Happy New Year 2020, which marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote across the nation. This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy and to explore its relevance to the issues of equal rights today.

It was so exciting to see the We Heart: The Rose Parade Float Celebrating the 2020 Suffrage Centennial at the 131st Rose Parade in Pasadena honoring this historic event. The theme of the float was “Years of Hope. Years of Courage,” and included a large Lady Liberty and a parade of women marching alongside the float wearing white and color bands of purple, white, and yellow, acknowledging and honoring the women upon whose shoulders we are standing. To see the float go to https://youtu.be/JGMLEsR-Hb4?t=2037

As I watched the float on my TV screen pass, I noticed there was a beautiful flowered logo honoring the National Women’s History Alliance (NWHA). Born in Sonoma County in 1980, NWHA 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 NWHA theme for 2020 is “Valiant Women of the Vote,” celebrating the women who have fought for women’s right to vote in the United States. To learn more about NWHA go to https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/

On Monday, January 6th, Women’s Spaces radio, aired on KBBF 89.1 or streaming at www.kbbf.org, will be interviewing Molly Murphy MacGregor, NWHA’s Executive Director, Co-Founder, and Chair of the NWHA Board of Directors, at 11 a.m. Molly was at the parade and will give us an on-the-ground report of what she experienced and how it felt for her to see NWHA being acknowledged.

It is going to be a busy year, a time for reflection and increased activism. Looking forward to seeing you at the march on the 18th, and we will be having our regular lunch meeting on the 15th at the Round Table Pizza, Marlow and Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa.

Something to think about: "We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated." —Maya Angelou was an American poet, singer, memoirist, and civil rights activist.
Minutes for Sonoma County NOW, December 18, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM

Update on Calendar - we have 75 left and some will be dispersed through Chambers of Commerce and other places

New Business: Overview of Protest movement - the rallies were very successful; there were 100s who turned out in Santa Rosa and Sonoma as well as across the country

Meeting with California NOW President - after interviewing her on Women’s Spaces, Rebecca and other members met with President Kolieka Seigle for lunch; we were honored to be able to meet with her. Some possible future suggestions were made which include an internet “meeting” as well as starting a book club. The next annual meeting for NOW will be in Sacramento which will make it easier for us to attend. Pres. Seigle suggested we start a local NOW book club as a way to involve more women, and also she suggested holding ZOOM meetings in addition to our face-to-face ones; she offers to send a tech person from Sacramento to meet with us and train us to do this.

MSC: March event - "Silent Spring, Rachel Carson" - motion was made to have this presentation in March - a presentation by Lilith Rogers. The venue and times are to be determined. There is a tentative date of March 21st.

Highlights of 2019 - The Women’s March in January; working on and producing the calendar; the fact that we are still here! - and, are more well known.

Plans for 2020 - taking part in the Santa Rosa and various other 19th Amendment Centennial parades and events; increasing the active membership

As this was a luncheon meeting, it was brief and adjourned at 2:15 PM.

January 15, 2020 Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Approval of Agenda – Any additions
5. Financial Report
6. Website Report

New Business
7. Calendar Count
8. Tabling for January 18, 2020 Women’s March
10. Discuss parade options, first one in April – Sebastopol Apple Blossom Parade.

NOW Sonoma County 2020 Centennial Calendar available January 22, 2020 at Santa Rosa Democratic Club Meeting. Suggested donation $15.00

President: Elaine B. Holtz
Recording Sec’y: Pro Tem-Eileen Bill
Corresponding Sec’y: Mary Chouinard
Newsletter Editor: Marion Aird
Telephone Helpline: Eileen Bill
Webmaster: Ken Norton

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
January Highlights in US Women’s History

January 3, 1949 – Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) starts her tenure in the Senate, where she stays in office until 1973, became the first woman to serve in both the House and Senate as she previously served in the House (1940-49)

January 5, 1925 – Nellie Tayloe Ross is inaugurated as the first woman Governor in U.S. history (Governor of Wyoming)

January 7, 1896 – Fanny Farmer’s first cookbook is published in which she standardized cooking measurements

January 7, 1955 – Marian Anderson is the first African American woman to sing at the Metropolitan Opera

January 8, 1977 – Anna Pauline “Pauli” Murray is the first African American woman ordained to the Episcopal priesthood, by Bishop William F. Creighton at Washington National Cathedral in Washington D.C.

January 11, 1935 – Amelia Earhart makes the first solo flight from Hawaii to North America

January 12, 1932 – Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-Arkansas) is the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, becomes the first woman to chair a Senate Committee and the first to serve as the Senate’s presiding officer

January 25, 1890 – Nellie Bly, journalist, completed her around the world trip in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes, and 14 seconds after setting sail east to prove she could circle the globe in less than 80 days

January 25, 1980 – Mary Decker became the first woman to run a mile under 4 1/2 minutes, running it at 4:17.55

January 29, 1926 – Violette Neatly Anderson is the first black woman to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

As the year comes to a close, may our hearts fill with gratitude for all the the good fortune we have received this year. Let us look forward to a new year with hope, trust and open arms for even more blessings that will surely grace our days.

According to the UN, at least 1,250 men, women and children have died this year trying to reach Europe via the Mediterranean Sea. AJ+

Newly released emails regarding Ukraine defense aid held by the White House show that a request to withhold funds came less than two hours after trump’s July phone call with the Ukrainian president. NBC News

A new survey found Germans consider trump more dangerous to world peace than Kim Jong Un or Vladimir Putin. The Hill

At least 26 transgender people were killed in America this year, but the number is likely higher. The Hill

A new report on trump’s judicial appointments finds that one-third of the judges trump has appointed to the federal appeals court have a demonstrated history of anti-LGBT bias. Slate

It is #NotNormal...

...for the President of the United States to attack the Speaker of the House hours after his Christmas-morning call for unity. Intelligencer

This speech is not normal.

GOOD NEWS, VICTORIES & HEROES

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear says his state will continue to welcome refugees months after an executive order issued by the Trump administration allowed states to turn them away. The Hill

Colorado Governor Jared Polis pardoned Ingrid Encalada LaTorre, a Peruvian woman who has been living in various churches for years to avoid deportation. Mic

The highest court in the Netherlands has ruled that the Dutch government is legally required to fight climate change under international human rights law. Grist

In rural Colorado, the kids of coal miners are learning to install solar panels. Mother Jones

San Francisco cafes are banning disposable coffee cups. KQED

Last Friday, Jane Fonda celebrated her 82nd birthday by getting arrested while protesting the government’s inaction on climate change. The Cut

New Zealanders have handed in more than 50,000 guns during a buyback program. ABC News

BE INFORMED.

BE INVOLVED.

BE JOYFUL.
House Judiciary Committee member Rep. Val Demings, a Florida Democrat, is demanding that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell recuse himself from the Senate’s impeachment trial.

She accused McConnell of promising the White House to "sabotage" the trial. "No court in the country would allow a member of the jury to also serve as the accused’s defense attorney." The moment Senator McConnell takes the oath of impartiality required by the Constitution, he will be in violation of that oath, she said in a statement. That's in response to McConnell's admission on Sean Hannity's Fox News show Thursday night that he would act on Trump's behalf. "Everything I do during this, I'm coordinating with White House counsel," he said. "There will be no difference between the president's position and our position as to how to handle this."

He would be in violation of his oath, as Demings pointed out, referencing Article 1, Section 3 of the Constitution which delineates "The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation." That oath, or affirmation, every senator will take says "that in all things appertaining to the trial of the impeachment of [President Trump], now pending, I will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws: So help me God."

Demings should not stand alone. Every Democrat—including Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her leadership team and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and his team—should join her. And they should publicly shame any Republican senator still capable of feeling that emotion who is allowing McConnell to get away with this.
Facts and figures: Leadership and political participation

Women in parliaments

Only 24.3 per cent of all national parliamentarians were women as of February 2019, a slow increase from 11.3 per cent in 1995 [1].

As of June 2019, 11 women are serving as Head of State and 12 are serving as Head of Government [2].

Rwanda has the highest number of women parliamentarians worldwide, where, women have won 61.3 per cent of seats in the lower house [3].

Globally, there are 27 States in which women account for less than 10 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower houses, as of February 2019, including 3 chambers with no women at all [4].

Across regions

Wide variations remain in the average percentages of women parliamentarians in each region. As of February 2019, these were (single, lower and upper houses combined): Nordic countries, 42.5 per cent; Americas, 30.6 per cent; Europe including Nordic countries, 28.6 per cent; Europe excluding Nordic countries, 27.2 per cent; sub-Saharan Africa, 23.9 per cent; Asia, 19.8 per cent; Arab States, 19 per cent; and the Pacific, 16.3 per cent. [5].

Other domains of government

As of January 2019, only 20.7 per cent of government ministers were women; the five most commonly held portfolios by women ministers are: Social Affairs; followed by Family/Children/Youth/Elderly/Disabled; Environment/Natural Resources/Energy; Employment/Labour/Vocational Training; and Trade/Industry

In 103 countries and areas with relevant data, women's representation in elected local deliberative bodies varied from less than 1 per cent to close to parity, at 50 per cent, with a median of 26 per cent.

Women’s representation in local governments can make a difference. Research on panchayats (local councils) in India discovered that the number of drinking water projects in areas with women-led councils was 62 per cent higher than in those with men-led councils. In Norway, a direct causal relationship between the presence of women in municipal councils and childcare coverage was found.

Expanding participation

As of February 2019, only 3 countries have 50 per cent or more women in parliament in single or lower houses: Rwanda with 61.3 per cent, Cuba with 53.2 per cent and Bolivia with 53.1 per cent; but a greater number of countries have reached 30 per cent or more. As of February 2019, 50 single or lower houses were composed of 30 per cent or more women, including 22 countries in Europe, 12 in Sub-Saharan Africa, 12 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2 in the Pacific and 1 each in Asia and Arab States; more than half of these countries have applied some form of quotas - either legislative candidate quotas or reserved seats - opening space for women's political participation in national parliaments. Gender balance in political participation and decision-making is the internationally agreed target set in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

There is established and growing evidence that women's leadership in political decision-making processes improves them. Women demonstrate political leadership by working across party lines through parliamentary women's caucuses - even in the most politically combative environments - and by championing issues of gender equality, such as the elimination of gender-based violence, parental leave and childcare, pensions, gender-equality laws and electoral reform.

GET OUT THE VOTE 2020
Santa Rosa Women's March 2019 which drew 4,500 marchers. 2019 Photo by Leslie Graves