

BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW NEWS



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WHO ARE YOU VOTING FOR?

The New York State Primary is coming soon, on **September 12th, 2006**. This year may be the one where feminists can make a big difference in the make up of Congress and the NY State Legislature. The current administration has told us that their priorities are different from ours. NOW is our chance to be heard. Look at your mailing label to see which districts represent you: AD is your state Assembly District, CD is your US Congressional District, SD your state Senate District, and CC is your City Council District.

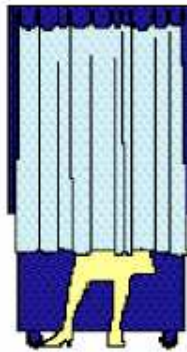
The Brooklyn-Queens NOW Political Action Committee (BQNOW-PAC) spent this summer interviewing candidates for a key race in Congress... the 11th CD. Congressional Rep. Major Owens announced last year he would not seek reelection. Four Democrats are running in the primary hoping to fill his seat: Carl Andrews, Yvette Clark, Chris Owens, and David Yassky.

Each candidate completed the BQNOW-PAC Questionnaire (available on our website) and came to us for an interview. We interviewed all four because each of them understands our issues and responded in ways which made us want to know more about how they would bring about positive change in the areas of Reproductive Rights, Civil Rights, Employment, and Health and Welfare Issues.

In addition to the issues on the questionnaire, we also wanted to know where each stood on disability rights, single-payer healthcare, and the proposed Atlantic Yards development project. Owens was the only candidate to stand up and oppose the project outright. The others sought to amend the size of the project on the grounds that it would create jobs, bring business to the neighborhood, etc. Owens saw it as a whittling away of neighborhoods and as a way to expand eminent domain for commercial, not governmental use. Each of the candidates had good points to make, but in an overwhelming vote, we felt that Chris Owens was the best candidate. After our interviews, we voted to **support CHRIS OWENS for Congress in the 11th CD.**

On the state legislative level, we were sorry to learn that longtime BQNOW member and outstanding Assemblymember

Adele Cohen (AD46) has decided not to seek re-election. Adele has kept us informed and on the "inside" of much legislation. We wish her the very best in any future endeavor and hope to see more of her in the coming years. Adele's colleague, **Joan Millman (AD52)**, also an outstanding Assemblymember, receives our support and has been endorsed by NOW-NYS PAC as well. In the State Senate, our wonderful **Velmanette Montgomery (SD18)** is again seeking re-election. She, too, receives our full support and the endorsement by NOW-NYS PAC. With these two able legislators, our issues are sure to be addressed whenever and wherever possible. They need our support and ongoing involvement. We encourage you to check out their campaign websites and get involved in getting/keeping these people in office.



On a statewide level, NOW-NYS PAC has endorsed **Elliot Spitzer for Governor and Mark Green for Attorney General**. Check the National NOW website (www.now.org) for US Senate and other Congressional endorsements.

Although she faces no opposition in the September 12th primary, our PAC is also looking at a race in the **11th SD**. **Nora C. Marino, a Democrat**, who will challenge Frank Padavan (Republican Conservative) in the General Election in Queens. Padavan has held office for 32 years. He does not represent our issues in the state Senate and only occasionally disagrees with Joe Bruno, Senate Majority Leader. It's time for a change!

In addition to the candidates, we'll be using new voting technology, which has yet to be finalized. We're concerned that our votes might not be accurately counted. Electronic Voting is the operative phrase here. Be mindful when you vote. Be knowledgeable about the way you cast your vote. Pay attention to the information about the process when you receive it. If you want more information about voting, about candidates, about our decision-making process, email the chapter at bklynqnsnow@yahoo.com or call 718 263-7638 and we'll try to answer your questions.

This election year we'll be making big decisions which will affect our future. In a democracy, you have not only the right, but the obligation to VOTE. Our foremothers spent their lives winning that right. Don't disappoint them.

BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW CHAPTER CALENDAR-2006

Chapter meetings take place the first Thursday of the month at 7pm, unless otherwise noted. Call the numbers below for exact location and directions.



Sept 7	Chapter Meeting. Homecrest area. Call 718 891-2490
Oct 5	Chapter Meeting. Sheepshead Bay area. Call 718 769-8901
Oct 21-22	NOW-NYS Convention. Albany, NY For info: www.nownys.org
Nov 2	Chapter Meeting. Sheepshead Bay area. Call 718 891-8590
Dec 7	Chapter Meeting Forest Hills area. Call 718 263-7638

THE 2006 NATIONAL NOW CONFERENCE

By Rachele J. Suissa

At this year's National NOW Conference in Albany, New York, there were a variety of exciting workshops and events to attend. There were vendors selling all kinds of merchandise pertaining to women's rights, booths to sign up to become a member of like-minded organizations, live entertainment, and exciting guest speakers. I was fortunate enough to sample a little bit of everything. I came home with 120 photos on my digital camera from this event, and now I'm going to tell you all about it.

The first workshop I attended was *Educational Equity under Attack! Learn How to Protect Your Rights*. The history of Title IX, the legislation passed in 1972, which promotes equality for young men and women in federally funded school programs, was presented. A new initiative, *Girls for Gender Equity (GGE)*, works on Title IX issues, including asthma, obesity, and type II diabetes. Girls in this program are given health and nutrition workshops on how to avoid developing these conditions. I think this is a good initiative to take for the future generation so they can grow up and become strong, empowered, knowledgeable women.

The second workshop I attended was *Now and Then: A Retrospective*. Several of the past presidents of NOW spoke about their experiences, when they were first getting the organization off the ground. There were issues with the press, including the NY Times, the question of Title IX, and the proponents of the ERA. It was exciting to be in the presence of these women, who lived through the tumultuous years of the Women's Liberation Movement. Their stories were enlightening and quite miraculous. Without them, NOW wouldn't be where it is today.

The first plenary was both entertaining and informative. TV stars, Tyne Daly and Bree

Williamson were the guest speakers. Tyne's amazing humor and spirit were enlightening and a source of encouragement to all of the women in the audience who fight for women's rights on a daily basis. I had no idea she was this humorous until I heard her speak in person. She talked about her experiences as a mother and an actress, and on many occasions, the audience broke out in uproarious laughter. Eleanor Smeal, past president of NOW, and current president of the Feminist Majority Foundation, was the key factor in getting the audience worked up for the battles going on with the current administration. My favorite part of the second plenary was when everyone on stage sang along to the music of Sandy Rapp. It was entertaining, and for me, brought me into the spirit of feminism and gave me the motivation to get the most out of the conference as possible.

This year's conference was both invigorating and awe-inspiring. I think I saw a table for every kind of feminist—the teacher, the doer, the multi-tasker, and the artist. As an aspiring teacher, I very much appreciated the extra information provided on women's issues, including abortion, birth control, Title IX, separation of church and state, lesbian rights, economic equity, and equality in the workplace. It will be interesting to share these resources with my students once I am in the classroom.

I came away from the conference believing that, despite the challenges presented to us by the current administration, the future will be a bright one, as long as we continue our efforts to work together.

Rachele Suissa chairs our Young Feminists Committee. She is working on establishing a NOW chapter at Pace University where she is a student, majoring in Education.

**BROOKLYN-QUEENS
NOW**

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ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

OUR CORE ISSUES:

- Reproductive Rights
- Passage of the ERA
- Equal Economic Opportunity
- Stopping Violence against Women
- Ending Discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation

Our activities focus on the political, legislative and educational arenas.

Use NOW's Capwiz interactive political page
(<http://www.capwiz.com/now/dbq/officials/>) to send
messages to your elected officials.

visit our web site: www.brooklynqueensnow.org

RIGHTRIDES

RIGHTRIDES is a free car service that shuttles women home from bars and parties on Saturday night from Midnight - 3AM Sunday beginning June 3rd in NYC. Picking up and dropping off riders in the following areas:

BROOKLYN: Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Bushwick, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Clinton Hill, Fort Greene, Prospect Heights, Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Gowanus, Boerum Hill, Downtown areas, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, and Red Hook,
MANHATTAN: East Village, Lower East Side, and Chinatown, **QUEENS:** Long Island City

The non-profit was created because of a perceived increase in late night attacks on women. Cars are donated by Zipcar. The Dispatch number to call is (718) 964-7781 They only turn on the phones Saturday from Midnight to 3AM. For more information: <http://www.rightrides.org/index.php>

BQ NOW NEWS Advertising Rates

Business Card Size (2x3.5 inches, for larger size-double or triple the rates)

Member: \$25 /issue, \$90/ 4 issues
Non-Profit: \$35/issue, \$120/ 4 issues
Business: \$40/issue, \$145/ 4 issues

contact Shirley Ranz at 718-769-8901 or
email: shranz@earthlink.net

Brooklyn-Queens NOW has a new chapter **T-shirt!** It's a rich purple color with white lettering with our Brooklyn Bridge and Unisphere logos. Adult sizes: \$10, Kids sizes: \$6. Check it out on our website. To order, call 718-769-8901.

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