

NEWS BRIEFS NOW-NJ

AUTUMN 2010 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER
National Organization for Women - NJ

NOW-NJ Addresses "WAR AND PEACE": The Impoverishment Of American Families

By Maretta J. Short



Terry O'Neill,
NOW President

This year the 2010 NOW-NJ Annual State Conference will address the issue of war in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the impact it has had on women and their families in America. The issues of domestic violence, rape, and the impoverishment of women in these countries has been one of NOW's front issues. However, on November 13, we will take a look at the impact of the cost of war on women and their families in America. National NOW President Terry O'Neill will be the keynote speaker with invited guest panelist Madelyn Hoffman, NJ Peace Action Organizer and Executive Director, Michelle Munsat, of Military Families Speak Out, Kay Robinson, an advocate for the disabled and handicapped, Helen Benedict author of "The Lonely Soldier," and "The Safe Zone Women's Drumming Circle," which formed as a therapeutic way for women victims of domestic violence to cope with their emotional, psychological, and spiritual healing will be featured as live entertainment. In addition, an opportunity will be provided for the audience to participate and make comments or ask pertinent questions of all presenters. We are hoping that a proposed plan of action will develop to make people more aware and

sensitive to the political, economical, and social impact that war has on families, to stop violence against women in the military, and to bring the troops home from Afghanistan as a result of this important and informative event. NOW-NJ elections for officers will also take place at the conference. Please see next page for more detailed information. If you want to register for the conference please go to www.nownj.org or complete the form below and mail it in.

Family Planning Override Veto Fails In Senate

By Bonnie Shapiro
(Health Task Force
Co-Chairwoman)

It takes 28 votes to override a veto. The override failed 23 democrats - 17 republicans. I can only wonder what the outcome might have been if NOW-NJ had had more of a presence at the rally in Trenton to override the Governor's veto. I also wonder if it would have made any difference if our members living in Senator Diane Allen's district (7)

had applied more pressure. Allen's discomfort and guilt at being front woman for the Republican Scrooge Unity Platform was obvious. NOW-NJ had 7 adults (including Maretta Short, Deborah Huber, my husband Matt and me) and 3 children under 7, which became 5 + 3 after the rally. There were about 50 other activists present.

The Senate was voting on whether to override Gov. Christie's veto of continuing Family Planning funding (\$7.5 million matched by federal funds). Senator Loretta Weinberg (D-37), Chairwoman for the Health, Human Services, and Senior Services Committee, Chairwoman of the Legislative Women's Caucus, and the primary sponsor of the override bill, explained that the New Jersey Treasury Department refused to give her Senate committee any information at all on why the money for this program (a laughable amount) is not available, having told her only that the subject line is "not audited" and "speculative." She and other Democrats declared that worries about unbalancing the budget and creating a deficit were an unfounded smokescreen. For every

one dollar spent on Family Planning four dollars will be saved for Medicaid.

Democratic Senator Jennifer Beck (R-12) proposed that the Senators provide the money by taking a cut in their own health plans (that we pay for). No one paid any attention to her. Several Democrats pointed out that people will die if the funding is denied. Services include breast cancer screening, HIV screening, contraceptive services, pre-natal and abortion counseling.

After hearing impassioned pleas from Senators Ronald Rice (D-28), Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus and John Girgenti (D-35) about the poor women and men in their districts who will no longer have access to these services, Senator Allen said sadly that this is not the time to spend money (echoing prior claims in the past that it was never the time to free the slaves or give women the right to vote). The thinking of the Scrooge Slate (the 17 Republicans) was Dickensian, rather than Keynesian: people have to die so there is no deficit. Once they are dead, the money won't be needed, as in "Oliver Twist."

Unfortunately, Senator Weinberg undercut her



We've been taught
that *silence* would
save us, but it won't.
Audre Lorde

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own argument that the deficit is a smokescreen by letting Allen off the hook before the vote, saying, 'if the override failed, they could work together to find the money to fund the program'. Allen broke out in her first smile of the day.

REGISTRATION FORM: 2010 NOW NJ STATE CONFERENCE WAR AND PEACE: The Impoverishment of Women and Their Families in America

Saturday, November 13, 2010 9 AM - 3:30 PM
Rutgers University Douglas Campus ~ Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building
162 Ryders Lane ~ New Brunswick, NJ

Register By November 1st

Online: www.nownj.org

By Mail: NOW-NJ ~ P.O. Box 10299 ~ Trenton, NJ 08650

NAME _____	PHONE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> General Conference Fee:	\$35 \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sliding Scale - For Members Only:	\$15 - \$35 \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizens (65 and Over) & Students:	\$15 \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Vendors Fee:	\$25 \$ _____

• Registration Includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch

For More Info: Maretta 973-752-4484 or Lorraine 609-471-5763

National Organization for Women of New Jersey

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State • Telephone: 609-393-0156

• Website: www.nownj.org • Email: NOW-NJ@nownj.org

*Proud To
Be Making
A Difference*

NOW-NJ State Chapters**Middlesex County NOW**

President: Alan Gross
www.nownj.org/middlesex
Email: middlesex@nownj.org

Morris County NOW

President: Susan Waldman
www.morriscountynow.org

**Northern NJ NOW
(Bergen County)**

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Ocean County NOW

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Passaic County NOW

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Shore Area NOW

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Somerset/Hunterdon NOW

President: Veronica Guarraia
and Deborah Huber
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South Jersey NOW

- Alice Paul Chapter
Co-President: Joy Booth
www.southjerseynow.org
outreach@southjerseynow.org

Trenton Area NOW

Currently Reorganizing

Union County NOW

President: Linda McCulloch
UnionCounty@nownj.org

**Women Of Color & Allies
(Essex County NOW)**

President: Maretta Short
Email: president@nownj.org

State Officers

President: Maretta Short
VP Administration:
Linda Fell - Peterson
VP Action: Stacey Gregg
VP Leadership:
Jennifer Armiger
VP Affirmative Action:
Ivy Brown
VP Membership:
Rosemary Hardison
Treasurer: Patricia Stanley
Secretary: Lorraine Petrie

ATTENTION! NOW-NJ State Elections**Will Be Held November 13th**

During the State Conference at
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

2010 - 2012 NOMINATIONS

State officers nominations should be sent to the
Nomination Committee Chairperson:

Veronica Guarraia

6 Everit Drive
Somerville, NJ 08876
(908) 725 - 6720

All nominations must be made in writing not less than ten (10)
days prior to the Conference date of November 13.

The State Officers Up for Election:

- A. State President
- B. State Administrative Vice President
- C. State Action Vice President
- D. State Treasurer
- E. State Secretary
- F. State Leadership Vice President
- G. State Membership Vice President
- H. State Affirmative Action Vice President

**OFFICE SPACE
AVAILABLE**

NOW-NJ has closed the office
at 110 West State Street in
Trenton. (Across from Thomas
Edison College.)

We now have a PO Box address
due to our financial crisis.

Perfect 1st floor location for
aspiring business or non-profit.
Public transportation
accessible. If you are interested
in renting the space please
contact:

Linda: 609- 206-9368

Reflections on the National NOW Conference, Boston 2010

by Susan J. Waldman, President: Morris County NOW

As I stood on the banks of the Charles River watching the spectacular fireworks display on the Fourth of July, 2010, I couldn't help but think about the Gulf oil geyser (it's way beyond a "spill") and the people whose lives have been so drastically affected. For some reason really happy events bring contrasting sad events to my mind. I tend to think about how life goes on for the people not affected by some tragedy or another. In fact, that is the basis for my theory of what life is about. But enough of my philosophy.

I was in Boston for the NOW National Conference which had ended that afternoon. The fireworks were the culmination of another enlightening NOW-centered weekend guaranteed to reenergize the feminist within.

The theme of this year's conference was "Loving Our Bodies, Changing the World." A majority of the workshops reflected the loving our bodies/women's health theme; however, out of the four workshops I attended, only one that had to do with women's health. The others were about organizing young feminists, politics and more feminist organizing. After having attended a National NOW Conference almost every year since 1993, I can say "been there, done that" regarding a lot of the workshops. What I am looking for now are ways to increase both membership and involvement. I am optimistic about the young activist I met who was a presenter at the young feminist workshop. It turns out she lives in Whippany and would like to get involved. Also, some women were interested in our public access, cable television show. This will lead to more outreach by our chapter.

All in all the conference was a success. On Sunday we passed fourteen resolutions on topics ranging from "Restrict Catholic Lobbying Influence on Capitol Hill" to "Working in Coalition to Combat the Sexualization of Girls."

Here are some interesting statements heard at the conference:

Loretta J. Ross, Co-founder/National Coordinator of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective: "My sexuality depends on who's cute. . . Never let success go to your head and never let failure go to your heart."

Kim Bottomly, President: Wellesley College: "Women should not have to depend on luck."

Susan Douglas, Author - *Enlightened Sexism: The Seductive Message That Feminism's Work Is Done*: "Feminism is seen by many young women as the ideological equivalent of anthrax. . . If being a decoration is power, then Dick Cheney would have gone to work every day in a sequined tutu."

Amy Goodman, Syndicated Columnist: "We are drilling, killing and spilling - from oil wells to oil wars. . . Our job is to go from the suites to the streets."

Dr. LeRoy Carhart, who has been performing abortions since 1970, is one of the few late-term abortion providers in the United States. (Note: It was an honor to speak to Dr. Carhart personally and shake his hand.): "Restricting a woman's right to have an abortion at any stage of her pregnancy is the outright seizure of her body by the state."