

# FEMINIST NEWS AND VIEWS

## Morris County NOW

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



See “2019 GIFT WRAPPING SCHEDULE” on Page 4

September/October 2019

### TEST THE RAPE KITS UPDATE

By Susan J. Waldman

#### S425/A3956 “Imposes time constraints on submission and analysis of rape kits.”

We are off to a great start. Calls to the eighteen legislators serving Morris County produced two scheduled meetings, requests for emails from us, and promised call backs. Assemblyman Anthony M. Bucco’s Chief of Staff (District 25) suggested that we write to the chairs of the Senate and Assembly Law and Public Safety Committees where the bill is currently sitting. Those letters went out on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Our first meeting, attended by myself and Nancy Critchley, began with Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll (District 25) stating that he would co-sponsor the bill. We then stayed for a very enjoyable hour while we swapped stories. He acknowledged that he and I have mostly been on opposite sides of the issues, but, regarding this bill, he said, “Put the guilty in jail, and keep the innocent out.” He also suggested that we write to the Primary Sponsors of the bill. Those letters went out on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. His co-sponsorship has already been listed on the bill.

Doreen Manno and I met with Assemblyman Bucco on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. He is in favor of the bill but expressed concerns over why it hasn’t moved in the committee. It turns out that this bill was originally introduced in the Assembly in 2012. That’s over seven years of inactivity. His Chief of Staff offered to call the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) and ask them what is in the bill that could be holding it up. The OLS is a non-partisan department in the State House that offers many services to the Legislature, including general, legal and fiscal research and analysis and drafting bills. Assemblyman Bucco thought that one possibility is that the mandatory testing in this bill would infringe on the rights of rape victims who have had rape kits performed but requested that they not be tested. He also was very confident that the issue was not the cost of testing the kits, which can run to over \$1000 each. Our letters to the Primary Sponsors also asked what is holding up the bills.

I received a call back from Senator Anthony R. Bucco’s office (District 25). No meeting is necessary as he has agreed to co-sponsor the bill. Note that the Senate version of the bill was originally introduced in 2014, over five years of inaction.

As of this writing we have three more meetings scheduled, and I will be following up on the email requests and the call backs. Special thanks to Nancy and Doreen for their assistance..

For more information on the petition, the bills and the Morris County legislators, the May/June 2019 newsletter [is now available here](#).

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Test the Rape Kits Update (Page 1)
- ◆ Human Trafficking Coalition Update (Page 2)
- ◆ *Death By Delivery*, by Rosemary Lontka (Page 3)
- ◆ This Car Could Be Yours (Page 3)
- ◆ Tabling Opportunities (Page 3)
- ◆ Book Review—*Becoming* — Nancy Critchley (Page 4)
- ◆ Gift Wrapping 2019 (Page 4)
- ◆ Help Wanted (Page 4)



## NEW JERSEY COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING UPDATE

By Susan J. Waldman



### Legislative Update

Funding the State HT Commission (A4218) substituted by S2691. *Makes supplemental appropriation of \$100,000 to Commission on Human Trafficking. This bill was signed into law by Governor Murphy on August 23, 2019.*

Act concerning child trafficking awareness for school districts (A1428/S2653). *Requires Department of Education to develop guidelines for school districts concerning child trafficking awareness and prevention. This bill was signed into law on July 19, 2019 by Governor Murphy. MY PERSONAL NOTE:* This bill is about providing resources to the NJ Department of Education and thus to the schools. It does not specify any grade levels. It is not a curriculum. To quote the bill, “1. *a. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Children and Families, shall develop and distribute to school districts guidelines concerning child trafficking. The purpose of the guidelines shall be to provide direction for schools in creating awareness of child trafficking, including warning signs and risk factors associated with child trafficking and how to prevent child trafficking.*”

Expanded Vacatur Bill (A5085). *Provides for process for a person to vacate and expunge, as applicable, arrests, charges, complaints, convictions, or other dispositions, as well as DNA records, associated with violations of law committed by person while victim of human trafficking.* Introduced on February 25, 2019, referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee. It was moved to the Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee on March 11, 2019, from which it was passed unanimously with amendments on the same day. Next step is to have the Speaker post the bill for the full Assembly. It was introduced in the Senate (S3678) on May 13, 2019 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Primary Sponsors: Nilsa Cruz-Perez and Thomas H. Kean, Jr. Co-sponsors: Richard J. Codey, Anthony R. Bucco, Joseph Pennacchio (all from Morris County districts), and Vin Gopal.

*LATEST UPDATE:* An amendment to the Assembly Bill (A5085) has been proposed. The gist of this amendment is to ensure that any victim of a crime committed by the person seeking to vacate their record is notified and given the opportunity to submit a written statement to the court regarding the impact of said crime.

Further background information can be found in the July/August 2019 Newsletter which [is now available here](#).

### Take Action

Call or write Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin or any of the above-listed Senate sponsors and co-sponsors on the Expanded Vacatur Bill (A5085) and ask them to move this bill. All contact information can be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us).

### Upcoming Events

#### **HT Training: Sex Trafficking: A Survivor's Story — Tactics Employed & Lessons Learned**

This FREE training is directed at law enforcement, but members of the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking are invited. Morris County NOW, Northern NJ NOW, South Jersey NOW, and NOW-NJ are members of the coalition.

The training is available in two locations:

September 19, 2019, Morris County Public Safety Training Academy, 500 West Hanover Avenue, Morristown, NJ. Please register in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sex-trafficking-a-survivors-story-tactics-employed-and-lessons-learned-registration-64632339066>, Program from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

September 20, 2019, NJ Forensic Science Technology Center, 1200 Negrón Drive, Hamilton, NJ. Please register in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sex-trafficking-a-survivors-story-tactics-employed-and-lessons-learned-registration-64632164544>. Program from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

More information available at the registration links above.

(Continued on Page 3)

**Upcoming Events** *(Continued from Page 2)*

*Modern Slavery: 21st Century Solutions*, a forum co-sponsored by NJCAHT on Friday, September 27, 2019, 8:00AM –4:30PM, Seton Hall University

For more information, visit the Coalition website: [www.njhumantrafficking.org](http://www.njhumantrafficking.org) and Facebook page: NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

**Other News**

If you weren't aware of this before, there is a FREE online (self-paced) course on Human Trafficking for the General Public being offered by Stanford University Online.

<https://lagunita.stanford.edu/courses/course-v1:HumanitiesSciences+HumTrfkgAwrn+SelfPaced/about?fbclid=IwAR1PyM7EEF84z7gclUDMnAg6KJMRYp-14Qe3kefnqEWxn8grl1wDbsZlIEY>

**“Death by Delivery”<sup>1</sup>**

**By Rosemary Lontka, RN BSN**

What is more patriotic than our flag, the song “God Bless America” and motherhood? But there are not many patriotic policies for mothers. The US has the highest maternal death rate among developed countries, placing the US between Afghanistan and Sudan where maternal mortality rates are rising, according to the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health. New Jersey has the fifth highest maternal mortality rate in the nation.<sup>2</sup> The overwhelming majority of women who die or suffer catastrophic injuries during birth or post-delivery are women of color, double the deaths of white women.<sup>3</sup>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines maternal mortality as the death of the mother during pregnancy or within the first year after the end of the pregnancy, known as the post-partum period. The CDC estimates that around half of all pregnancy-related deaths are preventable.<sup>4</sup> New Jersey Health Commissioner, Shereef Elnahal, stated that studies show that race (implicit bias) more than poverty or education, present the most significant risk. Obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, cardiovascular episodes and strokes, poor diet and high rates of caesarean sections (C-sections) are also issues affecting mortality. To quote Commissioner Elnahal, “While these procedures save lives, too many women in our state are experiencing preventable C-sections which are putting them at unnecessary risk for injury or death.”<sup>5</sup>

In response to this crisis, New Jersey and New York are taking action. Both states have formed taskforces to define the issues and develop ways to address health disparities. Both state legislatures have introduced bills, and both governors have included money in their state budgets to act on recommendations.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Documentary Title by Fusion

<sup>2</sup> USA Today: Investigation

<sup>3</sup> Daily Record, Monday, June 17, 2019, “Area’s maternal mortality addressed

<sup>4</sup> Star Ledger, “opinion” Chris Ann Pai Mieri, guest columnist

<sup>5</sup> Star Ledger Thursday, May 30, 2019, Health: Too many deliveries by C-section

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 2



*This 2001 Toyota  
MR2 could be yours.  
104,000 Miles  
\$6500  
Call Nancy Critchley  
at 973 390 1129*

**FALL TABLING OPPORTUNITIES**

See the Chapter Calendar on Page 5 for Madison’s Bottle Hill Day, the Morristown Fall Festival, and West Milford’s Autumn Lights. Please join us. Call the Chapter Phone 973 285 1200 to sign up.

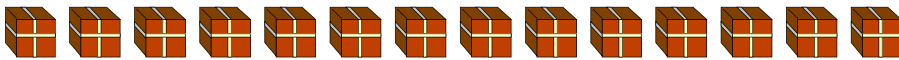
**Becoming, by Michelle Obama**  
**A Book Review by Nancy Critchley**

*Becoming*, by Michelle Obama is an excellent memoir. Mrs. Obama writes very well, and I felt as if she were 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. And like so many other moms, Michelle 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 while their mother did 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 am personally 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.



**AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...**

**THIS YEAR'S GIFT WRAPPING SCHEDULE**

Our scheduled gift wrapping dates are a bit unusual this year. We have one full day, two nights, and Christmas Eve afternoon. Not our usual schedule. Regardless, we are still looking forward to the good times we have every year. Lots of bows, ribbons and eye-catching wrapping paper to delight our customers.

Won't you join us at the Barnes & Noble store located at 1940 Route 10 West in Morris Plains (corner of 10 and 202) on the following dates and times:

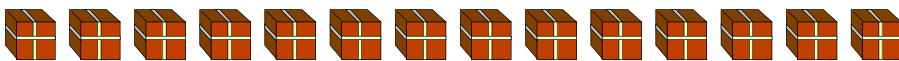
**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 9AM – 10PM**

**Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 6PM – 10PM**

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6PM – 10PM**

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 12:30PM – 6PM**

To volunteer, please email us at [morriscountynow@gmail.com](mailto:morriscountynow@gmail.com) or call Susan Waldman at 973 895 2218. Thanks!!



**HELP WANTED**

NOW-NJ is looking for a new secretary. Our secretary has moved to Arizona, leaving that board position open. The secretary takes minutes at the four yearly State Board Meetings and the bi-annual State Conference. Other duties include sending meeting notices and keeping records of the State Board Membership.

Interested? For more information call NOW-NJ, 973 393 0156 or email [info@nownj.org](mailto:info@nownj.org).

**VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5th**  
**REMEMBER,**  
**YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**

**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**
- LGBTQ Rights**
- Promoting Diversity & Ending Racism**
- Stopping Violence Against Women**

**Chapter Calendar**

**Tuesday, September 3, 2019**

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

**Thursday, September 19, 2019**

HT Training  
See Page 2

**Friday, September 27, 2019**

Human Trafficking Forum  
Modern Slavery: 21st Century Solutions  
8:00 AM—4:30 PM  
Seton Hall University

**Sunday, September 29, 2019**

Morristown Fall Festival  
Noon to 5:00 PM

**Tuesday, October 1, 2019**

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

**Saturday, October 5, 2019**

Bottle Hill Day  
Madison, NJ  
10:00 AM—5:00 PM

**Saturday, October 12, 2019**

Autumn Lights Festival  
West Milford, NJ  
10:00 AM—5:00 PM

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019**

**ELECTION DAY**  
**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!**

**Saturday, November 9, 2019**

NOW-NJ State Board Meeting  
9:30 AM—3:30 PM  
Hosted by Union County NOW

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**

**NOTE: MEETING ON SECOND TUESDAY**

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



## 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)