



APRIL 2009

ACT NOW NEWS

P.O. Box 2743, Dublin CA 94568 freewebs.com/actnow1
actnowpresident@yahoo.com (925) 462-1776

*We take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof in equal partnership with men.
We oppose laws or activities that deny or limit women's rights, women's status, or women's access.*

MISSEY SPEAKER AT APRIL CHAPTER MEETING

Everyone is welcome at ACT NOW's Wednesday, April 8, chapter meeting at Round Table Pizza, 530 Main Street, Pleasanton. The speaker will be Nola Brantley, executive direc-

tor of MISSEY, an Oakland organization helping to get young women off the streets and out of prostitution. More information on MISSEY (motivating, inspiring, supporting, and serving sexually exploited youth) is at missey.org.

We network beginning at 7 p.m.; the meeting begins at 7:30, with free child care offered. Please bring supplies for your children's activities. If you'd like to eat during the meeting, you may order at (925) 461-0140 or when you arrive.

April

Drug & Alcohol Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Tues. April 7

World Health Day

Wed. April 8, 7-9 p.m.

ACT NOW Chapter Meeting
Round Table Pizza
530 Main Street, Pleasanton
Speaker from MISSEY

Sat. May 16, 7/8 p.m.

Livermore-Amador Symphony
Talk/Concert, "Along the Rhine": livamsymph.org or
(925) 373-6824

Sat. May 30, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

CA NOW Annual Membership Meeting/State Conference
Doubletree Hotel, 200 Marina Blvd., Berkeley: (510) 548-7920
Call to Conference to be mailed; see canow.org.

Sun. May 31

CA NOW Board Meeting
Berkeley; see canow.org

Fri.-Sun. June 19-21

National NOW Conference
Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel,
8787 Keystone Crossing,
Indianapolis IN 46240
Room reservations:
(888) 627-7814 (\$112 & up)
Conference registration: now.org/organization/conference/2009 (\$125, or sliding scale \$0-\$124; daily fee, \$65)

EDITORIAL: WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU...

...that the Oakland-East Bay Chapter of NOW has closed. After years of good work, its members were unable to find volunteers to lead the chapter forward.

Let us, undaunted, continue forward, staying positive about attracting young members and strengthening NOW. Please attend the conference on May 30 in Berkeley; several ACT NOW members are going. We can carpool and *vote* to help our organization increase its benefits to women.

Nancy Freedom

JOB HUNTING? JOB DISCOVERY GROUP MEETS THURSDAY MORNINGS

Anxious about employment? Feeling isolated with the Internet job search process? Need some moral support or encouragement to move forward? Connect with other seekers in a confidential atmosphere by joining the Job Discovery Group. We meet every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Tot Green Room at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore.

Bring your résumé (and maybe a few extra copies to pass around), ideas, and any resources you would like to share. Get past roadblocks in a supportive and proactive environment.

Contact Patricia Thorstad at patriciathorstad@comcast.net or Maureen Hamm at mhamm33@earthlink.net for more information.

See you there!

Maureen Hamm

DENOUNCE GENDER-BASED PERSECUTIONS

The title of the 111th Congress's H.J. Res. 10 is: Denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burnings, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions, expressing the sense of Congress that participation, protection, recognition,

and equality of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and peaceful society, and for other purposes.

This resolution has been referred to committee. (See www.thomas.gov.) Please ask your Congressional representative to support it!

Dee Miner

CEDAW—COULD THIS BE THE YEAR?

The big question for many women's rights activists is: Could this finally be the year that the Senate will ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (the CEDAW)?

The United Nations General Assembly first adopted CEDAW in 1979, and out of 192 member countries, the U.S. is among the eight that have not ratified the convention.

California's Senator Barbara Boxer, chair of the Foreign Relations subcommittee overseeing global women's issues, plans to lead an effort seeking ratification of the convention. Boxer said, "We've waited long enough. All these years later, there's no excuse for not ratifying this critical convention to shine a light on women's rights around the world." She added that it is "a shame that the U.S. stands with countries such as Iran, Sudan, and Somalia in failing to ratify the treaty."

At present there is opposition from the right and concern from the left regarding CEDAW.

On the right, opponents of CEDAW contend that ratification could lead to legalized prostitution, increased government interference in family matters, and abolition of remaining restrictions on abortion. They also question the value of a treaty that has been ratified by countries such as Saudi Arabia, where women cannot vote or drive.

"The treaty is worse than useless," said Wendy Wright of Concerned Women for America. "It gives legitimacy to regimes that are committing some of the worst abuses against women." Wright promised a vigorous fight against CEDAW.

On the left, there is worry that Democratic leaders in the Senate who need Republican votes to get the treaty ratified will be willing to add various harmful reservations, understandings and declarations—known as RUDs.

"It would be an important signal to the world that we adopt this critical convention without limitations that exempt the U.S. from coverage

and responsibility for the treatment of women," said Kim Gandy, NOW President. "It sends a kind of 'ugly American' signal that we expect to hold other countries to a standard that we're not willing to accept for ourselves."

Boxer has said her subcommittee will start hearings this year with a "clean" version of the treaty, but many fear some RUDs will be added as a step toward winning enough votes.

Today is the time to call, write, or e-mail Senator Boxer. Tell her the time has come for CEDAW ratification—and that we must have ratification without RUDs!

Dee Miner

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OBAMA ADMINISTRATION MOVES TO RESCIND HEALTH CARE REFUSAL RULE, DEFENDS WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The Obama administration moved to rescind the controversial Department of Health and Human Services refusal or "conscience" rule. This rule, adopted in the final hours of the Bush administration, allowed health care workers to deny any medical service—such as birth control or emergency contraception—that they

found objectionable.

"This is a victory for women who rely on access to a full range of family planning services, and a victory for patients who deserve full information and medical care that is not withheld without their knowledge or consent," said Kim Gandy, NOW President.

The rule went into effect on the

day of Obama's inauguration, January 20, and covered any health care entity that receives federal funds. The provisions undermined women's access to basic reproductive health care, and might even have interfered with screening and treatment for HIV and other sexually-transmitted infections.

National NOW
2/27/09

WE GOT THE WHOLE CABINET

The White House Council on Women and Girls was created by executive order of President Barack Obama on March 11.

The Council head is Valerie Jarrett, presidential assistant and his close friend and adviser. Every Cabinet secretary and the head of

every Cabinet-level agency will be included. Executive Director will be Tina Tchen, deputy assistant to the President and longtime women's rights advocate.

We asked for a Cabinet-level office to work on women's issues, and we got the entire Cabinet!

from NOW President Kim Gandy's statement of 3/11/09

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 **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

COUNT ME IN! I wish to join NOW and commit myself to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men.

Transfer my at-large membership to ACT NOW (chapter CA 0802)

I enclose \$_____ for national, state, and chapter dues [new members, not transfer members] [regular annual dues, \$40; for those with limited resources, \$15-\$39—personal sliding scale]

I wish to make an additional donation of \$_____ to ACT NOW

Call me; I want to become an active member of the chapter

I want to be part of ACT NOW's e-mail action alert network

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ E-MAIL _____

(Checks: payable to Tri-Valley NOW)
 Mail to NOW
 P.O. Box 2743, Dublin CA 94568





Pamela J. Yeaw

1063 Serpentine Lane, Suite A, Pleasanton, CA 94566

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Fax: (925) 426-2517

CHAPTER MEETING

2nd Wednesday of the Month:

April 8

**speaker: Nola Brantley,
Executive Director of MISSEY**

Round Table Pizza
530 Main Street
Pleasanton

7:00 p.m. networking
7:30 p.m. speaker begins

child care will be provided

HOW TO PUT A NOTICE IN COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

Here's a list of addresses to use to have notices posted in newspaper bulletin boards and weekly calendars. Note that it's different from the contact list for letters to editors which was provided in the February issue of this newsletter.

Argus, Tri-Valley Herald, Daily Review, Oakland Tribune:
aphillips@bayareanewsgroup.com

The Independent:
editmail@compuserve.com

Pleasanton Weekly:
pleasantonweekly.com and fill out event form

Valley Times:
vtletters@bayareanewsgroup.com

Kathy Woofter

ACT NOW's area includes
Castro Valley, Dublin, Fremont,
Hayward, Livermore, Newark,
Pleasanton, San Leandro, San Lorenzo,
San Ramon, Sunol, and Union City.

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