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Northern NJ NOW Chapter Bulletin ***Fall 2017***

Message from the President

In my last message, I asked, among other things, what the phrase “yearning to breathe free “ means to you. Since then, NOW-NJ, including members of NNJ NOW, toured the New York Historical Society in NYC, and saw the film “New York Story,” which brought some of us to tears with its tale of the immigrant experience (and more) in NYC. Just days later, we found out that the Trump Administration considers the Emma Lazarus poem on the base of the Statue of Liberty to be more or less illegitimate, and certainly not about American values.

You will read in this bulletin about our NNJ trip to Seneca Falls, which was more than a success, and why we went. **Visit our website** at nnj.nownj.org or the NJ NOW website at www.nownj.org to see the 124 photos and read the descriptive captions/stories and additional stories from the “tourists.” This trip inspired me to continue some NOW activities that had been labeled as certain failure by some. The suffragists were not to be deterred, and neither are we!

As I wrote to you a couple of months ago, NNJ NOW is often a co-signer on letters to our (supposed) Representatives, demanding our rights and nothing less. Sometimes we are the only NOW chapter to sign on. We are proud to be vigilant and “militant.” We were also, since the last bulletin, co-sponsors of the March on Science – ever defiant, we embrace science!

We hope you will be able to attend our screening of “Equal Means Equal” October 26 (see info included), and we are already planning to co-sponsor a program with the NOW-NJ Combatting Racism Task Force in November, so watch for word of that. In December, we will host the NOW-NJ Board meeting. If you are not faint of heart, you may want to come and help out.

Several bills that we have supported through NOW-NJ have been conditionally vetoed by the one and only Chris Christie, but we look forward to soon working with a new Governor who might actually sign legislation to improve the lives of women and families!

We resist, we persist, we will prevail!

Bonnie bonnie.shapiro2@verizon.net

A note to members:

When renewing your membership, please include your email address. Help us go green and save money. Thanks in advance for your help.



L-R front row: Kimberly Regan, Bonnie Shapiro, Fran Regan, Marissa Koziar, Michelle Duprey, Mary Martire, Vicky Sidrow, back row: Vicky Stapelton, Carol Simon Levin, Brandy Stowe, Leigh Hallingby, Tori Harnet

An antidote to Trump: Trip to Seneca Falls

By Marissa Koziar

I started organizing the trip to Seneca Falls in February. I was inspired by the fact that the Women’s Rights National Historic Park which had been open seven days a week during the dozen years I had visited it had recently decreased its hours to three days a week. Since funding for national parks is currently under attack, my thought was that more people needed to be made aware of this national treasure and, in particular, they needed to know about the yearly event – the anniversary of the official beginning of the women’s movement. My vision was that we needed more awareness to protect this site which Judy Hart and others fought hard to preserve. I have been shocked to learn of how few of us are aware of this gem. Only 9 out of the 411 US national park sites honor women’s history. To me, this is the most important of the national parks because the Declaration of Sentiments was signed in Seneca Falls in the recently refurbished Wesleyan Chapel. Each year, during “Convention Days” a procession is made from Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s House to the chapel and the declaration is read. Sixty-eight women and thirty-two men signed the original document. During convention days, visitors are invited to sign a similar document committing to the equality of women and men.

Those of us who were able to attend this year were treated to an amazing array of non-stop speakers, historic actors, music, tours and more. The attendees have told me how much the weekend has meant to them – how they were inspired, how they learned a lot and how they were able to network with feminists from far and wide. My hope is that word will spread so that others can be nourished and educated and, most importantly, so that we can collectively protect the park from threat of funding attacks such as the decrease in park hours. As mentioned, I began planning in February. When I found that many of the hotels in the area were full even five months before the event, I had hoped attendance at the event would be tripled or quadrupled from last year. Sadly, the event enjoyed better attendance than last year and certainly from previous years (I have attended four convention days) but it wasn’t the turn out I had hoped for. Since the parks department is not allowed to advertise, we need to be the park’s mouthpiece to spread the word for Convention Days next year (which is scheduled for July 20-22 of 2018) and for the weekends during the year when the museum and other women’s rights sites on Falls Street are open round year.

The Women's March Organizers are Back – This Time in Detroit

by Mary Martire

The team who created the largest single-day protest in recorded US history will host a three day convention called The Women's Convention at the Cobo Center in Detroit on Oct. 27-29. The weekend will consist of workshops and speaking forums to teach attendees how to take the Jan. 21 protest and turn it into a movement. "The Women's Convention is literally a one-stop shop for any organizer or any leader or anyone who has aspirations to lead in their communities to come and learn from all of our different partners" Bob Bland told the Huffington Post in August. Head to The Women's Convention website to learn more.



Local vigil in response to Charlottesville

The vigil was put together by Teaneck Women Together. There were around 300 people. It was a very diverse crowd. There was press. Many people took photos of Matt and the "STOP RACISM NOW" round. Saw NNJ board member Diane Scarangella.. Most people had candles; the leader of the evening had an almost torch that she explained consisted of many wicks interconnected and was therefore symbolic. Matt and I had flashlights.

The speakers were a diverse group of people of faith. The "mc" was not born till after the 60's, but had read that people of faith led the civil rights movement, so she got some to speak. Unfortunately, there was no sound system, so it was difficult to hear everything. There was also some singing during the speeches, and at the end the crowd spontaneously sang snippets of songs like "We Shall Overcome," and "This Land is Your Land," since nobody seemed to actually know any entire song.

Everyone was exhorted to be peaceful, to love one another and to carry on our activism.

It was a very good experience.

Bonnie



Climate Change: No Chicken Little

By Judith Green, Board Member

“Catastrophe” is not a word to use lightly. But, as Paul Krugman pointed out in a recent NYT column, the Republican Party is “making grand progress” on “its project of destroying civilization.” What makes the climate situation so dangerous?

If we had not been experiencing directly or through media reports the heightening drama of weather, the rat-tat-tat of Harvey, Katie and Irma striking in rapid succession this month in North America underline our worsening climate prospects. As global temperatures warm, we move toward a “point of no return”, a temperature rise of 1.5-2.0 degrees Celsius above the prior 10,000 year norms. At that point, the decimated arctic ice will no longer serve to deflect heat back from the earth’s surface or provide other air conditioning effects; the permafrost will have melted, releasing huge amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, intensifying the warming process to a point at which it becomes self-sustaining. We have already reached the 1 degree Celsius mark!

The effects of sea level rise, already felt in southern Florida and other parts of the world, will render coastal regions uninhabitable. Resulting mass migrations will exacerbate geopolitical tinderboxes and create new ones as heat, drought, floods, crop failures, wild fires and extreme storms drive people from their homes and regions.

As you read this, the balance of heating and cooling forces on our globe are shifting perilously toward heat. Without rapid decreases in the man-made causes of warming (the release of greenhouse gases) climate change will become an unstoppable juggernaut. Indeed, the sky will fall.

What efforts are being taken and what can we do to try to avert catastrophe?

In New Jersey, the organization Food & Water Watch (FWW) is working toward the science-based goal of legislating 100% use by 2035 (100-35) of “real renewable” sources of energy: wind, solar, and geothermal to generate electricity. Burning of biomass, garbage incineration and other offsets are not suitable because they contribute greenhouse gases. Currently, a bill is stalled in the NJ Assembly that calls for utilities to generate 80% of their electrical energy from renewable sources by 2050. If passed this inadequate measure, were it worldwide, is unlikely to decrease greenhouse gases enough, and sufficiently soon, to avert catastrophic effects.

But effective action is possible. Germany is on its way to 100% real renewable energy sources, for example. As concerned citizens of NJ, we can opt to support FWW’s effort to bring about legislation that mandates 100% renewable sources in our State by 2035.

Our Roles in the FWW plan:

As residents of our towns, we are urged to speak with council and school board members and/or other officials to obtain pledges in support of 100-35. Pledge forms are available from Food & Water Watch (www.offfossilfuels.org, for questions contact help@fwaction.org). The signed forms support the SHORT

TERM GOAL of having towns pass resolutions in support of the use of 100% true renewable sources for energy generation by 2035. In turn, the resolutions at the town level will allow FWW to convince State legislators to pass a bill mandating 100-35 (the LONG-TERM GOAL). FWW is active in every State, and so a substantial U.S. contribution to averting devastation is a viable possibility.

Please join the effort in your town!

Note: The Fall 2017 Newsletter of FWW states: "At the urging of committed OFF[Off Fossil Fuels, a campaign of FWW] activists, city and county council members, mayors and state legislators in over 20 states have now signed the pledge. " Let's hold our politicians accountable! And let's cut off incentives to yet more fracking and pipeline approvals.

More on Women's RightsA Museum on the Mall in Washington DC?

The National Women's History Museum report states that on March 30th, Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Ed Royce (R-CA) introduced H.R. 19 and on June 29th, Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced the companion bill S. 1498. The proposed legislation would create a women's history museum on the National Mall.

"For more than 20 years the National Women's History Museum has worked with members of Congress to designate a site to build a women's history museum on the National Mall. The introduction of these bills is a positive step forward. We greatly appreciate the leadership which the 4 sponsors have shown, in introducing legislation that would make the Museum a reality," said NWHM President and CEO Joan Wages.

"We look forward to continuing to work with Reps. Maloney and Royce, Sens. Collins and Feinstein, the appropriate committee members, and all of our stakeholders to continue to raise awareness about the need for a women's history museum and advocating for the legislation needed to make it a reality."

This legislation represents a turning point in this effort. A tax deductible donation to the NWHM will entitle you to receive updates periodically. Check out the website: www.womenshistory.org See how they are bringing women's history to life as they plan for a museum.

Environmental Report from board member Judy Green

I attended a Food & Water Watch meeting last night, focused specifically on the Off Fossil Fuels (OFF) campaign conceived to operate initially at the town level. I will be working in Teaneck, Diane S in Leonia and others elsewhere. In the near future all towns need this activism to result in Town resolutions (see below).

Background: Currently, there is a stalled bill in the NJ Assembly aiming for 80% not-so-true renewables use by 2050. According to a lot of research, this approach is unlikely to prevent us from reaching the catastrophic "point of no return" (1.5 - 2 degrees Celsius rise in global temperature) that will result in a self-reinforcing cycle of ever greater warming. I think this is exactly the "catastrophe" Paul Krugman wrote about in today's New York Times,

The town level pledges (pledge forms are available from F&WW as well as other materials) will be used to parlay support among State legislators for a bill mandating 100% true renewable energy sources for electricity generation by 2035. The SHORT-TERM GOAL of this campaign is to obtain as many TOWN RESOLUTIONS, built on individual pledges, as possible in support of the LONG-TERM GOAL: PASSAGE OF THE 100% TRUE RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ELECTRICITY GENERATION BY 2035 BILL.

True renewable energy sources are wind, solar, tidal, geothermal. Excluded are incineration, biofuels, nuclear and energy offsets in which a power company can pollute as long as it buys credits from an out of state source. True renewable sources are in accord with principles of environmental justice, and would avoid, for example, the garbage incineration currently classified as a renewable energy source in Newark NJ (especially impacting the iron bound area) and other places in the US.

The best window of opportunity for passing the 100-2035 bill in the NJ legislature is immediately following the November elections. Assemblyman Tim Eustus, who represents the 38th district, is poised to introduce the bill, but not prior to re-election (the sad politics of it).

Clearly, there is work NNJ NOW members can do in whatever town they reside to meet the the short-term goal of the 100%-2035 campaign: a town resolution endorsing this critical bill based on obtaining pledges from as many town officials (including council and school board members and others).

Donation Coupon

We appreciate your help!

a) Enclosed donation _____ \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$50 _____ Other

b) Your name _____

c) Your address _____

d) Your email address _____

Checks should be made out to NNJ NOW and mailed to Mary Martire, 3 Winthrop Pl., Leonia, NJ 07605

Save the Date: October 26, a chapter sponsored film screening in Ridgewood

There are no more excuses.



**EQUAL
MEANS
EQUAL**

FILM AND DISCUSSION WITH ROBERTA FRANCIS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017

6:30 PM (DOOR OPEN) - 7:00 PM (FILM BEGINS)

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF RIDGEWOOD

113 COTTAGE PLACE • RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07450

For directions and parking instructions, please
visit <http://www.uuridgewood.org>.

SUGGESTED \$10 DONATION AT THE DOOR

Light Refreshments will be served. Child care available with 2 weeks notice.
Please email Ann Pareti at usr.membership1@gmail.com.

ABOUT THE FILM

EQUAL MEANS EQUAL offers an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today. Examining both real-life stories and precedent-setting legal cases, director Kamala Lopez uncovers how outdated and discriminatory attitudes inform and influence seemingly disparate issues, from workplace harassment to domestic violence, rape and sexual assault to the foster care system, and the healthcare conglomerate to the judicial system. Along the way, she reveals the inadequacy of present laws that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a compelling and persuasive argument for the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.



ABOUT ROBERTA FRANCIS

Roberta Francis, currently ERA Education Consultant for the Alice Paul Institute, was Founding Chair of the ERA Task Force of the National Council of Women's Organizations from 1999-2015. A former Director of the New Jersey Division on Women, she has worked for 40 years on a broad spectrum of issues for women's advancement, from education and pay equity to reproductive rights and violence against women.

CO-SPONSORS



National Organization for Women
Northern New Jersey Chapter



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"The struggle to pass the ERA in the U.S. is experiencing a phenomenal resurgence now, reflected in this film."

- Paula J. Caplan, Ph.D., Psychology Today

Seneca Falls Postscript

By Leigh Hallingby

Excerpted from her article at: www.NOWNJ.net

I attended Convention Days in Seneca Falls, NY, from July 14-16, 2017, with members of the Northern NJ Chapter of NOW. Convention Days is an annual festival at the Women's Rights National Historical Park (WRNHP), where the first ever women's rights convention was held in 1848. Activities include lectures, building tours, re-enactments, movies, concerts, and book talks. One of the leaders of the Convention Days events was Coline Jenkins, great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. My mother, Allison Lazo Hallingby and Coline Jenkins' mother, Rhoda Barney Jenkins, granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, were architecture students together at the University of Pennsylvania in the class of 1941. Pioneering women for sure!
Continued online (website inside).....including pictures of the pioneering women of 1941.

Leonia, NJ 07605

3 Wintthrop Place

National Organization for Women
Northern New Jersey Chapter

