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 (NWHA) 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 NWHA's website.

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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.

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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
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.


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=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtqa1Nkc2tYQQXkydz09
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.

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 deanna.beerman@att.net

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

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

Planned Parenthood
empowering women since 1881
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/

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Santa Rosa, CA 95406

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/sonomacountynow
YouTube: https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCIgTr7_29T8COX2MNoL_Q8g

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