

SONOMA COUNTY

NOW



Julia Ward Howe

May 2021 News

Planning for the Future

Dear NOW Members,

I have served as your president for over three years, and have come to the decision that I need to step down by the end of June. This was an intense month for me as I struggled with health issues and saw that I had to release this commitment. During this May meeting we will have to decide if anyone is interested in coming forward—or whether we need to discontinue the chapter. To discontinue would be sad, as this is a national organization and I ask the membership what the alternative is? See Zoom information below.

May is upon us and is truly a month of reflection and celebration. We begin May with May Day and International Workers Day, and on May 10 we will be celebrating Mother's Day. A reminder that the first Mother's Day was called the "appeal to womanhood throughout the world" (later known as the Mother's Day Proclamation) by [Julia Ward Howe](#); it was an appeal for women to unite for peace in the world. Written in 1870, Howe's "Appeal to womanhood" was a pacifist reaction to the carnage of the [American Civil War](#) and the [Franco-Prussian War](#). The appeal was tied to Howe's [feminist](#) conviction that women had a responsibility to shape their societies at the political level.

In 1872 Howe asked for the celebration of a "Mother's Day for Peace" on June 2nd of every year, but she was unsuccessful.^[2]

The modern [Mother's Day](#) was established by [Anna Jarvis](#) 36 years later. While the day she established was different in significance from what Howe had proposed, Anna Jarvis was reportedly inspired by her mother's work with Howe (Wikipedia). I find this piece of history important to know and believe the time has come when Mother's Day once again becomes a cry for peace and justice.

I have just spent two days of listening to the Santa Rosa City Council

conducting a meeting to let the public know about the results and recommendations pertaining to the events of May 31, 2020 protesting the killing of George Floyd. You can go to

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/santa-rosa-police-fired-unauthorized-rounds-at-black-lives-matter-protester/?artslide=0> for an update of what happened along with several pictures. After listening to the presentation, I have concluded that what they were saying was what they have been saying ever since 13-year-old Andy Lopez was shot and killed by a Sonoma County sheriff. Here is the link to watch the city council meeting addressing these issues:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=834757640494756&ref=search> We all need to pay attention to what is happening with law enforcement in our community and some of the enforcement tools they are considering.

Our next meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, May 20 from 6:30–8:00 p.m.** and will be a planning meeting. Please attend the meeting as we need feedback from the membership whether to continue having a chapter in Sonoma County. FYI, we are the only chapter north of San Francisco. Looking forward to seeing you.

Something to think about: *“Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. **From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says, “Disarm, disarm! The sword is not the balance of justice.” Blood does not wipe out dishonor nor violence indicate possession.**”* — Excerpt from the *Mother’s Day Proclamation* by **Julia Ward Howe** (May 27, 1819–October 17, 1910), who was an American

poet and author, known for writing "[The Battle Hymn of the Republic](#)" and the original 1870 pacifist [Mother's Day Proclamation](#). She was also an advocate for [abolitionism](#) and a [social activist](#), particularly for [women's suffrage](#).

—Elaine Holtz, President

(photo of Julia Ward Howe from Wikipedia Commons)

[View this email in your browser](#)

Join Us on May 20!

Dear members and friends,

Here is the information for the NOW meeting of Thursday, **May 20, 2021 from 6:30–8:00 p.m.**

Planning Meeting: What's Next for Our Chapter?

Check in a few minutes early so we can start promptly at 6:30. Note, this is a **new** Zoom link and passcode.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82846374496?pwd=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtqa1Nkc2tYQXkydz09>

Meeting ID: 828 4637 4496 **Passcode:** 035853

Phone in Numbers:

+1 669 900 9128 (San Jose)

A Tale of Three Sisters: The McGaugheys



Anabel, Frances, and Elizabeth

McGaughey all moved to Sonoma County between 1876 and 1881, and helped put the area on the map. Frances came first—in 1876—and was a lawyer who became the first female County Superintendent of Schools between 1886 and 1892. She also was the second female lawyer in the county. Dr. Anabel McGaughey Stuart and her younger sister Elizabeth came in 1881 to Santa Rosa. Anabel and her husband Absalom both were doctors who moved their practice from Santa Barbara. Anabel was the first female physician in Santa Rosa Elizabeth, too, was special. Gaye LeBaron wrote in 2019 that she “was the third woman accredited from the University of California’s School of Pharmacy. She owned a drug store at the turn of the century, across from the courthouse.” (LeBaron, *Press Democrat*, March 10, 2019).

Also, May 4, 2021 is the birthday of Anabel. She was born in 1840 and died in 1914.

For more on these three remarkable women, here are two articles, both written by Gaye:

https://www.newspapers.com/clip/22971979/the-press-democrat/?fbclid=IwAR3F4_2IC8Mk06vm6pbj1BYdH3-5XpVjbnPNbfSTP0yy6Fa-OMT4FXNSt-A
and <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/celebrating-womens-suffrage-jennie-colvin-was-the-first-woman-in-sonoma-c/?artslide=3>

For details on Frances, read this blog: <http://santarosahistory.com/wordpress/page/2/>

There is news on Elizabeth from her obituary in 1930, but I was unable to locate any pictures of her. <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/22972078/the-press-democrat/>



by Amy Nykamp



Women in Black

From time to time, our NOW chapter shares information about women’s activist groups around our area. Many of us are members of more groups than we can count!

[Women in Black](#) (shown above in Edinburgh, Scotland, 2010) is perhaps the most constantly *visible* activist group, if one is in a central area of a town, anywhere in the world. But we are also one of the least heard and known about. One reason for that is that Women in Black is leaderless, does not tend to do publicity, and most of our vigils are silent. We do not have an “organization,” we are just women who stand for peace and justice.

Here in Sonoma County, Women in Black stand in Santa Rosa (perhaps on hold for

the pandemic?) and Sebastopol. And there are many more throughout California. It is unknown exactly how many Women in Black vigils exist around the world, but there are at least 150. Wikipedia says there are at least 10,000 participants worldwide.

Here is an excerpt from the main Women in Black home page:

Who are Women in Black?

Women in Black is a worldwide network of women committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to injustice, war, militarism, and other forms of violence. As women experiencing these things in different ways in different regions of the world, we support each other's movements. An important focus is challenging the militarist policies of our own governments. We are not an organization, but a means of communicating and a formula for action.

Women in Black started in Israel in 1968. Here is an excerpt from Wikipedia:

Responding to what they considered serious violations of [human rights](#) by Israeli soldiers in the [Occupied Territories](#), the women held a vigil every Friday in central Jerusalem, wearing black clothing in mourning for all victims of the conflict. Initially the group had no name but it was quickly identified with the black clothing, which also helped create distinctive demonstrations which were hard to ignore.^[2]

The initiative soon spread to various other locations in Israel, with women standing weekly in main squares of cities or at junctions on inter-city highways. As was decided early on, the movement did not adopt any formal program other than opposition to the occupation. Local groups were autonomous in deciding such issues as whether or not to open participation to men as well as women, and there were many shades of political difference from one place to another.

In our Sebastopol Women in Black group, we are one of a number of groups standing at the four corners of Highways 12 and 116 from noon to 1 p.m. most Fridays. It's high visibility, and literally thousands go by who see our signs. I think it is just about the best

publicity for any cause that needs expression, both because of the numbers of vehicles going by and because of their wide political spectrum. We are not preaching to a choir or speaking to a rally of folks who already agree with us. As a matter of fact, there is almost always a group of right-wingers who stand on one of the corners with signs and flags. It's always interesting! Sometimes you might see some NOW signs; it would be great to see more! Often, pedestrians who have never heard of NOW or WIB stop and get info from us. And you may get a sighting of the wonderful and brilliant Edythe Briggs, in her late 90s with her walker, with Code Pink signs.

Right now, as we are striving to increase awareness of the Equal Rights Amendment, gun legislation, abortion rights, and of course our local and national issues around sexual predation, is a great time to help get the word out. Anyone is welcome to come and peacefully stand with a sign, and it really does do a lot of good. Of course we wear masks and stand well apart!

—Carol Singer

May dates to celebrate

- **May 1, 1837** – **Mary Harris "Mother" Jones**, activist
 - **May 4, 1840** – **Anabel McGaughey Stuart**, first Sonoma Co. woman physician
 - **May 5** – **Cinco de Mayo**
 - **May 10** – **Mother's Day**
 - **May 12, 1924** — **Elaine "Woody" Schwartz**, Sonoma County activist
 - **May 25, 1889**– **Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson**, nonviolent resistance pioneer
 - **May 27, 1819** — **Julia Ward Howe**, activist/poet, creator of original 1870 Mother's Day Proclamation
 - **May 27, 1907** — **Rachel Carson**, conservation pioneer, author
-

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

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

Contact us: 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

Mail with check to: National Organization for Women,
1100 H Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005



1/2021





Copyright © 2021 NOW Sonoma, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

NOW Sonoma
PO Box 6223
Santa Rosa, Ca 95406

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

