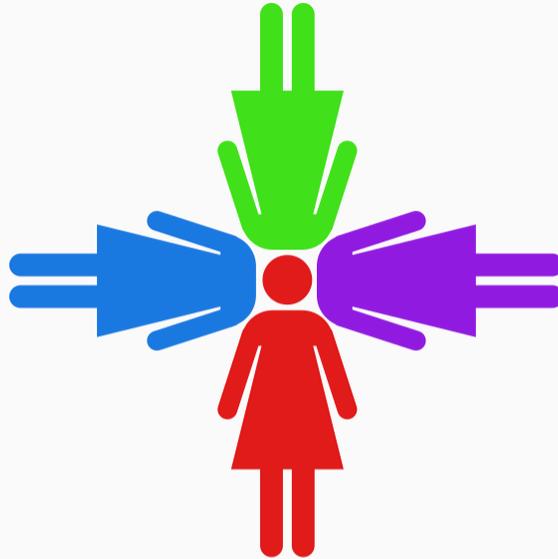


SONOMA COUNTY



Women's
History
Month

March is National Women's History Month

"Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality.

Collectively we can all [#EmbraceEquity](#)." (source:

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>)

If you've been in Sonoma County for a while, you likely know that the origins of National Women's History Month are rooted here, in Santa Rosa, specifically. National Women's History Month originated as simply a week in 1978, just in Sonoma County schools. Molly Murphy MacGregor, Mary Ruthsdotter, Maria Cuevas, Paula Hammett, and Bette Morgan founded the National Women's History Project (NWHP)

in Santa Rosa, in 1980. Prior to the NWHP, these five came up with the idea of honoring women's contributions in schools. Sonoma County adopted the idea in 1978 for one week, with March 8 as the focal point. (March 8 has been designated International Women's Day since 1911.) The event was so popular that the NWHP lobbied Congress to turn it into a national week of remembrance. President Jimmy Carter was the one who signed it into law. In 1987, the week became a month!

The NWHP became the National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) and still today comes up with the themes for each year's commemoration in March. For 2023, the theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." For more on this month's history, see the NWHHA's [website](#).

Our guest speaker this month is Dr. Catherine Meeks, and we are excited to have this author. Dr. Meeks not only has written a number of books, but also is the Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing. Please see the details in the box below. Invite your friends and neighbors. We expect to have an evening to remember! This will be recorded, so if you miss it, we will post it on our YouTube channel. Also, Elaine interviewed Dr. Meeks on February 27 during Elaine's radio program, Women's Spaces, and that recording is [here](#).

If you are not yet a NOW member or need to renew your membership, please join our growing organization! Our chapter's ID is CA0660 and you can select it when you sign up [here](#).

--Amy Nykamp, President



Photo courtesy of Dr. Catherine Meeks

Dr. Catherine Meeks Guest Speaker March 20!

**Sonoma County NOW In Collaboration with Blacks United
of Sonoma County**

**Time to have a real discussion about Racism in Sonoma
County.**

Catherine Meeks, PhD, a 2022 recipient of the President Joseph R. Biden Lifetime Achievement Award for Service, is the Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing.

She is the author of six books and one inspirational CD. Her latest book is *The Night Is Long, But Light Comes in The Morning: Meditations on Racial Healing*; she is the editor of the bestselling book, *Living Into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America*, and co-author of *Passionate for Justice: Ida B Wells as Prophet for Our Times*.

We are proud to be the Sonoma County Chapter of NOW and working with Blacks

United of Sonoma County and Women's Spaces. We hope to see all of you at this special ZOOM meeting. The time will be from 6:00-7:30 this month. **Please join us!**

March 20, 2023 Zoom Details

6:00-7:30 p.m. PST

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

Meeting ID: 828 4637 4496 Passcode: 035853

Elaine Holtz in the News!



Photo courtesy of Elaine B. Holtz and was taken during her graduation from Sonoma State University in 1975.

The *Sonoma County Gazette* just featured our current treasurer and past-president, Elaine Holtz. Elaine has been a long-time member of NOW and is very active in the Sonoma County community. She is also the host of [Women's Spaces](#) on [KBBF 89.1 FM](#). In addition, Elaine has given out thousands of copies of the special pledge on self-esteem, which she wrote for her

grandson when he was a toddler. This can be found on her website. For the full article in the *Gazette*, click on her photo.



Women's Spaces
Dedicated to ordinary women
doing extraordinary things

Pledge

My self esteem
does not depend
on anything
outside of me.

My self esteem
depends
on my relationship
with myself
and
my Higher Power.

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Reproductive Freedom – Where Do We Go from Here?

Come hear Gilda Gonzales, CEO of Planned Parenthood Northern California, talk about the future for reproductive freedom. Learn more about the situation today, what is being done and how to positively affect the future of this critical component of women's health care.

March 8 3:00 – 4:30

Finley Community Center
2060 West College Ave., Santa Rosa

Light refreshments will be served.

*This event is free but **RSVPs are REQUIRED** to reserve a seat since space is limited.*

Please RSVP by February 21 to Deanna Beerman at deannabeerman@att.net

Presented by Santa Rosa AAUW (American Association of University Women)

Questions to AAUW Public Policy Chair, Ty Worley doughtysky@comcast.net





Special dates in March

- 8 International Women's Day
- 10 Harriet Tubman Day (1822–1913)
- 12 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 13 Janet Flanner (1892–1978), author, journalist
- 14 Sylvia Beach (1887–1962), writer, publisher
- 15 Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1932–2020), Supreme Court Justice
- 18 Elaine Holtz (1940–), Sonoma County rights leader
- 20 Spring Equinox
- 22 Sarah Latimer Finley (1848–1937), Sonoma County suffragist
- 24 Matilda Joslyn Gage (1826–1898, shown above, Creative Commons photo), suffrage and Native rights leader
- 24 Alma de Bretteville Spreckels (1881–1968), Bay Area philanthropist, reformer
- 25 Gloria Steinem (1934–), women's rights leader, author, suffragist
- 26 Sandra Day O'Connor (1930–), first woman Supreme Court Justice
- 27 Sarah Vaughan (1924–1990), singer

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



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