

# FEMINIST NEWS AND VIEWS

## Morris County NOW

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



## WELCOME TO 2021!

## January/February 2021

### Morris County NOW Wishes You A Happy and Healthy New Year!

#### A Celebration of Feminist Voices

By Susan J. Waldman

Farewell to 2020 and good riddance. With a new Biden/Harris administration on the horizon, vaccination programs under-way, the promise of Racial Justice, and the final push for an Equal Rights Amendment, we are looking forward to a year filled with Feminist Actions and Feminist Voices.

The first Feminist Voice to celebrate is NOW-NJ's Secretary, Katie Brennan, who inspired a package of bills currently working their way through the State Legislature that will support victims of sexual assault. The bills were embraced by State Senator Loretta Weinberg's and Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttler's WorkGroup. "Far too often, survivors of sexual assault who have the courage to come forward are victimized a second time," state Sen. Loretta Weinberg, D-Bergen, said in a statement. "These bills aim to remedy the pitfalls in our criminal justice system and workplaces that allow violence and misogyny to continue. These bills would empower survivors to become informed and pursue their rights." The Senate bills are numbered in a series from S3070 through S3078. The corresponding Assembly bills will be indicated with the Senate bills. To track their progress visit <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/> and search the bill number, or see "Take Action With Morris County NOW" (Page4) on how the State Legislature can track them for you.

The next Feminist Voice belongs to Bear Atwood. We congratulate Bear for her election to the office of National NOW Vice President. Bear was elected at the National Conference on September 26, 2020. Morris County NOW got to know Bear when she was President of NOW-NJ in the mid 90's. Among her many actions as President she fought *against* draconian welfare reform legislation and *for* divorce reform. Following her NOW-NJ presidency she held the following positions: Information Officer at Planned Parenthood of Central NJ, Director of the New Jersey Division on Women, and Special Assistant to the Director of the NJ Division on Civil Rights. After moving to Mississippi, Bear was the Legal Director for the ACLU of Mississippi and the Executive Director for the Southern Poverty Law Center's Youth Justice Project. Just prior to becoming National NOW Vice President she was a civil rights lawyer in Jackson, Mississippi specializing in representing LGBT clients.

NOW-NJ President, Anjali Mehrotra, certainly deserves the designation of Feminist Voice. Anjali was elected President of NOW-NJ at the December 15, 2018 "Continuation" State Conference and reelected at the October 3, 2020 State Conference. As president, Anjali has brought recognition to NOW-NJ on many fronts. For example, one of her two OpEd columns in the Star Ledger ([A reflection from the intersection of gender and race](#)) and one from the Bergen Record ([As New Jersey recovers from COVID-19, let us leave no woman behind](#)).

She has interacted with Governor Murphy and his staff and is definitely a "go to" person on many issues. She headed a very successful Virtual State Conference in September and October 2020. The Center for American Women in Politics picked up and publicized one of her press releases. She has run various rallies with pro-choice partners. Not to mention her internal work of keeping the membership informed about events and actions. Anjali's latest accomplishment is being elected as a representative to NOW's National Board for the Northern District, and she continues to be a strong leader of NOW-NJ.

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With Racial Justice as a NOW foundational issue and Intersectionality as a goal, Morris County NOW has reached out to our local Black Lives Matter organization, Black Lives Matter Morristown (BLMM). BLMM was founded by T'Anna Kimbrough in September, 2016 with a peaceful protest in Morristown in response to the police killings of black men in the United States. T'Anna is my next Feminist Voice. She has devoted herself to the cause of Racial Justice. Here is a list of some of BLMM's actions in 2020: Summer Series of Town Halls and Rallies, organizing for Black Lives 101 Webinar, meet and greet with newly appointed Morris County Prosecutor, and meeting with several Morris County Boards of Education. Several MC NOW members have been active in BLMM and have participated in many of their events and actions. T'Anna was a guest speaker at a special MC NOW meeting on August 12, 2020 for a discussion of county and state issues. In addition to her work with BLMM, T'Anna owns a business, "Real Talk Matters," a platform for young people to openly discuss topics ranging from racism to environmental justice. She hopes to encourage others to continue these uncomfortable conversations.

In the November/December 2020 issue of *Feminist News and Views* we highlighted an anti-Trump action by Stacey Gregg, the chapter's Action Vice President. She is another Feminist Voice to celebrate. Stacey has immersed herself in the fight to keep asylum-seeking immigrants out of the detention centers in Bergen and Hudson Counties. During a protest at the Bergen County Detention Center on December 12, 2020, Stacey was arrested and spent 7 hours in a holding cell. The detainees in the center were in the midst of a hunger strike. Along with the other people arrested, she was issued a summons and released. She won't let this deter her from her fight against injustice.

But what about the future of Feminism? We need new voices to keep us moving forward. On Page 4 is an article by Kayleigh Lavernia, Morris County NOW President, Karen Lontka's grand niece. She represents our new wave.

A final tribute to a Feminist Voice that was tragically silenced on September 18, 2020. Ruth Bader Ginsburg devoted her life to women's fight for equality and justice. We do not yet know what the repercussions of this loss will bring in the future, but we do know that her life must inspire us to continue to use our Feminist Voices.

#### **Do You Know a Feminist Voice?**

NOW-NJ will commemorate Women's History Month in March by publishing a *New Jersey Women/Feminist Power* list! Nominations are now open - [fill out the form here](#) to nominate a feminist (or feminists!) that you believe deserves recognition. Though the list will primarily be comprised of women, do not hesitate to nominate men that are working hard to further a feminist agenda. NOW-NJ is looking for individuals that have made statewide (or even national!) impact or have had a tremendous impact in their local community. Check out the NOW-NJ website for more info: [www.nownj.org](http://www.nownj.org).

### **AND SPEAKING OF FEMINIST VOICES... NOW-NJ HAS COMPLETED ITS FIRST ORAL HERSTORY PROJECT**

In its first oral HERstory project, NOW-NJ paired long-time NOW-NJ feminists with young persons starting their own activist journey. The young women conducted interviews and authored pieces based on the material. Those articles are featured here: <https://nownj.org/intergenerational/>. Five of these interviews were then used as inspiration for digital performances in the legacyNOW project that can be accessed here: <https://colab-arts.org/legacynow>.

Narrator – Interviewer

Bear Atwood, Vice-President, National NOW – Zhamilya Bilyalova

Judy Buckman, President, South Jersey NOW – Shree Mehrotra

Alice Cohan, Political Director, Feminist Majority – Annabelle Jin

Skip Drumm and Dr. Alan Gross, Middlesex County – Lexi Abrams

Joanie Parks, Ocean County and Union County – Katie Zimmermann, 2020 NOW-NJ intern

Maretta Short, Former President, NOW-NJ – Isha Mehrotra, Communications VP, NOW-NJ

Susan Waldman, Morris County – Vishwa Bhatt, 2019 NOW-NJ intern

#### **Morris County NOW Election of Officers**

Congratulations to the following officers elected at the December 1, 2020 chapter meeting:

President	Karen Lontka
Executive Vice President	Rosemary Lontka
Treasurer	Shirley Henderson
Secretary	Nancy Critchley
Action Vice President	Stacey Gregg
Fundraising Vice President	Susan J. Waldman
State Board Delegates	Shirley Henderson Susan J. Waldman
Alternate State Board Delegate	Margaret Davey

### Looking Back At The Year 2020 And In Honor of Black History Month

We remember and mourn the loss of people of color who tragically lost their lives to COVID-19 and police brutality.

## NEW JERSEY COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING UPDATE

By Susan J. Waldman



### **Rebranding**

The great rebranding “reveal” will take place on January 4, 2021 during Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Morris County NOW and NOW-NJ are founding members and have supported the Coalition since 2011. This is a momentous occasion. The Coalition hopes that the modernization of the brand will aid in the Coalition's outreach to children and young people during these crucial times. Having been involved in the whole branding process from start to finish I can truly say that the new branding is a major accomplishment that you won't want to miss. Please join the Coalition at this virtual event. Registration is required, and you can find that link and more information in the illustration below. I look forward to seeing you there.

### **Legislative Update**

**Expanded Vacatur Bill (A3596/S1750)** *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.*

Background: The 2018-2019 Assembly version (A5085) was passed in the Assembly on January 13, 2020 but had to be reintroduced since the 2018-19 Senate version was not passed. Assuming that the 2020-21 Assembly version will pass, the Coalition is focusing on the 2020-21 Senate version, S1750, which is still in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Please call Committee Chair, Nicholas Scutari, at (908) 587-0404, and ask him to bring this bill to a committee vote.

**S280 and A883** “Directs the development and posting of notices containing information for victims of human trafficking.” These bills were re-introduced on January 14, 2020. Both were sent to their respective Judiciary Committees. On July 20, 2020, the Assembly version (A883) was passed out of committee. On Thursday, July 30, 2020 it was passed by the full Assembly 73-0-0. On Monday, December 14, 2020, S280 was passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and on Thursday, December 17, 2020 it was passed unanimously by the full Senate. It now awaits the governor's signature as combined bill A883. Please call Governor Murphy's office at (609) 292-6000 and ask Governor Murphy to sign A883 into law!

### **Locker Slam 2.0 Virtual Learning Edition**

Across the nation, students are participating in virtual learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, the increase in the amount of screen time and the feeling of isolation during virtual learning greatly raises the risk of online exploitation of students by predators who are prowling the Internet seeking to establish connections with young people via online games, social media, and messaging apps.

For the period of March 1, thru May 23, 2020 the NJ Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force received 2380 reports from the National Center of Missing & Exploited Children, up from 760 reports in 2019 during the same time period, marking more than a 200% increase. Nationally, The National Center For Missing & Exploited Children experienced a shocking 126% increase in Cyber Tipline reports from May 2019 with 745,391 reports to 1,688,109 in May 2020.

Locker Slam 2.0 is designed to provide students and teachers with the opportunity to raise awareness in their school or college communities of online grooming and exploitation.

Participants share the ‘virtual stickers’ on social media, attach to email signatures, and post on the Internet. They can also share the ‘virtual stickers’ on learning management systems such as Google Classroom, Canvas, Blackboard, Schoology, etc. with their learning community. Student and teachers post the images under #studentsforfreedom on social media to further raise awareness as a collective group of individuals dedicated to making a difference.

To participate in the Locker Slam 2.0 apply here: [APPLY FOR LOCKER SLAM 2.0 TOOLKIT](#) The digital toolkit will be released to you on Tuesday, January 5th. Join schools and colleges around the state and country to create critical awareness during January's - HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH! For more information visit the NJCAHT Website, [www.njhumantrafficking.org](http://www.njhumantrafficking.org).

### **REBRAND REVEAL EVENT**

**Monday, January 4, 2021  
7:30pm - 9:00pm Online**

[Register to Attend](#)

Join us to reveal the Coalition's new brand, and be part of spreading awareness, because trafficking can affect ANYONE but EVERYONE can help prevent it.

Special guests include Assemblywoman Valerie Vanieri Huttle.

Learn how we can all make a difference in the fight to end human trafficking in New Jersey.





**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) with your email address and you won't be left out again.

**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)



**FOLLOW US ON twitter**

<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**

**Monday, January 4, 2021**

NJCAHT Great Brand Reveal  
See Page 3

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting  
Election of Chapter Officers  
Virtual Zoom Meeting\*  
7:30 PM

**FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021**

Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting  
Virtual Zoom Meeting\*  
7:30 PM

**Saturday, February 6, 2021**

NOW-NJ State Board Meeting  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

**MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting  
Virtual Zoom Meeting\*  
7:30 PM

State Board Meetings: May 8, August 7, November 13

\*Register in advance for these meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAocO6trzooGdBrfHkpRVaoUez6hyYh98US>

**THERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

As part of the COVID-19 relief bill signed by the president on December 27, 2020, the National Women's History Museum will finally get a location and become part of the Smithsonian family of museums. Funding will be 50% federal and 50% private donations.

Here is a statement from the museum's website: "We are delighted that the legislation we fought so hard to get introduced all those years ago finally passed the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate on a bi-partisan basis as part of the COVID relief/omnibus appropriations package. We strongly support this bill, but we also understand the reality that the timeline is uncertain and the bill still needs to be funded. We remain laser-focused, as we have been for the past 25 years, on the urgency of representation—of sharing women's stories and celebrating their contributions to our national narrative. We've long championed the creation of a space that captures and communicates the breadth and depth of women's experiences and accomplishments, and this space is long overdue. We remain committed to having our own museum now."

*It's the*

**NO SHOW ANNUAL GIFT WRAPPING**

*Fundraiser*

*Visit MC NOW's website for more information*

## 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/menownj](http://www.YouTube.com/menownj).

## Come to Our Morris County NOW Monthly ZOOM Meetings

And now for something completely different. Join us at our monthly ZOOM meetings. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise noted on the chapter calendar ([www.morriscountynow.org](http://www.morriscountynow.org)). You can register to attend at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAocO6trzooGdBrfHkpRVaoUez6hyYh98US>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**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  
Nancy Critchley, Secretary  
Stacey Gregg, Action V.P. - 973.477.7574  
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

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[www.morriscountynow.org](http://www.morriscountynow.org)