

Audio Visual Sources

The following films are excellent for understanding the legal and political status of women in America from the time the Constitution was ratified well into the 20th century. They convey far better than words alone can the difficult and lengthy struggles waged by women to achieve the rights of citizens envisioned in the Declaration of Independence, but denied them in the U.S. Constitution and by the legal system.

The films can be the centerpiece for “house parties”, workshops, and community events. They not only teach the history denied many of us in our school days, they also inspire pride in our sex and respect and awe at what the pioneers of women’s rights endured and struggled to overcome to give us the fundamental privileges that should have been our birthright. Their determination and efforts (even their individual shortcomings and prejudices) should galvanize us to action. We owe it to them to finish the work they began, but for the most part did not live to see come to fruition.

Woman Suffrage: All available in DVD format

One Woman, One Vote - Narrated by Susan Sarandon (106 minutes). From Seneca Falls, 1848-1920) historical film clips, etc. PBS Home Video/DVD – available in DVD format from Amazon.com; www.pbs.org (might also be available from your local community library or Netflix. (price: up to \$29.99)

Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Stanton & Anthony – the story of the long partnership/friendship between Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony and their fight to get the vote for women. Their friendship has been called one of THE most significant friendships of the 19th century. (PBS – Ken Burns) available from Amazon.com, PBS.org and Netflix

Iron Jawed Angels – Stars Hilary Swank, Frances O’Connor, etc. The story of the last phase of the woman suffrage movement – Alice Paul and Lucy Burns and the Woman’s Party (much of this material is also in *One Woman, One Vote*)

The ERA & Contemporary Feminism

The Equal Rights Amendment: Unfinished Business for the Constitution. 17:27 minutes Available for \$15 (\$12.50 each if you buy 2 or more) from the Alice Paul Institute. mail or fax form available at www.equalrightsamendment.org/video.htm (same producer who did *One Woman, One Vote*; links the ERA to suffrage efforts)

These films are superb, and guaranteed to stimulate thought, anger, pride, and determination to “finish the job”. They should be shown in all high schools & colleges.

Additional suggestion for the modern women’s movement and the ERA:

Sisters of ’77 – a film about the 1st federally funded National Women’s Conference, 1977 in Houston and the contemporary feminists who led the new movement.

Available from www.pbs.org/independentlens/sistersof77/film.html

Also has links to and material for educators about the women’s movement and ERA, etc.