

# BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW NEWS



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## BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW CHAPTER CALENDAR-2015

Chapter meetings take place *the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm*, 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. Check for Calendar updates on our website: [www.brooklynqueensnow.org](http://www.brooklynqueensnow.org).

- Jan 5           **Chapter meeting.** Call 718-769-8901 for location and directions.
- Sat. Jan 24, 12-2pm **Roe v Wade Anniversary Forum** at Brooklyn College Women’s Center.
- Feb 2           **Chapter meeting in Jackson Heights.** Call 718-672-6399 for location.
- Mar 2           **Chapter meeting in Sheepshead Bay.** Call 917-923-4657 for location.
- Sun, Mar 5     **Women’s History Month** celebration. Music and speakers. Check website for exact time and location.
- Apr 6           **Chapter meeting in Howard Beach.** Call 718-843-7978 for location.



## 6 Things To Understand When Talking About Abortion

by **David A. Grimes**, former Chief of the Abortion Surveillance Branch at the Centers for Disease

Recently, a talk radio host interviewed me about abortion. He asked me repeatedly, "What about these abortions of babies at 8.5 months!" I tried to explain that his question had two misnomers that needed correcting before I could comment further. As this example illustrates, the terminology surrounding abortion can be treacherous. Errors are sometimes due to naiveté; at other times the misuse is intentional. Even medical professionals commonly misuse abortion terminology. Here are some common problems in the lexicon of abortion.

### What is abortion?

Abortion is the removal of a fetus or embryo from the uterus prior to the stage of viability.

(1)Definitions vary to the timing of viability, with

some using gestational age and others using fetal weight. In general, independent life outside the uterus becomes possible around 23-24 weeks of gestation at the earliest. (2)

### "Third-trimester" abortion: an oxymoron

Any termination of pregnancy after viability is not an abortion, according to medical (1) and lay (3) dictionaries. If a pregnancy is terminated at 8.5 months because of fetal anencephaly (no brain), then that obstetric intervention is not an abortion. It might be a labor induction, a hysterotomy (a mini-caesarean delivery), or pregnancy termination, but not an abortion. This fact is not widely appreciated; the medical literature has articles with "third-

continued on Page 2

## 6 Things to Understand..

trimester" abortion in the title. (4) Abortion opponents have claimed that large numbers of "third-trimester" abortions were being done. In response, investigators at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reviewed all reported pregnancy terminations at 25 weeks and greater in Georgia over a two-year period. (5) Nearly all reports proved to be clerical errors. Three pregnancy terminations were correctly coded: Two were done because of fetal anencephaly, and the indication could not be determined for the third.

### **"Late-term" abortion: another oxymoron**

In obstetrics, "term" delivery means delivery after 260 to 294 days of pregnancy (37-42 weeks from last menstrual period). (6) Thus, "late-term" abortion would be near 42 weeks. As explained above, this is not an abortion. "Late abortion" is imprecise but acceptable language, but "late-term" is a misnomer. *Who resides in the pregnant uterus?*

The occupant in the uterus is first an embryo. After its organs have formed (around eight weeks), the embryo becomes a fetus, a status that it holds until birth. Contrary to the talk radio host, the occupant is not a baby, child, or infant. (3) Once a fetus is born, it graduates to one of these designations. Thus, one cannot abort a baby, child, or infant; they do not reside in the uterus.

Some abortion opponents use even stranger terms: the "pre-born" or "unborn." In general, we are characterized by what we are, not by what we are not. I am not designated "post-born" or "pre-deceased." When I die, my status will change to cadaver or corpse. However, calling me a "pre-cadaver" or "un-dead" today would be confusing.

### **"Partial-birth" abortion: a distinct non-entity**

This is a political, not a medical, neologism designed to inflame. The term is not found in medical texts or coding manuals. It was coined by opponents to describe an uncommon procedure for second-trimester abortion, intact dilation and evacuation. A brilliant public relations ploy, the term conflated two diametrically opposed conclusions of pregnancy, birth and abortion, in a single term. (7) Thanks to politicians, a procedure that has been in obstetric texts (6) for centuries has been made illegal, based on esthetics and not on safety.

### **"Pro-life"?**

Opponents of abortion are commonly called "pro-life." In my experience as a physician, a more accurate designation would be "pro-birth." Interest in the life of the child (and especially his or her mother) usually dwindles soon thereafter. Incorrect, misleading, and inflammatory language obfuscates, rather than illuminates, the discussion

around abortion. Words matter. We should all choose them carefully.

From The Huffington Post - 12/10/2014

### **CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON ABORTION**

Conservative extremists spent most of 2014 attacking access to abortion all over the country. Now that they control both houses of Congress it's only going to get worse.

All year we've seen right-wing extremists systematically undermine our constitutionally protected right to abortion. This means that:

- States passed more than 70 restrictive laws in 2014, on top of hundreds more passed in 2013 and 2012.
- 24 states passed restrictions on private insurance coverage for abortion and the Supreme Court ruled in Hobby Lobby that corporations can, in the name of religious "beliefs," strip contraception from their employer-based health plans.
- 55% of women of reproductive age live in one of the 26 states that are hostile to abortion rights
- 87% of counties don't have an abortion provider.

9 out of 10 abortion clinics experience harassment.

### **PRO-CHOICE IN QUEENS**

#### *Clinic Escorts Needed!*

On a typical Saturday at **CHOICES**, a women's health clinic in Queens, anti-choice protesters outnumber pro-choice volunteers 5 to 1. Escorts provide a buffer zone from the lies and harassment coming from the anti's.

Join us on Saturday mornings from 7-11am at **CHOICES** in Jamaica, Queens. Located at 147-32 Jamaica Ave, the clinic is close to the E, J, Z and LIRR trains.

## NOW-NYS CONVENTION 2014



The 2014 NOW-NYS Convention took place on November 8 at Brooklyn's Borough Hall. The keynote speaker, former gubernatorial candidate **Zephyr Teachout**, (pictured above) gave a rousing speech about running for high office against all odds. NOW-NYS endorsed Teachout for governor in the Democratic primary, and we encouraged her to seek elected office in the future.

Filmmaker **Mary Dore** showed an excerpt from her documentary, *She's Beautiful When She's Angry*, that resurrects the buried history of the outrageous, often brilliant women who founded the modern women's movement from 1966 to 1971. It is currently playing at the Landmark Sunshine Cinema.

The election for officers resulted in a victory for **Sonia Ossorio** as President, **Jean Bucaria** as Executive VP, **Kristin Gardner** as Legislative VP, and **Gabriela Moreno** as Secretary. From left to right below: Jean, Sonia, Kristin and BQ NOW President Rachelle Suissa. Sonia Ossorio also serves as president of NOW-NYC and is on the National NOW Board of Directors. Check out the updated website: [nownys.org](http://nownys.org).

Brooklyn-Queens NOW supported Sonia Ossorio in her bid for the presidency and we look forward to working together to strengthen the organization. Number One on the agenda will be to get the Women's Equality Act passed.



Join us for the **41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Roe v Wade** on Saturday, January 25, 2015, from 12-3pm at Brooklyn College's Women's Center.

### Speakers:

- Sunsara Taylor, *Stop Patriarchy*
- Julie Bero, *Center for Reproductive Rights*
- And from *NARAL* and *Planned Parenthood*

**The Emergency Contraception Access and Education Act** requires hospitals that receive federal funds (including Medicare and Medicaid) to provide medically accurate information about emergency contraception to victims of sexual assault and ensures that every victim has access to emergency contraception without having to worry about the cost. It also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and distribute the most current, evidence-based standards of care regarding emergency contraception.

**Ask your senator to become a cosponsor, today!**

**DONATE TO BROOKLYN-QUEENS NOW  
WITHOUT SPENDING A PENNY!**

**TD Bank** will make an annual contribution to the chapter based on the activity of all participating members' TD Bank accounts. Eligible accounts include: Checking - Business & Consumer, Savings, Money Market, Certificate of Deposit, and Retirement.

**Checking Accounts**

\$50 for every new checking account • \$10 for every existing checking account

**Savings Accounts or CDs**

1/10 of 1% contribution based upon your annual average balances

If you are already a TD Bank Customer, visit any one of our locations and ask to have your balances included as part of your organization's **Affinity Membership Program**. Our bank code is **AG220**.

If you don't already have an account, open one! In this way you'll be helping the chapter continue it's work.

**Eden Foods Says NO to Birth Control**

Join NOW in sending a loud message to corporations that want to deny women their birth control! Eden Foods Products is at the center of an ultra conservative movement to deny women their fundamental rights and health care needs. Join us in demanding that Eden Foods products are taken off the shelves, by pressuring big grocery stores to drop Eden now.

Eden Foods is one corporation of many, including Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Woods, that are asking for an exemption from the Affordable Care Act's requirement that employers cover birth control in their health care insurance plans. These corporations are claiming that they have a right to oppose some or all forms of birth control for religious reasons. Let's make a BIG statement, with our words and our pocketbooks, that these bosses should not be able to block access to their employees' health care needs.

**How to Take Action:**

1. **Call your grocery store** and tell them to take them Eden Foods products off their shelves  
"My name is \_\_\_ and I'm a customer of [Store Name]. I'm calling to let you know that Eden Foods is refusing contraception coverage for its employees, and I won't support a company that denies basic healthcare. I'm asking you to remove Eden Foods products from your shelves and stand with me for women's health. Thank you."

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**Address Service Requested**