



## December 2021 News

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# *Staying Vigilant*

Dear NOW members,

On December 1, about a dozen members congregated at the intersection of Main Street and Hwy 116 (in Sebastopol) in a peaceful vigil. The idea was to promote awareness of women's rights, specifically with regard to our bodies. This month, the Supreme Court is hearing arguments for the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which if lost, would mean that the 2018 Mississippi law forbidding abortions after 15 weeks would take effect. Currently, that law is on hold. *Roe v. Wade* is in danger and there are many states ready to pass their own legislation banning abortions if it's overturned as well.

As an organization specifically formed to support women's rights, this is intolerable and we must do all we can to keep the rights we have and expand them to the fullest extent we can, until we have equality! This is going to take all of us and we need decisive action. Peaceful vigils are a

start but we really need our members, you, to consider how we may be an example to other organizations in this fight against oppression.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Sonoma County NOW chapter will have its business meeting on December 16, beginning at 6:00. We welcome all who are able to attend. Our focus for the rest of 2021 and into 2022 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 will send out a poll to choose the best time for this event. 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

Photos of the Vigil are courtesy of Narayan and Janet Baltzo





[View this email in your browser](#)

## ***Join us on Zoom December 16***

**Thursday, December 16—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=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtg\\_a1Nkc2tYQXkydz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82846374496?pwd=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtg_a1Nkc2tYQXkydz09)

**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/u/kebNSIm8Js>



Congratulations to Rohnert Park's new mayor, Jackie Elward! She was elected last year as Vice-Mayor and has just stepped into the role of leading the City Council for the next year.

Photo courtesy of Jackie Elward.

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## December dates to celebrate

- **December 1, 1955** – **Rosa Parks** refuses to give up her seat on the bus to a white person
- **December 2, 1927** – **Liz Basile** (1927–2017), Sonoma County Democratic party leader
- **December 6, 1927**– **Patsy Mink** (1927–2002), first Japanese-American Congress member, rights activist, Title IX author; *Library of Congress photo above*
- **December 15, 1912** – **Ray Kaiser Eames** (1912–1988), California artist, designer, filmmaker
- **December 16, 1901** – **Margaret Mead** (1901–1978), anthropologist, author
- **December 19, 1919** – **Sally Ann Lilienthal** (1919–2006), activist, founder of Ploughshares
- **December 21** – **Winter Solstice**

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/>

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### 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

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