

SONOMA COUNTY



California Indian Library Collections

## November 2021 News

# *Native American Heritage Month*

Dear NOW members,

November marks Native American Heritage Month. We honor all those who were in this land before us and we also give thanks for the

indigenous communities who live among us now and strive to continue their heritage. In Sonoma County, there were at one time many nations and languages, millennia before any explorers arrived or any country claimed the lands. We have assimilated into English many of their words and our ancestors tried to destroy their varied cultures, considering the indigenous peoples to be “savages.”

Today, many Native Americans are relegated to reservations, with a fraction of the population realizing how terrible living conditions can be for them. I’ve always complained about the seeming plethora of casinos that have been built in this area, but until recently, never really thought about the ways in which we have suppressed opportunities for Native Americans. They need money to survive in this society and gambling, being so popular, is a major source of their income. The communities still struggle; Native Americans on reservations are among the poorest in the nation; alcoholism is rampant, and suicides among youth 15-24 are “2.5 times the national rate.” (<https://www.cnay.org/resource-hub/fast-facts/>)

Despite the past oppression and continued suppression, Native Americans are reclaiming their heritage and their sacred rituals. They are teaching their ways and beliefs to any who would learn. If you haven’t read “Braiding Sweetgrass,” by Robin Wall Kimmerer, or “An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States,” by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, I highly recommend both. The Sonoma County Library has many other recommendations of material written of and by Native Americans.

<https://sonomalibrary.org/blogs/news/native-american-heritage-month>

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For this month and December, the Sonoma County NOW chapter will have its business meeting on the third Thursdays beginning at 6:00. We welcome all who are able to attend. Our focus for the rest of 2021 is to become a bridge among all the local and national organizations that benefit women and girls to discuss how, as leaders, we can effect positive change in Sonoma County. We know we need to work on breaking bonds of racism, violence towards women, and a number of other issues. It’s impossible for one organization to be as effective as would many in collaboration and we invite those of you who are members in other social justice organizations to consider what such a collaboration would look like. We aim to hold our first meeting on the third Thursday of January, via Zoom. From that point, we can discuss whether future gatherings can be held in-person or hybrid, as the County regulations allow. We hope you will be an active participant and ask that you contact us at [info@nowsonoma.org](mailto:info@nowsonoma.org) or (707) 545-5036 with recommendations of contacts or to show interest.

--Amy Nykamp

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***Join us on Zoom November 18***

**Thursday, November 18—6:00 p.m.: Board Planning Meeting:  
Bring your ideas of moving forward into 2022!**

**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/82846374496?pwd=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtqa1Nkc2tYQXkydz09>

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Essie Parrish (Piwoya) - Kashaya Pomo Spiritual Leader

Essie Parrish (1902-1979) was a Pomo Shaman from a very young age in Sonoma County. While known for many skills, such as healing and dream interpretation, she and a co-creator compiled a dictionary of the Kashia Pomo language. She taught children their native tongue, as well as the Pomo culture. To read more on her life, go to [https://srcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/30872/Essie-Parrish\\_Final?bidId=](https://srcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/30872/Essie-Parrish_Final?bidId=).

Photo courtesy Sonoma County Library



Elsie Allen

"We began life in a basket. They were everywhere, and we used them all the time, even to play with."

Elsie Allen (1899–1990) was born in Sonoma County long before the school was built that would bear her name. She was well known for her artistry in basket weaving and she accomplished much in her 91 years, including teaching her craft at the Mendocino Art Center and as a member of the Native American Advisory Council, being instrumental in relocation of indigenous plants, threatened by a dam project affecting the Russian River area. (source:

<https://library.sonoma.edu/research/guides/regional/notablepeople/allen>)



## November dates to celebrate

- **November 3, 1937** – **Lynn Woolsey** US Representative from Petaluma, CA
- **November 5, 1857** – **Ida Tarbell**, journalist
- **November 8, 1897**– **Dorothy Day**, suffragist, activist
- **November 11, 1744** – **Abigail Adams**, rights advocate
- **November 11** – **Veterans Day**
- **November 12, 1815** — **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, abolitionist, suffrage leader, visionary
- **November 15, 1935** — **Gaye LeBaron**, Sonoma County historian, journalist, author, educator
- **November 18, 1945** — **Wilma Mankiller**, first female Cherokee Nation chief, rights advocate
- **November 22, 1943** – **Billie Jean King**, tennis star, rights activist
- **November 24, 1910**– **Lucy Covington** Colville native rights advocate
- **November 26, 1792** – **Sarah Grimké**, abolitionist, suffragist
- **November 26** – **Sojourner Truth Day** (1897–1883)
- **November 26** – **Thanksgiving**
- **November 29, 1902**– **Essie Parrish**, Pomo leader (shown above, Creative Commons photo)
- **November 30, 1900** – **Mary Lasker**, family planning pioneer

- **November 30, 1924 – Shirley Chisholm**, first African-American congressperson

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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**

**P.O. Box 6223**

**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

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



1/2021



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