

The Final Edition:

WRAG IN REVIEW
2017 - 2024



WE SHOWED UP!!



THANK YOU KAREN!!
OUR FEARLESS LEADER



WE CONNECTED!!

THE GAZETTE

The Story of WRAG

The Women's Rights Action Group (WRAG) was created by Karen N. After attending the first *Women's March on Washington* following Trump's inauguration and seeing several members of Tapestry's congregation in attendance, Karen recognized a need. An exploratory meeting was held on February 5, 2017 and WRAG was born!

From the start, the goal of WRAG was to provide opportunities to get involved with women's issues and to help local organizations that support women.

Over the years, WRAG has assisted various women's shelters, worked with Planned Parenthood, presented theatrical productions and films, hosted guest speakers, provided luncheons, raised money, donated collected items, and sent care packages to active female troops. We've addressed issues such as homelessness, incarceration, sex trafficking, and reproductive injustice.

Although WRAG is ending, we hope we have provided you with a variety of ways to stay engaged as the need for women's rights activism continues. Thank you for being a part of our journey and the WRAG story.



WRAG Mascot

We Rocked It!!

Over the years, we faced some challenges in our efforts to present activities and opportunities for our members and the congregation as a whole to participate. At one time, we lacked a facility of our own to host events and then the Covid pandemic reduced social interaction. Nevertheless, we persevered and with the generosity of Tapestry, we were able to accomplish more than we imagined.

Here's a look-back at some of our partnerships and accomplishments:

SEVEN: our 1st community activity. A documentary stage play highlighting the lives of 7 global women leaders. Raised over \$600.

WISE PLACE: Women, Inspired, Supported, Empowered (WISE) Place provides temporary housing and requires residents to find a job within a month. Raised \$405 through Generosity Sunday and donated it for fire escape ladders.

ISAIAH'S HOUSE: We partnered with them to distribute food & socks to the unhoused living in Santa Ana Riverbed tents. Under Chef Kathy's guidance, we prepared a gourmet dinner and dined with the residents. Donated \$673.

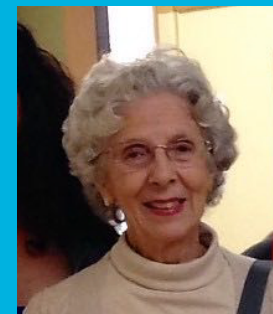
ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION -- BEVERLY HOUSE (housing for women aged 18-24 who age out of foster care) and **THE LIGHTHOUSE** (housing for female survivors of sex trafficking): Collected \$580 in gift cards, \$106 in cash, and a HUGE amount of donated clothing!

WOMEN'S TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER, INC.: Christmas in June gift card drive. Raised \$550 to assist survivors of domestic violence.

COLETTE'S CHILDREN'S HOME: Serves homeless women. Donated over 2,171 feminine hygiene products.

OC HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE: A community event. Guest speaker exposed the realities of human sex trafficking in OC. Raised/Donated \$550.

Gone, but not forgotten



Ellen De Young

Charlotte Clarke

Barbara Bradley

I SUPPORT THE GIRLS: Raised \$878 through Sharing Our Gifts Plate Collection and donated 113 bras, 434 underwear, 3,264 pads and 1,130 tampons. These items were then redistributed to Human Options (domestic violence survivors) and Waymakers (crime survivors).

LADIES OF LIBERTY: Provides care packages to deployed female soldiers across all branches of the military. We adopted a year-long project where we collected hundreds of dollars and so many pampering care items that we went from supporting one soldier a month to two a month, for a total of 18 soldiers for the year. We also held a DVD drive and sent over 150 films (no duplicates).



PROJECT SELF-SUFFICIENCY: Supports single parents attending local colleges. Donated \$1,086 from Plate Collections, plus a whole lot of non-perishable goods, gift cards, and backpacks!

GREAT AMERICAN WRITE-IN: The year after attending this annual event, we set up our own booth and encouraged post cards be written to Raise the (federal) Minimum Wage since 2/3rds of minimum wage workers are women.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD: Big THANK YOU to Debbie and Rona for immediately stepping into the roles of Co-Champions and kept us apprised of opportunities to fight for reproductive justice, such as phone banking, canvassing for votes, and postcard writing. PP also awarded them with certificates recognizing their volunteer work.



"TRAPPED": Sundance Film Festival award winning documentary shows the disastrous impact of Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws and the struggles of clinic workers and lawyers trying to keep abortion safe and legal for US women. Guest speaker was retired federal judge Lynne Riddle. Raised \$600 and donated to film sponsor Planned Parenthood.

"THE IF PROJECT": We screened the documentary film on the lives of incarcerated women. Our guest speakers were Stephanie Hammerwold of the Pacific Reentry Career Services and two formerly incarcerated women who shared their experiences on the challenges of returning to the work force.



THE FEMININE FACE OF HOMELESSNESS: Joined Tapestry's Welcoming Neighbors Home for an online event. Guest speakers included Rev. Rayna Hamre (Tapestry's Affiliate Community Minister) and WISE Place Manager Elizabeth Hendershot.



TAPESTRY WORSHIP SERVICE: In honor of National Women's History Month, WRAG gave a special service sharing perspectives from three diverse members, including Rona's "An Open Letter to My Daughter."



SILVERADO MARKETPLACE: Provides clothing to benefit Saddleback Unified School District students and their families. Our first ever Tapestry Clothing Exchange drive benefitted our members and then donated five large bags of clothes, shoes, and purses.





TAPESTRY WRAG TALK!: When the pandemic hit and we could not meet in person, we stayed connected through WRAG *Talk!* via Zoom. Participants would watch selected films in advance, then gather virtually to discuss. We watched "Killing Me Softly 4" (objectifying women's bodies in advertisements); "Mrs. America" (a 7-part series on the movement to ratify the ERA); and "Not Done: Women Remaking America" (women's progress from Hilary Clinton's presidential loss to Kamala Harris VP nomination; the Me Too Movement, Black Lives Matter, and Immigration).

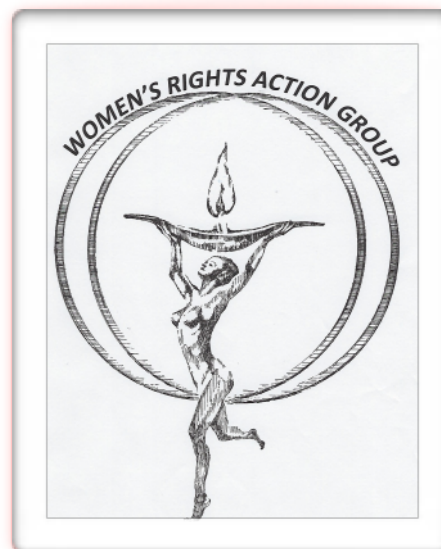
ATTENDED EVENTS: United State of Women Summit (Keynote Speakers Michelle Obama and Delores Huerta); HerStory (an historical play on women in America); and various speaking engagements with such notables as Gloria Steinem, Tarana ("Me Too" founder) Burke, and Prof. Michelle Godwin.

WOMEN'S MARCH: Every year we joined in Sisterhood March in January.

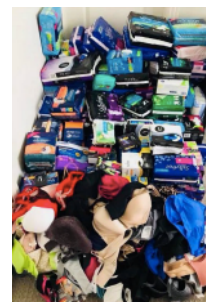
STOP THE BANS PROTEST: We showed up in protest to the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade.

AND MORE!: Members participated in reading excerpts from The Story of Abortion; we created our own logo (thank you Denise!) and a secret Facebook page.

Please enjoy this look-back. If anyone or any event is not represented, please know it's not a deliberate oversight, but more of printed space limitation. Thank you for all that you have contributed. Resist. Persist. Nevertheless.



Memories . . .





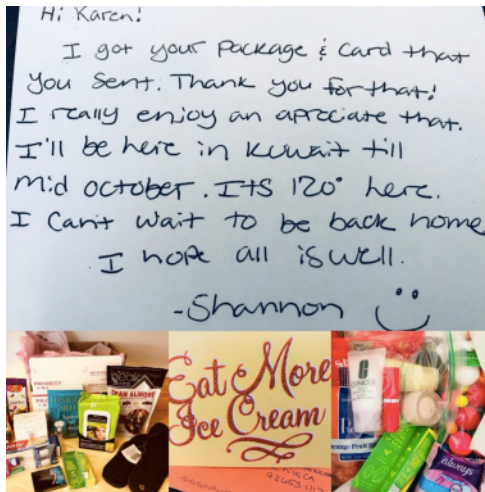
Dynamic Stage Play



Isaiah's House

Preparing Dinner for the Residents

Ladies of Liberty Care Packages & DVD Drive - and letter of thanks from soldier

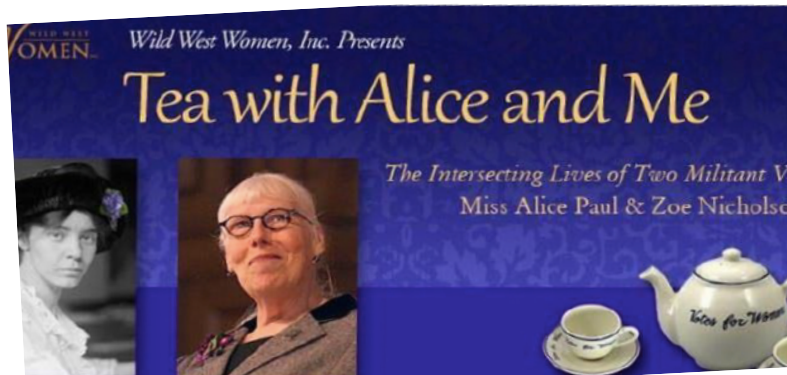


WISE Place

Providing lunch for residents



Great American Write-In: First as attendees & then with own booth over the years



Attending Play and Book Signing



Guest Speaker:
Judge
Lynne
Riddle



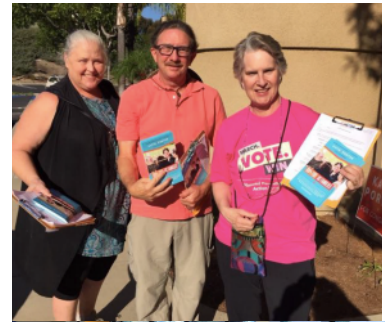
Colette's Children's Home:
Delivering donations (left)

Attending HerStory (below):









Letter writing: Stop the Gag



OUR MISSION STATEMENT: We are a dynamic group of women, men, and youth gathered together to apply our Unitarian Universalist principles in support of women and women’s issues.

We provide a network of information and partnership opportunities focused on women. Areas of interest include reproductive justice, political activism, health care, empowerment, and equality. 12