



National Equality March in Washington, DC on October 11, 2009. (Photo: Tony Webster)

## July 2021 News

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### *A New Day*

Dear NOW members,

Greetings from your new chapter president! This is a new day and I am excited about what our chapter can do in this coming year, for our county, our state, and our country-- there are always ways to better the world. July is historically special for our nation, not only for our celebration of Independence Day, but also because on July 19-20, 1848, the first Women's Rights Conference was held, led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. Our July 15th meeting will feature a presentation by one of the National Women's History

Alliance board members, Ellen Snortland (bio and photo below). There is a plethora of events occurring in July specific to women's history on the [NWAHA website](#).

It's true that much of our real history has been glossed over in textbooks and, in fact, our nation has a long way to go for equality and equity for all peoples. When our founders declared our independence and wrote "all men are created equal," they were idealistic, but this was not the way they behaved. Langston Hughes understood when he wrote these lines:

O, let America be America again—  
The land that never has been yet—  
And yet must be—the land where every man is free.

*[\(Let America Be America Again\)](#)*

Many of us live in danger of hard-won rights being stripped away. Depending on our skin color, our gender identity, and our sexual preferences, we are struggling with being treated equitably and with respect. Our liberties are still in danger by authoritarians who wish to control our bodies, our voting rights, and whom we can love. We see in the news every day the polarization our society and it doesn't seem to get better. Being a member of NOW means that each of us is promising to make a difference, to work toward making the nation better than it ever has been. As Amanda Gorman so eloquently stated in her poem "[The Hill We Climb](#)":

And yes we are far from polished.  
Far from pristine.  
But that doesn't mean we are  
striving to form a union that is perfect.  
We are striving to forge a union with purpose,  
to compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and  
conditions of man.  
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us,  
but what stands before us.

Please join us on July 15th at 6:00 PM. I look forward to sharing the next year with you as we move forward in "forging a union with purpose".

--Amy Nykamp

[View this email in your browser](#)

## ***Our July Featured Speaker***



Ellen Snortland's work has been featured on NPR and Dateline NBC. Her TEDxPasadena talk encapsulates decades of her self-defense advocacy: <http://tinyurl.com/tedx-ellen> A long time women's rights advocate, she has had a column in the *Pasadena Weekly* for decades. Her acclaimed one woman show, "Now That She's Gone" is a memoir about growing up Norwegian American in Colorado and South Dakota staged at the Edinburgh and New York Fringe festivals. Snortland has attended United Nations world conferences and annual UN meetings as an NGO delegate, self-defense advocate and UN Press Corps credentialed journalist. "Beauty Bites Beast," a full length documentary feature based on her self-defense advocacy has screened all over the world including New York, Islamabad and Jerusalem. You can view the movie's teaser here: <http://tinyurl.com/BBB-Trailer-2016>

The Los Angeles Press Club awarded Best Column of 2018 to her. She is on many boards, local, national and global. She is a proud board member of the National Women's History Alliance and Consumer Watchdog.

She lives in Altadena, CA, USA, with her beloved husband and life partner, Ken Gruberman and is the mother of two naughty dogs. Her web site is:

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

## *Join Us on July 15th!*

Dear members and friends,

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

### **Agenda:**

6:00–6:30 - Business Meeting

6:30–7:30 - Presentation by Ellen Snortland

7:30–7:50 - Q&A

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=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtqa1Nkc2tYQXkydz>

09

**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/82846374496?pwd=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtqa1Nkc2tYQXkydz>



## Faces—Portraits of Dignity in the Face of Adversity

“Faces: Portraits of Dignity in the Face of Adversity” is now on display at the Santa Rosa Arts Center. The exhibit is spearheaded by Kathleen Finigan, a volunteer for the Homeless Action advocacy group in Sonoma County. According to Finigan, “the exhibit offers an opportunity to have a close-up look at homeless individuals and see the humanity and love in their eyes.” The photographs were taken by photographer Salvador “Poco” Sanchez-Strawbridge, who took the photos at two churches that served food to the homeless.

You can read a great article in the *Press Democrat* about the exhibit:

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/entertainment/faces-photo-exhibit-on-homeless-returns/>

The Santa Rosa Art Center is located at 312 South A Street, Santa Rosa. The photos will be on display from July 2–31. For additional information go to [santarosaartscenter.org](http://santarosaartscenter.org).

—Elaine Holtz

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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]."

#### **UPDATE!**

**Because of the filibuster, a long list of measures and efforts are being held up including the ERA, Equal Pay, and VAWA. There is a great [article about this in the current Ms. Magazine](#). Please read it and share the link. Add a meme on your Facebook page. Getting rid of the filibuster is job one, and this effort is perfect for NOW because NOW includes working for rights of so many different oppressed groups. You can help! Send us your ideas.**

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## A Fun Discovery at the Graveyard!



Driving through Sebastopol yesterday on Highway 12, we noticed suffrage banners flapping in the breeze, and pulled over at Sebastopol Memorial Lawn. The Western Sonoma County Historical Society has placed signs next to numerous graves where suffragists are buried. They have also done this at the Green Valley and Forestville cemeteries. It's like a scavenger hunt—you can go to [Find a Grave](#) to get more info about each individual.

All these women (and some men) working so hard for our rights, and most of them I had never heard of. We stand on their shoulders.

Both the [WSCHS \(Sebastopol\)](#) and the [Petaluma](#) suffrage exhibits are still up, "thanks" to Covid-19! The Petaluma exhibit, though, will not be up much longer, and you have to tour it either virtually or in person—only once

a week, on Saturdays.

I am looking forward to going to see the Petaluma exhibit; I only saw the online virtual tour, and it is incredible. I hope you can all spread the word about these once-in-a-hundred years opportunities to be inspired by our own local foremothers. Please do spread the word and get the kids to come see them



and be inspired. When will we get another chance like this? Kids also might like to go around the graveyards and find the hidden treasures, deciphering the crumbling names on the stones. Way better than finding Waldo!

—Carol Singer

## Equal Pay Day: A look at the wage gap

For every \$1 a white man earns:



Source: Equal Pay Today Campaign based on 2019 U.S. Census data on median earnings for full-time, year-round workers



### UPDATE:

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

The **PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT, H.R. 7**,  
is now being filibustered in the Senate.

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

## July dates to celebrate

- **July 1, 1826** – **Ellen Clark Sargent**, California suffrage leader
- **July 2, 1964** – **Civil Rights Act signed**
- **July 6, 1907**– **Frida Kahlo**, Mexican artist, visionary
- **July 8, 1926** – **Elisabeth Kübler-Ross**, pioneering psychiatrist, author
- **July 16, 1862** — **Ida B. Wells**, civil rights leader, journalist, suffragist
- **July 16, 1849** – **Clara Shortridge Foltz**, California lawyer, legislation author, suffragist
- **July 19–20, 1848** — **Seneca Falls Convention** for women's rights
- **July 24, 1897** — **Amelia Earhart**, aviator, suffragist
- **July 24, 1920** — **Bella Abzug**, activist, attorney, legislator
- **July 28, 1879** — **Lucy Burns**, suffrage leader and educator
- **July 30, 1939** — **Eleanor Smeal**, NOW and Feminist Majority leader

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

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



1/2021