



Morris County NOW

News & Updates

April 2024



Editor: Susan J. Waldman, President

EARTHQUAKES, ECLIPSES, APRIL "SHOWERS"...

WHAT ELSE DOES APRIL HAVE IN STORE FOR US?

How about Equal Pay? From the U.S. Census Bureau, according to the [National Committee on Pay Equity](#) (NCPE), Equal Pay Day in 2024 was Tuesday, March 12, 2024. (I know I'm a month late, but it used to be in April. At least that's an improvement.) "This date symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. Equal Pay Day was originated by the NCPE in 1996 as a public awareness event to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages. (It was originally called 'National Pay Inequity Awareness Day' and changed to Equal Pay Day in 1998.) Since Census statistics showing the latest wage figures will not be available until late August or September, NCPE leadership decided years ago to select a Tuesday in April [now March] as Equal Pay Day. (Tuesday was selected to represent how far into the next work week women must work to earn what men earned the previous week.) The date also is selected to avoid religious holidays and other significant events. Because women earn less, on average, than men, they must work longer for the same amount of pay. The wage gap is even greater for most women of color." The March 12 date is described as "All Women's Equal Pay Day." For many women their Equal Pay Day is a lot different:

- ◇ Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Women's Equal Pay Day—April 3
- ◇ Black Women's Equal Pay Day—July 9
- ◇ Moms' Equal Pay Day—Aug. 7 (The wage gap for working mothers.)
- ◇ Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Women's Equal Pay Day—Aug. 28
- ◇ Latina Equal Pay Day—Oct. 3
- ◇ Native Women's Equal Pay Day—Nov. 21

TAKE ACTION: Contact your Congressperson* and ask them to support the Paycheck Fairness Act [HR 17](#). This Act was introduced on March 10, 2023, and, on the same day, referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability "for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned." Over a year of non-action. This is a shameful disregard of women.

***District 7**

Thomas Kean, Jr., 251 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, Phone: (202)225-5361

***District 11**

Mikie Sherrill, 1427 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, Phone: (202) 225-5034

To email your Representatives go to their respective websites and use the email form.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are participating in the Randolph Township townwide garage sale on **Saturday, April 20, 2024**. We will be selling a combination of COSTUME JEWELRY, various NOW memorabilia, antiques and more. The sale runs from 9AM to 4PM. Helpers are needed throughout the day. Breakfast and lunch served. Call Susan J. Waldman, 973 895-2218, to volunteer. Thank You!



HELP MORRIS COUNTY NOW CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH

On June 22, 2024, Morris County NOW is tabling at Morris County PRIDE at County College of Morris. The event runs from 1PM to 7PM with an earlier set up. We have tabled at this event in the past, and it's always a fun day. More information to follow. We need volunteers. Call Susan J. Waldman, 973-895-2218 if you can help. Thanks.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FOLLOW UP

Thank you to our marchers: Nancy Critchley, Nanette Pinto and her friend Edward MacGregor, and myself. Special thanks to our experienced driver, Karen Lontka, and for the use of her car for our "float." Parade day was chilly and damp. At position 12 in Division 3, we were closer to the beginning of the parade and stepped off about 20 minutes earlier than usual. The parade seemed to move quicker than in prior years, most likely due to the rain, which started as a heavy mist shortly before we stepped off. I tried to convince myself that it was good for my complexion. Also, there were around 12 fewer groups than last year. We received lots of cheers and one misguided BOO. Thank you to Nancy Critchley for picking up our passes at the mandatory meeting. In spite of the weather, we all had a great time. And now for something completely different...this year's parade was run by women with an unexpected consequence...the chapter received a thank you card for our participation. The closing salutation: "See you next year." A very nice touch!



GET INVOLVED WITH MORRIS COUNTY NOW AND TAKE ACTION

Federal legislation called the Stop Antiabortion Disinformation Act (SAD—H.R. 2736/S.1231) [HR 2736/S 1231](#) was introduced in both houses on April 20, 2023. The Senate bill is sponsored by Senator Robert Menendez and co-sponsored by Cory Booker; the House bill is co-sponsored by Mikie Sherrill, Josh Gottheimer, and Bonnie Watson-Coleman. Both bills were referred to committee with no action taken since they were introduced.

However, the fight against Crisis Pregnancy Centers, AKA Fake Clinics, has been heating up. According to a January 14, 2024, article in the *Daily Record*, "There are more than 50 crisis pregnancy centers in the state, outnumbering clinics that provide abortions, with at least one in every county." A Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey report indicates that there are two in Morris County, Birthright (<https://birthright.org/learn/>) in Dover and First Choice Women's Resource Center (<https://1stchoice.org/about/>) in Morristown. The Morristown location's website says that they have "over 30 years of experience providing free and confidential services in North/Central Jersey." That's way too long. Last October Rep. Josh Gottheimer toured area crisis pregnancy centers "to call attention to their deceptive marketing practices" (*Daily Record*). An article in the December 17, 2023, *Star Ledger*, states, "The state Attorney General's Office is investigating First Choice Women's Resource Centers for potentially violating New Jersey anti-consumer fraud laws." "The inquiry appears related to a controversial practice known as "abortion pill reversal." This investigation is ongoing.

Help us fight against fake clinics. Can you organize some sort of action or a letter-writing campaign? Have another idea? Let us know if you can take the lead on this increasingly important issue, especially in light of the country's abortion situation.

ANOTHER WAY TO GET INVOLVED

Morris County NOW is a member of the NJ Time to Care Coalition <https://www.njtimetocare.org/about-us>. Per their website they are a diverse group working to improve programs and policies to ensure that all working families have paid time to care. They were instrumental in passing paid NJ Family Leave Insurance in 2008, the statewide Earned Sick Leave law in 2018, and the expansion and improvement of Family Leave Insurance in 2019! Presently they are working to do outreach and education and help improve implementation of our state's paid sick and paid family leave law and program. They also collaborate with the [New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development](#) (DOL).

Their current priority is to have job protection for workers across all NJ paid leave programs. Too often workers are afraid to lose their jobs, resulting in fewer folks utilizing their benefits when they need it the most. Additionally, those who are employed at a workplace that has fewer than 30 people and those who have worked for less than a year aren't currently eligible. We must invest in working families in order to build a healthy, equitable, and caring economy for all.

Morris County NOW does not have a representative attending their meetings. Would YOU be interested in taking on that role? As you can see, they are an organization with many accomplishments. Meetings are on Zoom and occur monthly. Please email the chapter, morriscountynow@gmail.com if you are interested.