
FEMINIST NEWS AND VIEWS

Morris County NOW

P.O. Box 394, Morristown, New Jersey 07960
Chapter Phone 973.285.1200



May/June 2011

Think about your favorite celebrity. How does that person's behavior influence your thoughts and actions towards your gender and towards the opposite sex?

Presenting the Winners of the Morris County NOW 2011 Essay Contest



Marissa Nadeau
Morris Knolls High School
11th Grade

A role model should positively influence one's perspective of their own gender, as well as their outlook on the opposite sex. Gabrielle Giffords inspires me and countless other women throughout America because of her pioneering spirit and ruthless determination. Her actions reveal that one can do anything if they set their mind to it, regardless of race, background, or most importantly, gender. This message is one that Americans need to hear as people are constantly giving up on their aspirations. The life of Gabrielle Giffords depicts a strong woman's journey to achieve her dreams.

Gabrielle Giffords was elected to the Arizona State Senate in the year 2000. She is the first woman to ever appear in the Arizona Legislature. Senator Gifford's decision to run for Senate was daring, and when she won the election she established a foundation for the future ambitious women of Arizona to build upon. Oftentimes, a daring soul has to pave the way in order for others to gather enough courage and follow. Gabrielle Giffords has taught me that a woman can step up to a role of leadership and spark a revolution for others. Now that there has been a woman senator, maybe more girls in the state of Arizona will be inspired to fulfill their dreams rather than thinking they are impossible.

Giffords broke new ground with her election, and the people of Arizona were able to be represented by a new type of character. I think it is vitally important to have different perspectives embodied in government, and before Gabrielle Giffords, the voice of a woman was absent. A woman senator offers an alternative, fresh viewpoint on all matters, a voice that can be identified with half of the American population. *(Continued on Page 3)*



Elena Marmo
Parsippany High School
12th Grade

Throughout my life I have always modeled myself after strong, powerful, and influential women. Currently, my favorite celebrity, although not appearing in film, television, or my iTunes library, is Michelle Obama. While I am in tune with pop culture and current events, I am more concerned with politics and the state of our nation. Because of my love for politics and involvement in debate clubs and political events, Michelle Obama is my go-to for inspiration.

Being one of the few first ladies involved in politics, Hillary and Eleanor in the past, Michelle Obama provides the image of an independent woman who can balance motherhood and a career of utmost importance. Her strength and power as a woman influence many, especially myself, to follow their dreams in that anything is achievable; she is one of the reasons why I will be pursuing a career in Musical Theatre. Although rejection in the business will be tough, I will always look to Michelle Obama for inspiration to be strong and the best I can be. Michelle makes me proud to be a woman in that she always appears to be confident and has the brains and guts to involve herself in political discussion and debates. This involvement in politics makes me comfortable in breaking gender barriers imposed by a misogynistic history; she has led me to attend political gatherings and voice my stances on political issues. *(Continued on Page 3)*



Coming Soon
Please see article
on Page 3

A Feminist Voice Gun Control is a Woman's Right

By Karen Lontka

Gabrielle Giffords was nearly killed when a would-be assassin shot her in the head during a meeting with constituents in Tucson, Arizona. The Press and political pundits were unanimous in their predictions that this would finally lead to some level of gun control. It was argued that, at a minimum, a ban on the 31 round clips was a fait accompli.

The statistics are stunning. From Women Against Gun Violence, "American women who are killed by their intimate partners are more likely to be killed with guns than by all other methods combined." From the Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health, "Pregnant homicide victims are more likely to be killed with a gun". These forms of directed and random violence make it clear that sensible gun control is directly related to the life and pursuit of happiness of women.

We must make it exceedingly clear to our Representatives and Senators that gun control is a paramount issue for women. We cannot accept the illogic of the gun lobbies. In January 2011, HR-308 was introduced to limit the clips. Three months later, after the incessant lobbying by gun interests, nothing has yet happened, but it is not too late to make that phone call or write that letter in support of this legislation.

March and Rally for Jobs, Peace, Equality and Justice

By Anna Tivade

On Monday, April 4th, Anna Tivade took to the streets of Newark, NJ, along with two of her children, Joseph and Aaron, and joined hundreds of other activists to commemorate the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and to celebrate his legacy of defending workers' rights. Vicky Stapleton, Maretta Short, Karen Spindel, Bonnie Shapiro, Matt Shapiro, and Barbara Foley, all members of NOW, were present at the rally. The event, organized by the People's Organization for Progress, included a peaceful march along Broad Street and then up Market Street, ending at Essex County Community College. Among the speakers were Benjamin Jealous, President of the NAACP, and Chairman of the People's Organization for Progress, Lawrence Hamm. *(See photo on Page 3)*

Women's Healthcare Rally March 22, 2011

By Susan J. Waldman

On Tuesday, March 22, 2011, Rosemary Lontka and I set off with maps and GPS in hand heading for a rally for women's healthcare. Senator Frank Lautenberg was scheduled to speak at the Planned Parenthood clinic in Englewood. I don't know whether having the GPS helped or hindered, as it did not follow the route I had mapped out, but since the rally did not start on time, we arrived with plenty of time to spare. At the rally we met up with Morris County NOW member, Joan Farber and Northern NJ NOW member, Bonnie Shapiro.

We stood there in the cold wind, facing a pink bus decorated with a full-length sign, "STAND WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD." There was a group of anti-choice bullies standing right behind us. Do I need to note that they were mostly men? We were separated by a yellow caution tape and some local police. The antis carried their usual offensive signs and tried to drown out the speakers. Despite their rude screaming, Planned Parenthood's message came through. Several New Jersey State Legislators spoke, including Assemblywoman Valerie Vanieri Huttel (D - District 37), Senator Bob Gordon (D - District 38), and Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D - District 22). While discussing Governor Chris Christie's vetoes of the family planning funding bills, Bob Gordon said that we now have "government by sound bite and not sound policies." Another speaker pointed out the fiscal irresponsibility of not funding family planning when you compare the higher amount of money saved versus the costs. Speakers from Planned Parenthood, including Michele Jaker, Executive Director Planned Parenthood Affiliates of New Jersey & Family Planning Association of New Jersey, noted the numbers of women AND men who receive treatment at their clinics for low or no cost. They stressed that they are about healthcare, not about abortion.

When Senator Lautenberg spoke, he talked about the D.C. Republican's "War on Women," including the extremist Tea Party legislators. He told us that he will not stand by and let them win. When the hecklers shouted and booed, the Senator challenged them to boo about breast cancer screening and other health care procedures offered by Planned Parenthood. That quieted them down for a very brief moment. Luckily, the Senator was not fazed by their shouting.

In the end, it is really a sad day when access to women's health care is debated on street corners. This is not the way it should be. Are we going backwards? What do you think? *(See photo on Page 3)*

(Marissa Nadeau, Continued from Page 1)

Gabrielle Giffords not only proves as a role model for women, but men as well. Before she became senator, she took over her family's ailing automotive business. Gabrielle felt the need to take responsibility for this because the business had been in her family for generations. This act attests to her caring manner which should be an example to all males who are given a leadership position in their families and households. Also, since business is primarily male-concentrated, it shows women that one can defy stereotypes. This initiative to run the business proved useful, as throughout this time she gained the point of view of small business owners, a group of people she would later represent on a national scale.

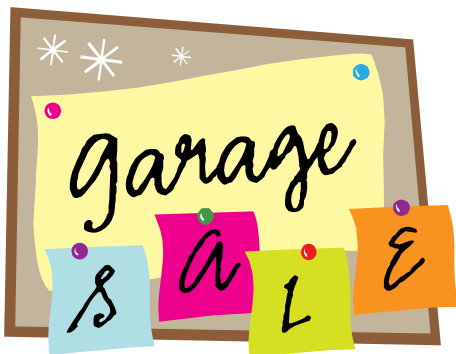
Most recently, Gabrielle Giffords was a victim of a most terrible tragedy. Nevertheless, she has stuck to her core values and emitted strength throughout this difficult time. Gifford's image and reputation have encouraged millions during these past couple of months as we see a true hero rising to her former standing once again. Gabrielle Gifford's drive and motivation have captivated me and taught me that regardless of how bad a situation can get, there is always hope. I attempt to emulate Gabrielle's morals and diligent spirit in my daily life so I can maybe someday accomplish such great things as she did. As a woman, Gabrielle Giffords promotes perseverance and optimism despite circumstances, inspiring me to live out my ambitions and fulfill my purpose.

(Elena Marmo, Continued from Page 1)

Married to Barak Obama, Michelle's relationship is obviously in the news often. However, unlike most couples' pictures on television, their relationship gives to America a model of a healthy, functioning relationship. Their relationship, in turn, has strengthened my relationships with loved ones. Also a human rights activist, Michelle believes in equality among races and genders. This coincides with my belief that all people should have the same rights and that no one person or gender should be discriminated against. This equality she preaches is important in that it puts everyone on an equal playing field, something I feel strongly about. Michele is also a pro-choice individual with the belief that women should have the right to have an abortion if desired. This assertion of power for women is what makes her so admirable. Sharing the same stance as Michelle, her activity in voicing her opinion has allowed me to voice mine as well, without fear or self-consciousness.

Michelle Obama proves that brains take precedence over beauty and she and people like her are the reason why I stand in the top five percent of my class among three hundred students. With a strong willpower, personality, confidence, and intelligence, Michelle Obama serves as a model for young women to achieve

**This is It
Saturday, June 18, 2011**



Now is the time to check around the house/condo/apartment/trailer/you name it and gather up those unused and unwanted items. You can drop them off or we can pick them up.

In addition, we need volunteers to price the items and to staff the sale. Call Susan Waldman at 973-895-2218 for information, directions, etc.

Your castaways can make our sale a success.



April 4, 2011 Rally. (Center) Karen Spindel, Passaic County NOW.



March 22, 2011 Rally. (L-R) Susan J. Waldman, Joan Farber, Bonnie Shapiro, Rosemary Lontka.

For Just \$50 You Can Sponsor "New Directions for Women"

Morris County NOW's Public Access, Cable Television Show

Honor a Friend, Colleague, or Community Member

Promote an Organization

Celebrate the Memory of Loved One

Support Morris County NOW



For more information, please contact us

MorrisCountyNOW@gmail.com ~ (973) 285-1200

SAVE THE DATE

On Sunday, October 16, 2011, the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship will present "Words of Choice." A production that will inspire and empower you.

Morris County NOW is a co-sponsor of this event. Look for ticket information in future emails, newsletters and on our website, www.morriscountynow.org.

Our TV show "New Directions for Women" is now available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).

All of the shows for 2007-2010 are now available for on demand viewing. Current shows are in one 29 minute presentation. Because of limitations previously imposed by YouTube, older shows are presented as three separate ten minute segments. To help improve continuity, each subsequent segment begins by replaying approximately the last 20 seconds of the previous part.

As time permits, the archives will expand to include all previous shows. Since we have produced more than 207 shows, this is going to take quite a while. A hint: if you subscribe to our channel, you will receive an alert whenever new content is added.

DARING TO DREAM: BUILDING A FEMINIST FUTURE

2011 National NOW Conference, June 24 - 26, 2011
Tampa, Florida.



Those present at the inaugural National NOW Conference in 1966 adopted the organization's groundbreaking Statement of Purpose, pledging to work toward "true equality for all women." For the last 45 years we have done just that, with great passion and insight.

However, women continue to be held back by gender, race, sexual orientation and other forms of discrimination. We need to throw out the old driving forces of corporate greed, domination and exploitation, and religious influence over government, and instead embrace the principles that have been steering feminism all along: Equality. Fairness. Opportunity. Non-violence. Empowerment.

So at this year's conference, let us dare to dream BIG. We have to think far outside the cultural box that constrains us all. What will it take to build this feminist future? How will we engage others in this, dare we say it, feminist revolution? **At the 2011 National NOW Conference, we will challenge ourselves to create a feminist blueprint for the world. Come join us.**

To register go to www.NOW.org and click on the National Conference link. Call to reserve your room at the Embassy Suites - USF/Busch Gardens, 3705 Spectrum Blvd, Tampa, FL 33612, 1-813-977-7066.

Be A Newsletter Contributor

Would you like to see your name in print? How about submitting an article to the Morris County NOW newsletter? Maybe you have an idea or an issue that you would like to publicize? Please send any articles to our email address, morriscountynow@gmail.com. Since our newsletter is published bi-monthly at the beginning of the "odd" months (July, September, November, etc.), the deadline for submitting articles is the third Monday of the "even" months (June, August, October). This would apply for advertisements also.

Please note that all articles and advertisements submitted for printing are subject to the discretion of the editor.

Email Alerts

Morris County NOW wants your email address so we can keep you aware of important up-to-the-minute chapter news. Perhaps there is an upcoming event or action on an issue important to you that came up after the newsletter was published.

Since our newsletter is bi-monthly, this can easily occur. In this day and age of instant communication we want to keep in touch with our members.

Please write to us at morriscountynow@gmail.com

Join Us On Facebook

Morris County NOW can now be found on Facebook, a social utility site that keeps people connected. If you are not already a member of Facebook, it is free and easy to join. You can use the link <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=149284515188> or simply type Morris County NOW in the search box at www.facebook.com to find us.

If you have any questions, please call Anna Tivade at 973.635.2218.



FOLLOW US ON  **twitter**

<http://twitter.com/mcnownj>

Come to Our Morris County NOW Monthly Meetings

Have you been getting our newsletter but have never attended a monthly chapter meeting? Wonder what NOW is all about? Looking for sisterhood and good conversation? Is there a women's rights issue you would like to get active around? Here's your opportunity. All are welcome. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Morris Plains Community Center, 51 Jim Fear Drive, Morris Plains, New Jersey. We hope to meet you there. For more information, call our chapter phone or visit www.morriscountynow.org.

Chapter Calendar

Tuesday, June 7
Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting

Saturday, June 18, 2010
Annual Garage Sale
See Article, Page 3

Tuesday, July 5, 2011
Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting

Other Events

Saturday, June 4, 2011
Northern NJ Peace Conference
Move the Money: Turn Swords Into Plowshares
At Jam-e- Masjid Islamic Center

Friday, June 24 — Sunday, June 26, 2011
National NOW Conference
Tampa, Florida
(See article Page 4)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SOME GOOD NEWS

By Susan J. Waldman

In our 2010 November/December newsletter, we highlighted Assembly Bill A2920 and Senate Bill S2114, and included a letter you could send to your legislators asking them to support these bills. This legislation directs the NJ Department of Education to develop a school district dating violence policy and requires school districts to provide age-appropriate dating violence education in the health curriculum. The good news is that these bills passed both the Assembly and Senate in March and the consolidated bill has been sent to Governor Christie for his signature. I recently spoke to a member of Assemblyman Anthony Bucco's staff and was told that they believe the governor will sign the bill once the budget process is finished. I will keep in touch with the Assemblyman's office and keep you informed on this important piece of legislation.

****Your Ad Could Be Here****

Advertising Rates:
Members: \$15/Issue
Non-Members: \$25/Issue
(Business Card Size)

**Let us help you reach
Like-minded women and men**

Membership Application

Morris County NOW (NJ0200)

P.O. Box 394

Morristown, New Jersey 07960

I wish to join NOW and commit myself to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

National, State, and Local Dues:

___ \$35. Regular Dues

___ \$15-\$34. Reduced Dues

___ Additional support

___ \$5. Newsletter Only

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please return form with your check to the address above.

Morris County NOW TV Coverage

Mondays

Comcast: Channel 21, 6:30 p.m. (Morris/Hunterdon)
Channel 208, 6:30 p.m. (Somerset)

Wednesdays

Morris Cablevision, Channel 21, 9:30 p.m.

Thursdays

Oakland Cablevision System, Channel 76, 9:30 p.m.

Throughout Philadelphia

DUTV, Channel 54,
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. and Fridays, 10:00 a.m.

New Directions for Women Program Schedule feministtv@optonline.net

May: "Aging: Getting the Help We Need"

June: "Growing Up Female II"

July: "Navigating the Empty Nest"

August: "Fostering An Inclusive Workplace"

**Morris County NOW
P.O. Box 394
Morristown, NJ 07960**

Feminist News and Views

News 'n Views is published six times a year by Morris County NOW as a means of informing the membership of current activities and issues.

Chapter Officers

Karen Lontka, President - 973.584.0612
Anna Tivade, Executive V.P. - 973.635.2218
Shirley Henderson, Treasurer
Rosemary Lontka, Secretary - 973.584.0612
Susan J. Waldman, Membership VP - 973.895.2218
Anna Tivade, Fundraising VP - 973.635.2218
Rosemary Lontka, State Board Rep - 973.584.0612
Winifred Bunch - TV Task Force - 973.895.5595
Susan J. Waldman, Newsletter Editor - 973.895.2218

Advertising Rates (business card size)
Members: \$15/issue; Non-members: \$25/issue

For Information

Chapter Phone - 973.285.1200
morriscountynow@gmail.com
www.morriscountynow.org