



Sonoma County NOW June 2019

President's Message

Here we are about to celebrate 100 years since we won the vote, and there are groups of legislators who definitely want us to go backwards. Personally, I am stunned that so many states are passing these restrictive abortion laws. Shout out to Leslie Graves who organized the "Stop the Ban Rally," and to all those who attended at Courthouse Square in downtown Santa Rosa. The general feeling was expressed in a Planned Parenthood sticker, "We Won't Go Back." If you go to the ACT tab on our website www.nowsonoma.org, there are two petitions you can sign in support of stopping this attack on a woman's right to choose.

One of the best things that I attended last month was the Green New Deal Town Hall on Wednesday, May 15 at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. Unfortunately our local paper did not cover the event, and I wanted folks to know a bit about it. Several youth groups were there: Schools For Social Action, The Sunrise Movement, and Youth Versus Apocalypse, who presented a breakdown of the Green New Deal. I was inspired by the presentations and was so impressed with how informative and articulate they were in explaining the issues. A shout out to organizers Daisy Pistey-Lyhne, advocate for the environment, and Sunny Galbraith, 350 Sonoma, and all the organizations and presenters that participated.

The 49th Annual Juneteenth Festival will have a Special Interactive Event, "CHILDREN OF AFRICA," A Play of Children Slave Narratives. This is an interactive performance between actors and audience that will provide a deeper understanding of what children experienced during the time of slavery. **The event takes place, Saturday, June 15 at Martin Luther King Park in Santa Rosa. I encourage folks to attend and support this important annual event.** For the history of Juneteenth go to: <https://www.juneteenthftw.com/home.html>

Now more than ever we need to get involved. If you cannot get involved physically, donate to your local advocacy groups and community radio stations. I hope to see you at our regular meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 1:00 pm at Round Table Pizza on Guerneville Road & Marlow in Santa Rosa.

Something to think about: "I am convinced that the women of the world, united without any regard for national or racial dimensions, can become a most powerful force for international peace and brotherhood." —Coretta Scott King (April 27, 1927–January 30, 2006) was an American author, activist, civil rights leader, and the wife of Martin Luther King Jr. An active advocate for African-American equality.

NOW SONOMA COUNTY MEETING
June 19, 2019 @ 1:00 P.M.
ROUND TABLE PIZZA
MARLOW & GUERNEVILLE
SANTA ROSA
Please join us



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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**
P O Box 6223
Santa Rosa, CA 95406
www.nowsonoma.org
Info@nowsonoma.org

**N.O.W. Sonoma County chapter
Minutes for May 16, 2019**

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM

Meeting was opened with a reading of the "Mother's Day Proclamation 2019" by Rivera Sun

Minutes were approved as submitted (MSC)

Agenda was approved with additions (MSC)

Financial Report - no change from last month
There is still no record of deposits to us from CA NOW, but "they are checking."

A list of prospective donors is needed for our calendar production. There will be a letter produced for requests.

Website is doing okay; the newsletter was out on time.

Plan for 2020 - an email was sent out postponing the meeting; fundraising needs to be established - there needs to be a meeting for this.

The first step will be a letter to Lynda Hopkins and to Leslie Graves. (MSC); of importance is to verify what our chapter's plans are.

The second step is to formulate a letter for prospective donors. (MSC)

New Business: Another letter needs to be sent to the Press as a "Close to Home" column which will be written by President Elaine but signed by the Sonoma County NOW chapter. (MSC)

Calendar production - meeting will be set up to discuss details for calendar which is to be finished by October or November at the latest.

Next Event - this item is tabled until a proper venue is located.

Announcement - There is a CARA (California Alliance for Retired Americans) event on May 23rd. This is a visit to Sacramento to lobby for increases to Long-term supports and services in California and to increase the base rate for SSI/SSP (SB512).

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM



**AGENDA NOW SONOMA
COUNTY CHAPTER
June 19, 2019 MEETING**

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

President: Elaine B. Holtz

Recording Sec'y: Pro Tem-Eileen Bill

Corresponding Sec'y: MaryChouinard

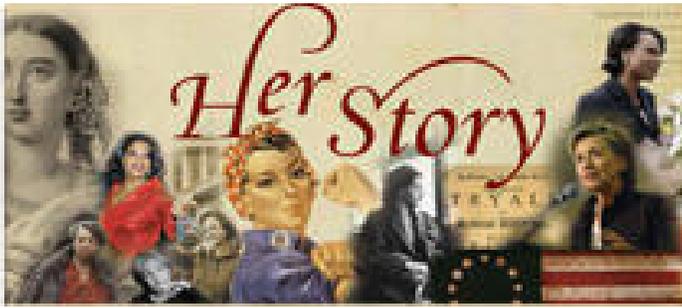
Newsletter Editor: Marion Aird

Telephone Helpline: Eileen Bill

Webmaster: Ken Norton

Media Contact: Elaine Holtz

homegirl productions 2019



June Highlights in US Women's History

June 1, 1993 – Connie Chung becomes the second woman to co-anchor the evening news, 17 years after Barbara Walters became the first in 1976

June 9, 1949 – Georgia Neese Clark confirmed as the first woman treasurer of the United States

June 10, 1963 – Equal Pay Act enacted: "To prohibit discrimination on account of sex in the payment of wages by employers engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce." (PL 88-38)

June 11, 1913 – Women in Illinois celebrate passage of a state woman suffrage bill allowing women to vote in presidential elections

June 17, 1873 – Susan B. Anthony's trial starts for illegally voting in Rochester, New York, on November 5, 1872

June 20, 1921 – Alice Robertson (R-Oklahoma) becomes the first woman to chair the House of Representatives

June 21, 1997 – The Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) plays its first game

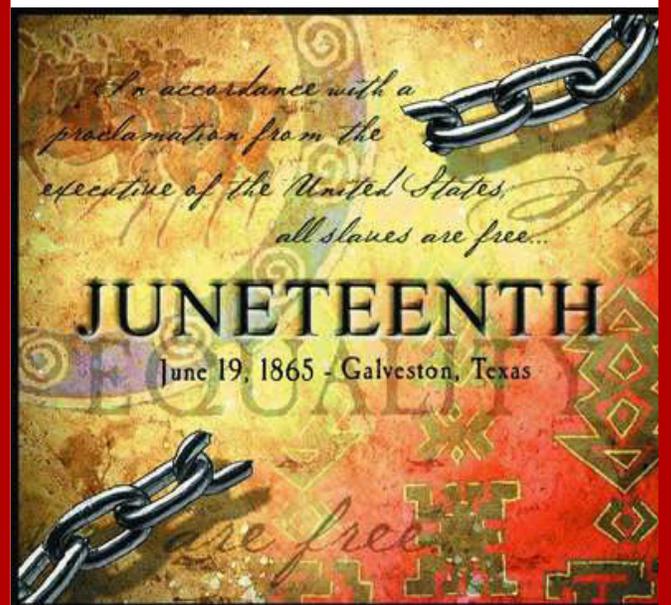
June 23, 1972 – Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is signed by President Nixon, one of the most important legislation initiatives passed for women and girls since women won the vote in 1920. This legislation guarantees equal access and equal opportunity for female and male students in almost all aspects of our educational systems

June 25, 1903 – Marie Curie defends her doctoral thesis on radioactive substances at Université de la Sorbonne in Paris, becoming the first woman in France to receive a doctoral degree

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"But, if this part of our history could be told in such a way that those chains of the past, those shackles that physically bound us together against our wills could, in the telling, become spiritual links that willingly bind us together now and into the future - then that painful Middle Passage could become, ironically, a positive connecting line to all of us whether living inside or outside the continent of Africa..."

Tom Feelings



Surely It's a Coincidence That a Firm Tied to a Russian Oligarch Is Pouring Millions Into Kentucky

Surely.

By [Charles P. Pierce](#)
Apr 24, 2019

The Louisville *Courier-Journal* is chasing a story that further illustrates what a wonderful environment for coincidence the current political moment happens to be.

Kentucky might be going into business with the Russian mafia. Not the rough-and-tumble “odfather” crowd with the bent noses and such names like Tessio, Barzini and Luca Brasi. If all goes according to plan, by the middle of the year, we’ll be in business with Oleg Deripaska, a buddy of Vladimir Putin.

He could be sending \$200 million —if you believe media reports—in what could very well be mobbed-up money to northeastern Kentucky to build a \$1.7 billion aluminum plant on an old strip mine there. The 51-year-old billionaire emerged as a powerful businessman following the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union after a bloody fight for control of Russia’s aluminum industry. Last November, [the New York Times](#) quoted [Mikhail Khodorkovsky](#), another Russian billionaire, saying he stayed out of that battle and urged those he worked with to do the same because of the ruthlessness of the fight. “here were so many murders, I refused to go into this business,” Khodorkovsky said. According to the Times, many have claimed that Deripaska “engaged in theft, intimidation, bribery and even murder, notably of a Russian banker in 1995,” but that none of those claims has been substantiated.

It seems that Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin was hot to build a new aluminum milling plant, but that the proposed location was not suitable for such a large operation. The cost of finding a new location drained the project’s funds. And along came the Volga Bagmen to the rescue.

Enter [Rusal, a Russian aluminum company](#) that until just three months ago was barred from doing business in the United States in part because of its ties to Deripaska. The Trump administration lifted the sanctions in January after Deripaska agreed to reduce his ownership stake in the Moscow-based company, the world’s second-largest aluminum manufacturer, from 70% to less than 45%.

But there was Kentucky-specific help needed, too.

And that came only after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell backed that decision despite large numbers of Republicans and



Religious beliefs given more legislative power than science?

Another disturbing take on the Anti-Abortion laws: Allowing religion to legislate medical procedures. It's a sign of a backwards, primitive culture when it elevates religious superstition above science. Dictating what procedures health care officials can, and cannot do, based on an invisible man in the sky is a sign that, in many parts of this country, we are a barbaric nation.

Medicine uses the scientific method, which relies upon years of study and observation. Established medical procedures are required to demonstrate its effectiveness through hypothesis testing and experimentation. It's not based some guy wearing a fancy hat in Italy nor is it based on some sweaty preacher spewing nonsense.

If the SCOTUS allows these laws to stand, it will be taken as a sign that religious beliefs must be given more legislative power than science.

imagine if....

Jehovah's Witnesses could ban blood transfusions for everyone. After all, it's their religious believe that this is a sin.

Jews and Muslims could ban implants of pig valves for people whose heart valves have failed, because their religious texts teach that pigs are unclean.

Catholics who believe birth control is a sin could ban it for everyone.

Hindus who believe cows are sacred could ban cow parts from being implanted.

Feel free to add to this list.



Closing The Gap

Nevada makes history as the first state with a majority female legislature

Published Thu, Dec 20 2018 2:20 PM EST Updated Thu, Dec 20 2018 2:32 PM EST

Emma Newburger @emma_newburger

Nevada Legislature building housing the Nevada state senate and assembly in the state capital Carson City Nevada.

Education Images/UIG via Getty Images

The appointment on Tuesday of two Democrats makes the Nevada state legislature the first in the country where women hold a majority.

Beatrice Duran and Rochelle Thuy Nguyen were selected by the Clark County Board of County Commissioners for recently vacated Las Vegas-area seats that they will hold until the next general election in 2020.

Starting in February, women will hold 50.8 percent of the state's 63 legislative seats – 23 in the Assembly and nine in the Senate. No state has ever had a female majority, or even surpassed the 50 percent mark, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

"It's worth celebrating that we have finally have one state legislature that more accurately reflects the population it serves, in terms of gender diversity," Kelly Dittmar, a political scientist at Rutgers University, told CNBC Make It. "But as with most political milestones for women, it reflects progress and also serves as a reminder about how the gap in women representation persists."

Across America, the number of women in legislative seats is on the rise after remaining stagnant for nearly two decades. In 2019, women-held seats will grow to at least 28.6 percent in state legislatures, up from the current level of 25.4 percent, according to data from Rutgers. The proportion of women in state legislatures has historically remained between 23 and 25 percent.

Women also made gains in specific chambers across the U.S. Before 2018, the only state legislative chamber to have a female majority was in the New Hampshire Senate in 2009. In addition to the legislative majority in Nevada, women now make up more than 50 percent of the Colorado House.

Women will also make up more than 40 percent of state legislators in Colorado, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, and eleven states will see women's legislative representation increase to over 5 percent, according to Rutgers data.



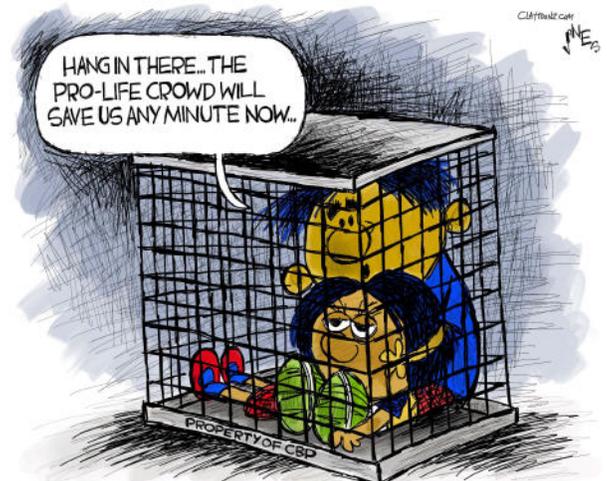
Religion legislates medical procedures

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Trump considering plan that could block asylum or thousands of Central American migrants:

President Trump is reportedly considering an immigration plan that could block thousands of Central American migrants seeking asylum from entering the U.S. at the southern border.

Administration officials and advocates briefed on the plan told Politico the draft proposal, which is circulating among Trump's Homeland Security advisers, would bar migrants from seeking asylum if they had passed through a nation other than their home country before arriving to the U.S. The plan would make thousands of Central American migrants at the border who have trekked through Mexico ineligible for asylum.

Trump appeared to allude to the plan Thursday morning when he was departing the White House, saying he was "going to do something very dramatic on the border."

"This is a big league statement," Trump said. "I'm not closing the border, I'm doing something else."



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06/19

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