

#STRONGERTOGETHER

wmsd providing a dialogue for change

October 2019

Vol 1 Issue 1

Women's March San Diego believes we are Stronger Together. We have a mission that is led by strong unity principles that guide us as an organization. The purpose of #StrongerTogether is to share personal perspectives by local activists - many have been fighting for decades, while others are learning to take their first steps in activism. United we are marching, making change and we will not be silenced. This space is to share those voices that make us #StrongerTogether.



A NATIONAL PRESENCE

Women's March San Diego (WMSD) has been an independent grassroots organization since its inception in November 2016. With hundreds of marches across the globe we were formed as a result of the 2016 election. In an act of unity, most of these marches agreed to unify around branding and [Unity Principles](#) without a formalized relationship. In the years since many chapters across the nation, like WMSD, turned into local nonprofits to continue the work that our unity principles represented.

WMSD is a member of Women's March California, a statewide coalition of 13 Women's March chapters. As an affiliate, WMSD members meet regularly with representatives from each chapter to discuss common goals and strategies, and to enact a unified strategy in our ongoing efforts to work towards the vision of a shared humanity and equity for all. Our WMSD President Monica Boyle sits on the Board along with our CFO Fran Carrillo, who was recently elected WM California Board Treasurer.

Our reach is expanding. WMSD, through its partnership with WMCA, is thrilled to announce the alignment with [Women's March Foundation](#), providing us with a national presence.

In this issue...

- ART & POLITICS - Local musicians are interviewed about their involvement in the San Diego movement
- THE ACCIDENTAL ACTIVIST - A blog reflecting upon one's personal experiences in activism
- RISE UP! - A monthly recommendation on how you can get involved and make a difference

[Women's March Foundation](#) (WMF), evolved from the West Coast and is a powerhouse organization spanning across the nation. Their platform is from women's rights and health care to climate change and income equality - and virtually every other significant issue we face. WMF is providing us with a national presence and resource that is focused on the work before us.

With WMCA, Women's March San Diego is joining forces with WMF, committed to shining a light on issues of importance to our communities. Our name will remain, our look will change, but our mission remains intact.

We are drawing a line in the sand and declaring we will only move in one direction: Forward.

We are #STRONGERTOGETHER



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ROCK THE MARCH

A CONCERT TO BENEFIT
WOMEN'S MARCH SAN DIEGO

10.19.19

Southern California's
Premiere Activist
Band

THE RESIZTERS

Special Guests:
**Veronica May,
Lisa Sanders
& Lindsay
White**

WHEN INJUSTICE
BECOMES LAZY
RESISTANCE
BECOMES A DUTY

RESISTANCE IS NOT
A WORD

ART & POLITICS

This month, we are excited to mix Art and Politics. We have the honor of working with these artists in a fundraiser on October 19th, where we hope you'll join us. They all have performed at our previous marches, setting the mood and closing out the day in celebrations of sound and movement. In our first newsletter we had a few conversations to learn a little more about their shared love of music, how today's women's movement changed them, and what they are doing when they aren't inspiring us with their music.

Melanie "Mel" Peters is the co-founder - along with friends and former band mates - of The Resizters. After emceeding the Women's March in San Diego in January 2017, Mel created The Resizters saying it was "in response to the need for quality, [and] inspiring entertainment at the continuing protests, marches and community events." Mel was frustrated in the empathy that was lacking in our world, as people appeared to have a "decline in acceptance, humanity, and love felt everywhere on the planet." The Resizters use their love and passion for the music to

support and deputize such artists as Woody Guthrie, Nina Simone, Creedence Clearwater Revival and Green Day. The message is clear: take a stand in your community, and live out tolerance and love.

Mel exclaims, "Women's March San Diego is like a 'collective hive' to me. By supporting women in our community, we support the Earth, it's calm elements of peace, and it's fierce justice of truth."

The Resizters are much more than a band - they are a response to the chaos that embodies our senses on a daily basis. Watching them perform is therapeutic and energizing at the same time. We can #Resizt the inequity and embrace change and love.

Booking: **Melanie Peters**,
theresizters@gmail.com
www.TheResiztersBand.com



ART & POLITICS, CONT'D

Lisa Sanders is a deep and soulful singer, songwriter and producer, and has been featured at WMSD singing to thousands of people. Her song "Unicorn" was actually the response that many of her friends/fans and Lisa herself were feeling about the 2016 election results. She said, "We're being divided and all the discrimination and with all attacks on all of our cultures currently taking place I felt it was important to remember in this fight it is a long game and along the way it is vital that we take time to refresh, rest our brains and bodies so we can have the strength to see this journey through." Lisa believes "Unicorn" can be thought of as a way to remind us that "we are a big tide being awakened and coming to make huge positive changes in our country, ourselves and our world."

Lisa is now working on her 10th album of which "Unicorn" is featured. "After some deep thought I decided to name the new record 'Daughters Of The Rising Tide' after the number five track." Making perfect sense, it joins us all together, and the songs were like "an awakening for women."

Booking: [Ashley E. Norton, ashley@acoustixhouse.com](mailto:ashley@acoustixhouse.com)
www.LisaSanders.com

Lindsay White is an artist who takes influence from Bob Dylan to Ani DeFranco. Her lyrics can be heartfelt, eloquent and her style is profound, honest and pure. She describes herself as a "queer intersectional feminist, mental health advocate, grief support advocate, and writer."

Lindsay can attribute her understanding and empathizing with people who feel alone because she lost her mother to brain cancer. Additionally, she struggles with severe anxiety and has been a care-taker for a mentally ill partner. Writing songs such as "Let Love Lead The Way", which



Lindsay sang for the Women's March last year, has been a way to react positively to the results of what the 2016 election brought about.

"For someone like me, a white woman who can pass as straight, I have a lot of choice and urgency when it comes to activism, but I also understand that many, many people don't have that luxury or privilege. It is those folks who don't have a choice - who are literally fighting for their lives - that inspire me to learn more, to do better." And that lends itself towards the music she has shared with the Women's March. She just wants to do something positive and helpful. "Being involved with the Women's March has helped me experience art and activism on a larger scale."

Booking: [Lindsay White, lindsaywhite.music@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaywhite.music@gmail.com)
www.lindsaywhitemusic.com

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RISE UP!

We are marching this January! Now is time to start planning. If you want to do more than march, sign up with us! Areas we need help:

- **Public Relations Coordination**
- **PopUp Swag Coordination**
- **Volunteer Coordination**

Day-of-Activities:

- **Set up**
- **Take Down**
- **1st Aid Tent**
- **Trash Pick Up**

And so much more! If interested, please contact volunteer@womensmarchsd.org

WHO ARE WE...

We secured our nonprofit status in 2018 and are proud to introduce our newest board members leading the way this year:

Monica Boyle, President
Melissa Slawson, Vice President
Fran Carrillo, CFO
Poppy Fitch, Secretary

Genoveva Aguilar
Sarah Bacerra
Alisandra Del Nero
Joann Fields
Amy Liu
Michelle Price
Marcy Shugert
Mindy Schwartz
Amy Swazey

If every reader donated \$10 ...
San Diego March 2020 is covered!

[donate](#)

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THE ACCIDENTAL ACTIVIST

As a child in the 70s, I was more worried about who I sat by on the bus than if my rights as a woman were being tread upon. I grew up in a middle class military family, went to college, worked hard, bought a home and enjoyed life as it was presented to me. Then 2016 came and suddenly everything I was taught in school and by my parents, was brought into question. Suddenly as a woman, a daughter of immigrants and a Veteran I was scared for my future.

Respect was out the door and my vote, albeit the popular vote, was not enough to keep racism and sexism out of the highest office in our country. Like so many of you, I was in shock...it took me two days to actually believe it. Sure, some will say those of us were being overdramatic, but when you see what has happened since with women, children, people of color, and immigrants you cannot say our concerns were for naught. The nightmare that we woke up from on November 7th continues every day as we see our values as a country stomped on. I had to do something, so I marched with 60k of you here in San Diego.

Why ACCIDENTAL?

I am a different woman today, registering and texting voters, rallying for immigrants and workers, and marching for my bodily rights. This was all unexpected and unintentional. I don't have the activism experience of the women before me, but I know the women after me can't take the passive route I have. I am a full time professional. I was raised to take voting seriously. I am not your common community member who has dedicated their lives to work on behalf of others. I "accidentally" came into this role as an activist, and I am determined that this chance event in my life will impact others and that I can make small ripples to affect waves of change.

How Am I Carrying the Banner As An Activist?

I sought out local organizations like Women's March San Diego, League of Women Voters, and Be The Vote. I wanted to empower others with their voices and vote - these organizations provided me the platforms to do so. In addition, each of them has been inroads to other amazing activists and organizations. I am in daily awe of these women and men, I have nowhere near their experience, but I have hope that my passion will assist in the fight. I am continually inspired by WMSD's #StrongerTogether, it's the rally call that speaks the loudest to me.

Why Blog?

I recognize that WMSD is a unique organization in that we are women-led, and come together from varied and diverse backgrounds. This can be difficult to navigate especially when so many others in the community are looking towards us for guidance. This blog is to bring it back to the individual, to give voice to why we are here, to remind us of our humanity, and to hopefully guide a few of you out there into your own activism.

This doesn't have to be an accident.

Next Month

I'll be back, sharing my experience and others from being on the front lines to the behind-the-scenes actions. If you want to know more just let us know. info@womensmarchSD.org

Love this bookcover -
now, I need to read it!
Have you?
Let us know!

**Gloria
Steinem**
**The Truth
Will Set
You Free,
But First
It Will Piss
You Off!**

Thoughts on Life, Love, and Rebellion