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Journalist, writer to kick off women's suffrage celebration at WKU

By AARON MUDD amudd@bgdailynews.com 3 hrs ago



Elaine Weiss

Submitted

Western Kentucky University will host an award-winning journalist and writer next week to begin a year of events leading to the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote.

Elaine Weiss is the author of “The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote,” which tells the story of activists whose push for women’s suffrage led to the passage of the 19th Amendment by Congress on June 4, 1919, followed by ratification by the states Aug. 18, 1920.

“The book absolutely reads like a suspense novel,” said Victoria Gordon, a WKU political science professor who’s helped organize Weiss’ upcoming visit and the yearlong celebration recognizing the centennial of the 19th Amendment.

During her two-day visit to campus next week, Weiss will present a lecture at 7 p.m. April 30 in the Downing Student Union auditorium. Her visit is sponsored by the WKU Sisterhood and The Boyd-Lubker Visiting Scholars Program.

Weiss will focus on passage of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote, a news release said, and copies of her book will be presented to the first 200 attendees. The event is free and open to the public, and a reception will follow in DSU room 3020.

Leading up to Weiss’ lecture, the Warren County Public Library has supported a discussion of her book.

“We really wanted to make this a community and campus event,” Gordon said.

However, the event is just one of the first planned during the yearlong celebration made possible by several WKU’s departments and community organizations.

The lineup of events is meant to highlight the various roles women have played in American political life, with topics that include the suffrage movement and the continued disenfranchisement of women of color even after the 19th Amendment’s ratification, according to the celebration’s website.

A full list of planned events is available at www.wku.edu/kentuckymuseum/journey_vote.php.

Following Weiss’ visit to campus this spring, Bowling Green Mayor Bruce Wilkerson and city commissioners will hold a proclamation signing at 2 p.m. June 4 at the Kentucky Museum on campus. Along with remarks, the event will offer an overview of upcoming events and programming.

The celebration will offer more than just campus events, however. Saundra Ardrey, a professor in the Department of Diversity and Community Studies, is planning a study away trip that could include stops in Washington, D.C., or Seneca Falls, N.Y., where the first women’s rights convention took place in July 1848.

Gordon said the trip could be open to more than just WKU students and said those interested in participating should contact the political science department at 270-745-4559.

– Follow education reporter Aaron Mudd on Twitter @BGDN_edbeat or visit bgdailynews.com.

Aaron Mudd

Education reporter. Covers education and related issues, focusing primarily on the Bowling Green and Warren County public school districts and Western Kentucky University.

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