February 2020 Newsletter

President’s Letter
February 2020

Happy Chinese New Year! 2020 is the Year of the Rat, an animal that symbolizes wealth and the beginning of a new day. The Rat is the first of all zodiac animals.

After 11 hours interviewing 19 candidates to replace Councilwoman Julie Combs, Dick Dowd, a 77-year-old retired builder and 25-year veteran of the Board of Public Utilities, was appointed. Prior to the final vote there were three rounds of voting ending up in a tie between two competent women, Karen Weeks and Jacquelyne Ocaña, which created a stalemate. To find a solution for the tie, Dowd was appointed, leaving the council with six men and one woman. We are extremely disappointed, and NOW has sent a letter to the editor regarding our opinion, which you can read in the February issue of the Sonoma County Gazette.

The From Suffrage To #Metoo: Groundbreaking Women in Sonoma County exhibit opened on January 24 (through September 13) at the Sonoma County Museum in Santa Rosa. The exhibit explores the changing expectations, challenges, and obstacles to inclusion that women have faced and the remarkable people who have broken through the barriers. This must-see exhibit takes you on a journey that begins in 1787 with Abigail Adams to the present time, highlighting local women and events in Sonoma County through historical documents and pictures, along with the art of the time and the various forms of expression, which includes buttons of all kinds encouraging women to participate and above all, vote, plus some great signs from the Women’s March that happened in January. For more info go to https://museumscc.org/suffrage-metoo/

NOW was part of the 3000+ people gathered along with 40 community groups and a variety of speakers for the 4th Annual Women’s March Santa Rosa. A shout-out to Leslie Graves, organizer for the Women’s March and member of the Steering Committee for Sonoma County 2020 Women’s Suffrage and all the speakers and volunteers. “The feeling of hope was palpable at the March, especially when hearing from our young leaders, and I would like to thank everyone for making the whole day such a success,” said Graves.

Announcing the 2020 Women’s History Theme
Valiant Women of the Vote

Our 2020 theme celebrates the women who have fought for women’s right to vote in the United States. In recognition of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, we will honor women from the original suffrage movement as well as 20th and 21st century women who have continued the struggle (fighting against poll taxes, literacy tests, voter roll purges, and other more contemporary forms of voter suppression) to ensure voting rights for all.
February is Black History Month

Black History Month began as “Negro History Week,” a label applied by historian Carter G. Woodson in 1926. Woodson chose that week specifically because it covered the birthdays of Frederick Douglass (February 14) and Abraham Lincoln (February 12).

Acknowledging our Black Sisters of the Past

When Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony wrote the History of Woman Suffrage in the 1880s, they featured white suffragists while largely ignoring the contributions of African-American suffragists. Though black women are less well remembered, they played an important role in getting the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments passed.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, black women played an active role in the struggle for universal suffrage. They participated in political meetings and organized political societies. African-American women attended political conventions at their local churches where they planned strategies to gain the right to vote. In the late 1800s, more black women worked for churches, newspapers, secondary schools, and colleges, which gave them a larger platform to promote their ideas.

Black women found themselves pulled in two directions. Black men wanted their support in fighting racial discrimination and prejudice, while white women wanted them to help change the inferior status of women in American society. Both groups ignored the unique challenges that African-American women faced. Black reformers like Mary Church Terrell, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, and Harriet Tubman understood that both their race and their sex affected their rights and opportunities.

2020 is a new day as we honor diversity and recognize that as women coming together as women we have a powerful force. At this time we would like to honor our black sisters and the contribution they made. In doing research, it was amazing to me how active these women are and continue to be.

Mary Ann Shadd Cary spoke in support of the Fifteenth Amendment, but was also critical of it as it did not give women the right to vote. Sojourner Truth argued that black women would continue to face discrimination and prejudice unless their voices were uplifted like those of black men. Nannie Helen Burroughs wrote and spoke about the need for black and white women to cooperate to achieve the right to vote. For more information and names go to https://www.nps.gov/articles/black-women-and-the-fight-for-voting-rights.htm
February Birthdays


February 4, 1913 (2005) – Rosa Parks, “Mother of the Civil Rights Movement,” her arrest after refusing to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, sparked a boycott of the bus system, which eventually led to the Supreme Court decision to integrate

February 9, 1944 – Alice Walker, writer, first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, for *The Color Purple* (1983)


February 27, 1897 (1993) – Marian Anderson, opera singer, first African-American member of the New York Metropolitan Opera (1955)

February 28, 1898 (1992) – Molly Picon, Yiddish actress, performed around the world beginning with “Baby Margaret” at age 5, entertained troops in Korea and Japan during World War II, renowned for her somersaults and flips well into her seventies, wrote one-woman show, *Hello, Molly* (1979), and an autobiography, *Molly* (1980)

Women’s History

February 11, 1989 – Rev. Barbara Harris became the first woman bishop in the American Episcopal Church and in the Anglican Communion worldwide.

February 12, 1869 – The Utah Territorial Legislature passed a bill allowing women to vote

February 15, 1921 – The Suffrage Monument, depicting Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott, sculpted by Adelaide Johnson, was dedicated at the U.S. Capitol

February 15, 1953 – Tenley Albright became the first American woman to win the World Figure Skating championship

February 17, 1870 – Esther Hobart Morris, Wyoming, became the first US woman Justice of the Peace

February 24, 1912 – Henrietta Szold founded Hadassah, the largest Jewish organization in American history, focusing on healthcare and education in the Israel and the U.S.

February 24, 1967 – Jocelyn Bell Burnell made the first discovery of a pulsar, a rapidly rotating neutron star

(Thanks to Women’s History Alliance for history notes)
One Billion Rising and The Vagina Monologues
February 14, 2020 5pm-9pm
Kaleidoscope Cabaret
927 Petaluma Blvd. N.
Petaluma, CA 94952
Parking available in lot across the street at Lucky's

Free Workshop: Vision Rising
5:00-7:00pm
The Vagina Monologues
7:30-9:00pm
English & ASL Performance

Tickets ($25):
https://ptownmonologues.brownpapertickets.com/
*Bring your mom or a male for $5 off per person - $10 maximum discount.

OR
Volunteer and receive free entry.
Email relaxing_ronda@yahoo.com to volunteer

All funds raised will support Verity, Sonoma County's only rape crisis, trauma, & healing center.

Vision Rising is a free Synergy Sisterhood empowerment workshop where participants design a postcard-sized vision board in support of survivors of gender violence while engaging in open discussion. Artwork can be kept or donated.

We rise to end violence against women and children
Santa Rosa Women's March 2019 which drew 4,500 marchers. 2019 Photo by Leslie Graves

RENEWAL AND MEMBERSHIP FORM
Regular Membership $40/year. $75/two years. $115/3 years.
Reduced dues $15. - $30.

NAME ___________________________

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homogirl productions 2020