President’s Message

Being at the Women’s March on January 19th was a special honor. Thank you to all those who attended and who stopped by to say hello, and for your wonderful support of NOW and what we stand for. Being President is a challenging experience for me, but hearing how much the organization means gives me the energy needed to continue. A shout out to Leslie Graves, who facilitated all aspects of the event and brought together such a diverse group of speakers and organizations. The speakers were inspiring as each woman told her story reflecting the challenge of being a woman trying to make her mark in the world, particularly for women of color. Thank you all and to the volunteers (and there were many), thank you for demonstrating the meaning of community. Enjoy the pictures we have included in this issue.

We are in the month of February, Black History Month and of course the month of love and chocolate, Valentine’s Day, a perfect combination. I have been attending the gathering of those who seek to be unshackled from racial bias with Dr. Jacqueline Lawrence, and I have come to recognize that as women, i.e. white women and black women, do not know each other and the time has come to get acquainted; what a perfect month to do that. I encourage both you and myself to reach out to women who are different than you. When we get to know one another we begin to recognize that as women we are not that much different from one another. Let me know via email your experience at Elaine@womensspaces.com

Something to think about: “‘It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.’ Audre Lorde is a self-described “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet.” She dedicated both her life and her creative talent to confronting and addressing injustices of racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia. https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/audre-lorde

Wishing you a love-filled Valentine’s Day, my wish for all of us is that we find love for ourselves so we can love one another.

Rosie the Riveter Meets Wonder Woman

My choice for the Best Original Poster of the January 19, 2019 Women’s March in Santa Rosa, CA.

The Editor

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
Minutes of NOW Sonoma County Chapter  
January 16, 2019

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Introductions were made.

3. The minutes were accepted as submitted.


5. Website and Computer Work Report—Functioning well. New members list from National dated 12/2018 given to RD to start a database and add emails to MailChimp newsletter email list. M. A. has list of Women’s Network members for future PR to also be added to a database. She also has Santa Rosa Rec. & Parks rate schedule for future events. RD will look at possibility of setting up an Excel spreadsheet and/or other database for SoCo NOW.

6. Planning for 2020 Next Meeting Update—Need to get info on when the next meeting is. M. A. proposes ordering WPU buttons reproducing 1920 buttons from History Project. RD proposes ordering buttons that specifically commemorate the 100 year anniversary. RD will send EH contact info for West County Historical Society 2020 event coordinator.

7. No resolution on the Commission on the Status of Women or Human Rights Commission staff issue.


9. Radio Show (Women’s Spaces) Participation 12/24/19 (SoCo NOW President and Newsletter Editor) and 12/31/18 (Progressive Women Candidates)

10. Women’s March Jan. 19, 2019—Table is secured. NOW officers to help hold banner in front of march. Need others to hold NOW banner in march.

11. Trans Rights & Radical Feminism P&J event that NOW sponsored—Postponed and have not heard from P&J Center regarding planning meeting.

12. New Business— EH will draft appreciation letter to Nancy Pelosi and forward to steering committee.

13. Announcements—See the film On the Basis of Sex.

14. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.
February Highlights in US Women’s History

**February 1, 1978** – First postage stamp to honor a black woman, Harriet Tubman, is issued in Washington, DC

**February 4, 1987** – First “National Women in Sports Day” is celebrated by Presidential Proclamation

**February 11, 1989** – Rev. Barbara Harris became the first woman bishop in the American Episcopal Church and in the Anglican Communion worldwide.

**February 12, 1869** – The Utah Territorial Legislature passes a bill allowing women to vote

**February 15, 1921** – *The Suffrage Monument*, depicting Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott, sculpted by Adelaide Johnson, is dedicated at the U.S. Capitol

**February 15, 1953** – Tenley Albright became the first American woman to win the World Figure Skating championship

**February 17, 1870** – Esther Hobart Morris in Wyoming became the first American woman Justice of the Peace

**February 24, 1912** – Henrietta Szold founds Hadassah, the largest Jewish organization in American history, focusing on healthcare and education in the Israel and the U.S.

**February 24, 1967** – Jocelyn Bell Burnell makes the first discovery of a pulsar, a rapidly rotating neutron star

**February 27, 1922** – U.S. Supreme Court upholds the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees women the right to vote

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This group portrait monument to the pioneers of the woman suffrage movement, which won women the right to vote in 1920, was sculpted from an 8-ton block of marble in Carrara, Italy. The monument features portrait busts of three movement leaders: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott.

The monument was presented to the U.S. Capitol as a gift from the women of the United States by the National Woman's Party and was accepted on behalf of Congress by the Joint Committee on the Library on February 10, 1921.

_Rotunda U.S. Capitol_
_Artist: Adelaide Johnson_

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*This Kinda Says It All...*

The Democratically-controlled House of Representatives just passed an anti-corruption bill (HR 1) that would end partisan gerrymandering, get “dark money” out of politics, make it easier for everyone to register to vote, make it easier for everyone to vote on election day, make it harder to purge people from voter rolls, require paper ballots in order to prevent computer hacking of election results, and make it much more difficult for foreign individuals and corporations to shovel money into our elections. But Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell won’t give this bill a vote in the Senate because...

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New York Times columnist speculated that President Donald Trump has so damaged the country and poisoned the Republican Party for female voters that he may make sexist voters actually vote for a Democratic woman candidate.

According to columnist Michelle Goldberg, there are three factors that may bring to an end America’s seeming aversion to the idea of a female president—and women can thank Donald Trump for being responsible for every one of them.

Goldberg began by touching on recent history, writing, “here are many explanations for Clinton’s loss, including her campaign mistakes, Russian hacking and James Comey’s blundering investigation of her email server. But sexism pretty clearly played a role. “

But that was then and this is the Trump-era now.

“Plenty of women understood intuitively that a misogynist backlash helped Trump win his Electoral College victory. It’s why they poured into the streets the day after he was inaugurated, and why they led the Resistance ever since,” Goldberg explained. “It’s why there’s a record gender divide in voting patterns and a record number of Democratic women in the new Congress. And it’s why it’s both thrilling and slightly terrifying that the Democratic presidential field is going to have at least three strong, viable female contenders.”

According to Goldberg, having more than one female candidate to choose from—with the possibility of five or more women in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination—will make having a female candidate seem less disconcerting.

“America has never before seen a presidential primary in which this many women compete against one another. It could help to normalize female political ambition, allowing

the candidates to be individuals rather than archetypes,” the columnist explained, “oters who are hungry for female leadership won’t forced to rationalize away the flaws of a lone woman contender. Real progress is not just being able to vote for a woman, but being able to vote for the best woman.”

Goldberg went on to note the karmic retribution voters might enjoy feeling at the idea of seeing a horribly sexist Trump decisively beaten by a woman.

“To see Trump vanquished by a woman would start to heal the injury of his repulsive reign,” she wrote while conceding ingrained U.S. voter sexism might keep him afloat.

Then again, Goldberg said female resentment of Trump may override concerns—particularly if women show up to vote.

“Yet if male resentment has grown in the last two years, so has female anger,” Goldberg explained, quoting Democratic pollster Celinda Lake who confessed, “the fate of the women candidates, both in the primary and the general, will depend on the enthusiasm of the women voters.”

“This enthusiasm was volcanic in the midterms, and it’s hard to see what Trump could do in the next 22 months to dampen it” Goldberg added.

“Trump, though dangerous, is also weak. In a recent survey, 57 percent of registered voters said they planned to vote against him. There’s a phenomenon in business called the “lass cliff,” in which companies in crisis promote women to clean up disasters caused by men,” the columnist concluded before taking a final jab at Trump.

“Trump could be the man to wreck the country so bad that Americans will be willing to let a woman save it,” she predicted.

2019 California Laws Women Should Know About

2019 is set to be a year of change for the workplace in California. Several laws will take effect January 1st, including SB 820 which bans so-called “secret settlements” and non-disclosure agreements involving employees in sexual misconduct cases. Under the law, the identity of the accused would be made public. The victim can choose to remain anonymous.

SB 1300 closes a loophole that allowed employers to avoid sexual harassment and discrimination laws by requiring workers to sign releases of liability as a condition of employment or in exchange for a bonus.

Both bills were signed by Governor Jerry Brown in the wake of the “Me Too” movement, which gained momentum in 2018 as several high profile celebrities spoke out about their experiences.

Also taking effect on the 1st is AB 1976, which requires employers to provide employees who are new mothers a private space other than a bathroom to pump. The law builds on a San Francisco law that took effect in the city in 2018.
**Women's March January 2019 - NOW Sonoma County Chapter Was There!**

What an honor it was to be asked to be one of the holders of the banner for the Women's March 2019 in Santa Rosa, California. For me it was such a joy to be walking with such a diverse group. I do not know who the man is holding the Pride flag is but he was there; Madonna Cruz, KBBF Board Member, me in the pink honoring Code Pink, NOW, and Women's Spaces; Dr. Jacqueline Lawrence and her granddaughter Gracie; Ms. Sonoma County’s outstanding teen, Pinkeo Phngsa; and Ms. Sonoma County, Tyler-Avery Lewis. As we marched I could feel the energy of 4500 people who were there with their signs. **The best one I saw said: I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change; I am changing the things I cannot accept.**

---Elaine B. Holtz, President Sonoma County Chapter National Organization for Women

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**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.

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Celebration planning and progress, visit

2020centennial.org
RENEWAL AND MEMBERSHIP FORM
Regular Membership $40/year. $75./two years. $115./3 years.
Reduced dues $15. - $30.

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