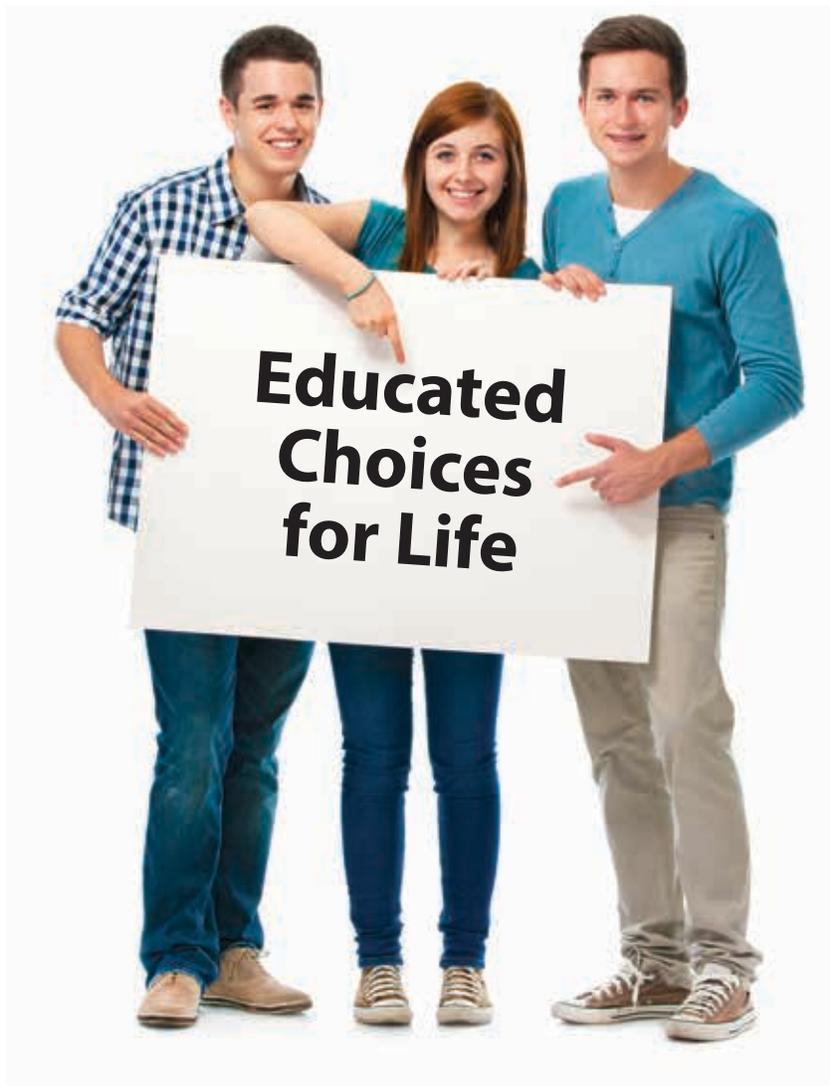




Voices for Choice

Fall 2017

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Citizens for Choice promotes reproductive justice through education, health care access and advocacy. We exist to inform and enable choice.

Voices for Choice

FALL 2017 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Infantilization of Women By Lynn Wenzel

Amid all the talk about abortion in this country, one theme remains undiscussed, the patronizing canard that women—emotional, weak vessels that they are—cannot make their own decisions about whether or not to have a child. Leave that to the husband, the boss, the boyfriend, the state, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Bible. These all get a say in what she does with her body. Indeed, women are often treated like unruly children who must be punished.

In fact, women are already being punished—by every new restriction on their constitutional right to an abortion; obligatory waiting periods, mandated state counseling, required pelvic ultrasounds, limits on public and private insurance coverage. The effect has been to transform a medical procedure into something that women pursue because they just don't understand the ramifications of their decisions. In all cases, this assumes that women are childlike creatures who don't know their own minds. Since the mid-nineties, 26 states have enacted the requirement that pregnant women seeking an abortion have an ultrasound of the fetus. As if she doesn't know she carries some kind of potential life inside her. In six states, the monitor must be turned so the woman can see it and the physician must explain in detail what she is seeing. As if she doesn't already know, especially if she has already given birth as nearly 60 percent of women who have abortions have done. Mandatory ultrasounds, for instance, constitute coerced looking. And limit what Justice John Paul Stevens once called "decisional autonomy."

Anti-choice zealots often use the premise that women need to be saved from a lifetime of regret from their decision, something called a "post abortion syndrome"—now roundly refuted by the American Psychological Association. The same anti-choice groups also persist in connecting the scientifically discredited notion of a link between breast cancer and abortion. Though abortion remains common, constitutional and "medically

routine," (in 2008, it was estimated that one-third of American women would have an abortion at one point) the attempted shaming, overseeing, regulating, dominating, controlling and shackling continue unabated. In the early part of 2017, Oklahoma politicians came up with a bill that would require a woman seeking an abortion to obtain written, notarized consent from the father of the fetus. Recently, bills have required that women who take the abortion pill be informed that the process can be "reversed." And on October 12, Senator Lindsey Graham introduced the "Pain-Capable Unborn child Protection Act," similar to the version passed by the House earlier in the week. The Bill criminalizes abortion procedures performed 20 weeks post-fertilization with no exception for the health of the mother. Based on the scientifically baseless assertion that fetuses can feel pain at that early stage, the Bill is framed as a protection. Yet we all know that most abortions that occur late in pregnancy are due to devastating fetal abnormalities. According to the Guttmacher Institute, just nine percent of abortions occur after 14 weeks, and just over one percent occur after 21 weeks. For women who choose to end a pregnancy in the second trimester—between the 13th and 27th week of gestation—the reasons often involve medical complications, says Cheryl Axelrod, MD. About half of fetal problems won't be detected until an ultrasound at 20 weeks and it is only after this period that other pregnancy complications can occur that endanger women's lives, such as severe preeclampsia, says Axelrod.

On October 9, the Trump Administration rescinded the Obamacare Birth Control Mandate, making it easier for employers to opt out of covering birth control in their insurance plans. More than 90 percent of women in this country use birth control for a myriad of medical reasons. It is estimated that about 62 million women have access to insurance-covered birth control and, not coincidentally, the lowest rate of teen pregnancy in the history of the United

States now exists. If you don't want women to get abortions, why would you take away their birth control?

What is going on here is obvious isn't it? This is not about health, or babies, or pregnancy, or even religion. This is about control—and punishment. For people who say they want government out of their lives, anti-choice crusaders insist on having government right between women's legs at all times. This is really about taking away women's autonomy, turning women once again into hosts for men's seed, vessels for men's procreative pride, about producing another "arrow in the quiver." Federal attorneys argue that the administration wants to "promote childbirth and fetal life." Handmaids' Tale anyone? Freed from constant child-bearing, women have been able to fully participate in society—going to school, working and planning their families. And it's scaring men to death. As Margaret Sanger said in 1919: "No woman can call herself free who does not own and control her body. No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother."

What would a world of women free to control their own bodies look like? Surely, better than the one we live in today—perhaps one peopled by self-actualized humans, dealing on equal and compassionate terms with each other, honoring the spirit of life potential in us all.

Citizens for Choice is a member of the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (CCRF), a statewide reproductive and sexual health, rights, and justice coalition of more than 30 independent organizations. We are partners with Women's Health Specialists for *The Clinic!*, our reproductive health care clinic in Grass Valley.

We want to hear from you! Share your story with us. Perhaps you had a wonderful experience at *The Clinic!*, a history of advocating for reproductive rights, or a life-altering insight about sex education as a parent. Your story may help others.

Contact us at: info@citizensforchoice.org.



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PUBLIC POLICY By Elaine Sierra

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS ADVANCES

Citizens for Choice engages in advocacy to further our overall aims: to increase access to reproductive health services, to protect women's right to choose to terminate their pregnancies, and to make reproductive justice a reality for all Californians. Our current legislative priorities have focused on protecting Medi-Cal enrollees' choice of family planning providers (SB 743), addressing employment discrimination based on women's reproductive health choices (AB 569) and increasing college student access to medication abortion (SB 320).

Working in collaboration with our ally organizations within the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom, we have made major progress on this agenda in 2017.

Freedom of choice in family planning is now assured for Medicaid managed care enrollees in our state. That is because, on October 7, Governor Jerry Brown signed the bill guaranteeing them the right to choose their preferred community-based, out-of-network providers over their managed care providers.

The bill that would prohibit adverse employment actions against women for

personal reproductive health decisions passed through the California legislature. We hope that it will soon receive the Governor's signature and become law.

A critical expansion of access to medication abortion for college students is at stake in the third high priority bill, which would require public universities with student health centers to provide medication abortion for its students. In its current form the proposal would apply to UC and CSU campuses, allowing for safe medication abortion access for students up to 10 weeks of pregnancy. Currently, no such health center provides that service. While the bill moved through several Senate committees, it is still pending further action. We plan to work closely with our coalition partners to see that the bill regains forward momentum and becomes law in 2018.

We thank those of you who joined us in our legislative advocacy—especially contacting our legislators or our Governor or helping spread the word about the need to take action on specific bills.

Check our Facebook page and website frequently to keep updated about our

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To keep up on public policy visit:
www.citizensforchoice.org/home/policy-activism/

reproductive health, rights and justice advocacy and to learn how you may help.

Thank all of you for your support and for keeping us going!

—Elaine Sierra, Public Policy Director

Governor Brown's Recent Veto

Brown vetoed a bill that would have ensured that a woman can't be fired because she decided to get pregnant, use contraception or have an abortion. Assembly Bill 569, the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Act, would have...Read more online at:

<http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soap-box/article179203816.html>

WELCOME BACK!



Judith McCarrick is happy to have rejoined the Citizens for Choice board after a hiatus of several years. Before relocating to Nevada County in 2000, Judith was Assistant Dean of University Extension and Summer Session at the University of California, Santa Cruz for twenty years where she says one of her best memories was the creation and development of the Math/Science Institute for youth in under-served communities. Judith holds an MA in Linguistics and prior to her career at UCSC, Judith taught English as a Second Language at the American Language Institute, San Diego State University where she also wrote and published curricula for pre-university students. A two-year stint as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Colombia followed by graduate school and activism in the Women's Movement were the foundation for Judith's convictions about reproductive choice. As the mother of five terrific adult children and grandmother of nine extraordinary grandchildren, Judith is committed to making safe and accessible reproductive health care available for families in our community and beyond.

2016 VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS

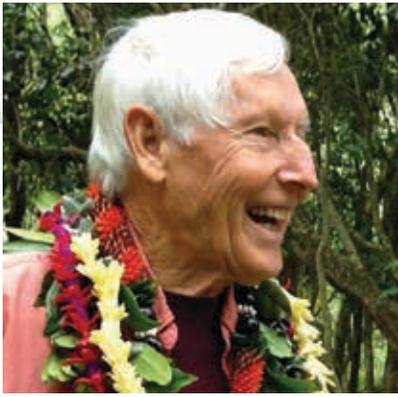
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Remembering John Holland 1928-2017



A memory of a letter written to John.

One crisp November evening, a meeting took place at the Superintendent of Schools office in Nevada City so that current Board members of the Nevada County Citizens for Choice could meet several prospective new members of the board. Each was asked to address the board about their interest in serving.

John, you smiled broadly at us and, after noting a few of the experiences you had had that you felt would be beneficial, announced you felt strongly that the issue of reproductive health and freedom was critical in our community. And then you added...

"In view of my age, I don't know how much energy I will have, but I would like to offer myself for this service if you all think I can do the job."

Well, John, during the last three years you've demonstrated tremendous energy and commitment. I know the clinic wouldn't be celebrating a year of operation without your being instrumental in making it happen. And the clinic is just one of several services you have coordinated.

Although I cannot be with you this evening, I could not let it go by without a word of gratitude for all you have done for NCCC and for the community in general. And personally, I am delighted to have gotten to know you, enjoyed your sense of humor, and benefited from your wisdom and fellowship.

Enjoy your tropical paradise but do come and visit us when you can. Best to you and Catrinka on this new adventure,

—Laurel Knapp

Read more about John in our digital newsletter, visit: www.citizensforchoice.org, and click **Read our VOICES Newsletter**.

E-scrip Contributions—They Really Help! This year's contributions for May through August were \$247.04. Thank you! Contributions may be made to Citizens for Choice through e-scrip at Safeway, Save-Mart, and SPD Market.

Amazon Remember to shop at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to Nevada County Citizens for Choice. When you #StartWithaSmile, Amazon donates to Nevada County Citizens for Choice. Shop for great deals at smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0479729

DONORS

Citizens for Choice thanks the following donors whose generosity was received Winter 2017

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- John Timmer
- Maryellen Walsh
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Thank you!

You help us provide services at *The Clinic!*, education programs and advocacy for us all.



Condom Locations

- Asylum Down
- Behind Closed Doors Fantasy Boutique
- BriarPatch Co-op
- Classic Tattoo
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- Gary's Place Saloon
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- HAALo
- Ink Expressed Tattoo
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- McGees
- Mine Shaft Saloon
- The Open Book
- Sierra Care Pediatrics (GV)
- Sierra Care Physicians (PV)
- Sierra College Health Services
- Sierra Family Medical Clinic (NSJ)
- Sierra Mountain Coffee Roasters
- Tribal Weaver
- Valentina's Organic Bistro and Bakery
- WIC



It's difficult to find words for this man as yesterday he left this world at 89. John Holland. When I first moved to California from upstate New York, he restored some hope in me for humanity. The strength of his will in working for social change, his embracing love for life, his pure commitment to justice, his meditative steps in the world and his huge heart greeted me like the best version of that well known long California hug. He paved the way for HIV testing in our community, taught sex ed to every population imaginable and was an advocate for progressive public health initiatives in San Fran and Nevada County. He and I shared inspiration and frustration hitting the pavement years ago to find a home for what is now Grass Valley's "The Clinic" and when he cleaned out some of his collections from his public health work, awarded me his baseball cap, "Condom Crusader". His wit was sharp and his vision for a loving world shined through it all. Sending so much love to Catrinka Holland, his incredible partner. We will all miss you.

—Jen Rhi Winders



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From the Family of John Holland

John Myron Holland of Kamuela, Hawaii, died peacefully in his wife's arms on September 28, 2017. His sparkle and wit remained, even as his body declined. Anyone who had the good fortune of hearing John's stories understood that he had a rich and varied life.

Born March 26, 1928, in Fredonia, Kansas to Hugh and Estella Holland, he grew up helping with his mother's chicken farm and in his father's leather shop. John committed himself to a life of service which began with his religious studies at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma. While at University he met and married Barbara Bradshaw in 1949. He spent his adult life as an educator. First, as Youth Pastor in the Disciples of Christ Church. Over the next several years their family grew as they accepted positions in Wichita, Kansas and Dallas, Texas. During this time John completed a Masters Degree in Religious Education from Phillips University.

Always active and involved in outdoor education, John accepted an assignment in Sacramento, California in January, 1959 to be the Youth Minister at First Christian Church. While there he was asked to help develop a camp and conference center. Over the next several years the area near Foresthill, California known as The Community of The Great Commission was purchased and developed largely through John's initiative, efforts and design. Despite early setbacks of fire damage to the purchased land and declining enrollment, the "Community" lives on today as a testament to the values of reflecting with nature and working together.

The tumult of the sixties and early seventies profoundly affected John and his family. He and Barbara grew in their separate visions and, though still friends, were unable to remain marriage partners. He left his formal relationship with the church and pursued further schooling, completing a Masters in Public Health from UC Berkeley and a PhD in Human Sexuality from the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality. During those years, John was the Director of a Drug Crisis Center run through a coffee shop in downtown Oakland.

He subsequently became the Director of the Sexuality Education Program at UCSF, teaching sexuality courses to over 5,000 physicians, pharmacists and therapists. Living in San Francisco as the AIDS epidemic was taking the lives of many, John became an active advocate for sex education and HIV/AIDS and sexual

disease prevention. He was also a sex counselor, which he continued until his retirement.

In 1977, John met Catrinka Smirl, as he would happily recount, "at a clothes optional massage school." They moved in together shortly after and were married in January, 1979.

From Oakland, CA they moved to Glen Ellen where Catrinka managed a Presbyterian camp. Then back to Oakland where John helped found and run The Association of Sexologists (TAOS). The call of country living took them from Oakland to a remote 100 acre ranch in Comptche, CA where John planted thousands of trees nearby and gathered chanterelles to sell.

Catrinka's work eventually took them to Nevada City, CA, where they settled for 25 years.

John worked for the Public Health Department as a Sex Educator and HIV/AIDS Educator for multiple rural counties. He worked in jails, schools and churches and was especially proud of the accomplishments of the many young adult peer educators he mentored. A room at the Nevada County Health Department was named after John in his honor. He was an active volunteer for Citizens for Choice and was instrumental in getting the Women's Health Clinic started in Grass Valley.

The first meeting of John's men's group was in the big lodge at Camp Augusta in the early 1980's. The men still meet regularly, having been together for 35 years through marriages, raising families, illnesses, aging and deaths over the years. John lately continued connection with the men through on-line meetings and visits. The Men's Group has been a foundational pleasure of deep companionship for John.

Once retired from full-time work, John became a writer. His short stories and poems were enjoyed by all who read or heard him perform them. His stories included vignettes from his life, including growing up in the dust bowl, his years in Foresthill and his experiences as a Hospice Chaplain.

In 2007, John & Catrinka moved to the Big Island of Hawai'i, fulfilling a long time dream of John's to be near the tropical beauty and the volcano. Continuing to hone his writing skills, he started a Writer's Group and eventually wrote *Yellowbird*, his first published book of fiction, which portrays the possibilities of responsible, healthy, sexual activity in youth.



John was raised to love the land and enjoyed gardening and raising animals wherever he went. Well into his 80's, John created and tended gardens at the final home he and Catrinka created in Waimea. Volunteering with Mala'ai Garden at Waimea Middle School brought together two of his passions -- youth education and closeness to nature. He loved the deep sense of community at Mala'ai.

John was one of those people who was larger than life. Everyone wanted to talk to him, everyone knew him and everyone shined in his presence and laughter. A trip to the farmer's market took forever because John would "hold court", not by command, but by demand. Everyone greeted would stop and visit; often to learn from John, but he always learned more. Which was his gift - he always taught and he always learned.

John was a happy man, content in himself. Known for bringing out the best in others, he took happiness in the happiness of others.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Catherine (Catrinka) Holland of Kamuela; his children and their spouses: Michael and Mary Jane Holland of Ridgefield, Washington; Diane Holland and Terry Pratt of Sacramento, California; Timothy and Leslie Holland of Grass Valley, California; Kris and Sue Holland of Applegate, California and their mother, Barbara Holland of Sacramento, California. His grandchildren: Samantha Holland and partner Delshay Devera of Honokaa, Hawaii; and Miles Holland, his wife Laura Holland of San Diego, California and their sons, his great-grandchildren, Weston and Kellen.

Memorial contributions may be sent to his favorite charities, Southern Poverty Law Center, Westar Institute, and Land Institute.

A Memorial Celebration will be held on Friday, November 25th. Ceremony begins at 2:00 pm at St. Joseph's Cultural Center, 410 South Church Street, Grass Valley, California.

There will also be a time to remember and celebrate John on the Big Island of Hawai'i on Saturday, December 9th. Ceremony begins at 4pm at Holohele State Park.

Brown betrayed women with last-minute veto

Special to The Bee, October 17, 2017
<http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article179203816.html>

By Amy Everitt

At around midnight Sunday, Gov. Jerry Brown pandered to religious extremists and jeopardized the job security of women across California.

In his final act of this legislative session, Brown vetoed a bill that would have ensured that a woman can't be fired because she decided to get pregnant, use contraception or have an abortion. Assembly Bill 569, the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Act, would have banned workplace discrimination due to a woman's personal reproductive health choices.

This bill – aimed at preventing attacks on women's rights under the guise of "religious freedom" – was pushed after a San Diego woman was fired as a financial aid specialist at a Christian college for getting pregnant outside of marriage.

Vetoing this bill was a cowardly act. At a time of unparalleled threats to women's rights by President Donald Trump and his Republican allies, the governor had a chance to stand up to protect California families. He failed.

This issue is much broader than one bill in California. Trump and the Republican Party are pushing to allow discriminatory behavior of all kinds under "religious freedom." For instance, Trump's Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, has put the rights of LGBTQ students in jeopardy and said she favors allowing the federal government to fund private institutions that discriminate against these students. The administration has imposed new mass restrictions on abortion access, proposed a ban on transgender Americans in the military, and dismantled critical protections for sexual assault survivors on college campuses.

Ideological extremists are using "religious freedom" to take control over our lives and political discourse. As they gain more power and acceptance, their arguments seem to be swaying ostensibly progressive leaders such as Brown.

If his veto indicates anything, it's that this won't be the last time we have to fight these battles for women and their basic rights.

As NARAL Pro-Choice California has

shown throughout the Legislature's consideration of this bill, restrictions on reproductive freedom in the name of religious liberty are out of step with mainstream political consensus.

The legislation, authored by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher (D-San Diego) and sponsored by NARAL Pro-Choice California and California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, had support from more than 80 organizations, including 16 faith groups that argued that true religious freedom means allowing people to make decisions based on their own morals and values. More than 300 small businesses signed on, we delivered 15,000 signatures to Brown's office and

the more than 1,000 members personally called.

Similar bills are being considered across the country; this was a prime opportunity for California to lead the way. With his veto, Brown takes our leadership in protecting reproductive freedom backward.

It also puts a spotlight on reproductive rights as a key issue for California's 2018 race for governor. That's why NARAL is convening a series of statewide reproductive rights town halls to bring together pro-choice candidates and voters. California's women and families deserve a governor who will stand with us. Brown proved he's not up to the job.

Origins of the Condom Fairy



If you ever wondered about our Condom Fairies and how the whole idea got started then here is your answer. Our original Fairy and the lady that started the program when she was in high school is Sarah Molaro. These days she is a mother of two teens and she has her own business, Yoga Well. She was the original Condom Fairy and it is nice to know that she is still in the area and doing more good things with Yoga. It makes me happy to see a program that she started years ago continue to go forward and help so many people in the community.

Thank you Sarah!
—Deb Worth

Yoga Wellness with Sarah

Monday 6:30pm Wednesday 6am
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Sarah Bergeron Molaro has been studying Yoga since 2002 and completed Mnt Madonna RYTT in 2011
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