



Rose Gaffney, Sonoma County environmental hero, 1960s

(WSCHS photo by John LeBaron)

Sonoma County NOW April 2024 Newsletter

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Hello NOW Friends!

On March 18, our chapter hosted Kirstyne Lange, president of the Sonoma County NAACP branch, who gave us a presentation of a number of women who changed history for us, including Ida B. Wells, the Reverend Dr. Pauli Murray, Angela Davis, Ruby Bridges, and others. This history then segued into today's world and what the branch is actively working on in Sonoma County to combat racism wherever it is found. The [recording](#) of this is on our YouTube channel and I encourage you all to watch it as it is quite inspiring. To learn more about the NAACP and the Sonoma County branch in particular, go to their website [here](#).

Our state conference is August 10th—save the date! The theme is "Moving Forward and Igniting Change." This year the conference will be held in Santa Rosa, at the Presbyterian Church of the Roses. Many thanks to our treasurer, Elaine B. Holtz, for finding the venue! We expect people from all over the state to attend and we can use volunteers to help in the days leading up to and including the conference. The conference will be a hybrid one, though attending in-person is preferable. More details to come as well as a call for volunteers.

Proposals are in the process of being submitted. If you wish to submit a proposal (**due April 8**), here are the instructions from CA NOW:

- The workshops should focus on the topics selected by the 2024 Conference Committee, which include Ending Violence Against Women, Election 2024, Equal Rights Amendment, Racial Justice, or Self-care for Activists.
- Each workshop should have at least two presenters, and at least one be a NOW member.

Additionally, we encourage diverse presenters and panelists to submit a proposal summary.

There's still time for your voice to be heard! Click [here](#) to submit your idea and the state conference committee will make decisions as to presenters in a few weeks.

The 54th Annual Juneteenth Celebration will be held in the MLK Park in Santa Rosa on June 15th. To find out how to become a sponsor., please click [here](#). This website will also give many more details about the celebration, including being a vendor or a volunteer. We hope you will attend this important festival.

Calling all members! We'd love to get to know you better. We are looking for submissions to appear in the newsletter, such as a short bio, an event you wish NOW members to attend, an article you find important and think our readers would appreciate, a poem you've created, even a photo of you. Up to two submissions per member allowed at a time and these will be published at the discretion of the editor. Please send submissions to info@nowsonoma.org. Our newsletter deadline is the 25th of each month. We hope to hear from you!

To start this concept off, we have included two poems by Elaine B. Holtz. See below.

This month is a general membership meeting; while there is no presenter, if you attend, you will learn more about the inner workings of our chapter. You can help by sending in a contribution to our chapter so that we can expand our presence in Sonoma County. See below for how to contribute.

April 15, 2024 Zoom Details

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82846374496?pwd=WIA0cE5CaFczUUtqa1Nkc2tYQXkydz09>

Meeting ID: 828 4637 4496 Passcode: 03585

If you are interested in joining our board, please write to 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, particularly as we consider how we might further partner with the NAACP and other organizations.

—Amy Nykamp, President

Elaine B. Holtz has been a member of Sonoma County NOW for decades and in addition to being our past president and current treasurer, also is host of [Women's Spaces](#), a weekly program on KBBF 89.1 FM. She also writes poetry in her spare time. Here is her special pledge that she has taught to hundreds of people over the years as well as a poem she wrote recently.



Women's Spaces

.com (inc.)

Dedicated to ordinary women
doing extraordinary things

Pledge

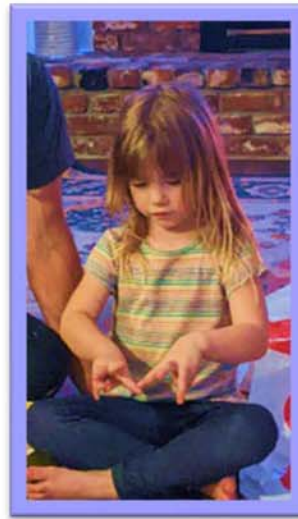
My self esteem
does not depend
on anything
outside of me.

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

© 2013 Elaine B. Holz

Soft Little Hand – by Elaine B. Holtz

It was a simple act.
Her innocent hand in mine,
So, trusting, so soft, so small.
Walking into the theater
We smiled at one another.
As we walked in step,
I asked.
When did all this happen?
I was just a mother,
Then grandmother,
Now great grandmother.
In a blink of an eye,
83 years have gone by.
What did I do in all that time?
I know at times I felt good.
At times I felt bad.
And sometimes I felt so sad
Tears would fall from my
eyes.



In the back of my mind
I would hear the children's cries,
Crying for a better place to be.
Oh, oh if we could all only see,
The children are crying for
Justice and Peace.
Oh, that soft little hand,
That soft, little hand.

Do you like our events?

Your contributions can help our chapter grow and provide more exciting speakers. We accept checks and cash at this time. Coming soon--details on how to contribute directly through PayPal!

Sonoma County NOW
PO Box 6223
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

Note, while contributions are not tax-deductible, you can feel good about knowing your money is going to a great organization that will work for YOU!



Dusty Roads, labor leader and gender equality pioneer (photo from Elaine Rock)

Special dates in April

- 3 Jane Goodall (1934–), conservationist, activist
- 4 Maya Angelou (1928–2014), author, activist, poet
- 7 Billie Holiday (1915–1959), singer, songwriter
- 9 Barbara "Dusty" Roads (1928–2023), Santa Rosa labor rights leader, shown above**
- 10 Frances Perkins (1880–1965), rights leader, first female Cabinet member
- 10 Dolores Huerta (1930–), activist, co-founder UFW
- 12 Laura Lyon White (1839–1916), SF/Marin suffragist, Muir Woods co-founder
- 12 Imogen Cunningham (1883–1976), photographer
- 13 Eudora Welty (1909–2001), author
- 15 Bessie Smith (1894–1937), singer
- 22 Earth Day**
- 23 Shirley Temple Black (1928–2014), actress, diplomat
- 25 Ella Fitzgerald (1917–1996), singer
- 28 (1993) First Take Our Daughters (later Daughters and Sons) to Work Day



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

2024

[View this email in your browser](#)

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_29T8COX2MNuI_Q8g

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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NOW Sonoma
PO Box 6223
Santa Rosa, Ca 95406

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