

SONOMA COUNTY

**NOW**   
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN



**May 2022 News**

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## Women Unite Now!

Dear NOW friends,

The horrifying news of the leaked Supreme Court brief to overturn *Roe v. Wade* is upon us and nationwide protests are occurring as you are reading this newsletter. We all need to take immediate action or we will lose the right to choose what happens to our bodies. This will affect all future generations, too! At our next meeting, on May 16th, we will plan our chapter's own action to fight this. Bring your ideas! We held one protest in Sebastopol on May 3rd and there will be more! However, since we are such a small group, the best way may be to partner with other organizations, such as the NAACP, the Democratic Club, etc. In the meantime, see below for actions you can take from your own homes. We must not let the Supreme Court remove our right to choose!

# **Join us on Zoom, Monday, May 16 7:00 p.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82846374496?pwd=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtqa1Nkc2tYQXkydZ09>

**Meeting ID: 828 4637 4496 Passcode: 035853**

Women's March organization has proclaimed May 14 as the day they have arranged a nationwide march. According to their website, **"In partnership with Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Ultraviolet, and MoveOn, we will mobilize on May 14, 2022 and let the world know we will not take this attack on our rights silently."** Click this [link](#) to pledge to participate.

I've copied in what our National organization sent to the chapter leaders following their call to mobilization on May 3.

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## **THE WAR ON WOMEN:**

- Banning abortion has nothing to do with protecting and everything to do with controlling women's autonomy. Overturning Roe violates a woman's Constitutional rights
- The majority of the country has long supported abortion rights, proving that the forced-birth movement is nothing more than a well-financed political distraction perpetrated by right-wing extremists.
- Outlawing abortion won't stop abortions - it just stops safe abortions for the most vulnerable women.
- This decision proves the utter disrespect the justices on the right have for judicial precedent, despite testifying under oath not to let their personal beliefs conflict with their oath to uphold the Constitution. Overturning Roe is a clear dereliction of duty.

## **WHAT'S AT STAKE:**

- Privacy, individual dignity, and access to safe reproductive health care for all are the values at stake with this decision. The conservative ideologues on the Supreme Court are willing to erase these vital protections that are essential in a democracy – if they overturn Roe.
- Overturning Roe will legitimize and escalate the culture war radical conservatives are waging. If they win, they will set their sights on blocking access to contraceptives, marriage equality, affirmative action, and more.

## **WHAT CAN BE DONE:**

- The Supreme Court must be reformed so that can no longer be captured by reckless right-wingers – answerable to no one.
- We must pass the Women's Health Protection Act, putting Roe protections in federal statutes. The House of Representatives has already passed the Women's Health Protection Act – we are awaiting Senate action where there are at least 52 votes in favor of this vital legislation.
- More than a dozen states have adopted laws that protect access to abortion with several more considering similar legislation.

## **WHAT YOU MUST DO:**

- Call your federal and state legislators to urge that they take action to protect abortion care for the millions of people who depend on protections to safe care that responsible state governments are adopting into law.

- Take the fight to the ballot box by helping to elect progressive, pro-choice candidates who will work to protect women's rights in the upcoming mid-term elections. We cannot allow right-wing conservatives to consolidate legislative power at the state and federal levels. They will end access to safe abortion and block legislation that would better protect women, persons of color, and marginalized individuals.

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### Other news:

We have a YouTube channel! Thanks to our Webmaster, Ken Norton, we have a new channel and on it are videos of the recent forum we held with the candidates for Superintendent of Schools as well as the panel we hosted last August of well-known leaders in the county. The link to our channel is:

[https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCIqTr7\\_29T8COX2MNuI\\_Q8g](https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCIqTr7_29T8COX2MNuI_Q8g). We will be uploading other videos soon, so be sure to subscribe to the NOW Sonoma County Chapter.

2. Our very own Elaine B. Holtz has been nominated for Sonoma County's Poet Laureate! This is a high honor and the final decision will be announced on July 1. See below for more details on the nomination.

3. Don't forget to vote! Mail-in ballots are in the process of being sent to each registered voter. To register, go to [RegistertoVote.ca.gov](http://RegistertoVote.ca.gov) and for information on the measures/candidates, go to the [Registrar of Voters](http://Registrar of Voters) website for the June election.

[View this email in your browser](#)

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**Special announcement:** Our treasurer and former president, Elaine B. Holtz, who is also the co-producer and host of *Women's Spaces* radio show, has been nominated for the 12th Poet Laureate of Sonoma County. Nominations for Poet Laureate require that the poet be a resident of Sonoma County whose poetry manifests a high degree of excellence and who has produced a critically acclaimed body of work.

The nominee must also have demonstrated an active commitment to the literary arts in Sonoma County, must propose and perform a project of their own creation, and must agree to participate in official ceremonies and poetry events. The selection of the Poet Laureate for our county will be announced on July 1st. For additional information on the process for selection and timelines, go to <https://www.sebarts.org/poet-laureate/>

"This is truly an honor to be nominated," said Elaine. She has read many of her poems on *Women's Spaces*. You can listen to Elaine live on Mondays at 11 PM and replayed at 11:00 AM on KBBF 89.1 FM, or stream them on [www.kbbf.org](http://www.kbbf.org). All shows are archived on [www.womensspaces.com](http://www.womensspaces.com). For additional information, email Elaine at [elaineholtz@gmail.com](mailto:elaineholtz@gmail.com).



# WOMEN'S MARCH

**Bans Off Our Bodies! National Day of Action**  
**May 14, 2022**

**[PLEDGE TO MARCH](#)**



## May dates to celebrate

- **May 1 – Mary Harris "Mother" Jones** (1837–1930), activist, labor leader
- **May 2 – Nannie Helen Burroughs** (1879–1961 ), educator, rights leader
- **May 3 – May Sarton** (1912–1995), author, poet
- **May 4 – Annabel McGaughey Stuart** (1840–1914), first Sonoma County woman physician
- **May 4 – Althea Harmer Focht** (1894–1973), Sonoma County suffragist
- **May 4 – Helen Putnam** (1909–1984), first female Petaluma mayor
- **May 5 – Del Martin** (1921–2008), Bay Area feminist activist
- **May 5 – Elizabeth Seaman ("Nellie Bly")** (1864–1922), journalist, suffragist
- **May 5 – Cinco de Mayo**
- **May 8 – Mother's Day**
- **May 11 – Martha Graham** (1924–1999), dancer, choreographer
- **May 12 – Elaine "Woody" Schwartz** (1921–2008), Sonoma County activist

- **May 12 – Katharine Hepburn** (1907–2003), feminist, actor
- **May 15 – Willamina Fleming** (1857–1911), astronomer
- **May 21 – Amelia Earhart's first woman's solo transatlantic flight** (1932)
- **May 25 – Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson** (1889–1975), nonviolent resistance pioneer
- **May 26 – Dorothea Lange** (1818–11894), photographer, photojournalist
- **May 27 – Amelia Bloomer** (1921–2008), women's rights and temperance activist
- **May 27 – Julia Ward Howe** (1819–1910), activist, poet
- **May 27 – Isadora Duncan** (1877–1927), Bay Area choreographer; photo above by Genthe 1921, Library of Congress
- **May 27 – Rachel Carson** (1907–1964), conservation pioneer
- **May 30 – Memorial Day**



### *(the original)* **Mother's Day Proclamation**

by Julia Ward Howe, 1870

Again, in the sight of the Christian world, have the skill and power of two great nations exhausted themselves in mutual murder. Again have the sacred questions of international justice been committed to the fatal mediation of military weapons. In this day of progress, in this century of light, the ambition of rulers has been allowed to barter the dear interests of domestic life for the bloody

exchanges of the battle field. Thus men have done. Thus men will do. But women need no longer be made a party to proceedings which fill the globe with grief and horror. Despite the assumptions of physical force, the mother has a sacred and commanding word to say to the sons who owe their life to her suffering. That word should now be heard, and answered to as never before.

Arise, then, Christian women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts, Whether your baptism be that of water or of tears ! Say firmly : We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We, women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country, to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: Disarm, disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence vindicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of council.

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them then solemnly take council with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, man as the brother of man, each bearing after his own kind the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women, without limit of nationality, may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient, and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

— Julia Ward Howe

(painting of Howe by Elliott/Cotton, National Portrait Gallery)

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

<http://www.nowsonoma.org/>

**(707) 545-5036**

**P.O. Box 6223**

**Santa Rosa, CA 95406**

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sonomacountynow>

**YouTube:** [https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCIqTr7\\_29T8COX2MNul\\_Q8g](https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCIqTr7_29T8COX2MNul_Q8g)

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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,  
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1/2021

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