicago. Dr. Cahill’s work examines questions of race, gender, and place in women’s working and political lives in the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century United States. Her focus is on the everyday experiences of ordinary people, primarily women. She has published multiple articles and two books, *Federal Fathers & Mothers: A Social History of the United States Indian Service, 1869-1933* (2021) and *Recasting the Vote: How Women of Color Transformed the Suffrage Movement* (2020). She is currently collaborating on a graphic history of the life of suffragist Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee.

“Critical Issues Facing New Mexico Women: How the NM Commission on the Status of Women Addresses Them”

by

Lisa K. Curtis,

Chair of the New Mexico

Commission on the Status of Women

Ms. Curtis is the mother of four adult children and grandmother to four. She graduated from the UNM School of Law where she was distinguished with the Tort Scholar Award for her graduating class. For 30 years she has been a practicing trial attorney representing patients. She is the managing partner for the 20-person law firm Curtis & Co., owns other local businesses, and is the Trustee for the LK Curtis Children’s Fund. She is also the past president of the New Mexico Trial Lawyers Association and was a New Mexico State Senator.

Closing Remarks: **Jeanne Logsdon**, Board Member
League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

About the National Votes for Women Trail

The National Votes for Women Trail is a project of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (NCWHS). The NCWHS is a non-profit organization established to support and promote the preservation and interpretation of sites and locales that bear witness to women's participation in American history. The National Votes for Women Trail was initiated to recognize champions of women's suffrage and significant places where suffrage events occurred. The Trail database currently has over 2,440 people, groups, and places, including 16 entries from New Mexico suffrage history.

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation is a private, philanthropic organization located in Syracuse, N.Y. and the nation's leading funder of historic roadside markers. It has donated up to 250 trail markers for a select group of entries in the National Votes for Women Trail database. Three trail markers are located in New Mexico: Pioneer Women's Park in Las Cruces (honoring five women), the A.A. Jones marker in Las Vegas, and Julia Brown Asplund's marker in Albuquerque.

Thank you to the following for contributing to the installation of this National Votes for Women Trail Marker and to this celebration of Women's Equality Day:

- League of Women Voters of New Mexico Education Fund
 - League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico
 - Dr. Audra Bellmore, Chair, UNM Board of Regents Historic Preservation Committee
 - UNM Hodgin Hall Facilities Personnel Raymond Armijo and Dezlyn Chacon
 - UNM Signage Committee/Planning, Design, & Construction Department
 - UNM Center for Southwest Research
 - August 26 Women's Equality Day Planning Committee: Jennifer Black, Starlyn Brown, Betsy Carlson, Karen Douglas, Dina Hennessy, Jeanne Logsdon, Meredith Machen, Linda Miller, Liz Shields, Karen Wentworth, and Pam Wilson.
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