

BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW NEWS



WINTER 2008
Volume 38
No.1



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CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

This year marked the **35th anniversary of Roe vs Wade**. BQNOW participated in 2 events, one in Brooklyn (which also marked Rev. King's birthday) and another, which we cosponsored with Redstockings and the Birth Control Project, that had a more activist theme. President Julie Kirshner has been working closely with both groups. If you'd like to get more involved in repro rights, contact Julie at julierachel19@webtv.net.

Trafficking success: Not only did we win state legislative passage of anti-trafficking legislation, but through considerable pressure by NOW-NYC's Sonia Ossorio, BQ Now leaders and members, NY Magazine has signed a Trafficking-free pledge and agreed to accept no new "Adult" advertisements. BQNOW-ers who braved the cold winter and rainy spring and hot summer weather believe it was all worth it. Monitor the publications in your area for "escort" services. Let us know by email (bklynqnsnow@yahoo.com) if you see such ads.

There's no doubt about it: this election year is different! For the first time a woman may well become the presidential nominee of a major political party. Yes, we're talking about **Hillary Rodham Clinton**. National NOW endorsed Hillary at its convention last summer. That allows us to unashamedly encourage you to support this well-qualified, time-tested woman. In this issue you'll read about two devoted campaigners, Rachele Suissa (our VP) and Gail Krauss (Rachele's mom), who braved the New Hampshire cold, slept in an unheated daycare center in Portsmouth, and tirelessly worked phones and went door-to-door on behalf of Clinton. Rachele didn't stop there. Read her article in this issue to learn more. When they returned, these two

hosted a chapter **Debate Watch Party**. Many of us saw Clinton and Obama clearly present their views. One clear-cut difference: Clinton had a well thought out plan for mandatory universal healthcare coverage (Obama wants to keep it voluntary which continues the current administration's approach).

The presidential campaign is not the only political event. 2008 marks races in Congress and the NYS Legislature. Pending legislation both good and bad continues in Washington and in NY. To hone our skills, we're planning a **letter-writing/lobby training house party** to work on behalf of the Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act. It will take place on Sunday, March 16. Check the Calendar for details. Key Albany legislation which continues to languish in committee under the Joe Bruno controlled senate is **S1342/A2856, The Healthy Teens Act**. Brooklyn State Senator Martin Golden is not among the bill's sponsors. Why not email him at golden@senate.state.ny.us to find out the reason?

International Women's Day is Saturday, March 8th. This singular international recognition of women is an event long overlooked in America. Well, here in Brooklyn, we're not letting this day go unnoticed!!!! BQNOW has, to borrow from the title of the event, taken the lead. We've lined up an impressive group of speakers, invited NOW-NYC, Redstockings and the Birth Control Project to join with us to discuss issues important to today's woman: Political leadership, Human Trafficking, assaults on our Reproductive freedoms and more. We've put information in this issue (see flyer on Page 2), and on our website. So circle March 8th on your calendars. See you there.

BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW CHAPTER CALENDAR-2008

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



- Mar 3 **Chapter Meeting** in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Call 718-769-8901
Mar 8, 3pm **International Women's Day Symposium** (see flyer below)
Mar 16, 11am **Letter-writing/Lobby Training House Party** Sheepshead Bay, Bklyn. Call 347-515-1410
Apr 7 **Chapter Meeting** in Homecrest, Brooklyn. Call 718-891-2490
May 5 **Chapter Meeting** in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Call 718-769-8901
June 2 **Chapter Meeting** in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Call 347-515-1410
July 7 **Chapter Meeting** in Forest Hills, Queens. Call 718-263-7638.

Brooklyn-Queens NOW

Invites you to join our celebration of

International Women's Day

DATE: Saturday, March 8, 2008 **TIME:** 3:00-5:00PM

PLACE: The Church of Gethsemane
1012 8th Avenue (between 10th and 11th Streets)
Park Slope, Brooklyn (Take the F train to 7th Avenue)

Women Take the Lead

SPEAKERS:

Yvonne Graham, Deputy Brooklyn Borough President
Prof. Barbara Winslow, PhD, Women's Studies, Brooklyn College
Sonia Ossario, President, NOW-NYC
Jennifer Sunderland, Redstockings

Co- Sponsors: NOW-NYC, Redstockings and Birth Control Project.

On The Trail: Campaigning for Hillary in New Hampshire and New York

By Rachele Suissa, Brooklyn-Queens NOW Vice-President

Since December, I've actively campaigned for Hillary Clinton, both in New Hampshire and in New York City. New Hampshire may be small, but their January 8th primary is important. My mother and I traveled to Portsmouth. Our 6-hour journey to this small town in the southern part of New Hampshire was part of an effort to spread campaigners throughout the state.

On Saturday, the first full day of political activities, I went from door to door to talk to people about Hillary and leave campaign literature. I got a lot of positive feedback about her. One woman asked about Hillary's stance on women's rights, and I was happy to affirm Hillary's 100% pro-choice record. Back at the headquarters, New Hampshire politicians stopped by to show their support for Hillary. They were proud to endorse her and speak with campaigners who traveled all the way from New York to rally for her.

We also phone banked for her at the IUPAT Union headquarters. By that point on Sunday, voters were weary of all the calls they were receiving from all of the campaigns, so they weren't in the best of moods. We attended an evening event where Bill Clinton spoke. He was well received. Dozens of New Hampshire residents showed up to hear him speak, some with questions, others with comments, but most in a happy mood. Reporters, news crews, and all the other media agents were there, each with their take on the former President's speech. It was a great experience to hear him.

Campaigning for Hillary in New York is a much different experience. With transportation available at every possible venue, it isn't as hard to get around as it was in New Hampshire. There you need a car to get just about anywhere. Since I dislike making phone calls, I hit the streets. My turf: 86th & Lexington, 72nd & Broadway, and Union Square. One thing for sure: people are very receptive to hearing about her, and receiving buttons, stickers, and any other literature we had. She has a wonderful campaign staff, and a cadre of dedicated volunteers who come from all five boroughs to campaign for her. I got a ride to Union Square from a Long Island woman who comes to NYC once a week to campaign for Hillary. She decorated her entire van with Hillary signs, which was great for visibility. We handed out literature cards in Union Square, as well as stickers, buttons, and even some voter registration forms to a group of high school students who requested them.

I was proud to reach out to younger voters—they will be a crucial part of this year's election. I enjoy the experience of being able to work on a campaign for a candidate who I believe is the best qualified to run our country. Hillary, I salute you!

If you would like to get involved in Hillary's campaign, go to hillaryclinton.com

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!

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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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Membership: Judith Ebert 951-7441
Legislative: Shirley Ranz 769-8901
Young Feminists: Rachele 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


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

Visit our web site: www.brooklynqueensnow.org

Feminist Singer and Songwriter
Kristin Lems will appear in
NYC for the first time since 1980 at

The People's Voice Café

Where: The Workmen's Circle
45 East 33rd St. NYC
When: Saturday, April 5, 2008, 8pm

Membership renewal reminder: For
BQNOW to receive any portion of your
membership dues renewal you must renew
within 2 months of your expiration date.
To check your expiration date, look at
your NOW membership card. 

FOR THE RECORD

Brooklyn-Queens NOW's position on Senator Kennedy's
endorsement of Senator Barack Obama is that of National
NOW President Kim Gandy, as quoted below.

"The National Organization for Women has enormous
respect and admiration for Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-
Mass.). For decades Sen. Kennedy has been a friend of
NOW, and a leader and fighter for women's civil and
reproductive rights, and his record shows that.

Though the National Organization for Women Political
Action Committee has proudly endorsed Sen. Hillary Clinton
for president, we respect Sen. Kennedy's endorsement. We
continue to encourage women everywhere to express their
opinions and exercise their right to vote."

National Organization for Women
Brooklyn-Queens Chapter
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