

# FEMINIST NEWS AND VIEWS Morris County NOW

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Chapter Phone 973.285.1200



**MORRIS COUNTY NOW ELECTION OF OFFICERS (See Page 3) November/December 2021**  
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL**

**HELP WANTED**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

By Susan J. Waldman

After contributing to Morris County NOW's *Feminist News And Views* for many years, I became editor beginning with the November/December 2010 edition.<sup>1</sup> It has been a fulfilling and rewarding job all these years but the time has come to step down and find someone to take my place. This will be my last edition as editor.

**Therefore, I am asking if there is anyone out there who would like to step in and take on the position of editor.** There has been a lot of talk over the years to go GREEN, eliminate the paper edition, and only publish online. That is certainly an option. I would continue to contribute articles but not to the current extent. There are occasional contributions from others such as book reviews and articles on various and assorted topics. I plan to stick around and will help in any way I can if needed.

Another option is to use our Facebook page (Morris County NOW) to publicize and report on important issues and eliminate the newsletter altogether. Also, information about chapter events, etc. can be found on our website, [www.morriscountynow.org](http://www.morriscountynow.org), or by email correspondence.

If you are interested, please contact me by phone, 973.895.2218 or through the chapter email: [morriscountynow@gmail.com](mailto:morriscountynow@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from YOU!

<sup>1</sup>With the exception of the 2017 and 2018 editions.

## Early Voting in the Morris County 2021 Election

By Susan J. Waldman

Ned and I were greeted as we entered the special, early voting location in Morris Plains. We were then ushered over to the table where the poll workers had new laptop computers and special individual printers. My poll worker happened to be a long time member of Morris County NOW. I gave my name and address and was then asked to check that information on the screen including a voter ID. Luckily that was printed on the Sample Ballot that I had brought along. Now came the chance to sign the screen. This will be my new signature of record.

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## NEW JERSEY COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING UPDATE

By Susan J. Waldman

**NJ COALITION  
AGAINST  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**

### Save the Date

The NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary virtually on Thursday, December 9, 2021.



### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

#### Debt Bondage Repair Act, Federal Legislation

It looks like this bill (S2040) has a good chance of quick passage. Senator Cornyn is trying to attach it to the Defense Appropriations Bill. If that happens it should have a fast path to passage.

House of Representatives (H.R. 2332) – Introduced on April 1, 2021 (117th Congress, 2021-2022). Passed the House on June 14, 2021. Primary Sponsors - Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC), Rep Ann Wagner (R-MO), Rep. Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH), Rep. Van Taylor (R-TX), Rep. J. French Hill (R-AK).

Senate (S.2040) – Introduced on June 14, 2021 (117th Congress, 2021-2022). Moved to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. Primary Sponsor: Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX); Co-Sponsors: Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ); Sen. Ben Lujan (D-NM).

This bill provides “credit repair for victims of severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking.” Traffickers often force their victims to take out loans, using their victims’ credit, which are subsequently not paid back. This ruins the victim’s credit. This bill would allow a survivor to apply to have adverse credit information suppressed from their credit records if that adverse information was a result of being trafficked, so that it does not show up in their credit report. “Trafficking Documentation” is needed to show that a survivor was being trafficked during the time of credit misuse. This protection would allow a survivor to move forward with their life without the harm that a bad credit report would generate.

Both Senator Menendez and Senator Booker have been contacted and they are eager to help move this bill. Senator Menendez has already signed on as a co-sponsor.

#### Take Action

Please contact Senator Booker and ask him to co-sponsor this legislation:

Newark: One Gateway Center, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Newark, NJ 07102, 973 639 8700.

Camden: One Port Center, 2 Riverside Drive, Suite 505, Camden, NJ 08103, 856 338 8922.

Washington, DC: 717 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202 224 3224

**NJ COALITION AGAINST  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**BILL HEARING URGENTLY NEEDED**

**CALL TO  
ACTION**

**CALL/EMAIL SENATOR SCUTARI ASKING FOR  
S3433 TO BE HEARD ON NOV 15**

**CALL (908) 587-0404  
EMAIL: SENSCUTARI@NJLEG.ORG**

SENATE BILL 3433 WILL ENABLE SURVIVORS TO  
MAKE NEW LIVES BY EXPANDING THE TYPES OF  
CRIMINAL RECORDS THAT CAN BE VACATED AS  
A RESULT OF THEM BEING TRAFFICKED.

**Expanded Vacatur Bill (S3433/A5322)** “Provides for process to vacate and expunge certain arrests, charges, complaints, convictions, other dispositions, and DNA records, associated with violations by certain human trafficking victims.”

#### **Time is running out for bill S3433!**

- ◆ It must be heard in the New Jersey State Senate as soon as possible before the end of the legislative session in December.
- ◆ It already passed the New Jersey State Assembly UNANIMOUSLY showing it has bipartisan support.
- ◆ It will help survivors of human trafficking by expanding the types of crimes that can be vacated from their records as a result of their exploitation, so that they can apply for jobs and gain a fresh start.

State Senator Nicolas Scutari is the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. For bill S3433 to advance to a full vote by the New Jersey Senate, it must first be heard by this committee.

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**Your help to encourage Senator Scutari to post bill S3433 for a hearing at the next session of the Senate Judiciary Committee on November 15, 2021 is essential.** Please call or email Senator Scutari asking him to post S3433 for a hearing on November 15, 2021.

**CALL (908) 587-0404; EMAIL: [SENSCUTARI@NJLEG.ORG](mailto:SENSCUTARI@NJLEG.ORG)**

[Link to more information](#)

**S280 and A883** “Directs the development and posting of notices containing information for victims of human trafficking.” There is nothing new to report on this legislation.

To read more about the Coalition, visit [www.safernj.org](http://www.safernj.org).

### MORRIS COUNTY NOW ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2021 –2022

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of officers for 2021 –2022:

President	Karen Lontka
Executive Vice President	Merrill Mezzacappa
Secretary	Nancy Critchley
Treasurer	Shirley Henderson
Action Vice President	Stacey Gregg
Fundraising Vice President	Susan J. Waldman

The election will be held at the December 7, 2021, meeting. (Please See Below)

### IT'S PARTY TIME!!!

**Join us on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 for our VIRTUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!**

Following a short business meeting and our Annual Election of Officers, we will celebrate the Holiday Season with drinks and snacks (Bring Your Own) and an innovative White Elephant Gift “Exchange.” According to Wikipedia, a White Elephant is a possession which its owner cannot dispose of and whose cost, particularly that of maintenance, is out of proportion to its usefulness.

We are asking everyone to bring their own White Elephant to the party. Each person will then have the opportunity to tell the story of their particular item. At the conclusion we will vote to see whose White Elephant and story are the best (or the worst as the case may be).

#### **Here's the Good News:**

**Drinks and Snacks are whatever are your favorites!**

**Rain or Snow, the weather won't matter!**

**No driving to or from the party!**

**Dress is casual!**

**There is NO bad news.**

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.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH!**

## LET'S TALK ABOUT MADISON'S BOTTLE HILL DAY

BY Susan J. Waldman

On Saturday, October 2, 2021 the Morris County NOW tabling crew spent the day (from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM) at Madison's Bottle Hill Day. The weather was perfect, the crowds were spectacular, and our sales of buttons, bumper stickers, T-shirts and mugs were record-breaking. A special thank you to President Karen Lontka and her sister Jean Barisano who created several new and timely items for sale. And speaking of the crowds, it seemed that cancellation of last year's festival along with Covid-19 confinement made people eager to get out and enjoy the day.

Our petition, directed to Assembly Health Committee Chair, Herb Conaway, Jr. (D-7); Senate Health Committee Chair, Joseph Vitale (D-19); State Senate President, Stephen M. Sweeney; and Assembly Speaker, Craig G. Coughlin, stated: "We, the undersigned, request that the legislators cited above pass the Reproductive Freedom Act (NJ S3030/A4848) out of their respective committees and to a floor vote without further delay." This petition was so successful that we ran out of blanks and had to use the back of already-signed pages. Merrill Mezzacappa, Chair of NOW-NJ's Reproductive Rights Task Force, Morris County NOW member, and creator of the petition, was thrilled at the response. It was Merrill's first tabling experience with us, and she simply loved it!

All in all it was a very enjoyable and profitable day. Thanks to our crew: Karen Lontka, Rosemary Lontka, Jean Barisano, Shirley Henderson, Merrill Mezzacappa, and Susan J. Waldman.



(L-R) Jean Barisano, Shirley Henderson, Susan J. Waldman, Karen Lontka, Rosemary Lontka.



(L-R) (Standing) Jean Barisano, Karen Lontka, Merrill Mezzacappa, Shirley Henderson. (Seated) Rosemary Lontka

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### Early Voting in the Morris County 2021 Election

Since my signature has morphed into initials over the years, and I was never sure what my last signature looked like, I was glad to get this signature into the record. At this point a ballot measuring about 4" by 10" was printed out showing the basic information from the screen, and I was asked to check it for accuracy. I also had to sign the pad with the tear-off slip to be given to the woman running the voting machine. These are all new machines, and wonder of wonders, we now have a paper trail. The ballot gets inserted into a slot to the right of the screen and then it is sucked up with a woosh. Now you vote on the touch screen like before. After you vote you are asked if your vote is complete. Press the button to say yes you are done and the ballot magically comes back into sight (also with a woosh). You cannot touch it as it is fully enclosed. You are directed to check it for your votes, then another acknowledgement is pressed and the ballot disappears again. (More woosh.) And that's it. You have voted!! The good news is that there is now a paper trail if votes have to be recounted. Something that has been sorely needed. I asked the woman running the machine if all the machines in Morris County were new. She said if you vote in person on election day, November 2nd, you will be using the old machines. All new machines will be in place for the next election.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**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**

**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, November 2, 2021**  
Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting  
Virtual Zoom Meeting\*  
7:30 PM

**Tuesday, November 2, 2021**  
**ELECTION DAY**  
**VOTE VOTE VOTE**

**Saturday, November 13, 2021**  
NOW-NJ State Board Meeting  
9:00 AM—4:30 PM

**Thursday November 25, 2021**  
**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021**  
Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting  
Virtual Zoom Meeting\*  
7:30 PM  
and

**Holiday Party**  
(See Article Page 3)

**Saturday, January 1, 2022**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Tuesday, January 4, 2021**  
Morris County NOW Chapter Meeting  
Virtual Zoom Meeting\*  
7:30 PM

\*Register in advance for these meetings:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAocO6trzooGdBrfHkpRVaoUez6hyYh98US](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8441111111)

Zoom Meetings subject to change to in-person meetings at the Morris Plains Community Center. Visit chapter website for updates, [www.morriscountynow.org](http://www.morriscountynow.org)

**National NOW's LEVEL UP**

5...4...3...2...1 Get ready to upgrade your chapter and take it to even greater heights with Level Up NOW's skill training sessions. From guidance on successful fundraising to best practices for enhancing engagement, we will ensure you have the tools and know-how necessary for your chapter to thrive. Bring your questions, pen, and paper to these courses because we are here to help elevate all our members to be the most effective leaders possible.

Your leadership and passion are what keeps NOW's inter-sectional feminist fight alive on a national scale. With these trainings, we will hone our abilities together to ultimately achieve the revolutionary impact that NOW is known for.

Mark your calendars and get ready to Level Up NOW with us!

Already a member? [Follow this link to register to attend the trainings below.](#)

**November 18** – Social media organizing and using Canva

**December 2** – Robert's Rules – 101

## Membership Application

Morris County NOW (NJ0200)  
P.O. Box 394  
Morristown, New Jersey 07963

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 07963**

## 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

Chapter Phone - 973.285.1200  
[morriscountynow@gmail.com](mailto:morriscountynow@gmail.com)  
[www.morriscountynow.org](http://www.morriscountynow.org)