

# FEMINIST NEWS AND VIEWS

## Morris County NOW

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



March/April 2019

### IN MEMORIAM: BARBARA “BABS” SIPERSTEIN

On February 3, 2019, the world lost someone whose fight for Transgender rights culminated on February 1, 2019 when the New Jersey Transgender rights bill named after her went into effect. This law gives transgender people living in New Jersey the legal right to change the gender on both their birth and death certificates to the gender that they are living.

As I recall, I met Babs sometime during the 1990's due to my involvement with NOW and LGBTQ issues. A very warm person, she always made me feel that she was happy to see me. My favorite memory of Babs is from April 4, 2009, a blustery, cold, cloudy and muddy (emphasis on muddy) Saturday afternoon when Morris County NOW tabled on the Lacrosse field at the Drew University LGBT/Gay Marriage Rally. Babs was tabling there also. All afternoon we were chasing our signs and papers as the wind blew them off the tables and into the mud. It was a constant struggle. Tabling with me were Morris County NOW members Anna Tivade and Rosemary Lontka. Although not that funny at the time, we all had a lot of laughs and ended up muddy but happy.

I know Babs will be remembered for all her accomplishments and for herself, but I will always treasure the memory of that cold day spent outside at Drew University.



### MORRISTOWN ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Tired of being cooped up all winter? Want to get some fresh air and exercise? Your opportunity is at hand. On Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, Morris County NOW will once again march in the Morristown St. Patrick's Day Parade. This will be the twenty-fifth year that we have participated in this event. Plan to arrive at the staging area (parking lot behind the Morristown Municipal Building at 200 South Street, across from King's) by 11:00AM if you want to help us decorate our “float.” The parade steps off at 12:00 noon. Or you can come later. Just be sure you arrive by 1:15 PM. The only requirement is that you wear something green and expect to have fun. Questions?? Call Susan at 973.895.2218.

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## NEW JERSEY COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING UPDATE

By Susan J. Waldman



### Pending Legislation

No news on pending state legislation. (Funding the State HT Commission (S2691/A4218) , School Pilot Program (A1428/S2653).

The Human Trafficking Prevention Month (January) **Locker Slam** project was a great success. Thirty-eight schools around the state signed up to receive sets of six magnets for students to place on their lockers. Each brightly-colored magnet had a different slogan: YOUR VOICE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD, PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE FOR SALE, SLAVERY STILL EXISTS, THERE ARE MORE SLAVES TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE, I AM AN ABOLITIONIST, and BE A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS. The Coalition delivered over 8000 magnets. This project afforded the Coalition the opportunity to form relationships with school administrators, hopefully leading to future events such as assemblies on the topic of Human Trafficking.



The Coalition's first **Advocacy Week in Trenton** (January 14 – 18) was very well received. Displays were viewed by hundreds as they passed through Goldfinch Square for the Governor's State of the State Address. The week also included the Legislative Networking Lunch on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> with recognition of legislators and other individuals whom the Coalition named "2019 Advocacy Champions" — Senator Tom Kean Jr.; Senator M. Teresa Ruiz; Assemblyman Ronald S. Dancer; Assemblywoman Gabriela M. Mosquera; Assistant Attorney General, Annmarie Taggart, Human Trafficking Task Force (NJ); and Kathleen Friess, Human Trafficking Task Force (NJ). Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttel presented a Resolution praising the Coalition's educational outreach. The Resolution can be viewed at: <https://www.njhumantrafficking.org/about>.

### Proposed Legislation

An Expanded Vacatur Bill (A5085) [Text not yet available on NJ Legislature website] which "would provide a process for a person to vacate and expunge, as applicable, arrests, charges, complaints, convictions, or other dispositions, as well as DNA records, for actual or alleged violations of law committed by the person as a result of having been a victim of human trafficking" was presented to the Coalition's Legislative Committee at their January 31, 2019 meeting where it was unanimously supported. Subsequently the Steering Committee and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to support this legislation.

When New Jersey's current Human Trafficking bill (Human Trafficking Prevention, Protection and Treatment Act [A3352]) was passed on May 6, 2013, it was praised as one of the strongest anti-trafficking bills in the country. There are now more states with stronger legislation. The provisions in this new bill will serve to strengthen our bill and give greater support to the victims of Human Trafficking. Especially important are the provisions for expunging DNA records and making sure that all filings are automatically kept under seal to assure victims' privacy.

### Gift Card Collection

The campaign collected over \$3,000 in gift cards for survivors.

*Continued on Page 3)*

*Continued from Page 2)*

**Intern Program for Human Trafficking Awareness Day (January 11, 2019)**

On January 11, 2019, this year’s Coalition Interns successfully produced a program that was live-streamed on Facebook focusing on students and Human Trafficking. It also featured music, dance and poetry. You can watch the program here: [https://www.facebook.com/njhumantrafficking/videos/2092805290779629/?epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/njhumantrafficking/videos/2092805290779629/?epa=SEARCH_BOX).

*(Photo on right, the 2019 Interns)*



**Prince William County, Virginia**


The Coalition is currently speaking with Angella Alvernaz, Human Trafficking Prevention Specialist of the Prince William County, Virginia, Public Schools. They have a very successful, multi-media program for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to help identify victims of Human Trafficking. She is an excellent resource for possible programs in New Jersey and the proposed Human Trafficking high school pilot program.

**Upcoming Events**

Volunteer Orientation & Steering Committee Meeting—Thursday, March 7, 2019, 9:15AM-12:15PM, Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest, 901 NJ Route 10 East, Whippany, NJ. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/njcaht-volunteer-orientation-march-2019-tickets-54306353766>


Human Trafficking and Opioids –April 11, 2019, 7-9PM, Overlook Hospital, Summit, NJ (See flyer below)

Traffick Slam is where ART and ABOLITION come together for an evening of poetry, music and dance—May 21, 2019, 6 -10PM, Imperia, Somerset, NJ Tickets \$50. (See flyer below)

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**HUMAN**   
**TRAFFICKING**  
**AND OPIOIDS**

**APRIL 11, 2019 @7PM**  
**OVERLOOK HOSPITAL**  
**SUMMIT**

Survivor speaker and experts in the opioid epidemic and its relationship to modern slavery



FREE TO ATTEND - OPEN TO ALL  
[WWW.NJHUMANTRAFFICKING.ORG](http://WWW.NJHUMANTRAFFICKING.ORG)



**TRAFFICK SLAM**  
 AN EVENING OF  
 POETRY, MUSIC  
 AND DANCE

**MAY**  
**21**  
**2019**

THE IMPERIA  
 SOMERSET NJ  
 6PM - 10PM  
 TICKETS \$50

**SAVE THE DATE**

## Commemorating the Anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Decision

By Susan J. Waldman

On January 24, 2019, I attended the National Council of Jewish Women, West Essex Branch, Roe v. Wade anniversary lunch, *Ending the STIGMA of Abortion*, featuring Lizz Winstead and Lady Parts Justice League. Lady Parts Justice League is a New York City-based reproductive rights organization founded by Lizz Winstead in 2015. They use humor and outrage to expose anti-choice hypocrisy and mobilize people to take action in all 50 states. NOW-NJ was a cosponsor of this event.

Lizz told us that when she got pregnant at the age of seventeen (1978), her boyfriend wanted nothing to do with her. He asked her, “Weren’t you on something?” Her answer, “I was on you!” In her quest for an abortion, perfectly legal in 1978, she ended up at a Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC). Looking around the waiting room, Lizz felt a bit uneasy, until a woman in a white lab coat came in. This reassured her that she was dealing with a medical professional. Later she realized “anyone can get a lab coat.” Her “medical professional” told her that she had two options, “mommy or murder.” She was also told that “abortion is against our law.” She managed to get out of there and she eventually did get her abortion.

After telling her story, Lizz introduced two women, Solange Azor, comedian, writer and activist; and Jen Moore Conrow, MFS, currently the Director of PEACE (Family Planning and Pregnancy Loss Services) at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Here are some of their insights:

### Jen

When you speak of reducing the number of abortions, you imply that abortion is something “WRONG” because you don’t try to reduce something right. Don’t talk about “GOOD” abortions that result from rape, incest, abnormalities, etc. Abortion can be a form of birth control depending on a person’s situation, i.e. forced sex in domestic violence situations. There can be complicated reasons. If a person is struggling, would you ask that person to parent?

### Lizz

Don’t use the term “pro-life.” Use “anti-abortion or “anti-choice.” We stigmatize abortion by saying it should be “safe, legal and rare.” “Sperm is 100% responsible for pregnancy, you are a carrier.”

### Solange

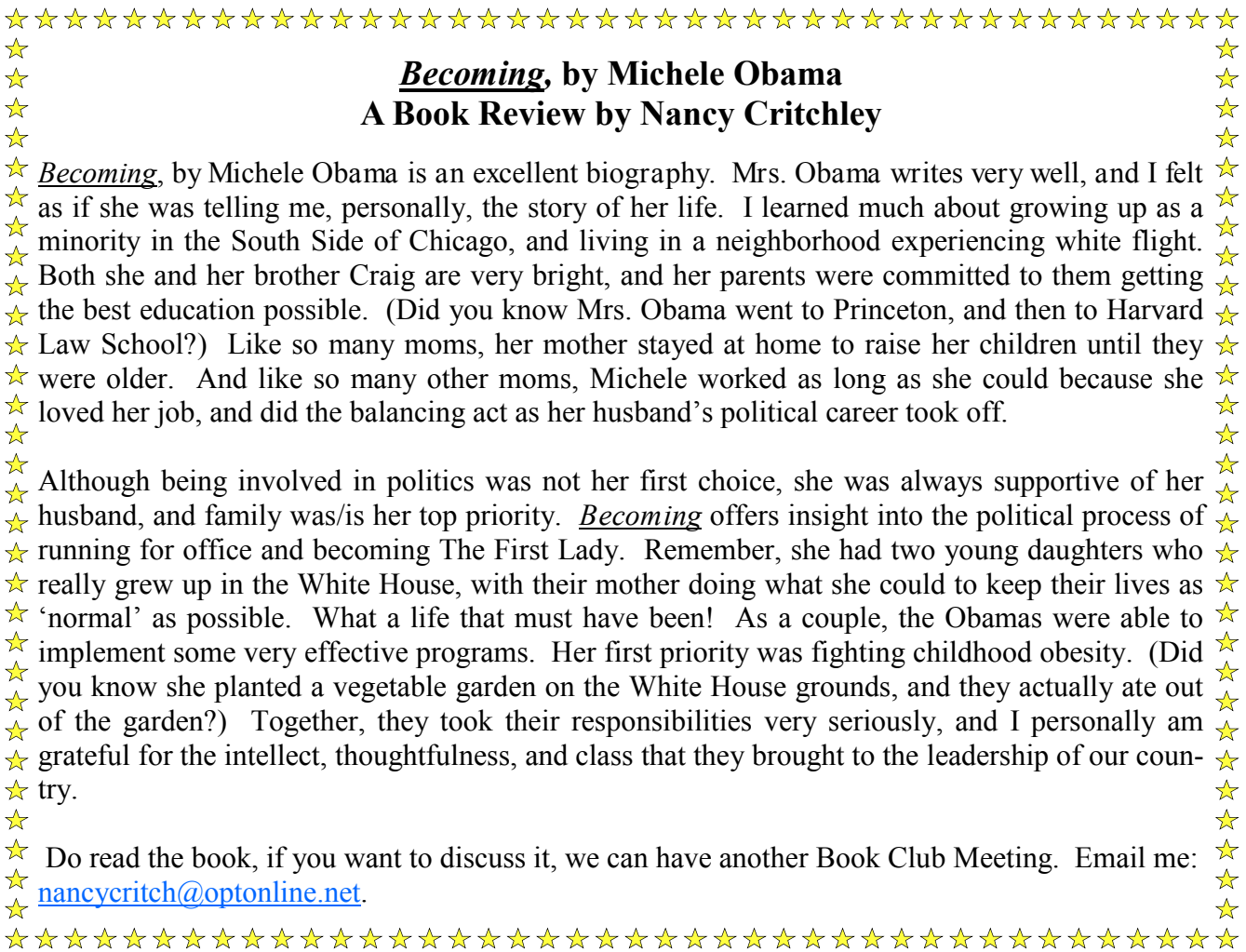
Speaking from the perspective of a woman of color, she said that the white community should not tell the black community how to act, think or feel.

In addition to the excellent program, we all signed cards to NJ Assemblyman Herb Conaway asking him to support **A1861—Address Confidentiality Program for Reproductive Health Services Employees and Clients**, a bill that would offer both staff and patients the option of confidentiality of their addresses, thus granting them safety and security for themselves and their families.

It was an afternoon well spent, and I left the event with renewed resolve in the fight for abortion rights and against Crisis Pregnancy Centers.

### **ACTION ITEM**

To take action on this bill (A1861) or its companion Senate bill (S1761) contact your State Senator and Assemblypersons . Find out who they are and how to contact them by visiting the New Jersey Legislature website: [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us).

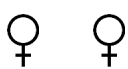


***Becoming*, by Michele Obama**  
**A Book Review by Nancy Critchley**

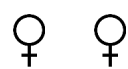
*Becoming*, by Michele Obama is an excellent biography. Mrs. Obama writes very well, and I felt as if she was telling me, personally, the story of her life. I learned much about growing up as a minority in the South Side of Chicago, and living in a neighborhood experiencing white flight. Both she and her brother Craig are very bright, and her parents were committed to them getting the best education possible. (Did you know Mrs. Obama went to Princeton, and then to Harvard Law School?) Like so many moms, her mother stayed at home to raise her children until they were older. And like so many other moms, Michele worked as long as she could because she loved her job, and did the balancing act as her husband’s political career took off.

Although being involved in politics was not her first choice, she was always supportive of her husband, and family was/is her top priority. *Becoming* offers insight into the political process of running for office and becoming The First Lady. Remember, she had two young daughters who really grew up in the White House, with their mother doing what she could to keep their lives as ‘normal’ as possible. What a life that must have been! As a couple, the Obamas were able to implement some very effective programs. Her first priority was fighting childhood obesity. (Did you know she planted a vegetable garden on the White House grounds, and they actually ate out of the garden?) Together, they took their responsibilities very seriously, and I personally am grateful for the intellect, thoughtfulness, and class that they brought to the leadership of our country.

Do read the book, if you want to discuss it, we can have another Book Club Meeting. Email me: [nancycritch@optonline.net](mailto:nancycritch@optonline.net).



**The Veteran Feminists of America Want Your Story**



If you were a Second Wave activist or if you know someone who made a difference, the Veteran Feminists of America (VFA) needs those stories. Here are some easy options:

- ◆ Ask someone to interview you. If you know another activist, interview each other. You can use a smart phone or iPad or audio recorder.
- ◆ When you are done, email [pioneerhistories@veteranfeministsofamerica.org](mailto:pioneerhistories@veteranfeministsofamerica.org). Let them know what format it is in, and they will let you know where to send it.
- ◆ Or, they can interview you via telephone. Send an email to [pioneerhistories@veteranfeministsofamerica.org](mailto:pioneerhistories@veteranfeministsofamerica.org) and let them know you would like to be interviewed by phone. They will let you know the next steps.
- ◆ If you already have a recording of your own story, they would like to have a copy of that interview to add to their project. Just send them an email with that information.

If you have any questions or if you know of other Second Wave feminists whose story has not been told, please provide the name(s), contact information and a few sentences about the person(s) to [pioneerhistories@veteranfeministsofamerica.org](mailto:pioneerhistories@veteranfeministsofamerica.org).

**VFA Pioneer Histories Project Co-Chairs**

Mary Jean Collins, [MaryJeanDC@gmail.com](mailto:MaryJeanDC@gmail.com) and Kathy Rand, [ksrand@icloud.com](mailto:ksrand@icloud.com)



### **Donation to Jersey Battered Women's Service, Inc.**

On Saturday, July 28, 2018, under the direction of Tori Hartnett, Membership V.P., Morris County NOW organized a donation event for the Jersey Battered Women's Service, Inc. (JBWS) at the Greater Morristown Shop Rite. We collected at least twelve shopping carts full of necessities along with gift cards. Here is the thank you letter we received.

August 24, 2018

Dear Ms. Hartnett:

The clients and staff at JBWS appreciate your donation of a \$100 gift card, a \$10 gift card and groceries.

Your act of kindness speaks to the importance of our services which help keep victims and their families safe, provide the hope of a brighter future, and the programs necessary to rebuild their lives during a difficult time.

Thank you for your support and making a difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely,  
Diane M. Williams, NSW, LCSW, President & CEO

#### **\*\*Your Ad Could Be Here\*\***

Advertising Rates/Business Card Size:

Members: \$15/Issue

Non-Members: \$25/Issue

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

### **Never Too Early To Think Garage Sale**

There's no date yet, but Spring is on the horizon, and what better time to refresh your home and clean out those things you've been meaning to give away for years. And, what luck, our garage sale is happy to take them off your hands!

Please call Susan J. Waldman at 973 895 2218 to arrange a drop off or pick up of any items you wish to donate. We accept books, but not textbooks or encyclopedias (are there still some of those around???) and will take household items if they are in working order. No computers or monitors, however. Thank you for thinking of us. Also, if you would like to volunteer to work at the sale, just let me know.

### **All Good Things Must Come to an End Farewell to New Directions for Women**

By Susan J. Waldman

After over 23 years of producing our own feminist, public access, cable TV show, Morris County NOW has decided to end on a high note.

When Cablevision notified us that the studio at their offices on Route 10 in Randolph would no longer be available for taping, and offered us the use of their Newark studios, we chose to look for a more accessible and convenient location. No effort was spared in our search. We eventually connected with County College of Morris, and even taped a show there on November 29, 2017. Sadly, that was to be our last show. Because everything in their studio belonged to CCM, only the CCM students could touch the equipment. That left us with providing the topic and guest(s) but only the host would actually represent the chapter. It just didn't feel like it would be our show anymore.

At the February 5, 2019 MCNOW Chapter Meeting we decided that it was time to cease production. We accomplished a lot in those 23+ years. As noted on Page 8 of this newsletter, our shows are available on YouTube [www.YouTube.com/mcnownj](http://www.YouTube.com/mcnownj).

I'd like to thank all the MCNOW members who worked on the show from March, 1994 through November 2017, and especially to Mavra Stark who started it all. It was an excellent run!

### **MORRIS COUNTY NOW ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The following slate of officers was elected at the January 8, 2019 Morris County NOW Chapter meeting:

President	Karen Lontka
Executive V.P.	Rosemary Lontka
Secretary	Nancy Critchley
Treasurer	Shirley Henderson
Membership V.P.	Stacey Gregg
Fundraising V.P.	Susan J. Waldman
State Board Delegates	Rosemary Lontka, Shirley Henderson and Susan J. Waldman
Alternate Delegate	Margaret Davey

**Be A Newsletter Contributor**

Wouldn't 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](mailto: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.

**SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR OUR MEMBER'S CORNER**

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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/mcnownj)



<http://twitter.com/mcnownj>

**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**

**Chapter Calendar**

**MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2019**

Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting  
Morris Plains Community Center  
7:30 PM

**Thursday, March 7, 2019**

Human Trafficking Volunteer Orientation  
& Steering Committee Meeting  
9:15AM-12:15PM  
Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest  
Whippany, NJ  
*(See Article, Pages 2 & 3)*

**Saturday, March 9, 2019**

St. Patrick's Day Parade  
Morristown  
*(See Article, Page 1)*

**Saturday, March 23, 2019**

State Board Meeting  
Morris County NOW Hosting  
For more information,  
visit [www.nownj.org](http://www.nownj.org)

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019**

**Equal Pay Day**

This day symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year.

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019**

Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting  
Morris Plains Community Center  
7:30 PM

**Thursday, April 11, 2019**

Human Trafficking and Opioids  
7-9PM, Overlook Hospital, Summit  
*(See Article, Pages 2 & 3)*

**Tuesday, May 7, 2019**

Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting  
Morris Plains Community Center  
7:30 PM



**THINK SPRING**

## 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.

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

Most of the shows from 2007 to September 22, 2016, 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 285 programs). To access "New Directions for Women," go to [www.YouTube.com/mcnownj](http://www.YouTube.com/mcnownj).

## Come to Our Morris County NOW Monthly Meetings

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. (Unless indicated in the chapter calendar on our website.) We hope to meet you there. For more information, call our chapter phone or visit [www.morriscountynow.org](http://www.morriscountynow.org).

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

## Going Green

Thank you to all the members who replied to our "Going Green" campaign. You can still let us know if you want to receive your newsletter by email only. Contact us by phone, 973 285 1200, or by email, [morriscountynow@gmail.com](mailto:morriscountynow@gmail.com).

## Feminist News and Views

News and 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  
Rosemary Lontka, Executive V.P.  
Shirley Henderson, Treasurer  
Susan J. Waldman, Fundraising VP- 973.895.2218  
Rosemary Lontka, Shirley Henderson, Susan J. Waldman - State Board Delegates  
Margaret Davey, Alternate State Board Delegate  
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](mailto:morriscountynow@gmail.com)  
[www.morriscountynow.org](http://www.morriscountynow.org)