



MAY 2009

ACT NOW NEWS

P.O. Box 2743, Dublin CA 94568 freewebs.com/actnow1
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*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.*

May

Asian Heritage Month

Tues. May 5

Cinco de Mayo

Sun. May 10

Mother's Day

Wed. May 13, 7-9 p.m.

ACT NOW Chapter Meeting
Round Table Pizza
530 Main Street, Pleasanton
Issues and Actions

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

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

Mon. May 25

Close of discounts on hotel
rooms (\$112 & up) for
National NOW Conference,
(888) 627-7814

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

Sun. June 14

Online registration for National
NOW Conference closes;
see [now.org/organization
/conference/2009](http://now.org/organization/conference/2009)

Fri.-Sun. June 19-21

National NOW Conference
Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel,
8787 Keystone Crossing,
Indianapolis IN 46240
Room reservations:
(888) 627-7814

Conference fee \$125, or sliding
scale \$0-\$124; daily rate, \$65

A CHAPTER MEETING FOR ISSUES AND ACTIONS

We'll discuss issues, and actions you'd like to take, at our ACT NOW chapter meeting on Wednesday, May 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Round Table Pizza, 530 Main Street, Pleasanton. Networking's at 7; discussion

begins at 7:30.

Everyone is welcome. Free parking and child care are provided. If you'd like to eat at the meeting you may phone (925) 461-0140, or order when you arrive.

AFGHAN NEW YEAR

With spring comes new growth and life, and in Afghanistan it also marks a new year. New Year's, which is called Nowroz (pronounced *Now-roze*, which literally means new day), is one of the oldest holidays in



Central Asia. In Afghanistan the new year usually begins on the first day of Spring, and it is celebrated with many days filled with family picnics and community gatherings.

This year the Afghan Women's Health Group observed the Afghan New Year on Thursday, March 26, at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. Many Afghan women and children came to celebrate the New Year with live Afghan music and food.

Rahima Haya

CARPOOLING TO CA NOW CONFERENCE

If you'd like to carpool to the California NOW Conference at the Doubletree Hotel at the Berkeley Marina on Saturday, May 30, please contact Maureen Hamm at hammwoof@earthlink.net.

CHAPTER MEETING REPORT

HELPING COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN

“Human trafficking of children” means adults collecting money or goods from children’s labor, which may include prostitution. Ninety-five percent of teen prostitutes are sexual abuse victims; they are four times more likely to be trafficked than teens who have not been abused.

Homeless, runaway, and foster children on the street for more than 48 hours will be approached by adults for exploitation. Pimps swap the children around to different cities—the younger the better.

These children suffer from psychological disorders including traumatic stress syndrome and Stockholm syndrome. (Children suffering from Stockholm syndrome bond with and become loyal to their abusers despite danger to themselves).

Yet these children are being arrested and prosecuted as prostitutes! Our society lacks residences and placements to meet their needs. The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act, which was enacted by Congress in 2000 (as H.R. 3244), is

not being enforced because of a lack of education, awareness programs, and infrastructure.

To save these exploited children before they turn 18 and are punished by adult laws, MISSEY (Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting and Serving Sexually Exploited Youth) has trained thousands of people, mainly professionals but also at-risk children, since July 2007.

Executive Director Nola Brantley spoke to us very dynamically at our April chapter meeting.

MISSEY also helps the children directly, providing food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and advocacy. Their intensive case management includes anything a mother would do.

Family-style support with food really home-cooked in the Executive Director’s kitchen, an after school drop-in center with computers, holiday celebrations, recognition for any achievements, and Friday night get-togethers are features of MISSEY’s program. “Exposure outings” with an adult taking a few children to the

outdoors or to dance concerts, bowling, museums, basketball games, *etc.*, expand the worlds these children live in. Most of the children have no responsible adult in their lives and such events are new to them.

When the children ask for something (usually small things, since they’re used to being given nothing), MISSEY staff tries to provide it, and the children’s positive accomplishments of anything are celebrated. MISSEY’s program center provides a safe place for exploited children to express themselves honestly—staff and volunteers listen nonjudgmentally.

MISSEY welcomes volunteers and donations of money or in kind. To investigate volunteering, please e-mail volunteer@missey.org or ask for Patanisha at (510) 267-8840. To donate, visit www.missey.org or mail a check to MISSEY at the Alameda County Family Justice Center, 470 27th Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

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WOMEN’S CHOICE CLINIC CLOSES

We mourn the closure of Oakland’s Women’s Choice Clinic and the subsequent loss of crucial services for women. WCC staff served low-income women with serious health care needs in spite of picketers who harassed and threatened them and in spite of delayed payments by Medi-Cal. Now chronically late and eventually frozen payments for services already rendered will close the oldest feminist reproductive health clinic in the country. Linci Comi, who has guided this clinic for well over 30 years, has been a leader in the pro-choice community and a provider of feminist, empowering reproductive health services. We are saddened that she will no longer be providing her

smart, sensitive, savvy, and caring services to women.

We’ve escorted clients into this clinic or used its services or learned to become health care providers or marched for Choice next to Linci Comi. Now we want to help her. Women’s Choice Clinic is legally required to maintain medical records for 7 years. They need storage/office space for that. Do you have that space or want to contribute toward its rent or just thank her? You can e-mail Linci at womenschoiceclinic@gmail.com. Lend a hand. Send a buck. Shed a tear.

*Barbara Ellis,
letter to Oakland Tribune, 4/9/09*



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A fundraiser of the
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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

Phone: (925) 426-2510

Fax: (925) 426-2517

CHAPTER MEETING

2nd Wednesday of the Month:

May 13

Issues & Actions

Round Table Pizza
530 Main Street
Pleasanton

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

child care will be provided

STOP MILITARY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RAPE

Act now to support the Military Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Response Act, H.R. 840, reintroduced by Rep. Louise Slaughter.

Military domestic violence rates are an estimated two to five times higher than civilian rates, and one-third of military women will be sexually assaulted during their tour of duty.

If passed, H.R. 840 will establish a Department of Defense Victims' Advocate Office to assess services for military women who are victims of stalking, domestic violence, or sexual assault. Every military branch will

provide victims' advocate programs and violence prevention training.

The bill prohibits retaliation for reporting assaults and calls for a sexual assault nurse examiner, psychiatrist, and clinical team at each Dept. of Defense treatment site. Violators of "no contact" or protective orders will be court martialled.

Please contact your U.S. Representative with your support of H.R. 840, and urge immediate sponsorship. [Thanks go to Barbara Lee and Pete Stark, who are two of the bill's 29 cosponsors as this newsletter goes to press.]

from a National NOW Action Alert

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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