



## April 2021 News

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### *Planning ahead and **Earth Day***

Dear NOW Members,

April is here and all the flowers and gardeners know spring has arrived. A special thank-you to all who attended our March meeting and watched the fantastic presentation by **Lilith Rogers**, *Rachel Carson Returns*. If you missed the presentation you can see it on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPRWs0MvSjk>. A shout-out to an event we supported presented by the North Bay Organizing Project and the Sonoma County Chapter of the ACLU, “Criminal Justice Reform and the Role of the District Attorney Webinar.”

Our chapter also supported “Stop the Recall” for Sonoma County District Attorney **Jill Ravitch**; although we may not always agree with Ravitch, we believe this recall is inappropriate. DA Ravitch is not running for reelection in 2023, and it is time for all of us to pay attention to who is running and vote with our conscience. The chapter also supported “Donation Drive for the Houseless,” coordinated by the Sonoma County Peace and Justice Center. Items can be dropped off at the center every Tuesday from 3–5 p.m. The center is located at 467 Sebastopol Ave., Santa Rosa. For questions, contact the center at [peace@sonic.net](mailto:peace@sonic.net)

**Help:** We have a vibrant chapter here in Sonoma County, the only chapter north of San Francisco, and we need more member participation. **We are also in need of a Treasurer for the chapter.** Any ideas? Send me an email at [elainebholtz@gmail.com](mailto:elainebholtz@gmail.com) .

One of the sections in our newsletter honors women of both the past and present who have made a difference in Sonoma County. If you have any ideas or would like to nominate anyone, please email us at [info@nowsonoma.org](mailto:info@nowsonoma.org). I suggest you check out our website: [www.nowsonoma.org](http://www.nowsonoma.org). A special shout-out to our webmaster Ken Norton for doing a great job.

Our regular meeting via Zoom will be happening on **Thursday, April 15 from 6:30–8:00 p.m.** (Zoom link below), and we need all women on deck for a planning meeting. We had a planning meeting in January that resulted in two great events, and we need to plan for the next of the year. Looking forward to seeing you and hearing your ideas.

**Something to think about:** “The environment, after all, is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest. It is one thing that all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become.” —**Lady Bird Johnson**, First Lady of the United States (1963–69). In 1982, she founded with actress Helen Hayes The National Wildflower Research Center, which focused on native wildflower preservation and restoration of the beauty and biological richness of North America. <https://www.wildflower.org/>

**A reminder:** Earth Day is April 22, 2021

**A bit of trivia:** In 1970, about 50 students from Humanities 160 organized San Jose State College’s Survival Faire—to protest smog and environmental pollution. The week-long fair, held in February, culminated with the burial of a car to draw attention to “man’s survival in a deteriorating environment,” as quoted in the *Spartan Daily* that week. The car, a 1970 yellow Ford Maverick, was buried next to the Student Union and was bought by student donations for \$2,500, the *Spartan Daily* reported Feb. 16, 1970. Members of the Kappa Sigma fraternity pushed the car from Paul Swanson Ford in Los Gatos to the university. Our webmaster, **Ken Norton, was a student there at that time** and was not only part of the celebration, he contributed to help make it happen. The first Earth Day followed on April 22, 1970.

—*Elaine Holtz, President*

(Earth as seen from moon photo from Library of Congress.)

## ***Join Us on April 15!***

Dear members and friends,

Here is the information for the NOW meeting of Thursday,  
**April 15, 2021 from 6:30–8:00 p.m.**

Join us for a planning meeting—what do we want for the months ahead? How can our chapter help our community? How can we grow our chapter? Check in a few minutes early so we can start promptly at 6:30.

### **Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87588753750?pwd=SW9nd1B3Y1dHbUphcGw4YW5LTUYyUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 875 8875 3750 **Passcode:** 520289

### **Phone in Numbers:**

+1 669 900 9128 (San Jose)

Locations outside the United States

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kffdJcW5z>

**Meeting ID:** 875 8875 3750



## For Earth Day (April 22) and every day— thoughts on ecofeminism

*by Carol Singer*

*Ecofeminism*, like so many “isms,” is the kind of word to make us roll our eyes and switch channels. But I think it is worthwhile to think about the connection between environmentalism and women’s rights. It’s natural and useful to point our energies to small or local battles: a girl being bullied at school, or election equity in a district. And we all have our favorite causes and limited time to fight for them. But it’s okay to work helping any oppressed groups, and the plants and critters too. To me it’s all one to help free dominated and oppressed beings, and we do it in many ways and on many levels. One doesn’t have to label oneself a feminist or ecofeminist, as the meanings and understandings of labels shift. But we can empower ourselves and others to feel a shift.

From Wikipedia:

"Ecofeminism developed out of [anarcha-feminist](#) concerns with abolishing all forms of domination, while focusing on the oppressive nature of humanity's relationship to the natural world.<sup>[9]</sup> According to [Françoise d'Eaubonne](#) in her book *Le Féminisme ou la Mort* (1974), ecofeminism relates the [oppression](#) and [domination](#) of all marginalized groups (women, people of color, children, the poor) to the oppression and domination of nature (animals, land, water, air, etc.). In the book, the author argues that oppression, domination, exploitation, and [colonization](#) from the Western [patriarchal](#) society has directly caused irreversible environmental damage.<sup>[10]</sup> [Françoise d'Eaubonne](#) was an activist and organizer, and her writing encouraged the eradication of all social injustice, not just injustice against women and the environment.<sup>[10]</sup>"

***In honor of Poetry Month and Earth Day:***

## **An Imagined Letter from Covid-19**

### **to Humans**

*Copyright 2019 Kristin Flyntz, with permission (reading with animation link [here](#) , interview and reading on Women's Spaces [here](#))*

Stop. Just stop.

It is no longer a request. It is a mandate.

We will help you.

We will bring the supersonic, high speed merry-go-round to a halt

We will stop

the planes

the trains

the schools

the malls

the meetings

the frenetic, furied rush of illusions and “obligations” that keep you  
from hearing our

single and shared beating heart,

the way we breathe together, in unison.

Our obligation is to each other,

As it has always been, even if, even though, you have forgotten.

We will interrupt this broadcast, the endless cacophonous broadcast of  
divisions and distractions,

to bring you this long-breaking news:

We are not well.

None of us; all of us are suffering.

Last year, the firestorms that scorched the lungs of the earth  
did not give you pause.

Nor the typhoons in Africa,China, Japan.

Nor the fevered climates in Japan and India.

You have not been listening.

It is hard to listen when you are so busy all the time, hustling to uphold the comforts and conveniences that scaffold your lives.

But the foundation is giving way,  
buckling under the weight of your needs and desires.

We will help you.

We will bring the firestorms to your body

We will bring the fever to your body

We will bring the burning, searing, and flooding to your lungs  
that you might hear:

We are not well.

Despite what you might think or feel, we are not the enemy.

We are Messenger. We are Ally. We are a balancing force.

We are asking you:

To stop, to be still, to listen;

To move beyond your individual concerns and consider the concerns  
of all;

To be with your ignorance, to find your humility, to relinquish your  
thinking minds and travel deep into the mind of the heart;

To look up into the sky, streaked with fewer planes, and see it, to  
notice its condition: clear, smoky, smoggy, rainy? How much do you  
need it to be healthy so that you may also be healthy?

To look at a tree, and see it, to notice its condition: how does its health  
contribute to the health of the sky, to the air you need to be healthy?

To visit a river, and see it, to notice its condition: clear, clean, murky,  
polluted? How much do you need it to be healthy so that you may also  
be healthy? How does its health contribute to the health of the tree,  
who contributes to the health of the sky, so that you may also be

healthy?

Many are afraid now.

Do not demonize your fear, and also, do not let it rule you. Instead, let it speak to you—in your stillness, listen for its wisdom.

What might it be telling you about what is at work, at issue, at risk, beyond the threats of personal inconvenience and illness?

As the health of a tree, a river, the sky tells you about quality of your own health, what might the quality of your health tell you about the health of the rivers, the trees, the sky, and all of us who share this planet with you?

Stop.

Notice if you are resisting.

Notice what you are resisting.

Ask why.

Stop. Just stop.

Be still.

Listen.

Ask us what we might teach you about illness and healing, about what might be required so that all may be well.

We will help you, if you listen.

## *Woman of the Year*

### **Faith Ross**

Congratulations to activist/leader Faith Ross of Petaluma, cofounder of Petaluma Blacks for Community Development:

#### ***Sen. Bill Dodd taps Petaluma's Faith Ross as Sonoma County "Woman of the Year"***

“Faith kept a spotlight on the many contributions of African Americans and the challenges they continue to face at a time of great reckoning in our country,” Dodd said in the release. “She emerged as a leading voice in our community as we strive for racial equity and social justice. I’m proud to recognize her efforts at this turning point in our history.”

For all the details, click here:

<https://sd03.senate.ca.gov/news/20210323-faith-ross-named-sonoma-county-woman-year>.



## Honoring Louise Hallberg of Sebastopol

Louise was a local woman who helped save the world, especially endangered local native butterflies and plants. [Hallberg Butterfly Gardens](#) has tours in April through October by appointment, and is a great place for people of all ages to learn how to make a difference by planting native host flowers and avoiding poisons. Thousands of school kids have had their lives changed by this local hero, and the work continues since she has passed on. *(Image of endangered Pipevine Swallowtail from Wikimedia.)*



## April dates to celebrate

- **April 3, 1944** – **Jane Goodall**, conservationist, activist, educator
- **April 4, 1928** – **Maya Angelou**, author, activist, poet
- **April 7, 1915** – **Billie Holiday**, singer, songwriter
- **April 10, 1880** – **Frances Perkins**, labor rights leader
- **April 10, 1930** — **Dolores Huerta**, activist, cofounder UFW
- **April 22** – **Earth Day**, **Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day**
- **April 25** — **Ella Fitzgerald**, singer

Visit our Sonoma County NOW site for news and lots of links and information:

<http://www.nowsonoma.org/>

Contact us: [info@nowsonoma.org](mailto:info@nowsonoma.org)

**(707) 545-5036**

**P.O. Box 6223**

**Santa Rosa, CA 95406**

## About NOW

As the grassroots arm of the women's movement, the National Organization for Women is dedicated to its multi-issue and multi-strategy approach to women's rights, and is the largest organization of

feminist grassroots activists in the United States. NOW has hundreds of chapters and hundreds of thousands of members and activists in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Since our founding in 1966, NOW's purpose is to take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life.

## **Core Issues**

NOW is a multi-issue, multi-strategy organization that takes a holistic approach to women's rights. Our priorities are winning economic equality and securing it with an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will guarantee equal rights for women; championing abortion rights, reproductive freedom and other women's health issues; opposing racism; fighting bigotry against the LGBTQIA community; and ending violence against women.

### [Reproductive Rights and Justice](#)

NOW fully supports safe and legal abortion, affordable and effective birth control and other contraception, and reproductive health education for all.

### [Economic Justice](#)

NOW advocates for a wide range of economic justice issues, women's freedom and success and intertwined with racial justice, reproductive freedom, and other systems of oppression.

### [Ending Violence Against Women](#)

NOW recognizes violence against women as the broad and interconnected issue that it is, addressing oppressive structures and attitudes in our nation.

### [Racial Justice](#)

A leader in civil rights since 1966, NOW continues to fight for equal opportunities for women of color in all areas including employment, education, and health care.

### [LGBTQIA+ Rights](#)

NOW is committed to fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in all areas.

### [Constitutional Equality](#)

NOW is a proud supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment and prioritizes giving women explicit protections in the United States Constitution.

For additional information go to: <https://now.org/about/>

 **MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM**

Regular membership \$40/year  
  \$75 2 yrs  
  \$115 3 yrs  
 Reduced dues: \$10–30/year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Sonoma County Chapter #CA0660

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