Dear NOW members,

While the new year has just begun, we are still struggling with women's rights--many of which are in danger of being lost, particularly those around control of our own bodies. The United States continues
to be a country where too many people are marginalized, who do not have equality in pay, benefits, or opportunities. Millions of our citizens have had their voting rights taken away. Will 2022 be the year we finally pass the Equal Rights Amendment? We can pressure Congress by holding rallies across the nation and that is exactly what the ERA Coalition has planned for Thursday, January 27th.

On another topic of prime importance at this time is that the rights we do have were won at high cost by the civil rights movements over 55 years ago. Yet, we have women in Congress badgering and denigrating other women in Congress because of the color of their skin, where they were born, what they wear, and their religious beliefs. Worse, we as a country have not called out these bullies nor have they lost their positions in our government. Their behavior is unconscionable! Lift your voices and demand of your Senators and Representatives to oust these persecutors and all those who mock our country's ideals. Stand shoulder-to-shoulder with your sisters, support them, do not denigrate them!

With all of this, Sonoma County NOW will do its part--we are organizing our own protest for January 27th and need your help! Bring your ideas to our meeting on January 20th (Zoom details below). And join in the fight for equal rights for all--the time is NOW!

--Amy Nykamp

Photo of the December 1, 2021 Vigil is courtesy of Narayan and Janet Baltzo
Join us on Zoom January 20

Thursday, January 20—6:00 p.m.: Board Planning Meeting:
Bring your ideas of moving forward in 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
/u/kebNSIm8Js

New California laws in effect this January

There are many new California laws changing or starting this year, but here are two we have been discussing here at NOW:

1. AB 1171: Spousal rape bill by Assembly Member Cristina Garcia. This bill finally modernizes our spousal rape legislation: "...Rape is rape. And a marriage license is not an excuse for committing one of society's most violent and sadistic crimes" (Garcia). NOW has been working on this issue for a long time. We can celebrate this step toward progress, and help spread the word to vulnerable friends and contacts.

2. AB 1084: Gender-neutral toys and childcare items. This applies to department stores with at least 500 employees, and fines will not be imposed until 2024, but some sources say that stores are starting to set up separate gender-neutral toy and childcare/infant care sections now. "According to the bill, separating similar items that are traditionally marketed either for girls or for boys makes it harder for the consumer to compare
products. The bill also says doing so incorrectly implies that the use of certain items by one gender is inappropriate." —ABC News

—Carol Singer

Julia Morgan, Bay Area star architect

On New Year's Eve we splurged on a long-coveted stay at the Berkeley City Club (its wonderful pool shown above). We were struck not only by the beauty of the place, but the safe feeling there. This "little castle" was designed by Morgan (1872–1957) as a sanctuary for women. It was the beginning of the Depression by the time the building was started, and the women involved were well-to-do club women. It was the early days of women's suffrage (actually, it still feels like early days!). Morgan never called herself a suffragist, but hired many women and designed with women in mind.
If you get a chance, go to the Berkeley City Club (now a co-ed hotel) and walk around the first two floors, which are open for public viewing. There is a wonderful feeling of sanctuary and safety. There is a Julia Morgan history room, and one of the exhibits is a partial list of buildings she designed—partial, but a huge list! Of course the most famous is Hearst Castle, but it would be fun to go around some Bay Area neighborhoods and view some of these gorgeous places.

Above the bar at the hotel is a photo of Morgan that is mysterious to me of her holding something in her lap. As with many Arts & Crafts designers, she designed endless details so that a building included art that you touched and saw throughout the day: linens, dishes, lamps, fixtures. She must have been working on one of those things in her lap, but it is hard to tell what it is! Go see it, and let us know.

—Carol Singer

Pool photo courtesy Carol Singer; Morgan photo from 1918 Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris student ID card
January dates to celebrate

- **January 3, 1793** – Lucretia Mott (1793–1880), abolitionist, feminist activist
- **January 3, 1917** – Louise Hallberg (1917–2017), Sonoma County naturalist, educator
- **January 3, 1926** – GracEva Gott Terell Howard (1926–2013), feminist, activist, philanthropist
- **January 9, 1859** – Carrie Chapman Catt (1859–1947), suffrage leader
- **January 10, 1870** – Maud Younger (1870–1936), San Francisco suffragist
- **January 11, 1885** – Alice Paul (1885–1977), shown above in 1918 during the peak of the suffrage fight (photo Library of Congress), suffrage leader, ERA author
- **January 12, 1907** – Mabel McKay (1907–1963), Pomo leader
• January 15, 1925 – Edythe Briggs (1925–), Sonoma County peace and rights activist
• January 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
• January 20, 1872 – Julia Morgan (1872–1957), pioneering Bay Area architect
• January 20, 1895 – Rose Gaffney (1895–1974), Bodega environmental leader
• January 23, 1921 – Marija Gimbutas (1921–1994), pioneer archaeologist
• January 27, 1942 – Kate Wolf (1942–1986), North Bay singer/songwriter
• January 29, 1822 – Harriet Tubman (c. 1822–1913, date unsure), abolitionist, activist
• January 31, 1858 – Isabelle Campbell Schindler (1858–1925), NY suffragist

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

http://www.nowsonoma.org/

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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/