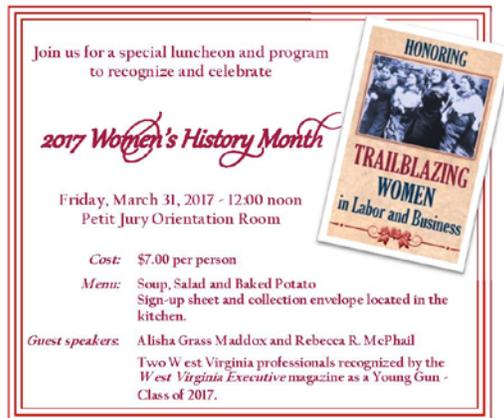


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## 2017 Women's History Month Celebration

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The Clerk's office hosted a celebration of Women's History Month Friday, March 31, 2017. Terry Deppner gave the welcoming remarks. Sarah "Sally" Page gave a presentation on how Women's History Month began; and Tammy Moore introduced the guest speaker, Alisha Maddox.

Women's History month evolved from the very first International Women's Day held March 19, 1911, organized by Clara Zetkin. By the 1970s, more female historians began to reflect on the contributions of women in history. In 1978, a California school district started Women's

History Week to promote the teaching of women's history. It was so popular, that in 1981, Congress passed a resolution making the week a celebration for the entire country. The concept grew in popularity and in 1987, Congress declared the entire month of March as National Women's History Month.



Women's History Month Organizers Tammy Moore, Sally Page and Lynn Cooper (left to right)

Each year a theme is chosen for the celebration, and this year's theme was "Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business." A few of these women are: Barbara Hackman Franklin who was instrumental in increasing the number of women in government; Norma Franklin the first woman to be allowed on the NYSE floor; and Alexis Herman who was credited with bringing the unemployment rate to a 30-year low as Director of the Labor Department. We were honored to recognize one of our very own Charleston trailblazers, Alicia Maddox.



Maddox graduated from Marshall University with both her bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism and mass communications. She began her career with *The State Journal* which led to a position at Charles Ryan Associates (CRA). She is currently the Chief Communications Officer and owner at CRA.

Through her leadership skills and active involvement in community services, Maddox was selected to the Young Gun Class of 2017 by the business publication, *West Virginia Executive*. She is co-founder of the West Virginia Visionary Team, a group of professionals committed to working with educators on inspiring, encouraging and elevating students, and a member of the State Superintendent's Stakeholder Advisory Council. She spends of much of time traveling the State visiting middle schools presenting a statewide education initiative, Explore the New Manufacturing. Maddox shared her vision for young West Virginians through a PowerPoint presentation emphasizing STEM. She is involved with initiatives she believes will better West Virginia and the people who live and work here. She would like to see her children and many others not only want to stay in West Virginia but have job opportunities and the financial means to do so.

Maddox carries with her the inspiring lesson she learned from Maya Angelou in an interview she conducted at the beginning of her career to treat others with kindness, respect, and compassion. This resonates in her everyday life and is shared through her presentation to young students.

At the close of the guest speaker's presentation, Terry Deppner presented Ms. Maddox with a Certificate of Appreciation and paperweight.

