



Sonoma County

NOW

April 2019

President's Message

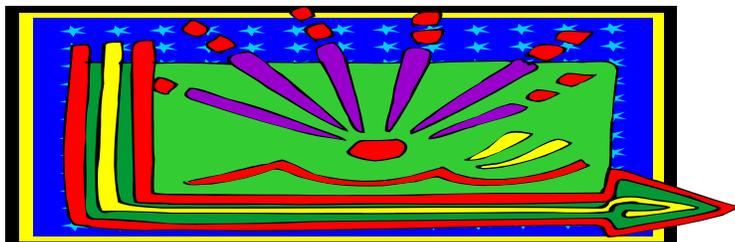
Thank you to all those who turned out to see the film, The Legacy of Mary Ellen Pleasant, at our March meeting. The film was very informative and gave us a piece of Northern California women's history. It was fun sharing pizza and some of our personal herstory. Hope to see more folks this month's meeting on Wednesday April 17.

In support of our local youth who are deeply involved in bringing attention to climate change, and the fact that their future is a stake along with demanding changes via the Green New Deal, I want to encourage people to listen to the interview on Women's Spaces with young activists Amelia Stock Cumming and Nevin Wolfe-Sallouti, seniors at Credo High School in Rohnert Park. Amelia and Nevin are members of a national youth-led organization called Schools for Climate Action, a group dedicated to supporting school districts that pass climate resolutions. This organization, led by Park Guthrie and started in Sonoma County, has already spread to nine states.

In March the two activists attended the Schools For Climate Action Advocacy Summit in Washington DC. They joined students, teachers, education-sector leaders, elected officials, and allies from around the country with the primary purpose to call on Congress to protect children and future generations by taking action on climate change now. You can hear this amazing interview on <http://www.womensspaces.com/ArchiveWSKBBF/WSA190401.html>

In support of you, fellow NOW member, and your organization, if you have any upcoming events happening please let me know. We are happy to include them in our newsletter. You can email the information directly to me at elainebholtz@gmail.com.

Something to think about: "The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." —Alice Malsenior Walker (born February 9, 1944, Eatonton, Georgia), American writer whose novels, short stories, and poems are noted for their insightful treatment of African American culture.



NOW SONOMA COUNTY MEETING
April 17, 2019
@ 1:00 P.M.
ROUND TABLE PIZZA
MARLOW & GUERNEVILLE
SANTA ROSA
Please join us



Santa Rosa's 10th Annual Earth Day OnStage Festival at Courthouse Square on Saturday, April 27th from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This fun, FREE, family-friendly festival is a great way to inspire awareness and build community through environmental protection.

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy great food, live performances OnStage, local and earth-friendly products, and eco-friendly crafts and activities for kids.

WOMEN'S SPACES
 Elaine B. Holtz Producer/Host "Women's Spaces"
www.womensspaces.com
 Show airs: **Mondays** on KBBF 89.1FM
 Calistoga Santa Rosa
Time: 11am Live and replays at 11pm

Sonoma County National Organization for Women
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**NOW Sonoma County Minutes
March 20, 2019 Meeting**

**AGENDA NOW SONOMA
COUNTY CHAPTER
April 17, 2019 MEETING**

Meeting called to order at 1:11 PM.

Introductions were made - guest, Mary Dodgion from West County Museum, in attendance

Minutes from February were approved as amended

Financial - No major changes; there was a mix up with the PO Box which is being addressed; other expenses were for the phone and computer services

Website - In spite of illness, the Newsletter was published And posted on the website.

2020 Event Update - Next big meeting is June 20 and all are getting organized
Sonoma County NOW will stick to our focus and concentrate on raising money and getting other contributors. A letter to support this action will be written. The important focus will be to determine a date for the main event.

New Business - Letter was sent on JW's behalf to address the issue of sexual assault in Middle School; a follow up will be made to request a response or there will be notification to the media.

Film and Discussion - Film on Mary Ellen Pleasant's life and contribution to the women's movement was shown with follow-up discussion.

Motion was made and seconded for Elaine to write a letter to congratulate and praise the young people who walked out of classrooms and demonstrated on Santa Rosa's Square (as did others across the globe) to focus on the urgency of climate protection.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM

Call To Order

Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Minutes of February 2019 meeting

Financial Report

Web Site Report

Newsletter Report

Old Business

New Business

Centennial Planning Report

Announcements

Adjourn



www.nowsonoma.org
info@nowsonoma.org

EARTHDAY - APRIL 22



President: Elaine B. Holtz

Recording Sec'y: Pro Tem-Eileen Bill

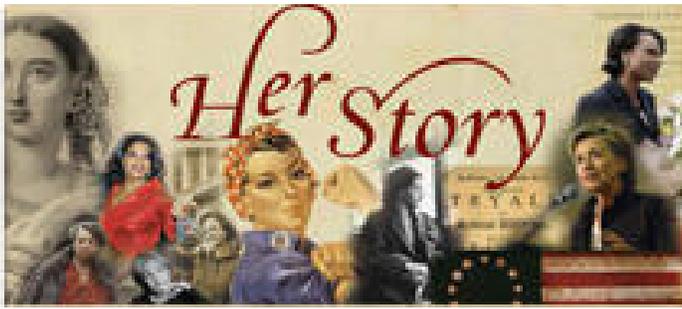
Corresponding Sec'y: MaryChouinard

Newsletter Editor: Marion Aird

Telephone Helpline: Eileen Bill

Webmaster: Ken Norton

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April Highlights in U.S. Women's History

April 2, 1931 – 17-year-old Jackie Mitchell, the second woman to play baseball in the all-male minor leagues, pitches an exhibition game against the N.Y. Yankees and strikes out both Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. The next day, the Baseball Commissioner voided her contract, claiming baseball was too strenuous for women. The ban was not overturned until 1992

April 5, 1911 – 100,000 to 500,000 people march in New York City to attend the funeral of seven unidentified victims of the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire in late March

April 7, 1805 – Sacagawea begins helping the Lewis and Clark Expedition as an interpreter

April 7, 1987 – Opening of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., the first museum devoted to women artists

April 9, 1939 – Marian Anderson sings an Easter Sunday concert for more than 75,000 at Lincoln Memorial

April 13, 1933 – Ruth Bryan Owen is the first woman to represent the U.S. as a foreign minister when she is appointed as envoy to Denmark

April 16, 1912 – Harriet Quimby becomes the first woman to fly an airplane across the English Channel

April 19, 1977 – Fifteen women in the House of Representatives form the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues

April 22 – Earth Day, honor Rachel Carson today, a woman who changed America and greatly influenced the environmental movement with her revolutionary book, *Silent Spring*

April 26, 1777 – American Revolution heroine Sybil Ludington, 16 years old, rides 40 miles on horseback in the middle of the night to warn the American militia that the British were invading

April 28, 1993 – First "Take Our Daughters to Work" Day, sponsored by the Ms. Foundation, in 2003 it became "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work" Day

NOW Applauds the House Passage of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization, Urges Senate Action

Statement by National NOW President Toni Van Pelt

April 4, 2019

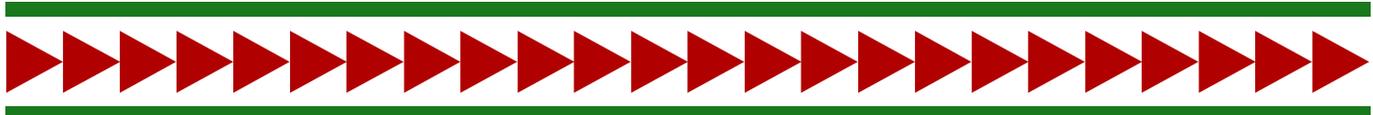
WASHINGTON – The U.S. House of Representatives took vital action today to help victims of sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and stalking by voting to reauthorize the 2019 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA / H.R. 1585). NOW leaders in the states are working with their Senators to ensure that a companion bill is passed by the Senate as soon as possible. This is a critical next step in order to establish important improvements and secure stable funding for VAWA for the next five years.

The proposed reauthorization includes a provision to close a loophole in the original Act that allows convicted domestic abusers of dating partners to have access to firearms. Opposition to this from the National Rifle Association (NRA) is motivating certain members of Congress to OPPOSE or stall the bill. The NRA wants Congress to put the second amendment rights of abusers over the lives of the women and families who might die at their hands.

VAWA 2019 contains many important improvements that will benefit victims of violence around the country including:

- *Housing protections for survivors of sexual assault.*
- *A new position at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to address domestic violence.*
- *Enhancements to the criminal justice response to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.*
- *Programs that help survivors gain and maintain economic independence.*

VAWA 2019 now moves to the Senate. NOW expects bipartisan support and a vote for passage and nothing less. Constituents in every state will be watching to see which senators are willing to prioritize the health and safety of millions of women, men and their families over the influence of the NRA.



Old Rape Kits Finally Got Inspected. 64 Attackers Were Arrested.

The Manhattan district attorney, Cyrus R. Vance Jr., committed \$38 million in forfeiture money in 2015 to help other jurisdictions test thousands of backlogged rape kits. Credit: Jeenah Moon/Reuters

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/12/nyregion/rape-kit-tests.html>

By Ali Watkins

March 12, 2019

By February 2017, Maisha Sudbeck had made peace with the idea she would never get justice. It had been five years since she was raped in Tucson by a man she had met online. The police had brushed the case off as a he-said-she-said standoff. For years, her rape evidence kit had sat untested. With two children and a new marriage, she had moved on with her life.

Then a detective knocked on her door.

The detective said a grant from the Manhattan district attorney's office had helped the Tucson authorities clear a backlog of untested rape kits, which preserve the DNA evidence left by an attacker. After five years, Ms. Sudbeck's kit had finally been tested, the detective said. And the police had found a match in a database of people with criminal records: a man named Nathan Loebe.

"My chapter was reopened," Ms. Sudbeck said. "Having my kit finally tested was a catalyst for hope."

In February, Mr. Loebe was convicted of sexually assaulting Ms. Sudbeck and six other women. Ms. Sudbeck testified against him at trial.

Ms. Sudbeck's case is one of thousands that have gotten a second look from investigators since the Manhattan district attorney, Cyrus R. Vance Jr., committed \$38 million in forfeiture money to help other jurisdictions test rape kits. Since the grants began being distributed in 2015, the evidence kits have led to 165 prosecutions in cases that were all but forgotten. So far, 64 of those have resulted in convictions.

Rarely have public dollars from a local prosecutor's office been so directly tied to results with such national implications. The initiative has paid to get about 55,000 rape kits tested in 32 law enforcement agencies in 20 states, among them the police departments in Las Vegas,

Philadelphia, Miami, Memphis, Austin, Tex., and Kansas City, Mo.

Nearly half produced DNA matches strong enough to be added to the F.B.I.'s nationwide database of genetic profiles. About 9,200 of those matched with DNA profiles in the system, providing new leads and potential evidence.

States across the country, meanwhile, have passed legislation to address the problem of untested rape kits. The Justice Department followed suit and started its own initiative, committing more than \$150 million to continue the effort.

<snip>

Using money seized from international banks in New York that were accused of violating sanctions, Mr. Vance dedicated \$38 million in grants to other law enforcement agencies to clear those backlogs. (New York City had already cleared its backlog a decade earlier.) Vice President Joe Biden announced a parallel federal program the same day.

Though the money was invested outside New York, it has helped close several cold cases in the city. "We have solved New York cases with kits tested from Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Texas, Pennsylvania and Virginia," Mr. Vance said.

<snip>

Still, even with such successes, the problem of untested rape kits persists. Advocates for rape victims estimate that about 250,000 kits remain untested across the country. Sign up for the New York Today Newsletter

<snip>

"I believe fundamentally there was a gender bias at issue," Mr. Vance said Tuesday, when asked about the backlog. "Crime mostly involving women was simply not viewed as important to solve."

<snip>

The city has seen a spike in reported rapes, a trend that the police, advocates and prosecutors attribute to the #MeToo movement encouraging more women to come forward. The Police Department has responded to the criticism by adding 55 detectives to the division and naming a chief who is a woman to lead it.

<snip>

"They are nowhere near done," Mr. Vance said.

1920-2020

Get ready to celebratE the
100 th Anniversary
Passage of 19th Ammendment



2020
WOMEN'S VOTE
CENTENNIAL
INITIATIVE

Celebration planning and
progress, visit
2020centennial.org

WVCI Purpose

The purpose of the 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative is to ensure that the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment is celebrated and commemorated throughout the United States in ways that:

- 1) include the influence and stories of the various components of the suffrage movement in ways that reflect the accuracy of the historical record;
- 2) recognize the legal and social advances resulting from the 19th Amendment;
- 3) acknowledge the inadequacies of the Amendment's implementation;
- 4) describe its continuing relevance to the ongoing struggle for equal rights;
- 5) encourage involvement in large and small activities at all levels by diverse public, nonprofit, and private organizations and individuals.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

According to new survey results taken from 8,566 American adults, 46 percent of men believe the pay gap "is made up to serve a political purpose" rather than a "legitimate issue." TIME

More than 750,000 people could lose their food stamps later this year under a new proposal by the trump administration. NPR

The number of new corals settling on the Great Barrier Reef declined by 89 percent following the unprecedented loss of adult corals from global warming in 2016 and 2017. Nature

The NRA's tax-exempt status is drawing scrutiny from regulators in New York, whose new attorney general remarked last October that the NRA isn't an authentic charitable organization but "a terrorist organization." Mother Jones

Zoltan Tamas, a former driver for the trump family, has been in ICE custody for eight months. New York Times

GOOD NEWS, VICTORIES & HEROES

The House of Representatives approved legislation renewing the Violence Against Women Act with new provisions that restrict gun ownership and expand transgender rights. NPR

The House approved a measure to cut off U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen's bloody civil war, in yet another harsh, bipartisan rebuke of trump's foreign policy. Politico

The House will sue to block trump's transfer of money to pay for a wall along the border with Mexico. Reuters

The House Judiciary Committee voted to authorize subpoenas for Mueller's full report on his investigation into Russian and the trump campaign. CBS News

A House panel voted to subpoena a former White House official accused of overturning denials for security clearances after a whistleblower complained that the trump administration had put the nation's most guarded secrets in jeopardy. Washington Post

The House Oversight Committee passed a vote to subpoena Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross for records related to the administration's decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. Axios

The chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee formally requested that the I.R.S. hand over six years of trump's personal and business

Joe Biden did what?



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Regular Membership \$40/year. \$75./two years. \$115./3 years.
Reduced dues \$15. - \$30.

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04/19

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