

SUN CITIES/WEST VALLEY NOW

National Organization for Women
10015 W Royal Oak Rd #256, Sun City AZ 85351

Membership Mtg

NOW meets at 1:00 PM on Wed Mar 3, 2010, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N Avenue of the Arts (off Bell) behind the Art Museum, in Surprise. Our program in March is Reproductive Rights. We will have Andy Bareiss of ACLU along with people from Planned Parenthood. Everyone welcome.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Mar 2 Tues 1:30 PM

Compassion & Choices Mtg
SCW Foundation Cntr RHJ&Strdst

Mar 8 Mon

International Women's Day

Mar 20 Sat 3:00 PM

NOW Women's History Month
UU Church, Surprise
Tickets are \$15 send to Leona Gilman

April 17 Sat 9 AM to 4 PM

NOW State Conference
UU Church, Surprise

July 2 – 4, 2010 (Fri – Sun)

NOW National Conference
Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers
www.now.org

Women's History Month Program

On Saturday, March 20 at 3 o'clock the Sun Cities/West Valley NOW will present a reenactment of the long struggle for women to attain the right to vote. The program is a production in 5 episodes, using the actual words and songs of the suffragists, and the actual newspaper accounts of the 72-year struggle.

The Women's History Celebration is co-sponsored by the Northwest Maricopa County League of Women Voters and the NW & Sun City American Associations of University Women. It will be at the

Unitarian Universalist Church on Avenue of the Arts in Surprise. Refreshments will be served.

Proceeds from the Women's History event will fund a scholarship for a graduating female Dysart student and also provide funding for Eve's Place, a shelter for women. Tickets are \$15. For info or to send check (SCWV NOW), contact Leona Gilman, 20402 Broken Arrow Dr, SCW 85375, 584-0144.

The History of Women's History Month

As recently as the 1970's, Women's History was an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or in the general public consciousness. First to address this situation, was the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women, which in 1978 initiated Women's History Week." March 8th was chosen as International Women's Day, as it is today.

In 1981 Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Orin Hatch (R-UT) co-sponsored the first Joint Congressional Resolution, establishing a National Women's History Week." As celebrations spread across the nation, the Women's History Project in California petitioned Congress in 1987 to make the entire month of March the National Women's History Month. The Resolution received bi-partisan approval.

With the approval of the Resolution, state historical societies, women's organizations and Girl Scout organizations, amongst others, worked together with schools, creating joint Women's History programs.

The Sun Cities/West Valley National Organization for Women (NOW) sponsors a Women's History event each year with the co-sponsorship of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County and the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the AAUW of the Northwest Valley and the Sun City/Peoria AAUW.

The program this year will be a reenactment of the 72-year struggle for women to gain the Right to Vote. The program will be presented with the actual words and songs of the Suffragists, and the actual newspaper accounts.

Other Women's History programs have included portrayals of Susan B Anthony, Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to run for president, and the women who helped settle the West. The proceeds from the events help fund a scholarship for a female Dysart High student and also provide funding for Eve's Place, a domestic violence shelter in the northwest area of Maricopa County.

An outgrowth of the interest in women's history resulted in the establishment of the Women's Watch (WW) Column published by the Daily News-Sun. This month is the 177th Column since it was first published by the Daily News-Sun in 1995. The Column has provided a venue for not only uncovering the hidden lives of historical women, but also sharing the expansion of women's lives into areas of medicine, government, legal organizations, also sports, media, and other areas where women once were not given the opportunity to participate.

The WW Column has provided a venue for the many issues that have and still do impact the lives of women and children, including: economic and social issues, such as violence against women, harassment in the workplace, reproductive rights, and the struggle for equality,

Women have always been in the forefront of raising money for historic preservation projects. The February WW Column describes how many women are working toward the building of a Natl Women's History Museum (NWHM) in Washington, D.C.

Joan Bradley Wages, President & CEO of the (NWHM), says, "We are building this Museum so the future generations of boys and girls will be able to learn all of our nation's great history--to learn the missing half—women's history." **Ann Timmer**

Protest & Planned Parenthood Lunch

Friday Feb 5th was a red letter day for CHOICE and Sun Cities\West Valley NOW. Our chapter joined the Phoenix Scottsdale chapter in front of CBS and held up signs protesting the Super Bowl Pro Life Ad. The Station manager greeted us warmly. Later, on the 5:00PM news, great pictures of our group and an interview by Jacklin Lindfors were aired. (See attached photo.)

On to the Planned Parenthood annual Roe v Wade luncheon. For this writer, it was a time of introspection, sadness and yearning, for all the lives lost and lives threatened as the woman's quest for safe abortion procedures continue. The upbeat note that closed the luncheon came from the young Dr in training, who is the national president of Student Physicians for Choice, who is visionary and

determined.

Carolyn Modeen

Compassion & Choices

Compassion & Choices of the Northwest Valley will hold its spring chapter meeting March 2 at the Sun City West Foundation Center (RHJohnson & Stardust) at 1:30 p m. The invited speaker will be Robert F. Jeckel, Attorney at Law, who will speak about "The Laws of Dying". Contact Irene Weitzman at: ireneweitz@aol.com_or 214-6552.

Book Club

At 11:30 AM at the UU Church (prior to the April 7 membership mtg), we will discuss *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof. Everyone welcome; bring your lunch.

NOW Board Mtg Feb 10, 2010

Minutes not received.

NOW Membership Meeting Feb 3, 2010

Nineteen present including a reporter for the Daily News Sun. **Jackie Lindfors** presided at the UU Church, Surprise, AZ

Program: The American Immigrant Experience, as told by women writers—Sandra Cisneros, Grace Paley, Rita Ceresi and Amy Tan. Readers were Ann Timmer, Carolyn Modeen, Helen Perkins and Mary Smiley.

Treasurer (Timmer): Wells Fargo bank statement : \$942.63.

Legislative (Hupperts): Child health insurance was authorized at the national level. Colin Powell has changed his mind on the Don't-Ask-Don't-Tell policy and is now in favor of letting gays serve openly in the military. The AZ Legislature is trying to do away with permits for concealed weapons. There will be presentations across the state by the AZ Education Association.. There will be a rally at the state Capitol on 14 February, 11am sponsored by the AZ Education Assn. Three days before the override vote (10am, 6 March) there will be a fair to explain what programs will be cut. This is sponsored by the School boards, PTAs of the City of Surprise.

Action (Roberts): We will join Phx/Scottsdale Chapter tomorrow to protest the Focus on the Family ad airing on TV at the Super Bowl. Meet at old Trader Joe's at 9:30 am. After that we will go to the Planned Parenthood luncheon.

Program (Schulze): March meeting—Reproductive Rights (Addy Bareiss, ACLU). We will invite people from Planned Parenthood.

Miscellaneous: 1) Compassionate Choices will meet at the SCW Foundation Center, 2 March, 1:30. Topic is: Laws of Dying. 2)AAUW SC-Peoria will have the Executive Director of ACLU, AZ at a luncheon,

11am, Sun Grove Resort. 3)Marge Mead invited everyone to her birthday party, 7 March, 2 pm at home of Ken and Emily Mead, 9101 W Long Hills Dr, SC. **Betty Roberts, Secretary**

NOW SC/WV Board

Co-Coordinator:

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Action Chair: Betty Roberts

Cultural Diversity: Phyllis Stone

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