

Philadelphia NOW

Fall 2007



For further information about the demonstrations on October 27, go to <http://www.oct27.org/philadelphia>

To sign up for the NOW/CLUW block on the Human Chain for Peace, contact Kathy Black at 215/ 893-3770 or kblack@dc47.org.

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NOW & CLUW Endorse Oct 27 Human Chain for Peace

On Saturday, October 27, Philadelphia NOW will join with the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and dozens of other non-profit groups in the Human Chain for Peace and the **Mobilization to End the War in Iraq**. This anti-war demonstration in Philadelphia will be affiliated with mass actions in at least nine other cities across the country, including Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York City, Orlando, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Seattle. The demonstrations are being coordinated nationally by United for Peace and Justice, the largest coalition of peace organizations in the country.

In Philadelphia, the events will begin with a Human Chain for Peace that will stretch between the Federal Building at 6th St. and Market St and the Veterans Administration Hospital at 38th St. and Woodland Ave. The Human Chain will go past the offices of Senator Specter (6th and Market) and Senator Casey (20th and Market St.), and our message to them is clear and compelling: ***Stop funding the war in Iraq and fund human needs, including quality care for our veterans!***

NOW members and CLUW members will be “adopting” the block on Walnut St. between 22nd St. and 23rd St. Individuals are welcome to bring their own signs expressing opposition to the war and calling for funds for health care, education, etc. The October 27 planning committee will also make signs available for people. People joining the Human Chain for Peace are asked to **arrive at their block by 12:15** at the latest, so that the chain can be fully set up by 12:30.

**STOP
the War!**

More than 70 organizations have endorsed the October 27 mobilization in Philadelphia, and the list is growing rapidly. By having several dozen organizations and thousands of individuals stretching out for more than three miles across Philadelphia, we plan to demonstrate to our elected officials the breadth and depth of the

**Veterans need
\$\$ for quality care!**

opposition to this horrible war.

After the Human Chain for Peace is set up at 12:30, it will remain in place until 1:00. At 1:00, the western end of the chain at 38th St. will start marching along the route of the chain towards the eastern end at 6th and Market. People in the chain will wait in their block for the western end of the chain to arrive, and then they will join the march to 6th and Market. For those who can not walk the distance from their block to 6th and Market, SEPTA buses and trolley stops are near the chain route, and there are SEPTA subway stops at 5th and Market and 8th and Market. ***At 6th and Market, there will be a rally and festival for peace from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, with lots of music and poetry in addition to speakers.***

-by John Braxton

**Fund
Human Needs
Not War!**



Progress Report by Karen Bojar

Philadelphia NOW Endorsements for the November 6, 2007 general election:

CITY COUNCIL

- Blondell Reynolds Brown** (D at Large)
- Bill Greenlee** (D at Large)
- Maria Quinones-Sanchez** (D 7th District)
- Marian Tasco** (D 9th District)

PHILADELPHIA COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

- Linda Carpenter** (D)
- Ellen Green-Ceisler** (D)

PHILADELPHIA MUNICIPAL COURT

- Joyce Eubanks** (R)

Pennsylvania NOW Endorsements for the November 6, 2007 General Election:

PENNSYLVANIA SUPERIOR COURT

- Christine Donohue** (D)

Primary 2007 was a busy time for the Philadelphia NOW Political Action Committee (NOWPAC.) Several Philadelphia NOW members were running for office, including our Vice President for Membership, **Cindy Bass**. Although Cindy did not win a seat on city council, she ran a strong race and is in a good position to win next time around.

We honored Cindy and NOW member **Maria Quinones Sanchez**, who won a city council seat, at our very well-attended annual spring fundraiser. Maria's victory was especially gratifying. She ran a strong race for council in 2003, but came up short. This time she scored an impressive victory.

It's clear that we need to support our candidates who have run strong but unfortunately unsuccessful races. These are the candidates who are likely to make it the second time around. In addition to Maria, three

strong incumbent candidates supported by Philadelphia NOWPAC, **Blondell Reynolds Brown**, **Marion Tasco** and **Bill Greenlee** won re-election to council. In the judicial races, there was good news and bad news. Two of Philadelphia NOWPAC's endorsed candidates, **Linda Carpenter** and **Ellen Green Ceisler** won the Democratic Party nomination for the Court of Common Pleas. For both, it was their second run for the Court of Common Pleas. We hope that the excellent candidates we endorsed who did not win this time around will run again.

Joyce Eubanks did not win the Democratic nomination but she is cross listed on the Republican ballot and won the Republican nomination. Don't forget to vote for Joyce who will be running in the Republican column in November. This was just a strategic decision. Joyce is not in spirit a Republican!

However, it has become clear to us that we have to do something about the high cost of judicial elections. Philadelphia's new campaign finance laws applied to the mayor's race and city council races, but not to judicial elections. Successful candidates for the Court of Common Pleas were forced to raise and spend obscene amounts of money. One of the successful candidates spent \$500,000.00—a record for a local judicial race.

We hope that NOW members across the state will work for campaign finance reform in Pennsylvania. We need contribution limits and ultimately public financing of elections. It will be a long, difficult struggle but one we must wage if we are to elect more candidates of the caliber of our endorsed candidates. To learn more about the candidates endorsed by Philadelphia NOWPAC, please check out our primary election newsletter at www.philanow.org

The CARE Act- Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (PA House bill 288)

comes before the Pennsylvania House in the next several days. This bill would require all emergency rooms in Pennsylvania to make emergency contraception available to victims of sexual assault or rape. Approximately 50% of Pennsylvania hospitals do NOT currently do so. HB 288 seeks to remedy this alarming gap in protection for rape vic-

tims by requiring all Pennsylvania hospitals to provide the national standard of care as recognized by the American Medical Association, the American College of Emergency Physicians and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists. HB 288 ensures that rape victims will have access to emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy as a result of the rape

and have the opportunity to consult with a sexual assault counselor no matter which hospital in PA they go to or are brought to after being assaulted.

For more information, call Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates at: 717. 234. 3024.

Christine Donohue for Superior Court

by Lauren Townsend

We have a terrific candidate for the Pennsylvania Superior Court in Christine Donohue. Christine has been endorsed by Pennsylvania NOW, Liberty City, OutFront, ADA Southeastern PA, Young Philly Politics, the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and numerous labor organizations across the state. And she has the highest recommendation for the Superior Court by the Judicial Evaluation of the PA Bar Association.

Christine Donohue is listed in Best Lawyers in America, Pennsylvania Super Lawyers and Top 50 Attorneys in Pittsburgh. She's a past

President of the Western PA Trial Lawyers Association. In addition to practicing law as a trial lawyer for 27 years, Christine has been a guardian of ethics and has served on the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline, Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court, Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners and has been a teacher of Professional Responsibility at Duquesne University School of Law.

Until very recently when she had to step down because of her candidacy, Christine was a Democratic Committee Woman in Pittsburgh's 14th Ward.

She's the real deal. Christine's father was a coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers. Her mother was a seamstress and member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. Both instilled her with the importance of unions and of fairness.

Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania dominate in statewide elections and judicial candidates like Christine Donohue need women and progressives like us to do everything we can to get-out-the-vote in November and have that vote be for Christine and our Democratic ticket.



Christine Donohue (D), NOWPAC-endorsed candidate for PA Superior Court

Why does Superior Court Matter?

By Lauren Townsend

Have you ever seen the case load of important cases the Pennsylvania Superior Court hears? In 2006, the court heard over 8,000 cases and about 25% of the cases came out of Philadelphia County alone. That's why Philadelphians need to care about the courts.

Did you know that **ALL requests from state law enforcement to use wiretaps are granted or denied by the Superior Court?** Or that, unlike the Pennsylvania Su-

preme Court that hears cases of its choosing, **the Superior Court hears ALL appeals that come out of Pennsylvania Common Pleas Courts?**

There is a wide array of cases appealed to the Superior Court, many of which are important to the lives of women.

Cases appealed to the Superior Court include rape, child support, custody/visitation, harassment, pro-

tection from abuse, medical malpractice, murder, burglary and numerous other criminal and civil cases.

Our system of checks and balances is vital.

VOTE
Nov 6!

"Cases appealed to the Superior Court include rape, child support, custody/visitation, harassment,

protection from abuse, medical malpractice, murder, burglary . . ."

" . . . ALL requests from state law enforcement to use wiretaps are granted or denied by the Superior Court. . ."

Vote "NO" on Judge Deni

Judge Teresa Carr Deni dropped all sex and assault charges against a defendant accused of forcing a prostitute at gunpoint to have sex with him and three other men. Instead, she charged him with armed robbery for "theft of services." Jill Porter, in the Philadelphia Daily News, reports Assistant District Attorney Rich DeSipio as saying that Judge Deni's ruling was based, not on the law, but on moral contempt. DeSipio plans to reinstate charges in front of another judge. Porter ends her article by writing, "Hopefully, the next judge will be able to differentiate between a violated business agreement and a violent attack."

See <http://go.philly.com/porter>

NOW Member Elected to Head Major Union

by Lindsay Schmidt (NOW intern)

Cathy Scott, an active Philadelphia NOW member was recently elected President of AFSCME District Council 47, which consists of nine local unions, primarily representing City workers. She is the first woman NOW member to head a major union in the Philadelphia area, so I was interested in finding out more about her. Below is my interview with Cathy.

Can you tell me a little bit about your union, the members, and your responsibilities as president?

I am the chief administrative officer of the council, which consists of nine locals representing approximately 6500 members. I am responsible for negotiating contracts for all nine locals, and most locals have several employers and contracts. I also serve as chairperson of the Union's Health and Welfare fund and the Legal Services fund.

What type of jobs do your members do, and what percentage are women?

Unfortunately, we do not keep those statistics, but I would say more than 55% are women. It is a very diverse group as far as job titles. The jobs run the gamut from social workers in the Department of Human Services to Probation Officers to animal keepers at the Philadelphia Zoo. Some members are first level supervisors and most are professionals, though others are para-professionals and clerical employees. Local 2187, of which I was formerly the president, has four contracts which will all expire next year. Included are City of Philadelphia professional employees, as well as those who work for the Housing Authority, Parking Authority, and Phila. Commercial Development Corp.

What is your job history, and why did you first get involved in your union?

After graduating from Penn State University with a BA in Sociology, I went to work with the Commonwealth of PA as a caseworker in the Dept of Public Welfare. Later, I began working for the City of Philadelphia as a Social Worker at the Phila. Prisons. I became steward which is the first level of Union representation. From there I became a chief steward and executive board member in Local 2187. I was Vice President of DC 47 for 6 years and then in 1993 was elected President of Local 2187. I became involved in the Union because of frustrations in doing my job as a social worker. I saw the Union as an organization which could force City management to do what it was legally obligated to do.

When did you first get involved in the women's movement in general and NOW in particular?

I became active in women's issues in college since the civil rights movement and women's movements were occurring simultaneously in the 1960's. I was aware of the disparity in funding for women's sports and the lack of scholarships for women for college. I have been a NOW member since the 1980's and have been very active in the pro-choice movement since then also.

What connections do you see between the Labor Movement and the Women's movement and what priorities do you see for each?

I belong to a union which has a long history of supporting women's issues. AFSCME has stood up for many controversial issues (pro-choice, supporting gay, lesbian, transgender rights, pushing for FMLA and its expansion,

etc). While all unions don't have this record, AFSCME does. Labor's priorities are reestablishing the right of workers to join a union, universal health care, saving social security and Medicare, strong laws against domestic violence and workplace violence, stopping discrimination especially concerning sexual orientation, extending benefits to domestic partners, raising the minimum wage, expanding child care availability, and stopping the erosion of the US industrial base. As you can see, all of these issues benefit women and are issues which the women's movement is fighting to achieve.

How long is your term of office and what do you hope to accomplish?

My term is 3 years. I want to negotiate fair contracts for all our local members which include reasonable wage and benefit increases and job protections. I want to see District Council 47 grow by organizing more members since I believe that unionization is the vehicle for dignity at work for workers. Also, social justice is of great importance to me. As an example, I think that everyone is entitled to health care so I work for single payer universal health care in this country. I see unions as the strongest force of the progressive political movement and a counterbalance to the reactionary elements which have stripped away most of the benefits of the working class in our country.

*A Woman's Place is in
..the House...& the Senate. .
.& her union. .& City Council . . .& the Bench*

U.S. Immigration Policy: the Impact on Women and Families



Olga Vives, Vice-President of the National Organization for Women, and Maria Quinones Sánchez, Democratic nominee for City Council spoke at a very well attended forum on "U.S. Immigration Policy: the Impact on Women and Families" on October 16 at Community College of Philadelphia.

Olga Vives, who is a national leader in the immigrants' rights movement, provided the national perspective and Maria Quinones Sánchez, who has worked with Philadelphia area groups on this issue, provided the local perspective.

National NOW has taken the position that immigrants' rights issues are women's issues and has condemned the devastating impact on women and families of current U.S. immigration policy.

What follows is the NOW statement on the Deportation of Immigrant Rights Advocate Elvira Arellano.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) is urging its members to speak out against the recent deportation of immigrant rights activist Elvira Arellano, president of La Familia Latina Unida (United Latino Family). La Familia lobbies on

behalf of families that could be split up because of deportation.

Arellano, an undocumented worker who took refuge in a Chicago church last August to prevent being separated from her U.S.-born son, was deported to Mexico after she left the church in order to lobby House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for fair and comprehensive immigration reform. Arellano's case represents one of many in which mothers are being separated from their children and deported without any consideration being for the rights and needs of their minor children who are U.S. citizens.

"It is an outrage that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE), in a deplorable operation called 'Return to Sender' is violating the rights of U.S. born children and placing their well-being in jeopardy. In a cold-hearted and punitive manner, ICE ignores pleas from mothers and fathers who have lived, worked, paid taxes and formed families in this country not to be separated from their dependent children," says Olga Vives, Executive Vice President of NOW.

NOW's response to the Arellano case is part of the organization's larger call for an immediate moratorium on the immigration raids and deportations that have been devastating families and communities across the United

States, and our call for the U.S. government to pass real immigration reform. Fair reform must address many issues, including a way to afford families like the Arellanos, with U.S.-born children, a path to legalization, residency and citizenship.

NOW recognizes the contributions of immigrant women and encourages equitable and fair immigration policies that provide legal and safe immigration options, a path to citizenship, reproductive freedom and economic justice, and urges Congress to enact real, just and humane immigration reform legislation.

For a full report on points raised at the forum and audience responses, go to www.philanow.blogspot.com

"It is an outrage that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE), in a deplorable operation called 'Return to Sender' is violating the rights of U.S. born children. . . "



Membership Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip Code: _____
Daytime Telephone No.: _____
Evening Telephone No.: _____
E-mail address: _____

Change of address? List your new info here, and send this form to the address listed below.

- \$35 Membership Dues OR
- \$15-\$34 Sliding Scale Dues (amount enclosed \$_____)
- Enclosed is a donation of \$_____ in support of Philadelphia NOW
- I am already a NOW member. Affiliate me with the Philadelphia Chapter (PA0450).
- I am already a NOW member. Add me to the chapter e-mail list.
- Yes! I am interested in volunteering! (Preferred activity, if any: _____

_____)

**Make checks payable and mail to:
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Oct 27 Human Chain for Peace
VOTE on November6!