



NOW Special Event February 19!

Democratic Central Committee Candidates Live

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Greetings and Happy February to all!

Given that California's primary election is March 5th, Sonoma County NOW is pleased to host a forum for the Sonoma County Democratic Party's Central Committee candidates in District 1 and District 3. If you

are in either of those districts, please join us. Learn what the Central Committee does and how important its work is. We will have prepared questions for each candidate. There will be more details to come, including the Zoom link, in the next several days.

February is Black History Month and we have included detailed information below of various events in the area. We encourage you to attend as many as possible.

The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray's quarter has now been released and we have included the news from her niece, Rosita Stevens-Holsey, whom you may recall spoke with us at our September 2022 meeting.

As we look forward to March, we will have a presentation to celebrate Women's History Month. More details on that, too.

If you are interested in joining our board, please write to **info@nowsonoma.org**. We'd love to be able to do more in the county and need your skills for many different types of work.

--Amy Nykamp, President



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Black History Month recognizes and honors important people and events in the history of African American history. In 1926, noted historian Carter G. Woodson originated the idea of “Negro History Week.” Woodson chose the second week of February because it marked the birthdays of two Americans who influenced the lives and social condition of African Americans—former President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

The tradition of what became Black History Month greatly influenced the expansion of academic scholarship and the corresponding recognition of the rich history of African Americans. By 1976 it became official, with President Gerald R. Ford declaring February as

Black History Month and calling on the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Each year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) chooses a different theme for Black History Month. For 2024, the theme is "African Americans and the Arts." African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment, says ASALH. In 2024, they examine the varied history and life of African American arts and artisans. The mission of ASALH is to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about Black life, history, and culture to the global community. For more history and information, visit their website [here](#).

Racism is alive and well in our country, and to help overcome it, we believe one of the most important things we need to do is get to know one another and see, in the words of Maya Angelou, "I Am Human." Yes, we are all part of this earth and human family.

What's happening this month to celebrate? Here are a few examples:

- **Celebrate Black History Month at Sonoma County libraries:** The main library is located at 211 E Street, Santa

Rosa, CA. From January 30th through February 25, they will honor the theme by featuring a music, literary, and culinary arts series at various branches. Visit their website [here](#) for details.

- **Sonoma State University events:** Sonoma State University will be sponsoring a series of events to celebrate Black History Month, including the 2-24 Black Joy Celebration. Visit The Hub Cultural website [here](#) for details. Events will be happening all month long.
- **Petaluma Blacks for Community Development presentations:** Petaluma Blacks for Community Development will also be doing a series of presentations to honor Black History Month. Visit their website [here](#) for events and descriptions.
- **Santa Rosa Junior College** will be having a lecture series for Black History Month. The theme for these presentations is “You are our Ancestors' Dreams Realized.” For all the information on these programs go to their [website](#).
- **Tune into Women’s Spaces Radio Show on KBBF 89.1:** Mondays at 11 a.m. & 11 p.m. for a series of interviews on Black history, including discussions on the importance of voting rights, Black women in music, and Black women in politics. You can stream shows on www.kbbf.org.

Our history is our strength, and we suggest you check out many of the major events happening during this special month.

—Elaine B. Holtz

The Release of the Pauli Murray Quarter!

A message from Rosita Stevens-Holsey

I am so proud to announce that the U.S. Mint has released the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray quarter dollar today. Pauli Murray will be the first honoree of their **2024** coins for their American Women Quarters Program. These coins were produced at U.S. Mint production facilities in Philadelphia and Denver.

Bags and rolls of circulation-quality 2024 American Women quarter dollars featuring the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray will be offered by the U.S. Mint beginning at noon Eastern Time Feb. 15. The circulation-quality coins from production at the Denver and Philadelphia Mints are to be released into general circulation through the Federal Reserve on Jan. 2, 2024.

Purchase here. (If you are interested in obtaining one or more of these coins, you may wish to order it directly from the Mint because you may not get one from your bank or local merchant(s).)

The U.S. Mint states that “Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray was a poet, writer, activist, lawyer, and Episcopal priest. She is regarded as one of the most

important social justice advocates of the twentieth century.” [Read more here.](#)

According to Mint Director, Ventris C. Gibson, "Reverend Dr. Murray was keenly aware of the oppression that she faced as a Black woman. She lived her life and fought tirelessly as a steadfast advocate for civil rights and gender equality."



Thank you to all of my fellow "Pauli supporters". This day is validation and a testament to more than 50 years of achievements in the areas of social justice, women's rights, civil rights and human rights; a moment that serves as a symbol of the recognition Aunt Pauli deserved and never had.

Together we rise,

Rosita

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Rosita Stevens-Holmes
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Bessie Coleman (1892-1926)



We are featuring Bessie Coleman who was a pioneer in aviation. Bessie was the first African American female pilot and the first Native American pilot as well. She was also the earliest known Black person to earn an international pilot's license. Below is more from [Wikipedia](#).

Born to a family of sharecroppers in Texas, Coleman worked in the cotton fields at a young age while also studying in a small segregated school. She attended one term of college at Langston University. Coleman developed an early interest in flying, but African Americans, Native Americans, and women had no flight training opportunities in the United States, so she saved and obtained sponsorships in Chicago to go to France for flight school.

She then became a high-profile pilot in notoriously dangerous air shows in the United States. She was popularly known as "Queen Bess"

and "Brave Bessie", and hoped to start a school for African-American fliers. Coleman died in a plane crash in 1926. Her pioneering role was an inspiration to early pilots and to the African-American and Native American communities.



Toni Morrison (*Wikipedia photo*)

Special Dates in February

- 1 Dorothy Hansen (1920–2014), Sonoma County activist
National Freedom Day (commemorates 13th Amendment ending slavery)
Imbolc begins
- 2 Alice Locke Park (1861–1961), CA suffrage leader
Groundhog Day, Candlemas
- 3 Gertrude Stein (1874–1948), visionary artist
- 4 Rosa Parks (1913–2005), civil rights leader
Betty Friedan (1921–2006), feminist author, activist, cofounder
NOW
- 9 Alice Walker (1944–), author, activist
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Anna Howard Shaw (1847–1919), suffrage leader
Valentine's Day / V-Day
- 15 Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906), suffrage leader
- 18 Toni Morrison (1931–2019), author/teacher

Audre Lorde (1934–1992), feminist writer

19 Sonoma County NOW Candidates Night 7 p.m.

Presidents' Day

21 Helen Rudee (1918–2018), first Sonoma Co. female Supervisor,
feminist

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

22 Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892–1950), poet, playwright

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.



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

5/2023

[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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