

BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW NEWS



SUMMER 2011
Volume 32
No.3



P.O. Box 350-746
Brooklyn, NY 11235
718-769-0101
bklynqnsnow@yahoo.com
www.brooklynqueensnow.org



BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW CHAPTER CALENDAR-2011

Chapter meetings take place the first Monday of the month at 7pm, unless otherwise noted. Inclement weather may force the rescheduling of a chapter meeting, so be sure to RSVP to the number provided or call 718 769-0101. Call the numbers below for exact location and directions.



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|-------------------|---|
| June 6 | Chapter meeting in Jackson Heights. Call 718-672-6399 for directions. |
| June 25 –Saturday | Pro-Choice rally at Women’s Health Clinic, 8:15am. See below for details. |
| July 7 -Thursday | Chapter meeting in Sheepshead Bay. Call 646-228-7570 for directions. |
| August 22, 6-9pm | Open meeting at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd. Rm.213, Kew Gardens |
| Sept 8 (Thursday) | Chapter meeting & Election of Officers.in Forest Hills. Call 718-263-7638 for directions. |
| Sept. 19, 6-9pm | Open meeting at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd. Rm.213, Kew Gardens |

PRO-CHOICE BROOKLYN

is tired of clinic patients being harassed every day!

Join **Brooklyn-Queens NOW and Brooklyn Pro-Choice Network**

at the next prayer vigil of
Bishop DiMarzio and the Helpers of God's Precious Infants
("HOGPI").

Let them know:
"YOU ARE NOT WELCOME HERE"
Very special appearances by

Church Ladies for Choice
Rude Mechanical Orchestra

Saturday, June 25, 2011
8:15 A.M.

43rd Street & 3rd Avenue, Brooklyn

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS:

R train to 45th St. (at 4th Avenue, Brooklyn)
or B63 bus (on 5th Ave.) to 43rd Street

BQ NOW CHAPTER ELECTIONS

The following candidates are running for office:

President – Julie Kirshner
Vice President-Rachelle Suissa
Treasurer: Barbara Sheren

Elections will be held at our Sept. 8 chapter meeting. (see Calendar)

To vote you must be a paid up member of the chapter.

WHEN YOU'RE AT YOUR MOST VULNERABLE

By Judy Barkoski

Each of us has probably encountered age discrimination at least once. Age discrimination in medicine is much more subtle and not as readily detected as age discrimination in employment. When a woman is fired or not promoted because of her age, the victim can usually figure out what happened, and take action.

However, age discrimination in the medical care system is much more difficult to detect by the patient. Be leery of a doctor who tells you "You're just getting older, so you can expect that" or "You're too young to be experiencing those kinds of symptoms". You should know or find out if there are diseases or other problems causing what your doctor thinks is attributable to your age. Arthritis, for example, is just one of many medical problems that may be at the root of what may be causing your weakness and immobility. Middle-ear disease or a Vitamin B-12 deficiency are other possibilities.

Don't automatically assume that needed surgery or treatment is too risky because of age. A patient's physiological rather than chronological age should be considered in the decision making process.

According to some experts in the medical field, our primary care system is failing. This occurs especially in "care transitions". For example, when a patient is discharged from the hospital to a rehabilitative facility or goes to an emergency room and then becomes an inpatient. When the patient is passed from one segment of the medical system to another is usually when the patient experiences lapses in care. What can you do? Complete your own Personal Health Record and take it with you to all medical visits and share it with all your health care providers. Write down all the medications you take and every time you see your doctor or other provider share the list with them so everyone is "on the same page".

As we get older many health care practitioners see age as an illness or disease. This worsens for women because women's health needs are

often regarded as being restricted only to reproduction. How can you find an age-friendly primary care physician? Dr. Mark Lachs, author of *Treat Me, Not My Age*, suggests finding a geriatrician or a women's-health practice through a major teaching hospital. He says that the older you get, the trickier it is to navigate the healthcare system. It's good to have a friend or loved one who can advocate for you.

In the long term, the public has to pressure doctors, politicians, the media and others to keep the priorities of the medical system in proper perspective. NOW continues to fight for women's rights by lobbying for fair and equitable health care reform.

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Since the last newsletter, we've become even more active on the pay equity front. In April we presented the issue from the worker's point of view when we showed the film, "Made in Dagenham." For those of you who missed the viewing and discussion after, you can borrow the film by contacting Rachelle at rachellesuis@gmail.com. There were Equal Pay Coalition events at the Eleanor Roosevelt House in Manhattan on April 12th (Equal Pay Day) and at the Dept of Labor's Women's Bureau on May 5th. Both highlighted the need for Pay Equity Legislation and a living wage. How does proposed Pay Equity (aka Fair Pay) legislation differ from promises made in the Equal Pay Act of 1963? First, it prohibits pay discrimination on the basis of **race and national origin**, as well as sex; Second, it prohibits such discrimination among workers performing **dissimilar work in equivalent jobs**. The New York State Fair Pay Act (A.6130/S.2200) needs our help to move out of the Senate Finance Committee. **Call your NY State senator to urge passage.** -continued on next page-

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NOW is the time.

Keep up the good work!

Councilman Lew Fidler

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-CHAPTER HAPPENINGS CONTINUED-

There's still much to do, and some of it will be fun! We're planning a FlashMob event for Labor Day with rehearsals scheduled for August. Look on Facebook and (hopefully) Twitter for details.

September will bring more activism legislatively, and also chapter elections. The next newsletter will bring statements from the candidates. Note that we will no longer have an official chapter secretary. That task will rotate among board members. As the weather cools down, our outreach will heat up. We're launching Open Meetings once a month. These won't be chapter meetings per se, but single topic meetings designed to attract those who'd like to "drop in" and see what BQNOW is all about. See the Calendar in this issue for the August and September date. Many thanks to Queens Borough President Helen Marshall for offering us a wonderful space.

Speaking of activism, don't be lulled by the summer heat! Come to the Pro-Choice response to the prayer vigil scheduled for June 25th at 43rd St. and 3rd Avenue in Brooklyn. We cannot be denied control of our own bodies! We'll be tabling this summer all over Brooklyn and Queens, getting the word out and rallying the troops. If you'd like to be involved in tabling, contact Sherry at 718 263-7638 or email Joyce at mitziow@aol.com

So, one and all, have a wonderful, active, feminist-inspired summer. See you on the streets!!!!

**BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW LEADERSHIP
CONTACT NUMBERS**

President: Julie Kirshner 718-769-9607
Vice President: Rachelle Suissa 646-228-7570
Treasurer: Barbara Sheren 718-891-2490
Secretary: Sherry Rogers 718 263-7638
Membership: Judy Barkoski 718-843-7978
PAC President: Shirley Ranz 718-769-8901
Editors: Sherry Rogers/Shirley Ranz

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

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

OUR CORE ISSUES:

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

Our activities focus on political, legislative and educational arenas.

**National Organization for Women
Brooklyn-Queens Chapter
P.O. Box 350-746
Brooklyn, NY 11235**

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