



SPEAK UP,  
SING OUT  
OUR RIGHTS NOW.

Together We Rise  
I CAN'T KEEP QUIET  
NO HATE NO FEAR  
NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL  
Refugees Are Welcome Here  
BLACK LIVES MATTER  
MY VOTE MY VOICE MY RIGHT  
You Don't Own Me  
Organize Agitate Educate  
MITTS OFF MY LADY BITS!

Saturday, November 19, 2022 | 3PM & 7PM  
Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

# SPEAK UP, SING OUT

## Lifting As We Climb

Joan Szymko, composer

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment  
and A Call to Protect the Emblem of Equality: THE VOTE

### Narrators

Mandy Carter

Mab Segrest

### Speakers

Jo Rose Ashwell  
Natasha Gore

Jessica Landwehr  
Carol Ryner

Samantha Corey  
Natalie Turgeon

**I. What We Do – Now** - poem by Ellen Hagan

Narrative No.1: Shaking the Foundation

**II. Organize, Agitate, Educate!** - lyrics gathered by composer from quotes by the following:

Sarah Grimke, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Carrie Catt, Anna Julia Cooper, Lucy Stone

Narrative No. 2: We Are All Bound Up Together

**III. We Shake We Shine** - lyrics by composer with adaptations of quotes by Coretta Scott King, Ida B. Wells, Alice Paul and Mary Church Terrell

**My Vote, My Voice, My Right** - by Roy Zimmerman and Melanie Harby, additional harmonies by Leora Zimmer

**I Ain't Afraid** - words and music by Holly Near, arranged by J. David Moore

**Huddled Masses** - by Shaina Taub

Soloists: Suzanne Tyler Stock, Hannah Hedrick, Jackie Yanchuck

**The Stove** - music by Zae Munn, lyrics by Ann Kilkelly

Performed by the ensemble

**Warrior** - by Kim Baryluk

Performed by the ensemble

**My Country Tis of Thee** - new lyrics by Reina del Cid, arranged by Cara Valenti

Soloist: Diana Nishimuta

**Signs - Voices from the Women's March** - by Ruth Huber

**Quiet** - by MILCK, arranged by Joan Szymko

**F\*ck You** - by Lily Allen, arranged by Deke Sharon

Performed by the ensemble

Soloist: Kimberly Ebel

**You Don't Own Me** - by John Madara and Dave White, arranged by Jay Althouse

**What Happens When a Woman** - by Alexandra Olsavsky of Artemisia

Soloist: Jess Higginbotham

I CAN'T  
KEEP QUIET



NO HUMAN  
IS ILLEGAL

There will not be an intermission

**Kristen Stinnett** - Artistic Director  
**Cara Valenti** - Assistant Artistic Director  
**Kate Lewis** - Accompanist  
**Tania Sherman** - Concert Chair  
**Jess Higginbotham** - Graphic Design  
**Carmella La Bianca** - House Manager  
**Scott Gaskins** - Sound

## MUSICIANS

**Bailey Rose** - Saxophone  
**Tim Wall** - Drums  
**Keith Lewis** - Bass

Together  
We Rise

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mariana Aldridge** - President  
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**Karen Novy**  
**Katie Otto**  
**Katherine Peters**  
**Tania Sherman**  
**Sallie Wintz**

## COMMON WOMAN CHORUS

### Soprano 1

Kimberly Ebel  
Caroline Herbert  
Jess Higginbotham  
Caitlin Kauffman  
Hailey Leiva\*\*  
Katie Otto  
Natalie Roper  
Tania Sherman  
Ellen Strain  
Whit Trumbull  
Rebecca Welper

### Soprano 2

Emily Bacon  
Betsy Barton  
Terry Bilzlie  
Cindy Bizzell  
Kirsten Gates\*\*  
Annelise Gummere  
Erin Laurie  
Kim Lhuillier  
Shelly Lyons  
Barrett Mardre  
Praveena Motupalli  
Diana Nishimuta  
Esther Ranjbar  
Alex Reinhart  
Anna Slayton  
Olivia Torano  
Johelen Walker  
Cindy Wolf

### Alto 1

Gail Abrams  
Clare Baxter  
Amanda Benton  
Amy Bowes  
Sheryl Griffin  
Lucy Harris\*\*  
Hannah Hedrick  
Kelly Lucey  
Jane C. Mac Neela  
Beth Mann  
Dianne McQueen  
Brandi Melvin-Scammell  
Christine Nishiguchi  
Harmony Peacock  
Deborah Reilly  
Kim Sage  
Natalia Smith  
Suzanne Tyler Stock  
Cara Valenti  
Anna Zehr

### Alto 2

Rachel Bartlett\*\*  
Rebecca Black  
Marj Boyer  
Taylor Coil  
Natalie Griffin  
Hannah Hiles  
Beth Hoke  
Brenda Knox  
Meg Koc  
Stefanie Lucas  
Marty McClelland  
Melissa McSwegin  
Sue Wilson Nee  
Meredith Nicholson  
Sherri Zann Rosenthal  
Wilma Schroeder  
Alyson Ward  
Amanda Weir-Gertzog  
Jackie Yanchuck

You  
Don't  
Own Me

## MEMBERS NOT PERFORMING THIS CONCERT

Jaimee Driscoll  
Theresa McGinley  
Katherine Peters, Rehearsal Coordinator  
Amber Rieder

MY VOTE  
MY VOICE  
MY RIGHT

\*\*Section Leader

# Lifting As We Climb

*Hundreds of women  
gave the accumulated  
possibilities of an entire lifetime,  
thousands gave years of their lives,  
hundreds of thousands gave constant interest,  
and such aid as they could.  
It was a continuous, seemingly endless  
chain of activity...  
Young suffragists who helped forge the  
last links of that chain  
were not born when it began.  
Old suffragists who forged the first links  
were dead when it ended.<sup>1</sup>*

## No.1 What We Do—Now

We mourn, we bless,  
we blow, we wail, we  
wind—down, we sip,  
we spin, we blind, we  
bend, bow & hem. We  
hip, we blend, we bind,  
we shake, we shine,  
shine. We lips & we  
teeth, we praise & protest.  
We document & we  
drama. We demand &  
we flow, fold & hang  
loose. We measure &  
we moan, mourn & whine  
low. & we live, and we  
breathe. & some of the time,  
we don't.  
Tonight, I am here. Here  
& tired. Here & awake,  
sure, & alive. Yes here &  
still, still here, still & here  
& still awake & still still  
alive.

## No. 2 Organize, Agitate, Educate!

I ask no favors, I ask no favors for my sex;  
all I ask of my brethren is that they will  
take their feet from off our necks!

Organize, agitate, educate!  
We'll have our rights;  
see if we don't;  
and you can't stop us from them;  
see if you can; You may hiss as much as you like,  
but it's coming'

Organize, agitate, educate!  
We'll win the vote; see if we don't.  
It is the emblem of equality,  
the guarantee of liberty.

spoken:

"We ask justice, we ask equality, we ask that all civil  
and political rights that belong to citizens of the  
United States be guaranteed to us and our  
daughters forever." (Susan B. Anthony)

spoken:

"We take our stand on the solidarity of humanity,  
the oneness of life, and the injustice of all special  
favoritism, whether of sex, race, country, or

condition. If one link of the chain is broken, the chain is broken.” (Anna Julia Cooper)

Organize, agitate, educate!  
Roll up your sleeves, set your mind to making history,  
and wage such a fight for liberty that the whole world will respect our sex.  
To the wrongs that need resistance,  
To the right that needs assistance,  
To the future in the distance, give yourselves!

spoken:

“The elective franchise is withheld from one half of its citizens...because the word 'people,' by an unparalleled exhibition of lexicon graphical acrobatics, has been turned and twisted to mean all who were shrewd and wise enough to have themselves born boys instead of girls, or who took the trouble to be born white instead of black.”  
(Mary Church Terrell)

Organize, agitate, educate!  
Roll up your sleeves, set your mind to making history,  
and wage such a fight for equality  
and the guarantee of liberty.  
We'll have our rights!

spoken:

“Now all we need is to continue to speak the truth fearlessly, and we shall add to our number those who will turn the scale to the side of equal and full justice in all things.” (Lucy Stone)

“Men, their rights and nothing more;  
women, their rights. and nothing less.” (Anthony)

Organize!

### We Are All Bound Up Together

Lyric by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper  
We are all bound up together in one great bundle of humanity.

### No.3 We Shake We Shine

The struggle is never ending.  
Freedom is never really won.  
You earn it and win it in each generation.  
You earn it and win it for all of us,  
every one of us, for all of us— for the people.  
We the people— Shake the foundations of privilege  
We the people —Shine the light of truth  
Right the wrongs!  
Press on! Hold on for the common good.  
We shake, we shake  
We shine, we shine  
Onward and upward,  
Upward and onward—  
Lifting as we climb.  
The struggle is never ending.  
Keep your hands on the plow—  
Upending hypocrisy,  
Defending democracy  
Demanding equality  
It's our turn, it's our time—  
Our turn, our time is now!  
We shake, we shake  
We shine , we shine  
Onward and upward,  
Upward and onward—  
Lifting as we climb!

### Epilogue

“We shall someday be heeded, and when we shall have our amendment to the constitution of the United States, everybody will think it was always so, just exactly as many young people believe that all the privileges, all the freedoms, all the enjoyments which woman now possesses always were hers.  
They have no idea how every single inch of ground that she stands upon today has been gained by the hard work of some little handful of women in the past.”  
— Susan B Anthony

<sup>1</sup> From “The Women’s Century 1820–1920,” by Carrie Chapman Catt; Commencement message to Sweet Briar College, June 1936

## Timeline of American Voting Rights

**1776:** Only land-owning white men over 21 can vote.

**1828:** Maryland becomes the last state to remove religious restrictions; states can no longer deny eligible voters the right to vote on the basis of religion.

**1848:** Abolitionists and pro-women's suffrage groups organize in Seneca Falls.

**1856:** North Carolina is the last state to remove property requirements for voting, thereby granting the vote to all white men.

**1868:** The 14th Amendment grants African Americans citizenship, but not the right to vote.

**1870:** The 15th Amendment prevents federal or state governments from denying the right to vote to citizens based on race. In following years, this right is abridged in practice by discriminatory election policies such as grandfather clauses, poll taxes, and literacy and voter-registration tests.

**1872:** Susan B. Anthony and Sojourner Truth are, respectively, arrested and turned away for trying to vote.

**1920:** The 19th Amendment grants suffrage to women, but this right continues to be unavailable in practice to most African-American, Native-American, and Asian-American women.

**1924:** The Indian Citizenship Act is passed, giving Native Americans full citizenship, but many states still disenfranchise them at the polls.

**1952:** The McCarran-Walter Act formally grants Asian-Americans the right to become citizens and to vote, though it also upholds a controversial quota system for immigrant selection that keeps immigration from Asian countries low.

**1965:** Congress passes the Voting Rights Act, removing multiple discriminatory barriers that keep many people of color from voting.

**1966:** The U.S. Supreme Court strikes down poll taxes as a violation of the Amendment.

**1971:** The voting age is lowered from 21 to 18 in light of the Vietnam War to ensure that those old enough to fight in the war could vote.

**1993:** The National Voter Registration Act is passed, making it easier to register at DMVs and public assistance centers.

**2000:** A federal court rules that citizens of territories like Puerto Rico and Guam cannot vote in federal elections.

**2001:** The National Commission on Federal Election Reform recommends that all states allow felons to regain their right to vote after completing their criminal sentences. This right is unevenly applied; as of 2019, various restrictions on felon voting exist in various states, leaving roughly 6 million felons currently disenfranchised.

**2013:** The Supreme Court invalidates key portions of the Voting Rights Act, effectively ruling that its protections are unnecessary in the current day and giving nine states the right to change their voting laws without advance federal approval, including in cases regarding such issues as racial gerrymandering and at-large voting in places with a sizable black minority.

## Narrators and Speakers



**Mandy Carter** is a southern Black lesbian activist with a 50-year history of organizing for social, racial, and LGBTQ justice. She began her activist career in 1965. She is a co-founder of Southerners On New Ground, a social justice and advocacy group committed to queer liberation and

economic and racial justice. She is a co-founder of the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC), a national civil rights organization dedicated to the empowerment of Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and same-gender loving people. NBJC's mission is to end racism and homophobia. Carter also co-founded Equality North Carolina and the NC Pride PAC. Mandy lives in Durham, North Carolina.



**Jo Rose Ashwell** is a local actress, singer and performance coach. She also works as a stage manager for Paperhand Puppet intervention and Duke Undergraduate Performances. Her current favorite jobs are mom to Nikola Immanuel Ashwell, and wife to local artist SeRah Ashwell. Life is good and she is grateful to be working with

Common Women's Chorus for the second time as a reader. Hope you enjoy the show!



**Sam Corey** is an actress and drama teacher in Raleigh, NC. Some of her favorite shows include Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime with Raleigh Little Theatre, King Lear with Honest Pint and Sweet Tea Shakespeare, and The Half Life of Marie Curie with

Switchyard Theatre Company. She is very excited to share the stage with such talented women for such an inspiring event.

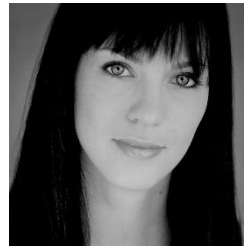


**Natasha Gore** is a community theatre volunteer (onstage and off) who lives in Durham with her spouse D.A. This is her first performance with the Common Woman Chorus, and she is thrilled to be bringing iconic activist voices to life in "Lifting As We Climb."



**Mab Segrest** is a white anti-racist activist, writer, and teacher who has been active in social justice movements in the US South and nationally for over forty years. Segrest's work includes organizing against Klan and neo-Nazi

movements in North Carolina in the 1990s, working for the World Council of Churches' Urban Rural Mission in the 1990s, and serving as Fuller-Maathai Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at Connecticut College from 2002 to 2014. Segrest was a contributor to *Feminary*, a lesbian-feminist journal located in Durham, North Carolina. A new edition of her classic *Memoir of a Race Traitor* was released in 2019 and her latest book *Administrations of Lunacy: Racism and the Haunting of American Psychiatry at the Milledgeville Asylum* was released in 2020. She currently lives in Durham, NC where she is working with the NC Anti-Racist Research Collaborative to track and counter militia movements in the state.



**Jessica Landwehr** was last seen onstage in Raleigh Little Theatre's "Beehive the 60's Musical. Favorite role ever was Veronica in "Heathers the Musical." She is honored to have been given the opportunity to share the stage with this group of women and be included in this powerful piece.



**Carol Ryner** is a retired personal trainer and ballroom dance teacher, currently a part-time copy editor for a friend who's a medical writer. She is a former CWC alto 2, an occasional narrator, and an all-time CWC super-fan. Best chorus around!



**Natalie Turgeon** is a local actor and singer. She has been featured in over a dozen musicals, plays and improv shows at various theaters across the triangle including Raleigh Little Theatre, Theatre in the Park, Southstream Productions, NRACT and Cary Players. She enjoys all forms of live entertainment in the triangle, whether consuming or storytelling, herself. She has been a longtime fan and groupie of the Common Woman Chorus and is grateful for this opportunity to perform with them today! Please enjoy "Speak Up, Sing Out, Our Rights Now."

## OUR MISSION

To cultivate connection and change through the healing power of music.

## OUR VISION

Common Woman Chorus is a beacon for equity, justice, and belonging in the Triangle and beyond, particularly for the LGBTQ+ community.

## OUR VALUES

- **Growth** - We celebrate learning, especially when it's hard, and are committed to musical excellence.
- **Justice** - We root our work in the amplification of marginalized voices.
- **Authenticity** - We show up as our authentic selves and love and support others as they are.
- **Transformation** - We know that change happens through people and are committed to the work of transformation within our organization and in the world.

## WHO WE ARE

We are a treble chorus made up of woman-identifying, gender-nonconforming, and transgender individuals. We are an LGBTQ+ centered space and a place for queer joy. We are people always seeking and working toward justice. We believe in the power of our collective voices.

## OUR NAME

Our name is derived from a Judy Grahn poem that reads, in part, "a common woman is as common as the best of bread . . . and will rise."

## SUPPORT THE CHORUS

As a non-profit organization, the Common Woman Chorus is completely supported by membership dues and your generous donations. This November, we are participating in Giving Tuesday, a global movement unleashing the power of radical generosity. This year we have an anonymous donor that has pledged to match up to \$500! Our sections are competing to see who can raise the most money for our chorus, so support your singers by making a donation to their section by scanning the corresponding QR code. Common Woman Chorus is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your donations are tax-deductible. (Federal EIN 58-1711608).

SOPRANO 1s



SOPRANO 2s



ALTO 1s



ALTO 2s



Members of



<https://www.facebook.com/Common.Woman.Chorus/>



<http://www.commonwomanchorus.org>