

## Women's History Month! Read All About It!

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Greetings! The photo of Shirley Chisholm's campaign poster above ties in two important reminders for March: Voting and Women's History Month.

First, there is a flurry of preparations before our California Primary election on March 5th! There are just a few days left before the Primary and if you haven't yet turned in your ballot, I encourage you to do so today so it can be counted. If you haven't registered, the February 20th deadline has passed for doing so, but you can still vote at the polls with a Same-Day conditional ballot. Click [here](#) for more information found on the California Secretary of State site.

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As it is Women's History Month now, we are honoring our sisters in history, beginning with Jean O'Leary, who co-founded National Coming Out Day and worked tirelessly for lesbian and gay rights. We also honor Molly Murphy McGregor, co-founder of what is now the National Women's History Alliance, and one of the main advocates for having Women's

History Month. Read about both of them and their successes further in the newsletter.

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After a very successful forum for our February event, we will host Kirstyne Lange, President of the Sonoma County NAACP branch, at our March 18th meeting. Kirstyne will speak to us of Black women who have contributed to our history and will also underscore the work that the branch is doing in and for our county. This promises to be another great community engagement and we encourage you to tell your friends to join us. Kirstyne appeared this week on the KBBF 89.1 FM radio program, Women's Spaces, where she was interviewed by Elaine B. Holtz, our treasurer. Click [here](#) for the recording.

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### **March 18, 2024 Zoom Details**

*7:00-8:00 p.m. PDT*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82846374496?pwd=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtqa1Nk](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82846374496?pwd=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtqa1Nkc2tYQXkydz09)

[c2tYQXkydz09](#)

Meeting ID: 828 4637 4496 Passcode: 035853

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We received word today that the National Women's Hall of Fame 2024 Inductee Ceremony will be broadcast on Sunday, March 24th on the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN). The hour-long ceremony will begin at 8 PM ET (5 PM PT). Among those being inducted are Ruby Bridges, Kimberlé Crenshaw, and Serena Williams. More details can be found on the [site](#).

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There are many special historical events and celebrations in March. We have listed a fraction of them below.

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If you are interested in joining our board, please write to [info@nowsonoma.org](mailto:info@nowsonoma.org). We'd love to be able to do more in the county and need your skills for many different types of special projects, including planning upcoming events.

--Amy Nykamp, President

(Photo from [Library of Congress stock](#), free to use and reuse)

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## Women's History Month!

\*Jean O'Leary (1948–2005), lesbian and gay rights activist, founder of Lesbian Feminist Liberation, one of the first lesbian activist groups

in the women's movement, was an early member and co-director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and co-founded National Coming Out Day (first celebrated in the U.S. on October 11, 1988).

Lesbian Feminist Liberation was originally the Lesbian Liberation Committee and a part of the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA). In 1972, when the members felt the GAA was not giving enough focus to lesbian and feminist issues, they left GAA and formed Lesbian Feminist Liberation.

\*Extracted from [Wikipedia](#).

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\*\*In 1980, the National Women's History Project (NWHP) was founded in Santa Rosa, California by Molly Murphy MacGregor, Mary Ruthsdotter, Maria Cuevas, Paula Hammett, and Bette Morgan to broadcast women's historical achievements.

The NWHP started by leading a coalition that successfully lobbied Congress to designate March as National Women's History Month, now celebrated across the land. Since the beginning, the project has established a theme for women's history studies each year and provided resources and materials for education and celebration of the women honored.

In 2018, the project transitioned to the National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) to better support the study and celebration of women's history all year long. The NWHHA continues to employ the collaborative spirit of the original project and works with women's

history organizations throughout the country to ensure that the contributions of women are remembered and celebrated.

Today, NWHHA is known nationally as the only clearinghouse providing information and training in multicultural women's history for educators, community organizations, and parents—or anyone wanting to expand their understanding of women contributions to U.S. history.

\*\*Extracted from the National Women's History Alliance [site](#).



*Sarah Latimer Finley (U. of Oregon Libraries photo)*

## **Special Dates in March: Teach Women's History!**

1 – Women's History Week is first observed in Sonoma County,

California in 1978

4 - Jeannette Rankin (R-MT) took her seat as the first female member of Congress, 1917

Frances Perkins becomes United States Secretary of Labor, the first female member of the United States Cabinet, 1933

Jean O'Leary (1948–2005), lesbian and gay rights activist, founder of National Coming Out Day

5 **Election Day**—help get out the vote!

8 - **International Women's Day**, whose origins trace back to protests in the U.S. and Europe to honor and fight for the political rights of working women

10 Daylight Savings Time begins; spring forward!  
Harriet Tubman Day (c. 1822–1913)

12 Maria Rifo (1908–2006), co-founder Alternatives to Violence Project

14 Sylvia Beach (1887–1962), writer, publisher

15 Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1932–2020), Supreme Court jurist, feminist hero

17 St. Patrick's Day

**18 NOW event: Women's History and the Sonoma Co. NAACP**

Elaine B. Holtz (1940– ), past president Sonoma County NOW,  
feminist leader

19 Spring begins

22 Sarah Latimer Finley (1848–1937), Sonoma County suffragist,  
*shown above*

24 Matilda Joslyn Gage (1826–1898), suffrage leader, native rights  
leader

Alma de Bretteville Spreckels (1881–1968), Bay Area  
philanthropist/reformer

25 Gloria Steinem (1934– ), women's rights leader, author, activist

Barbara Jordan (1936–1996), US Representative, rights leader


28 Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann Dowsett (1861–1929),  
Hawaiian suffrage leader

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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](#). If you prefer to write a check, here is a form you can clip and mail.

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**MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM**

**Sonoma County Chapter #CA0660**

Regular membership: \$40/year

3-year membership: \$110

Reduced Dues: \$10-30/year

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail with check to:** National Organization for Women  
1100 H Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005

5/2023

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

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

**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/>



**Our mailing address is:**

NOW Sonoma  
PO Box 6223  
Santa Rosa, Ca 95406

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