

Middlesex County NOW

PO Box 1432, Highland Park, NJ 08904



September, 2011

This issue is dedicated to those who lost their lives during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

* * *

Also a reminder that September is Campus Violence Awareness Month and October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

* * *

And finally, October 21st is "Love your Body Day." Tell at least 3 women you know how wonderful and beautiful they are, says Ms Magazine. I think that's a great idea!

Officers

President – Skip Drumm
Vice President – Lianne Powers
Secretary – Open
Treasurer – Alan Gross
Campus Liaison – Sarah Kelly

Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Mon, Sept 12th, at 7 pm, at the home of Rich and John. Dinner will be served, once again courtesy of our hosts. Let me know if you're planning to attend, so we can have enough food for everyone.

2011 Chapter Meeting Dates

Check our [web site](#) for the remaining 2011 meeting dates.

Happy Birthday "Thelma and Louise"

"Thelma and Louise," which turns 20 this summer, is celebrated as the "grande dame" of female-revenge dramas.

Are You Registered to Vote?

August 26 was Women's Equality Day, the anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote in 1920. It took 77 years for our suffragist foremothers to win the battle for the 19th Amendment. Let us honor them by registering to vote, getting our friends to register, and going to the polls to cast our ballots on Nov 8th.

November Elections

Do you have a favorite candidate whom you would like to see elected? Go and volunteer to work in her campaign. And remember, NOW has endorsed Karen Carroll for State Assembly. See www.Carroll-for-Assembly.com.

School Bullying

According to Donna Brazile, Ms Magazine, we cannot simply say "Kids will be kids." She says "kids will be what we teach them to be." There are 2 bills before Congress that would outlaw teen bullying in schools. The first is the Student Non-Discrimination Act (HR 4530), which would prohibit public schools from discriminating against students based on perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. The second is the Safe Schools Improvement Act (HR 1648 and S 503), which requires schools receiving federal funds to adopt policies that prohibit bullying based on a

Middlesex County NOW

PO Box 1432, Highland Park, NJ 08904



range of characteristics that are perceived to be gay. Stay tuned.

Did You Know?

63 to 71 % of rapists are serial offenders, committing an average of 6 rapes each. If their DNA evidence were tested without delay, it could mean a major difference in making women's lives safer. Unfortunately, there are huge backlogs of untested rape kits in most large cities around the country. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D – NY), authored the Sexual Assault Forensic Registry (SAFER) Act in 2010, which would appropriate funds to audit rape kit backlogs. It would also require the creation of a public online registry to track the progress of every collected rape kit. It is now before the Judiciary Committee. Per Maloney, "DNA evidence doesn't forget and it can't be intimidated."

News from India

There is a "mini-revolution" going on: female vigilante gangs. Among them is the *gulabis* or Pink Sari Gang in Uttar Pradesh's Bundelkhand district, one of India's poorest. Founder and commander Sampat Pal Devi, now 51, was wed at age 12. She started the group in 2006 as a "gang for justice," visiting domestic abusers and beating men if they didn't stop the abuse. Now 20,000 members strong,

the *gulabis* confront rapists, corrupt officials and businessmen, situations of dowry murder and child marriage, even the police. You can read about the Pink Saris in several places, among them: <http://www.slate.com/id/2260797> and <http://www.desiblitiz.com/content/womens-gang-in-pink-saris>. They also have a chapter in France. (From Ms. Magazine summer issue.)

We invite quest writers.

E-mail articles, poetry, and other items of interest to the chapter at the address below.

What issues would YOU like to see our chapter address?

Please reply to Middlesex@nownj.org.

How to Contact your State and National Legislators:

Go to www.Congress.org. Enter your zip code to find your legislators and their contact information.

We hope everyone is OK after Hurricane Irene, and we hope to see you at our September 12th meeting!