

Voices for Choice

FALL 2014 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S LETTER By Kimberly D'Urso, President

Milestones, gratitude, and many more reasons to *celebrate!*

Happy Fall to all of you, Friends,

I love this time of year. No other season is more special or resonates with me more deeply than fall. With its brilliantly-colored leaves, the crispness in the air, sightings of pumpkins, bone-warming soup, and pumpkin pie, fall is a true celebration of the senses.

And we also have a lot to celebrate at Citizens for Choice this year. This November marks our 25th anniversary of service. What an accomplishment to reach this year's milestone. Thank you to all of you for your continued support of our mission: to provide unbiased access to sex-education and reproductive health services in our rural Nevada County community.

I sometimes wonder if our founding members ever imagined that Citizens for Choice would still be going strong 25 years after its inception. I want to take this time to acknowledge, with deep gratitude, The American Association of University Women (www.aauwnevadacounty.org), Business &

Professional Women of Nevada County (bpwnevadacounty.org), and the League of Women Voters (www.lwvwnv.org), who had the courage and foresight to form the alliance that became Citizens for Choice. It is because of the vision of these committed citizens that our organization stands strong, 25 years later.

Please make time to celebrate this milestone with us. Join us for our "Decadent Desserts: 25th Anniversary Fundraiser" on November 20th, 2014, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., at the Historic Powell House in Nevada City.

We will enjoy decadent desserts and luscious cakes, created by Upper Crust Bakery, of Chico, California, accompanied by the inspiring and soulful music of artist Aedryan Gantt. We will have a fun sex-ed quiz, so come test your knowledge and have a laugh with us.

RSVP via e-mail at info@citizensforchoice.org and honor the commitment and vision of Citizens for Choice and the difference we make in our community.

Also, we want to hear your stories!! Please share with us a memory about C4C's early days; or perhaps a story about The Clinic's opening; or maybe you have another story to share about the founders or a personal impact we have made on your life or someone you know?

Just what does it mean to you to have access to unbiased sex-education and health services in our community? These stories may be anonymous. Thank you in advance for your contributions. Please send to: kimberly.c4c@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing you at our 25th Anniversary fundraiser. Here's to another 25 years!
All my best,

Kimberly D'Urso, President
Citizens for Choice

Save the Date! November 20, 2014

You're Invited!
To an evening celebrating
25 years supporting
reproductive justice
in our community.



Thursday, November 20th, 2014
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
At the Historic Powell House
203 South Pine Street, Nevada City

please RSVP by 11/06/14 by email:
info@citizensforchoice.org



\$25 for 25 Years!

Suggested Donation

Visit: www.citizensforchoice.org/home/why-donate/
Mail: Citizens for Choice, PO Box 3525, Grass Valley, CA 95945

PUBLIC POLICY By Elaine Sierra, Public Policy Chair

California Advances for Reproductive Health and Justice

The 2014 legislative calendar is drawing to a close, with significant advances to celebrate—and some disappointments. Thank you, everyone who joined us in advocating for passage of bills we identified as important to women's health and rights. Thank you for expressing your concern in so many areas affecting access to birth control and abortion, and freedom from sexual exploitation and repression. Among the bills passed and signed by Governor Jerry Brown, we can count as victories those that:

1. Require California insurers to cover all forms of contraception and sterilization approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), thus ensuring that women can choose their preferred birth control methods and obtain them without out-of-pocket costs. (SB 1053)
2. Protect against eugenics-style sterilizations at the hands of prison doctors, by banning sterilizations in the prison setting for the purpose of birth control, and setting up safeguards against abuse for medical-purpose sterilizations. (SB 1135)
3. Require California state colleges and universities to strengthen their policies and

protocols on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. That includes adopting an affirmative consent standard (so that only "Yes" means "Yes") in determining whether a person asserting a complaint gave consent to an alleged rape or sexual assault; and implementing comprehensive prevention and outreach programs. (SB 967)

In addition, the California Senate passed a symbolic resolution that reaffirms its commitment to women and their fundamental right to choice, by stating the Senate's support for US Senate Bill 2578 (Not My Boss's Business Act), which would overrule the Hobby Lobby decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. (That case resulted in allowing a non-religious, private employer to refuse to provide birth control coverage otherwise mandated under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), based on a claim of infringement of religious rights.) (SR 55)

While we applaud these accomplishments, we must also acknowledge legislative defeats—advances we must continue to work toward. Chief among them are bills that would have:



1. Strengthened the Attorney General's authority over hospital mergers to protect public access to healthcare services. It would have addressed the problem of hospitals that merge with Catholic or other religious-based health systems and then violate conditions aimed at insuring that the pre-merger level of care for women's health is maintained, at least for some period of time—services such as emergency contraception in cases of rape, vasectomies, and abortion services. (SB 1094 –vetoed by the Governor)

2. Protected the health and safety of children born into poverty, and ended California's intrusion into the private reproductive and medical decisions of poor families. Currently, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS) assistance is barred for any child born into a household when any member is receiving aid—commonly known as the Maximum Family Grant rule. (SB 899 – failed to move beyond a crucial funding committee).

Condom Fairies

If you are interested in making sure some, or all of our condom baskets are always filled, please email our outreach coordinator to become one of our valued condom fairies:
debra.c4c@gmail.com



Sex Education

Please check out our website for news and information about Citizens for Choice's **Know it and Own it** sexual education program, related articles and resource links.
www.citizensforchoice.org/home/sex-education/



2014 VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS

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Citizens for Choice

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530-274-3331

phone messages retrieved weekly
email: info@citizensforchoice.org

WE'VE CHANGED OUR STYLE!

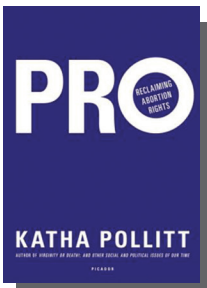
Voices for Choice has a new look. Our new format condenses our content to local news—what's coming up for us, politically important to us, and interesting to us. Keep checking in at the Citizens for Choice website for other interesting and important news, including regional and national events, as new items come up.

CitizensforChoice.org website and Facebook page provides current information on these topics, and more:

Advocacy · Local Resources · Blog · Recommended Reading
Public Health · Policy & Activism

RECOMMENDED READS By Marlene Katz, Donor Relations

PRO: Reclaiming Abortion Rights, a book by Katha Pollitt



New York Times Book Review, reviewed in The NY Times by Clara Jeffery, October 12, 2014. Summary of some of the facts as given by Pollitt.

For anyone who reads *The Nation* magazine, you will recognize Katha Pollitt as a columnist and poet for that magazine. Her new book as

mentioned above is fresh off the press. Some capsule statements gathered will likely create some curiosity as to what else it contains concerning the antis and their hypocrisy(ies).

- six out of 10 women today get abortions
- abortion is safe, legal, and a million procedures a year are completed
- one half of all pregnancies are unplanned
- her message is that abortion should come out of the closet: she regards it as a social good.
- her interesting observation is that there is a "muddled middle" who don't want it banned but have deeply

conflicted views—and neither do they want it offered

- she says that the Bible does not ban abortion and neither did the founding fathers
- then, too, she notes the hypocrisy the opponents have noted of anti-abortionists
- this line is so true: "there are so many who would reduce women to 'potting soil' if left to their own devices"

Ms. Pollitt also covers the historical background of certain times in history, regarding abortion and the Supreme Court in the mix. Her own family was involved with abortions, even her mother who had a mysterious abortion in her forties.

A writer of 20 plus years ago, Susan Faluda, who wrote the book *The Backlash: the Undisclosed War Against American Women*, published a book at the time of the Anita Hill proceedings with Clarence Thomas. Pollitt alludes to this book in her publication.

DONORS

Citizens for Choice thanks the following donors whose generosity was received between: June – September, 2014

Thank you!

You help us provide services at *The Clinic!*, education programs like *Know It & Own It*, and advocacy for us all.

Anne DeWitt
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Barbara Hazilla, MD
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Edith Lufkin
Melanie Wellner
Anonymous

Condom Baskets Locations:

Asylum Down, Behind Closed Doors, Briar Patch, Cafe Mekka, Classix Tattoo, Common Goals, CoRR, DVSAC, Foggy Mt. Music, Good Times Board Store, HAALo, Ink Expressed Tattoo, Dr. E. Lernhardt, MD, Mine Shaft, Sierra Care Pediatrics (GV), Sierra Care Phy. (PV), Sierra College Health Services, Sierra Family Medical Clinic (NSJ) Sierra Mountain Coffee Roasters, The Stone House, Tribal Weaver, WIC

THE
Clinic!

At *The Clinic!* your sexual and reproductive health is *always* your choice.

Mondays 10:30-5:00
Wednesdays 11:00-6:00
530-521-3273 The Clinic!

120 Richardson St. Suite A, Grass Valley, CA 95945

800-714-8151 ~ 24/7
Women's Health Specialists