WOMEN LEADERS TO BE CELEBRATED AT MARCH 31 HISTORY EVENT

Women’s history month concludes on a high note Monday, March 31, with a celebration of Western Maryland women leaders and dramatic portrayals of two historical figures by an accomplished professional actress.

This third annual Women’s History Celebration and Networking Event, which begins at 6:30 p.m. at Allegany College of Maryland, is free of charge and open to the public.

“Women of Character, Courage and Commitment” recognizes local elected and appointed women for their contributions to the public good in a program designed to raise awareness of the duties of public service and motivate others to follow their lead.

Youth groups, women’s organizations, students, families and young men and women are especially encouraged to attend this inspirational event.

Entertainer Kate Campbell Stevenson will portray two key figures from the “Women: Back to the Future” repertoire that she developed to present positive and courageous female role models to girls and young women.

The Silver Spring writer and director will appear as women’s rights activist Alice Paul, who championed political suffrage and equal treatment, and first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, a civil and human rights advocate during and after her husband’s lifetime.

Women’s organizations from Western Maryland are encouraged to participate in this non-partisan event by bringing membership materials and taking the opportunity to make brief presentations about their group and its purpose.

Public historian Al Feldstein will introduce the women to be honored for their public service. They will have the opportunity to describe their duties and career paths and to offer encouragement to younger women to consider public service.

With the Western Maryland Regional Library, Feldstein spearheaded “Historic Women of Allegany County, Maryland,” a website featuring hundreds of women who blazed trails and contributed to government and politics, education, sports and the arts.

Women of Character is sponsored by the Maryland National Organization for Women in collaboration with ACM’s Democracy Commitment and the Human Service Associate program.
Students from this curriculum, who will serve as hosts for the evening, are planning a follow-up event on April 8 that will extend the theme forward to the present day.

Equal Means Equal, planned in collaboration with Frostburg State University, will feature community presentations by acclaimed actress, filmmaker and activist Kamala Lopez.

The events will be held on the Cumberland campus on Tuesday, April 8, at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. and will move to Frostburg State the following day with presentations at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Kate Stevenson was asked to portray Alice Paul at the March 31 event as a prelude to the April 8-9 program because Paul worked tirelessly for women’s rights. She proposed the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923 and lived to see Congress pass the constitutional amendment in 1972, only to see it fall short of ratification by a two-state margin.

The Women’s History Celebration and Networking Event will be held in the Zimmer Theatre of the ACM Cumberland campus’ College Center. As seating is limited reservations are encouraged but not required. Light refreshments will be served.

Reservations and requests for more information about it may be made to Shamrock20901@gmail.com. Local inquiries can be directed to ACM faculty member Cherie Snyder at 301-784-5556. Information is also available on the ACM website, www.allegany.edu.

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PHOTO CAPTION==First lady Eleanor Roosevelt (depicted) and women’s rights activist Alice Paul will be portrayed by actress Kate Campbell Stevenson as part of “Women of Character, Courage and Commitment,” a recognition of female Western Marylanders in public service Monday, March 31, at Allegany College of Maryland. This third annual women’s history month event starts at 6:30 p.m. on the Cumberland campus.