

BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW NEWS



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CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

At our July chapter meeting, we elected new officers. The event was marked by a symbolic passing of the flashlight (the Brits call it a Torch) from outgoing President Shirley Ranz to Julie Kirshner and from outgoing VP Sherry Rogers to Rachelle Suissa. Outgoing Treasurer, Constance Pigozzi passed the chapter checkbook on to Barbara Sheren. As there was no active chapter Secretary, Sherry Rogers merely held on to her notebook. Pictures mark the occasion. The passing of the torches reminded us that we want to keep available the wisdom and input of our past leaders. We proposed a bylaw change to do just that. See the article in the newsletter.

Chapter Meetings will soon have special topics as part of the agenda. At the October meeting, the membership proposed that a portion of each chapter meeting be devoted to a specific topic. Shirley Ranz proposes a book club-type discussion be held every two months. The first book will be covered at the February meeting. It's called *WELL-BEHAVED WOMEN SELDOM MAKE HISTORY* by Laura Thatcher Ulrich. January's meeting will feature a discussion of the candidates we'll be seeing on the ballot at the February 5th Presidential Primary. We're hoping you'll come and share your views!

In August we met in coalition with The Birth Control Project and Redstockings to identify how women's reproductive rights are being attacked in NY State and to strategize how we can effectively combat proposed political threats to insurance coverage, education, and availability of abortion, contraception, and sex education. Thanks to pressure from around the state, Governor Spitzer announced he is rejecting federal abstinence-only sex education funding. The next coalition meeting will be November 19th.

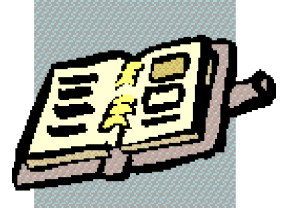
On June 16th, New York State's comprehensive Human Trafficking Law became a reality! The new law addresses all components the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition were seeking: a comprehensive definition of trafficking; tough penalties for traffickers; comprehensive services for victims, clearer laws on sex tourism operations, and increased penalties for patronizing prostitution from a B to an A misdemeanor. Now that we have a law, what's left to do? PLENTY!

Check your local newspapers and magazines. Traffickers advertise there. Look at the listings in NY Magazine, Village Voice, Courier Life, etc. We're asking publishers to do basic due diligence and use common sense. If someone calls them asking for a classified ad that reads 'Russian Girls, Young, 24/7' what's there to think about? Take the contact information and call the NYPD. That's trafficking! Call these publications, especially if you subscribe and tell them to stop accepting this advertising. Lobby your state legislators and tell them you want to see adequate funding for the Human Trafficking Law put into the next state budget. Participate in the "Ask a Cop" program – started by NOW-NYC. This gets local police active in recognizing and confronting trafficking businesses. Check out the new film called, "Trade". It paints a graphic picture of the industry and how young women are lured / kidnapped into this life. For more info, call Sherry at 718 263-7638.

In September, Vice-president Rachelle Suissa attended the launch of *NYC Women First: Health Starts with You!* The year long program, initiated by City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, received considerable local media coverage. Each month brings a different health awareness topic. Check out the website www.nycwomenfirst.org to receive updates and event invitations.

BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW CHAPTER CALENDAR-2007

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



- Oct. 27 **NOW-NYS Convention**, Ronkonkoma, NY. Check www.nownys.org for information.
- Nov.5 **Chapter Meeting** in Forest Hills, Queens Call 718-263-7638.
- Nov 8 *Brooklyn Team Hillary*, 7103 Ft. Hamilton Pky. Call Michele Fisher at 347-312-6011.
- Nov 19 Coalition meeting with *Birth Control Project* and *Redstockings*, 6:30pm, Manhattan. Call Annie Tummino at 917-842-5306.
- Dec 3 **Chapter Meeting** in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn Call 347-515-1410. Bylaw amendment vote.
- Jan 7 **Chapter Meeting** in Homecrest, Brooklyn Call 718-891-2490. Discussion of candidates.
- Feb 4 **Chapter Meeting** in Midwood, Brooklyn. Call 951-7441. Book Discussion: *Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History* by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich
- Mar 3 **Chapter Meeting** in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Call 718-769-8901

Chapter Happenings continued

Letter from your President



National NOW PAC has endorsed Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton for President. Chapter members have been working hard on her campaign. The next activity in Brooklyn is scheduled for Nov. 8th at 7pm in the Ft. Hamilton section of Brooklyn. Call Michele Fisher, 347-312-6011, for more information or go to the hillaryclinton.com website to get involved.

Finally, most of us received fund-raising letters this summer from Feminist Majority mentioning the Women's Equality Amendment. There's confusion about the WEA and the original ERA. Both refer to an Equal Rights amendment to the US Constitution and both have the same initial wording. Neither has been supported in any way by National NOW since 1995. Think of the WEA as a start-over amendment. The ERA, already ratified by 35 of the necessary 38 states, is still viable. Both deserve your support. Check out the ERACampaign network: www.ERACampaign.net for more details.

Greetings BQ-NOW members,:

I am Julie Rachel Kirshner, your new Brooklyn-Queens NOW President with what will hopefully be a recurring feature of our newsletter... *A Letter from your President.*

We had some changes with this latest election and your new BQ-NOW leaders are Rachelle Suissa, as Vice-President, (also chair of our Young Feminist Committee), Sherry Rogers as Secretary, and Barbara Sheren as Treasurer. We salute our outgoing President, Shirley Ranz, who gave her all for this chapter for 13 years and is invaluable as our new Legislative and Political Chair, which was my previous position. Also, Constance Piggozi has stepped down as longtime Treasurer, but will still be providing us her expertise as a chapter leader.

I have been a member of NOW for many years and have given my efforts to this chapter as well as to several other feminist groups

Letter from your President

continued

during that time. I would like to expand this chapter's influence in the community by working with our elected officials as well as in coalition with groups who share our views such as Redstockings Social Wage Committee, Birth Control Project, Planned Parenthood and especially NOW-NYC.

On a personal note, my time spent away from NOW generally goes to my 5-year old daughter, Alexis. My goal is to show her firsthand, in 2008, that as a woman, she too can be President. I intend to put my efforts into electing the woman endorsed by our National NOW PAC, Hillary Clinton. Until the next newsletter,

Be well and be active in BQ-NOW,

Julie

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

Our recent elections prompted us to consider the importance of our past officers to chapter decision-making. At our June 4th chapter meeting we proposed amending Article VI, Section 1 of our bylaws to allow for past officers to serve on the Executive Board for a two year period. The new section would read (new text, in bold, is in addition to the original.)

BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW CHAPTER BYLAWS

ARTICLE VI - Executive Board

1 - The Board shall be made up of the elected chapter officers and CommitteeChairs. **“Past Officers have the option of remaining on the Board with a vote for the 2 years following their resignation. They will not be counted in quorum requirements.”**

To amend our bylaws, we must provide 30 days written notice to all members. This newsletter meets that requirement. We will hold the bylaw change vote at the December 3rd chapter meeting. Please come to the next chapter meetings and discuss your views.

ADVERTISING

Acceptance of advertisements does not constitute endorsement of the advertisers by Brooklyn-Queens NOW.

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NOW is the time.
Keep up the good work!

Councilman Lew Fidler

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THE GENERATION AFTER

***Dedicated to ensuring that the Holocaust is not forgotten,
repeated, or inflicted upon any other people.***

We support women's rights which is part of the
struggle against tyranny and inhumanity

**BROOKLYN-QUEENS
NOW**

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Secretary: Sherry Rogers 263-7638
Treasurer: Barbara Sheren 891-2490
Membership: Judith Ebert 951-7441
Legislative: Shirley Ranz 769-8901
Young Feminists: Rachelle Suissa 891-8590

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

Visit our web site: www.brooklynqueensnow.org

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

ACTION ALERT - New York State Senate Needs to Pass The FAIR PAY ACT

According to the U.S. Women's Bureau and the National Committee on Pay Equity, as of 2005, women earned 77% of what men earned for comparable jobs. Women are currently the fastest growing segment of the working population, and are increasingly either supporting their families or making substantial and necessary contributions to the household income. Thus, it is not an option for most women to leave the labor force, no matter how seriously they are underpaid. This situation of under-compensation for women has many negative results. It depresses wages and living standards for women, and reduces family incomes while increasing poverty rates for households led by women. The wage gap between women and men also violates the state's public policy against discrimination.

New York State is very out of touch with the needs of its female workers. Women have the right to earn the same wages as men in comparable jobs or with comparable skills, and should not have to worry about discrimination in the work place contributing to negative living situations or socioeconomic circumstances. Enactment of the New York State Fair Pay Act will be a step in the right direction, achieving equality for women in New York State.

Eradicating wage discrimination based upon sex will have many positive effects. These include fixing economic issues created by wage discrimination, promoting the existence of stable families, reducing the incidence of poverty among working women, and the desegregation of the work place.

Call the NYS Senate Labor Committee members today and demand that they pass the Pay Equity Legislation so that it may be introduced for a vote on the floor. This bill will bring equality in the workplace. Send a letter to your Senator and Senator Bruno urging them to pass the Fair Pay Act. Following are a list of the Labor Committee Members in the Senate.

Mariarz (Chair) 518-455-2024	Fuschillo 518-455-3341	Morahan 518-455-3261	Wright 518-455-2346
Marcellino 518-455-2390	Ornato 518-455-3486	Stachowski 518-455-2426	Connor 518-455-2625
Alesi 518-455-2015	Gonzalez 518-455-3395	Robach 518-455-2909	Breslin 518-455-2225
Flanagan 518-455-2071	Bonacic 518-455-3181		

National Organization for Women
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