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## Rally to honor women

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

International Women's Day celebrations kick off today to reflect on women's achievements.

Events are organized from Alaska to Zambia, and the day is declared a holiday in Russia, where white flowers are given to women to mark the days of the early suffragettes, according to the IWD Web site. The day has been observed annually since

### If You Go

**WHAT:** International Women's Day rally

**WHEN:** 5-6:30 tonight

**WHERE:** Clock Tower, downtown Santa Cruz

1908.

Santa Cruz resident Ann Simonton, member of the peace group Women in Black, said this day should serve as a wake-up call for all to say no to the war in Iraq and seek an end to male

domination.

Six Iraqi women are set to gather in Washington, D.C., to kick off a speaking tour to educate Americans about the reality in Iraq and meet with U.N. and U.S. officials to call for a peace plan to stop the escalating violence in Iraq.

Simonton said these women have been invited to speak in Santa Cruz on Saturday, March 25.

Women in Black and local group Code Pink are staging a rally at 5 p.m. tonight at the Clock Tower.

## AREA DIGEST

### SANTA CRUZ

#### Local United Way off to fast start

The new United Way of Santa Cruz County Women in Philanthropy held its first founder's luncheon on Monday at Chaminade. There were more than 40 local women in attendance.

The WIP group has raised \$40,000 to date. Bank of America and Pat Rebele have each given matching gifts of \$10,000 to help encourage giving.

The funds will be allocated to programs that encourage success for students. Call 465-2203.

### COUNTY

#### Marine Safety recruits sought

The Santa Cruz Marine Safety Division is recruiting the next two weekends for new employees with an interest in public safety and the ocean environment. Open positions include Junior

Lifeguard Coordinator, Beach Lifeguard and Beach Ranger.

Tryouts are Saturday and March 18th and require candidates to come prepared with required application materials and pass a strenuous physical agility test. For complete information go to <http://www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us/pr/parksrec/marinesafetydivision.html> or call 420-6015.

### SANTA CRUZ

#### Nonprofit offers family workshops

A new nonprofit based in Scotts Valley aims to help families grow stronger will offer workshops starting this weekend.

Family ROI, which stands for Return on Investment, was established by Barbara Fagan-Smith when she was experiencing stress in her own family.

The cost of the weekend workshop is \$200 per family. The dates are March 10-12, at Chaminade, and June 23-25 at Costanoa Lodge.

Saturday sessions are planned March 25 in Santa Cruz, April 29

in Sunnyvale and July 15 in Santa Cruz.

The workshops cover speaking with honesty and listening, defining core values and developing an action plan to improve family life.

Visit [www.familyroi.com](http://www.familyroi.com) or call 430-1950.

### FELTON

#### SLV Rotary club seeks partner

San Lorenzo Valley Rotary Club members are seeking to partner with an organization in the San Lorenzo Valley that supports the youth of the community.

The chosen organization will be a nonprofit, educational or private organization with a one- to three-year program serving youth in the areas of arts, education, health and human services, recreation or youth development.

Applications must be received by March 31. For information and to request an application, call or e-mail Rotary Club member Jeannie Kegebein, 335-3174, [jeannie@mountainparks.org](mailto:jeannie@mountainparks.org).