

FEMINIST NEWS AND VIEWS

Morris County NOW

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



January/February 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MORRIS COUNTY NOW



ANNOUNCING MORRIS COUNTY NOW'S 2012 ESSAY CONTEST



The Morris County Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) is proud to continue their Essay Contest for middle and high school students. The 2012 topic has been selected:

Is there a double standard for women running for public office in America?

The contest is open to all Morris County students in grades 7 through 12. Two winners will be chosen to receive a \$100 VISA Gift Card and a one year membership in NOW. Prizes will be awarded at the May 1, 2012 Morris County NOW meeting, and the public is invited to attend. Winning essays will be printed in our newsletter and on our website.

Essays should be no more than 500 words and be submitted by March 19, 2012. A cover sheet with the student's name, address, phone, school, and grade should be included with each essay. This information should not be on the essay pages. All entries will become the property of Morris County NOW. Mail entries to:

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

They can also be emailed to MorrisCountyNOW@hotmail.com (no later than March 19th). Full contest guidelines will be available on www.morriscountynow.org. If you would like additional information or have questions about the essay contest, please email morriscountynow@hotmail.com or leave a message on the chapter phone line at (973) 285-1200.

words of choice

It was a sell-out crowd that attended the October 16th performance of *Words of Choice* at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. This very moving performance had us laughing and crying. In addition, the personal story of keynote speaker, Reverend Alison Miller, emphasized the importance of reproductive choice to all women. Prior to the performance, we enjoyed the music of Olympia's Daughters.

Special thanks to Jo Sippie-Gora for coordinating the ticket sales for our chapter.

Election Results

At our December 6th meeting, the following chapter officers were elected for 2012:

President:	Karen Lontka
Treasurer:	Shirley Henderson
Secretary:	Rosemary Lontka

Thank You

To Laurie Pettine for loaning us her tent for Bottle Hill Day again this year. It is essential to our successful tabling.

A Feminist Voice Reflections and Resolutions

By Karen Lontka

The passing of one year to the next affords the opportunity to reflect on our achievements and resolve to continue to move forward. The impact of the economic collapse of 2008 has conspired with a new social paradigm of interaction, born of the Internet, to deplete the ranks of many service and activist organizations. Nevertheless, in 2011 our chapter amassed many accomplishments.

The chapter is proud that our “New Directions for Women” television show has entered its 18th year of continuous production. We authored 14 episodes this year, with number 219 completed in December. Since we began making the programming available on “YouTube.com/mcnownj”, we have had over 32000 viewings. New production resumes in 2012 and the transfer of our large archive to the Internet continues.

Throughout the year, the chapter participated in activities targeted at promoting our goals using literature, personal contact and social media. We conducted our annual essay contest culminating with an awards ceremony where the winning submissions were read by the authors (video is available on our YouTube site). We appeared at the League of Women Voters Annual Meeting, Morristown Festival on the Green, Madison Bottle Hill Day, and GAAMC Guide Day and marched in the St Patrick’s Day Parade. At Bottle Hill Day, we launched a drive to gather signatures on a petition to our representative Rodney Frelinghuysen, urging him to cosponsor H.R. 2016 the Campus SaVE Act.

Our chapter increased its Internet presence by creating a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/mcnownj) and Twitter feed (www.twitter.com/mcnownj). Our members contribute articles and feminist insights on a regular basis to these outlets and our followers are growing (270 as of this writing). These efforts will continue in 2012 to encompass an improved website with a “Member’s Corner” that will categorize books, movies, news articles, etc. that are of interest to members. Entries in this section can include a short review by the member. This section is open to all members. (*See article, Page 3*)

We are, of course, an activist organization. To that end, our chapter members participated in various marches and demonstrations. Some highlights include:

- Lobbying in Trenton in support of “Funding of Women’s Health and Family Planning Services”
- Participated in the “Stop the Machine/Occupy DC” rally in Washington DC
- Move the Money Conference
- Women’s Healthcare Rally in Plainfield, March 22nd
- March and Rally for Jobs, Peace, Equality and Justice in Newark, April 4th
- Garden State Equality Walk in South Orange, September 24th

Adding to this list, in the coming year we will become actively involved with the effort against Human Trafficking. (*See article, Page 4*)

The future is always offering us new challenges. We will renew our efforts to attract new members and revitalize the existing membership. We will need the help of all members and supporters as 2012 portends to be a critical year for the women’s movement and feminist agenda. Conservative and reactionary forces are pressing on all fronts to undermine our hard won victories; our vigilance must continue unabated.

Join me in welcoming in the New Year with hope for the future.

Holiday Gift Wrap Wrapped Up

By Susan J. Waldman



Another holiday season has passed, and our gift wrapping spectacular is just a memory. Time to thank all the chapter members who helped staff our table. They are, in order of appearance: Carol Bergman Grunes, Shirley Henderson, Gloria Deane, Danielle Fiorita, Rosemary Lontka, Faye Feinstein, Sharon Guarino, Winifred Bunch, Karen Lontka, Rebecca Lubetkin, Rita Marshall, Beth Scott-Hughes, Shauna Canter, Pam Sheldrick, and Darlene Raisch. A special thank you to Pam Sheldrick who donated lots of beautiful wrapping paper to the cause. This year, instead of being in the back of the store, we were in the front, behind one of the magazine racks. In spite of the location, many thankful shoppers found us and took away countless, beautifully wrapped packages. (*See Photos, Page 6*)

Action Taken!

**Petition to Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen to cosponsor H.R. 2016:
Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act aka Campus SaVE Act.**

By Susan J. Waldman

A bill that would help to end sexual assault and violence on campus by requiring schools to spell out their policies, conduct prevention activities, and ensure necessary assistance for victims. It would constitute a step toward ending the sort of violence which prevents women from attaining their educational dreams. See <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php> then search bill number HR2016. Note that there are now 80 cosponsors as opposed to 39 as of our November/December news-letter.

On December 2, 2011 I delivered a petition signed by over 140 supporters to Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen’s office in Morristown. We had already spoken to Rep. Frelinghuysen about the petition at Bottle Hill Day. In the cover letter I stated that in addition to these signatures, he would be receiving signatures electronically through our website. My letter also noted, “I was going through my files and found a letter from you dated April 10, 2006 (copy enclosed) regarding H.R. 1709, The Compassionate Care for Female Sexual Assault Survivors Act, in which you say, ‘Please be assured that I share your deep concern for those who have been the victims of sexual assault.’ I hope you will show your continued concern by cosponsoring H.R. 2016.”

On December 22nd, both the chapter and I received a letter from Rep. Frelinghuysen stating “You will be pleased to know that I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2016.” Although his name is not yet on the cosponsor list (as of December 28th) I trust it will be listed shortly.

This petition is available for signatures on our website, www.morriscountynow.org. If you have friends and/or family in other states, they can access the petition and have it sent to their representative if she or he is not yet a cosponsor.

Member’s Corner

This month’s contributor: Jo Sippie-Gora.

This past fall, I had the pleasure of facilitating an interactive book discussion group in my town, over a period of 3 months.

Our society – actually, the human species as we know it -- is at a crossroads. The “Great Turning” provided a powerful framework for understanding our time within a deep historical reference and defining the choices we must now make collectively and as individuals. We concluded, as has the author David Korten, that *the era of Empire has finally reached the limits of exploitation that people and earth can sustain.*

Wanting some resolution, we segued into reading Korten’s “Agenda for a New Economy”, discussed the causes of our economic concerns and considered *how we can participate in the actions necessary for a new economy* that is the foundation to navigating the “Great Turning” and to our becoming the “Great Earth Community”.

We concluded, as does Korten, that our hope lies with “Main Street”, with creating a new economy, creating a new financial system whose success can be measured by meeting real needs, with real wealth from real resources, for people.

I highly recommend both these books, which come with free discussion guides. What we have learned has opened many doors of understanding, hope, creative ideas and alliances. If you are interested in participating in this discussion course or would like to lead your own, contact me at (973) 838-8576 or josippie@optonline.net. More info at <http://www.davidkorten.org/>.

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Cable TV Show Training

Want to join our Public Access TV Show crew? Cablevision is planning a training at the Randolph studio. Please call the chapter if you are interested, 973 285 1200.

Go Green

Let us know if you want to receive your newsletter by email only.

**Drivers Wanted
Free Opera Tickets!**

I have a subscription to the Metropolitan Opera on occasional Wednesday evenings and need a driver, my car or yours.

Must leave Dover at 3:30 PM for dinner at Lincoln Center.

Your dinner is your only expense.

Paula Kassell - 973.366.6036

Human Trafficking ¹

By Susan J. Waldman

On December 8, 2011, the Community Relations Committee of MetroWest and Central New Jersey and the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey (CRC) organized an informational meeting on the issue of Human Trafficking in New Jersey. At least ten organizations were represented at the meeting with more interested but unable to attend. We gathered to educate ourselves with the goal of educating the community on this important issue. Part of that education is learning what to look for and what questions to ask. Working together we hope to make a difference in the lives of those who are victims of Human Trafficking.

According to the International Labor Organization, more than 12 million men, women and children are enslaved worldwide. Some place the number even higher. Slavery occurs in our own North American communities and affects nearly every industry and every product we consume. Modern slavery includes, but is not limited to, forced labor and debt bondage, forced sex work, use of child soldiers, and involuntary domestic servitude. Slavery is a violation of human dignity and human rights.

Morris County Prosecutor's Office

Detective Keisha Higgs reported the following: The New Jersey Department of Criminal Justice started a Task Force in 2005. Human Trafficking is hard to prove. The State Task Force meetings are held once a month and are attended by both government officials and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives. The Coordinator of the Task Force is Kathy Friess. A major target is Atlantic City. Victims are not just one gender or ethnic group. In Morris County they do not have a local task force because it is difficult to get victims to admit their situation. New Jersey has the highest number of strip clubs per capita. Human Trafficking also exists with Chinese restaurant workers, Asian massage parlors, Latino brothels, domestic prostitution rings, and domestic workers. New Jersey is a hot spot as it lies in the corridor between New York and Florida with the ports and transportation systems that facilitate Human Trafficking.

Polaris

Ulana Tatunchak explained that Polaris is an organization established in 2000 whose mission is to fight Human Trafficking nationally and internationally. It has offices in Tokyo, DC, and New Jersey. It does training, public relations, has a 24-hour hotline and provides client services. The New Jersey office focuses on client services and provides an immediate response to victims that includes housing, referrals, job training, empowerment and parenting classes. Victims can be anybody. Those who are most vulnerable are from low income situations, foster care, runaways, and sex abuse victims. Asian massage parlors in the United States are at a 1:1 ratio with Starbucks. Polaris' legal and policy team is located in Washington DC.

Polaris first sees the victim in an emergency state and provides them with shelter and therapy. They help them to get housing, vocational training, GED's etc. They probably see 60-70 people a year. They keep in contact with them and host support groups.

Junior Leagues of New Jersey State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC)

Kate Lee explained that Human Trafficking has been defined as a crime since the federal Traffic Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was passed in 2000. The purpose of this Act is "To combat trafficking in persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and involuntary servitude, to reauthorize certain Federal programs to prevent violence against women, and for other purposes." New Jersey passed the Human Trafficking Act in 2005. We still need to make New Jersey's definitions the same as the federal legislation. Undocumented victims are never deported. They are given a special Visa. Governor Chris Christie is interested in this issue as he prosecuted some cases when he was United States Attorney.

Patricia Devine Harms reported that SPAC is working to address child victims. They are writing legislation currently entitled "New Jersey Proposal to Protect Commercially Sexually Exploited Children." Teenage prostitutes' average age is 13. SPAC works with Polaris, the New Jersey Task Force, Homeland Security, the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA) and other organizations to try to raise awareness. What they are looking to accomplish is to have safe harbor legislation where children are not put in jail but into a safe therapeutic environment, to ensure they get support or are recognized as victims, and to increase education and multi-disciplinary links with law enforcement and NGOs. They want to create a John School to pay for the programming by increasing fines and penalties. They are also working on defining whom to hold accountable, i.e. landlords? This is the first time that SPAC is working behind the scenes. This legislation is the result of a brainstorming session held at Kean University a year ago. They still need the Attorney General to agree to the legislation and to keep it fiscally neutral.

¹ Portions of this report taken directly from the meeting minutes.

(Continued from Page 4)

Another piece of legislation in the works in New Jersey is a bill to ensure that someone under 18 is considered a victim no matter what. Senator Nia Gill is taking the lead on this.

The Future

In an open discussion the group agreed that they would like to work together to become a stronger power base and leverage resources at both a policy and a public assistance level. The group agreed to the following next steps:

- Organize an educational community program in the Spring that will be led by the Morris County Prosecutors Office.
- Invite other groups that should be at the table to participate in this effort: Essex County Prosecutor's Office, Catholic Charities, End Child Prostitution and Trafficking—USA (ECPAT), Groundswell, Christian Brothers Investment Group, and others.
- Advocate for the comprehensive SPAC legislation when the bill is ready.
- Attend events and fundraisers around the state focused on this concern.
- Compile a list of resources that can be shared with all the groups.
- Participate in promoting The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism and ensure that our local and national organizations only use hotels that have signed the code.

Resources

Here are a few websites for more information on Human Trafficking: www.endslaveryandtrafficking.org, www.polarisproject.org, www.nj.gov/oag/dcj/humantrafficking, www.humantrafficking.org

What is Morris County NOW doing?

We had a speaker on Human Trafficking at our September meeting: Joseph Burlett, founder of Human Trafficking Awareness Council, NJ. He was also a guest on our TV show, taped in November, which will be shown later in 2012. We are an "official" member of the new Human Trafficking coalition with more reports to follow.

What can you do?

Watch our chapter website (www.morriscountynow.org) and future emails for the date of the community event and for more information on this issue. When the proposed legislation is ready, come with us to Trenton to lobby our legislators. Also, take note that January 11th is Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Gay Activist Alliance

January 16: "Songcatcher"

"It's a man's world" was never more true than in 1907 when Dr. Lily Penleric, a gifted musicologist, begins to do groundbreaking work only to find her work thwarted by her male colleagues. Lily joins her sister Eleanor in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains where Lily is in for several surprises, including the discovery of her sister's secret life. Join us for a rare look inside a lost horizon. Based on a true story.



Doors open 6:30 PM. Film will begin at 7:00 PM.
Guests invited to discuss the film after screening.

Refreshments will be served. Requested door donation of \$6 for non-members and \$4 for GAAMC members.

21 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, NJ 07960
www.gaamc.org

New Directions for Women Celebrates the life of Gertrude Benz

Trudy Benz Welch sponsored our cable television show: *Planned Parenthood: Working to Keep Women Healthy*.*

Trudy dedicated the show to her "dear, wonderful mother, Gertrude Benz, who lived life to the fullest and died at age 92. Her strength and abilities were always an inspiration to me."

Trudy Benz Welch

Thank you Trudy for sharing your memories with us.

* To be shown in 2012

Please Note

Our November Chapter Meeting has been rescheduled from the first Tuesday of the month (Presidential Election Day) to the second Tuesday, November 13, 2012.

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



Gift Wrappings



Our wrappers, clockwise from the top left: Shirley Henderson, Susan J. Waldman, Carol Bergman Grunes, Gloria Deane, Rosemary Lontka, Faye Feinstein, Sharon Guarino, Rosemary, Susan, Winifred Bunch, Karen Lontka, Rita

Marshall, Rebecca Lubetkin, Shauna Canter, Beth Scott-Hughes, and Pam Sheldrick. We didn't catch Danielle Fiorita and Darlene Raisch with our camera.

What a great looking bunch!!!

Ride Needed

We have a new member who would love to attend our chapter meetings but is unable to drive due to a disability.

Kay Robinson lives in Mountain Lakes and would greatly appreciate your help in getting to and from our monthly meeting. Please call Kay at 973 263 2534 if you would like to volunteer. Thank you so much.

Our TV show "New Directions for Women" is now available on YouTube

All of the shows from 2007-2010, many of our 2011 shows, and some from as far back as 1994 are now available for on-demand viewing. More recent 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 (to date we have produced 217 programs). To access “New Directions for Women,” go to www.YouTube.com/mcnownj. A hint: if you subscribe to our channel, you will receive an alert whenever new content is added.

National NOW's Top Six Priority Issues

Abortion and Reproductive Rights

Economic Justice

Ending Sex Discrimination

Lesbian Rights

Promoting Diversity & Ending Racism

Stopping Violence Against Women

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 www.facebook.com/mcnownj



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, January 3, 2012
Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting
7:30 PM

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting
7:30 PM

Saturday, March 3, 2012
NOW-NJ State Board Meeting
Morris Plains Community Center
9:30 AM — 3:00 PM

Monday, March 19, 2012
Essay Submission Deadline

March/April 2012 (Date TBD)
Essay Contest Judging
Susan Waldman's Home

Saturday, April 28, 2012
NOW-NJ Bylaws Meeting
Location & Time TBD

Tuesday, May 1, 2012
Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting
Essay Contest Awards

Help Wanted

Newsletter Editor Susan J. Waldman is ready to retire. We are looking for someone to edit Feminist News And Views. Looks great on a resume. Susan will be happy to mentor.

Representative to the NAACP The Morris County Branch of the NAACP has reached out to our chapter. Our President, Karen Lontka has been attending their meetings (first Monday of the month). We are looking for someone to take over and be our representative.

Interested? Contact us at 973.285.1200 or www.morriscountynow@gmail.com

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

January: "Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot"

February: "What's Love Got to Do With It?"

March: "Who in the World was Margaret Fuller?"

April: "Sojourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman?"

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

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM
MORRIS COUNTY NOW**

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

Shirley Henderson, Treasurer

Rosemary Lontka, Secretary - 973.584.0612

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