

## Our Chapter Rocks!

From Darby Mangen, President, SGV/Whittier NOW

### The Good News! SGV NOW Helps Baldwin Park Women

*In about six months, maybe sooner,* Baldwin Park may add an **advocate for victims of domestic violence** to the staff of its police department. Advocates should not be confused with other officers called in domestic violence cases. They provide direct, personal services to victims.

Diane Franklin and I worked closely with Chief Lily Hadsell and Councilwoman Monica Garcia for this new position, just as our chapter pushed more than six years ago for such a position in the West Covina P.D., now filled by Diane Franklin. Protection for women, one police department at a time!

### More Good News

*We just found out that the award-* winning Special Domestic Violence unit at

Citrus Court in West Covina is staying open after all. The trained DV judge who left recently **has been replaced.** Those of you who were around in 1999 will remember the difficult year we spent spearheading a community coalition to re-open this court. We fought hard then and won. Now we can breathe a sigh of relief that it is staying open while courts across the State are having to make so many cutbacks.

### Chapter Marks Roe Anniversary with Gift

*Braving a two hour drive in the rain,* Chapter member Henry Howard delivered a basket of candy and flowers from SGV/NOW to the Family Planning Medical Center in La Puente on January 22, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

*See Darby, Page 2*

## Local Clinic Threatened

Report from Henry Howard

### On the 37th anniversary of Roe v.

Wade — a shining moment in women's rights history — I revisited a local clinic that Darby, Virginia and I had defended faithfully every Saturday morning for years, the Family Planning Medical Clinic in La Puente (originally in El Monte).

We protected staff and patients from an obnoxious, persistent group of anti-choice activists who followed the clinic director, Eva, and her assistant, Mauricio, everywhere. No matter where Eva set up shop, this group would find and harass her, until we finally won a permanent injunction against them.

January 22<sup>nd</sup> seemed the perfect time to get back in touch. On behalf of SGV/NOW, I put together a wicker basket of flowers,

candy for staff and patients, condoms, and a "Trust Women. This clinic stays open!" tee-shirt.

Deeply appreciative, and clearly moved by the gesture, Eva was also acting nervous — with good reason, as it turns out. She, her staff and patients are once again under threat. A group calling itself "40 Days for Life" is planning a 40-day vigil outside abortion clinics nationwide, and one of the targets is Eva's clinic. Their "vigils" usually involve daily picketing, chanting and "sidewalk counseling" with a larger demonstration every Saturday. The chosen "40 days" are February 17 – March 28. **I strongly suggest we organize a counter-**

*See Henry, Page 3*

Act

NOW

to bring

women

into the

mainstream,

exercising

all the

privileges

and

responsi-

bilities

thereof

in truly equal

partnership

with men.

San Gabriel Valley/

Whittier NOW

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### **Darby ... from page 1**

Members of our Chapter, including Henry, protected women entering the clinic, then known as Clinic Eva, on Saturday mornings for **eight years**.

### **Chapter Donates to Women's Shelters**

**The Executive Board voted to give \$300 (10% of last year's yard sale proceeds) to the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter in Whittier.** We also donated \$300 to the WINGS Shelter and have received a note of thanks from its director. Both shelters are within SGV/Whittier NOW's area.

### **Chapter Helps Yesenia Move Out of Ghetto**

**No heat, no hot water, located in a rundown, dangerous neighborhood — this was the "home" in which the "system" had placed Yesenia and her young children.** Thanks to hard work, sweat and tears from Diane Franklin, the Domestic Violence Action Coalition and myself, the family recently moved into a clean apartment in a nice neighborhood, near schools and buses.

Yesenia and her children are hard workers and survivors, but they could never have made it this far without help. Thanks to all who made it possible. We are beyond happy for this family!

### **Your Cast-Offs Raise \$\$\$**

**We received several minivan loads of donations for the Yard Sale last month. Please don't forget to save your cast offs for the Sale — scheduled for **Saturday, June 12**.** Mark your calendar!

### **Truth in Advertising for Bogus Crisis Centers**

**Your Chapter has a history of picketing bogus Pregnancy Centers — therefore our interest in two bills introduced in the Washington state legislature that, if enacted, would require disclosure that these clinics *do not* provide information or referral for abortion or birth control.**

There are an estimated 4,000 of these bogus clinics nationwide run by anti-choice volunteers who are not licensed medical professionals. Last December, Baltimore became the first city in the U.S. to enact a "truth in advertising" law. The Baltimore law requires posted signs disclosing services. Montgomery County, Maryland has a similar bill pending.

### **Giving Children a Voice**

**Family Court reform is another Chapter project. Did you know that children do not have a direct voice in family court?** Currently they are not asked for their input by the court, but only by intermediaries who often distort their wishes. AB 1050, sponsored by Fiona Ma, would give children that direct voice. AB 612 (Beale) is designed to prohibit junk science, such as the discredited "Parental Alienation Syndrome," in the Courts. Claims of parental alienation, backed by phony science, have led to abusive fathers being given custody of their children.

### **Garcia Garner's Mayoral Endorsement for her Assembly Run**

**L. A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has endorsed our own Monica Garcia for the State Assembly.** Our Chapter endorsed her previous bid for Baldwin Park City Council. I represented our chapter at a reception hosted by the Women's Political Caucus honoring twelve notable women, including Monica. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, Monica was a mover and shaker in our push to acquire a domestic violence victims' advocate for the Baldwin Park P.D. Thank you, Monica, and may the Assembly seat be yours!



**Count me in!**  
I'm joining NOW

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Your annual dues buy national, state and local membership:

Regular: \$40  Reduced fee: \$10—\$29

Additional Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to  
**National Organization for Women.**

Mail to **SGV/W-NOW**

**16065 Doublegrove St.**

**Valinda CA 91744**

# Prop. 8 Suit/Don't Ask, Don't Tell

Report from Virginia Macy

**The defenders of Prop. 8 are providing the best witness for those on the plaintiffs' side of the case with The Sacramento Bee reporting defense witness, Kenneth Miller, professor at Claremont McKenna College saying under oath that he was "aware there is ongoing discrimination in the United States." The Sacramento Bee also reported that "Miller hesitated but eventually agreed with plaintiff attorney David Boies that same-sex marriage bans can be interpreted as discrimination." (see full article at [www.sacbee.com/295/v/print/story/2489193.html](http://www.sacbee.com/295/v/print/story/2489193.html))**

**In other news, The New York Times reports from Washington that "The nation's top two defense officials called Tuesday for an end to the 16-year-old 'don't ask, don't tell' law, a major step toward allowing openly gay men and women to serve in the United States military for the first time.**

"No matter how I look at the issue, I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens," Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Senate Armed Services Committee." (see full article at [www.nytimes.com/2010/02/03/us/politics/03military.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/03/us/politics/03military.html))

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**Henry ... from page 1**

**presence at least once a week during their campaign.**

**"Could you be next?"**

In addition, someone had just sent Eva a letter with photos of several Southern California doctors,

with words to the effect **"We have shut down these abortionists and their clinics. Could you be next?"** Unfortunately she threw the letter away and is not sure what organization the writer represented. She thought it might be *Operation Rescue*, but it was more openly threatening that is usual for them.

Now that we know that *40 Days for Life* knows Eva's clinic, my conclusion is that they sent it, as the letter had the hallmarks of a local group. *40 Days for Life* has pledged nonviolence, both physical and verbal, but this letter straddles the line.

I cautioned Eva and Mauricio to watch for more threatening letters and, should they receive any, to preserve them as evidence, to alert other clinics and to contact me immediately. Such letters constitute an implied threat and are therefore actionable under the

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**California Anti-Stalking Law.**

They are eerily reminiscent of Minister Neil Horsley's infamous site, "The Nuremberg Files," with its logo dripping blood, the names of murdered doctors struck through and wounded doctors grayed out, and its lists of all doctors, nurses, clinic supporters and other affiliates.

I just hope that our Chapter's gesture of support on January 22<sup>nd</sup> provided some comfort to Eva and her staff. The card read: *"On your special day, sending you warm thoughts, tranquility in your heart, and serenity of mind, and hoping you know how much you're loved."*

**Thanks for saving women's lives**

Inside I wrote: *"On this 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Whittier/SGV chapter of NOW sends you our love, admiration and gratitude*

*for saving women's lives. Without abortion providers, there is no choice, and abortion providers are heroes for saving women's lives! In solidarity and friendship, Henry Howard (on behalf of our chapter)."*

## NOW CALENDAR

- > February is Black History Month
- > March is Women's International History Month
- > March 21 · 12:00 SGV/Whittier Executive Board Meeting • Marie Callender's, West Covina
- > April 10 • NOW Southwest Regional Conference [www.now.org/regions](http://www.now.org/regions) 202.628.8669
- > June 12 • Chapter Yard Sale
- > July 2 - 4 National NOW Conference, Boston
- > August 1 - 4 • Joint Conference of the National Organization for Men Against Sexism and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Anaheim [www.ncadv.org/conferences/GeneralConferenceInformationandOverview-2.php](http://www.ncadv.org/conferences/GeneralConferenceInformationandOverview-2.php)

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**Mauritania, West Africa**  
**Thirty Muslim clerics have issued an edict banning genital excision and have promised to preach against the practice [which also goes on in this country].** (from the L.A. Times, January 19)

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**Haiti - Three Haitian women's rights leaders were killed in the quake: Myriam Merlet, Magalie Marcelin and Anne Marie Coriolan founded 3 women's rights organizations & worked together for decades.** (from Feminist News, January 21)

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**VALLEY VOICE**

**The SGV/Whittier NOW**  
Chapter newsletter is published 3 or 4 times a year and is free to members. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$20/year.



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## Urgent Call to Action in La Puente!!!

We need volunteers NOW to counter the threat to a local clinic!

**An anti-choice group calling itself "40 Days for Life"** is threatening to campaign against a women's clinic in La Puente. Part of a larger effort planned in 156 cities across the nation, it is supposed to last from February 17 to March 28.

We are hoping it will fizzle! If it doesn't, a counter, or "Zap," Action may be necessary. This is what we will need:

- **PICKETERS** Volunteers to picket the picketers
- **PHONE CALLERS** Be part of the phone brigade, recruiting picketers and sign makers, arranging transportation and scheduling, keeping tabs.

- **SIGN MAKERS** If you can print neatly and legibly, we need you to make signs for the picketers.

- **"RIGHT HAND" for Darby\*** [Note: This is the editor's idea, not Darby's.]

[Back to Darby]: The Chapter's plate is full as you can see from the President's message. Your help and support will be truly appreciated.

Call Darby now (626.918.0492), sign on and **MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

## E.C. for the Military

**The Pentagon will begin providing emergency contraception (EC) at U.S. military base health facilities worldwide.** The change is a result of a recommendation from the Pentagon's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, which voted in November 2009 that both Plan B and generic Next Choice should be included on the basic core formulary, a list of medications that are required to be stocked at all military health facilities, according to the Washington Post.

## Do You Know WWRAP?

**It's the Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project,** founded and operated by one woman in Los Angeles to provide the money women need to get reproductive services. In 2009 WWRAP gave grants totaling \$172,934 to 1,227 women across the country (95% of donations go to direct benefits.) [www.wrrap.org](http://www.wrrap.org)

Here are three letters from WWRAP recipients:

Karen: "I am 26 with one child. My husband is currently on tour in Iraq. When we found out the fetus had profound anomalies, we also found out the government would not help us with the costs of this necessary procedure. WWRAP came to our aid and we were able to do what is right for our family and our unborn child. Thank God for WWRAP."

Janet: "My sister, a 34-year-old with the mental capacity of a 6-year-old, was raped. I am her legal guardian and I have been without work for over 8 months. Thank you for helping my sister and me. The relief is immeasurable."

Debbie: "I have one child and we live with my two sisters and three other children. I work at McDonald's and the father will not help me. Thank you for everything you have given me."

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