



(Credit: Leah Halper, ProBonoPhoto.org)

February 2025 Newsletter:

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Happy February to all!

On January 18th, we had a very successful and well-attended vigil in downtown Sebastopol. There were about 100 who attended plus a lot of interested passersby. We even sang the newly-written verses by Joan Starker, "My Body Lies Under Injustice" (sung to the tune of *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*, lyrics shown below). We published it in last month's newsletter and it was a hit. Attendees at all four corners of the streets sang it several times over the course of the hour+ we were there. We made our voices known! Some photos are shown below. More photos can be found [here](#). They were taken by Leah Halper, [ProBonoPhoto.org](#).

February is Black History Month and we are still putting together a program—we will either have a speaker or we will watch a short video on the topic. Stay tuned for more information. We hope you will join us!

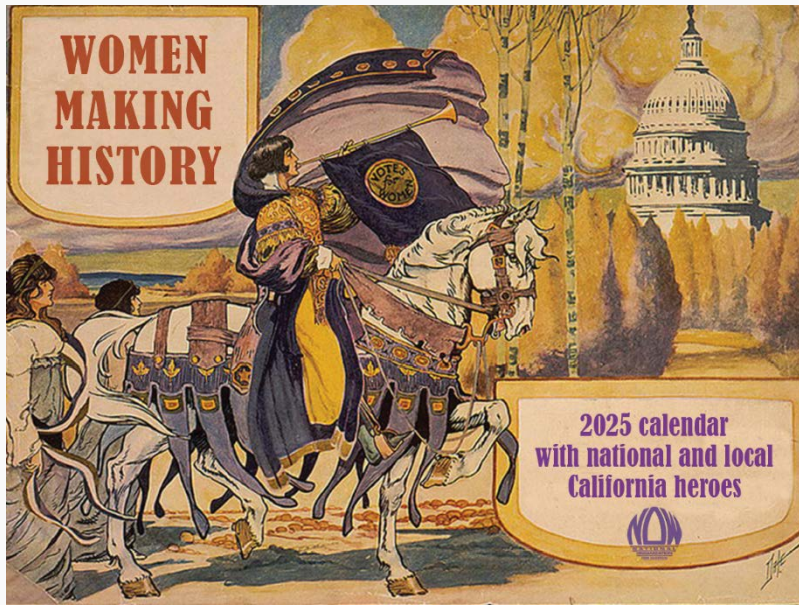
February 17, 2025 Zoom Details

7:00-8:30 p.m. PDT

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

Meeting ID: 828 4637 4496 Passcode: 035853

We were horrified to read of all of the degree and academic areas being considered for elimination from Sonoma State University and SRJC in the coming year, particularly Women and Gender Studies! We understand that SSU is facing a \$23.9 million deficit due to declining enrollment, but cutting degree programs is a terrible way to go about fixing it. Administration perhaps could use some pay cuts instead of cutting faculty and discouraging even more students to avoid the school! Here's an article from the [SSU Star](#) (student newspaper). Show your displeasure by contacting the SSU President or other administrators! You can contact the school by phone or a comment form [here](#).



It's not too late to get your historical calendars (with local women heroes) for 2025 and if you would like one, please contact us at info@nowsonoma.org. Now for a \$10 or more donation to our chapter.

Our March Women's History Month meeting will feature local author Elaine Rock. She will discuss her book on Dusty Roads, who lived many years in Sonoma County. Dusty began her career as a flight attendant (or "stewardess") and became a leading figure in the fight for women's equality. See the box below for full information on how you can get this at Amazon. We encourage you to purchase this book because it's a fascinating piece of history, but you'll enjoy Elaine's presentation nonetheless.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

— Amy Nykamp, President









[Leah Halper, ProBonoPhoto.org,](https://www.probonophoto.org/)

My Body Lies Under Injustice
(to the tune of *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*)
by Joan Starker

This is the song we loudly proclaimed at the vigil in Sebastopol on January 18th!

My body lies under injustice
My body is owned by the court
My body lies under injustice
My liberty they shall not thwart

Chorus:
Bring back, bring back, bring back my body to me, to me
Bring back, bring back, bring back my body to me.

My body lies in a back alley
My choices are no longer mine
My body lies in a back alley
My freedom I will not resign
(Chorus)

My body aches under oppression
and fights to hold on to its voice
My body aches under oppression
The only solution is choice!!

Chorus:
Bring back, bring back, bring back my body to me, to me
Bring back, bring back, bring back my body to me.

SHOUT OUT: RAISE YOUR VOICES FOR JUSTICE!

Calling All Women Under 32 ...

Only apply if you are
perpetually young, single, and attractive!

Meet Dusty Roads, the hidden figure who *really* ignited the women's movement! She became the little voice way out in the wilderness where women worked in the world of the 1950s and 60s when it was mandatory for stewardesses to:

- Wear girdles and submit to flick checks to ensure they did.
- Maintain weight standards that would be shocking and unrealistic today.
- Be willing to be paid less than men in the same job.

Phrases like sex discrimination and women's rights hadn't yet entered the nation's vocabulary. Yet.

The captivating story of Barbara "Dusty" Roads begins in the early 1950s and explores her fight against American Airlines' employment policies firing stewardesses at 32 and termination if they married. The airline's leadership belief was that female stewardesses had to be perpetually young, single, and attractive to entice traveling businessmen to buy tickets.

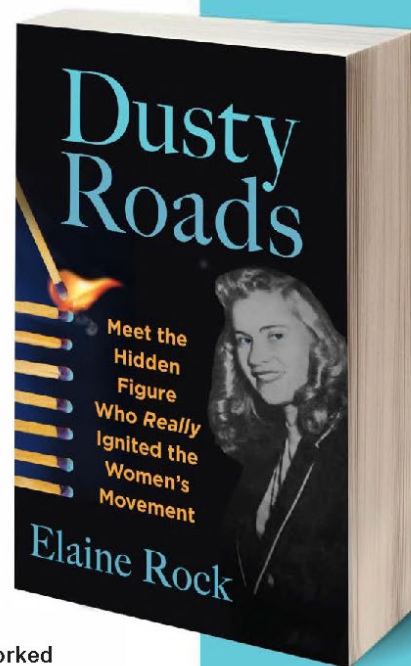
Incensed, Dusty vowed to fight the policy she worked under. She learned quickly that she was fighting for women and against national gender discrimination.



"I should be thanking you for everything you've done. You're the one who started it all!"

-Gloria Steinem

Author **Elaine Rock** used extensive interviews with Dusty Roads to bring her empowering tenacity alive for readers. Dusty was the most influential voice in her union and one of the first female lobbyists in Washington DC. Elaine is a women's rights advocate and former history teacher. Her passion is writing about little-known but courageous and heroic women and men whose persistence and resilience helped shape history and became trailblazers.



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Special Days in February

1 Dorothy Hansen (1920–2014), Sonoma Co. activist, Peace & Justice Center cofounder

National Freedom Day

Imbolc quarter holiday

2 Alice Locke Park (1861–1961), CA environmentalist and suffragist

Groundhog Day, Candlemas

3 Gertrude Stein (1874–1946), visionary artist

4 Rosa Parks (1913–2005), civil rights leader

Betty Friedan (1921–2006), feminist author, activist, NOW cofounder

9 Alice Walker (1944–), author, activist (image above from Britannica)

14 Anna Howard Shaw (1847–1919), suffrage leader

Valentine's Day/V-Day

15 Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906), suffrage leader

17 **Sonoma County NOW meeting on Zoom** (see above for link)

Presidents' Day

18 Toni Morrison (1931–2019), author/teacher

Audre Lorde (1934–1992), feminist writer

21 Helen Rudee (1918–2018), Sonoma Co. politician and feminist

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

27 Marian Anderson (1897–1993), singer, civil rights pioneer

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. You can also pay for membership or donate to us anytime by using the QR code.



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_29T8COX2MNul_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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