



## June 2021 News

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### *Transitioning*

Dear NOW Members,

June is busting out all over, and it is wonderful to see all the flowers and vegetables growing. We had our first gladiolus appear and it was a beautiful orange. It is delightful to watch each one of the petals opening, sitting on our kitchen table.

As I informed you last month, I am stepping down as president at the end of this month. I was concerned that I would not have a replacement, and I am happy to announce **Amy Nykamp** has come forward and said

she would welcome the job. Amy has a great resumé, works with the Sonoma County Library, and helped us research when we were producing the 2020 Calendar celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

During our May meeting, the Executive Board formalized her nomination. This is an important time for women to come together again. We also enjoyed a presentation from the new NOW Chief of Staff, **Monique Alcala**. In listening to her, I felt more assured that the national organization was moving forward, and how important it is that we continue to have a NOW chapter in Sonoma County. Monique will be providing us the support we need to build the chapter.

Ever since I first went on the air with Women's Spaces (in 1977), my theme song has always been "The Woman in Your Life is You," sung by **Alix Dobkin**, who graciously allowed me to use the song, which spoke to such a strong part of me. Dobkin, an outspoken folksinger who celebrated women in general and lesbians, and who made music history in 1973 when she released "Lavender Jane Loves Women," generally considered the first full-length album by, for, and about lesbians, died May 19 at her home in Woodstock, N.Y. She was 80. I did a tribute to her on Women's Spaces and you can go to [Women's Spaces](#) and listen to the 2014 interview that I was blessed to do with her.

I hope to see more members at the meetings. This month's meeting will be happening via Zoom on **Thursday, June 17th from 6:00–8:00 p.m.** **The first half-hour will be our business meeting. The program will begin at 6:30.** We need to gather more and get involved with many of the issues that are happening.

For this month's meeting we will have a presentation by **Nancy**

**Rogers**, Vice President of the North Bay Black Chamber of Commerce, who will give us a history lesson on what the annual Juneteenth celebration is all about. Our second presenter will be **Karen Schneider**, who is the dean of the library at Sonoma State University, and who is a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. She will speak about Pride Month and women's activism for that community. There will also be time for Q&A.

I encourage you to come and support this program and let our community know that as NOW women we care about racial and social justice, and want to know and learn. I believe that solidarity among women is the key to justice and peace. See below or the events page on our [website](#) for Zoom instructions. See you all on the 17th, and please make it to the business meeting. Your input is important, and please invite a friend.

**Something to think about:** "Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility." —**Anna Eleanor Roosevelt** was an American political figure, diplomat, and activist. She served as the First Lady of the United States from March 4, 1933, to April 12, 1945, during her husband President Franklin D. Roosevelt's four terms in office, making her the longest serving first lady of the United States.

—*Elaine Holtz, President*

*The photo of Elaine was taken at the Juneteenth Festival in 2019; Elaine was reading the Women's Spaces Pledge to the children.*

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***Join Us on June 17th for Juneteenth and Pride  
Month History!***

Dear members and friends,

Here is the information for the NOW meeting of Thursday, June 17, 2021 from 6:00–8:00 p.m.

**Agenda:**

6:00–6:30 - Business Meeting

6:30–7:00 - Nancy Rogers presents Juneteenth History

7:00–7:30 - Karen Schneider presents Pride Month History

7:30–7:45 - Q&A

7:45–8:00 - Celebrating Elaine Holtz's Presidency

You are encouraged to attend the business meeting. Check in a few minutes early so we can start promptly at 6:00.

**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)

Locations outside the United States

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kebNSIm8Js>

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## ***Juneteenth and Pride Month***



June has long been known as a month for graduations and weddings, but it has special significance for the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities. The celebration of Juneteenth ("June Nineteenth") is the longest running commemoration of the end of slavery, which occurred in Galveston, TX on June 19, 1865. That day became an annual celebration in 1866. While not yet a national holiday (156 years later!), this is something to strive for: 47 states have adopted it as a holiday, but there are still a few holdouts and Congress has not yet passed any bills that have come before it (Source: [History Channel](#), April 20, 2021) The Juneteenth flag image is shown on the left, above.

June is also known as Pride Month and the image at above right is the "Pride flag variant based on Daniel Quasar's 2018 design combining elements of the Philadelphia flag and the trans pride flag, and brown and black." (Source: [Wikimedia](#)) (Daniel Quasar released the file under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 license.) "The first Pride march in New York City was held on June 28, 1970, on the one-year anniversary of the [Stonewall Uprising](#)." (Source: [Library of](#)

[Congress](#)). To learn more of this history and women's activism toward further equal rights for the LGBTQIA+ community, please join us to hear Karen Schneider's presentation on June 17th.

by Amy Nykamp

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***June 19***

***Sonoma County's 51st Juneteenth Festival  
- A Celebration of Diversity and Inclusion  
(Via Zoom)***



Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation--which had become official January 1, 1863.

The first Juneteenth celebration in Sonoma County happened in 1954 and was organized by Martel Perry and took place at her 10-acre property on South Wright Road in Santa Rosa and continues today as a family event. In 1970, the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Festival began and continued until 1982. When MLK became a national holiday in California, the name was changed to MLK/Juneteenth and is celebrating their 51st year via Zoom on June 19.

Juneteenth is both a celebration along with a reminder of the ending of slavery. This year the festival will honor the first year since the murder of George Floyd.

This year's presentation will include performances by **Zakiya Hooker**. **Zakiya Hooker** was born in the Motor City--Detroit, Michigan--but she was also born into the blues. You could even say she had a front-row seat to the best the genre had to offer, right in her own living room--her dad was the renowned blues giant, John Lee Hooker. The blues has literally been with her from birth. She made her debut performance in 1991 with her legendary father at the Kaiser Center Theatre in Oakland, CA. You can read her entire bio and listing of all her albums and performances go to: <https://www.zakiyahooker.com/>

**Also included in this year's celebration:** James Coffee's band "None but the Righteous;" Spoken word: "Slave, Emancipation, Reconstruction;" Children of Africa Dance; the Prayer Chapel Singers and Presentation of Scholarships by

Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow.

This year's sponsors are: The Black Forum, Blacks United, Safe Harbor, [Unitarian Universalists of Santa Rosa](#), KBBF 89.1FM, Red Rose Catering, Lee Pierce, President of the Northbay Black Chamber of Commerce.

**For additional information and to register go to:**

[www.sonomacountyjuneteenth.com](http://www.sonomacountyjuneteenth.com)



## **Sunrise Movement March in Santa Rosa**

On May 28, Sunrise Movement youth began a 270-mile march from Paradise, California, the site of the deadliest wildfire in state history, to San Francisco calling for a Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) that would create millions of good paying jobs transitioning our economy to

sustain our people.

The Sunrise Movement is a youth-led movement that aims to stop the climate crisis and create millions of good jobs in the process. They are creating a movement of young people to stop the corrupting influence of fossil fuels on politics, make climate change an urgent priority, and elect leaders who stand up for the health and well being of all people.

The group ended the first leg of the march with a rally at Juilliard Park in Santa Rosa. After the rally they continued the march with the goal of arriving in San Francisco on June 12, marching to the homes of Senator Dianne Feinstein and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to voice their concerns encouraging them to vote yes on the CCC bill.

***(Please send a message to Sens. Pelosi and Feinstein also—we can all help!)***

Outgoing SoCo NOW President Elaine B. Holtz, co-producer with Ken Norton of the Women's Spaces radio show, interviewed Coordinator Christine Byrue and marcher high school student Maddy Ruddell about the march and their goals. You can listen to the interview on

<http://womensspaces.com/ArchiveWSA21/WSA210607.html> and find out about the march and additional information about the Sunrise Movement. The Press Democrat had an in-depth article on <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/activists-march-266-miles-for-biden-plan-to-combat-climate-change/> that we suggest you read.

Our youth is our future, and we must support all their efforts to

educate people on some of the solutions to climate change and job programs.

—Elaine Holtz

*Photo by Ken Norton*

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Urgent action—

Republican senators are blocking Violence Against Women Act!

Frustrated about violence against women?

**Here's something we can do right now.**

**Protect abuse survivors.**

**Help spread the word, especially to your contacts in states with Republican senators.**

[Link to NOW VAWA action page](#)

WHAT CAN I DO? Make sure this critical bill gets much needed bi-partisan support by contacting your Senator, voicing your support of VAWA, and urging them to ensure its passage.

Contacting Republican Senators to urge support is particularly important.

HOW DO I DO IT? Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and be connected to your Senator's office. [Here is also a directory of current Senators](#), where you can find their websites and ways to contact them online. If you can call during the time when senators are home in your state, you can contact one of their several in-state offices. Just check their Senate websites to find contact information.

WHAT DO I SAY? "I am calling to urge Senator [NAME] to vote in favor of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and show their support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. This is a critical step needed to allow the rights, safety, and protection of women to be supported by the letter of the law for ALL constituents of [STATE]."

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Women are still earning 77 cents to every man's dollar.

**H.R. 7 is up for a vote soon.**

Flash! Call your representative, write letters to the editor, spread the word!

Here is a link to [NOW's information page on HR 7](#).

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## June dates to celebrate

- **June 10, 1963** – Equal Pay Act enacted
- **June 11, 1880** – Jeannette Rankin, suffragist, first woman elected to Congress
- **June 20– Summer Solstice**
- **June 23, 1972** – Title IX signed (equal access to education)
- **June 27, 1869** — Emma Goldman, anarchist, writer
- **June 27, 1880** – Helen Keller, author, activist
- **June 30, 1917** — Lena Horne, singer, civil rights activist

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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**

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**Santa Rosa, CA 95406**

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# 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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1/2021



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