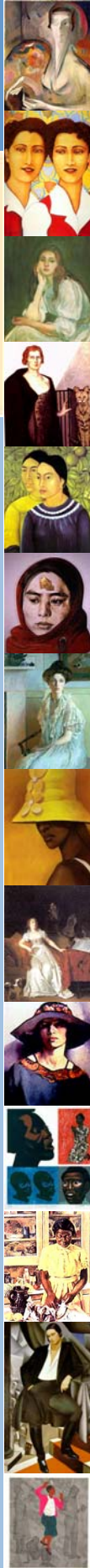




The Gill Perspective



Women Make A Difference



The full heritage of our state has roots saturated with the relevant and necessary presence of women. Long before the existence of the halls of the State Legislature, there was the Land of the Lenape in what we now call New Jersey. A society whose existence dwarfs that of the United States by more than 12,000 years. It was matrilineal in nature; a matriarchal society. Women were pivotal in New Jersey before we even knew it as "New Jersey."

The role of women in our society is not one that can be ignored. We fought in wars, educated our future generations, led slaves to freedom, were ridiculed for the redemption of others, risked our lives for the right to vote, created laws for equality, and

gave our lives so that others may live. We have borne witness to the unmentionable. We have birthed and nurtured the leaders of our great nation. We have a long heritage of success that has changed America for the better.

Throughout history our accomplishments illuminate an intricate patchwork that knits together each part of society as we know it; domestically, politically, economically, socially, scholastically, and spiritually. Women create the beautiful mosaic of American society.

I find that this year's theme for Women's History Month, *Women Change America*, rings out a truth that sends a clarion call of action to our generation of women. We are 48th in the

nation for women's participation in politics. While 63 percent of women in our state are registered to vote, only 44% actually get to the polls. We have no women in our congressional delegation. We rank first in the nation for women with HIV & AIDS. These are things that we can and must change.

We have always been at the forefront of social transformation. Let us take this time to celebrate the significant contributions that women made to this nation. Let us continue the legacy of weaving this fine tapestry known as American society.

Sincerely,

Mia H. Gill



Gill Featured Speaker at United Nations Event

As part of the United Nations 49th Commission on the Status of Women, Senator Gill was the featured speaker at The Second Annual International Brunch and Roundtable Dialogues on March 6, 2005 at the UN Plaza. The theme for this year was *Gender Equality/Empowerment of Women: Health, Education,*

Leadership and Economic Development. Gill addressed the women's roundtable on the subject of empowering of women as agents of change.

She was also presented with the "Distinguished International Award" in recognition of profound commitment, advocacy, and exceptional legislative leadership by the International Affairs Division of the National Association of Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., a sponsor of the event.



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Senator Gill's Committees

- Senate Judiciary Committee
- Senate Commerce Committee, vice chair
- Legislative Services Commission
- Casino Review Fund Advisory Commission.
- Senate Legislative Oversight Committee

Women of The 34th District Making A Difference

Jeanine B. Downie, M.D. has been the director of her own practice, image Dermatology, in Montclair, New Jersey for the past five years. Dr.



Downie's extensive training and experience in all aspects of dermatology, cosmetic dermatology, laser and dermatologic surgery allows her to provide both adult and pediatric patients with competent and compassionate care utilizing the most medically advanced techniques.

Some of her many television appearances include The View with Barbara Walters, the Today Show, Good Day New York, Living It Up with Ali and Jack, BET News, the Discovery Health Network, Fox 5 LIVE News, and Channel 7 Eyewitness News. Her work on a story about melanoma which appeared on MSG Network and Fox 5 Sports



was nominated for an Emmy.

Dr. Downie shares her medical expertise with many radio programs across the nation including CNN Radio, WABC Radio in Dallas, the Bev Smith Show in Ohio, KAHJ-AM in California, and WBLS and KISS-FM in New York. It is not uncommon to see her quoted in magazines such as *Essence*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Ladies Homes Journal*, *Elle*, and *O*, The Oprah Winfrey Magazine. Her first book, *Beautiful Skin of Color*, a comprehensive skin care guide for Asian, Olive and Dark Skin, was released in April 2004 by Harper Collins.

Bobbi Brown, a Montclair resident, is a successful business entrepreneur and CEO of Bobbi Brown Cosmetics. The beginning of Bobbi's career as a makeup artist in New York City clearly signaled the onset of a great future, as she landed an editorial shoot with Brooke Shields for



YM magazine, a six-page beauty spread in *Vogue*, and subsequently a *Vogue* magazine cover, all within just a few years. However, it was her collaboration



with a chemist to create 10 super-wearable lipstick colors which became legendary that catapulted her career. In 1991, the debut of the Bobbi Brown essentials line of 10 lipsticks at

Bergdorf Goodman in New York City received rave reviews. Within two years the Bobbi Brown essential line obtained a counter at Neiman Marcus, where it became the number one selling beauty business in 1995. That same year she sold her beauty empire to Estee Lauder, Inc., but retained control of her company.

She has authored three books, *The Ultimate Resource*, *Bobbi Brown Teenage Beauty: Everything You Need to Look Pretty, Natural, Sexy & Awesome*, and *Bobbi Brown Beauty Evolution: A Guide to a Lifetime of Beauty*, with the latter two making the New York Times Best Seller List.

Gill Sponsors Bill to Combat Human Trafficking

More than 140 years ago, our country fought a devastating war to rid ourselves of slavery, and to prevent those who supported it from dividing our nation. Although we succeeded in eliminating the state-sanctioned practice, today, human slavery has returned as a growing global threat to the lives and freedom of millions women, and children.



In response to this growing trend, Senator Gill introduced S1848 to combat the international trend of human trafficking. The United States estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 victims are trafficked internationally each year with 70 percent of them being female and half of them children. A majority of those women and girls are forced into prostitution.

Senator Gill's bill was released from a state Senate committee on February 3,

2005, the same day law enforcement officials arrested a Union City woman and are searching for two other suspects and charged them with forcing dozens of Honduran women and girls, some as young as 14, to work as indentured servants at a Union City bar. The women were urged to turn to prostitution to pay \$20,000 to smugglers. Media reports indicate the women could have been held against their will for as long as two years.

The Union City arrests are only the latest in New Jersey. Three years ago an international human-trafficking prostitution ring was uncovered in Plainfield.

Of the 45,000 to 50,000 women who are trafficked yearly in the United States, about 7,000 to 8,000 arrive in the New York/New Jersey area. About 4,000 are forced to work as indentured



servants in go-go bars, strip clubs, escort services and massage parlors. Women have been beaten and even murdered for trying to escape their captors in the sex trade.

There is currently no state law specific to human trafficking. Law enforcement authorities must seek prosecutions on underlying charges such as prostitution, kidnapping or criminal restraint.

Senator Gill's bill would make human trafficking a first degree crime punishable by a prison sentence of 30 years to life with no parole eligibility for at least 30 years.

The bill would also provide penalties of up to 10 years in prison and a \$200,000 fine for anyone who held a person's passport or similar government-issued document in an attempt to force them into work.

Achievements of New Jersey Women

1778

The legendary Molly Pitcher (Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley, 1754-1832) brought water to troops at the Battle of Monmouth (June 28, 1778) and took her husband's place after he was wounded. She was awarded a state pension in 1822.



1785

Sculptor and widow, Rachel Lovell Wells (1735-1796) of Bordentown, submitted the first of three petitions to the New Jersey Legislature requesting repayment of money she had lent it for the war effort. Her petition was denied.

1821

Jarena Lee (1783 - ?), the first known woman preacher of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, began leading prayer meetings in Snow Hill.

1852

New Jersey's first "Married Women's Property Act" was passed by the legislature, granting married women the right to hold and control property they brought into marriage.

1858

Lucy Stone (1818-1893), abolitionist and women's rights advocate, refused to pay real estate taxes on her home in East Orange to protest New Jersey women's disenfranchisement and charged taxation without representation.



1869

Antoinette Brown Blackwell (1825-1921) of Somerville, the first ordained woman minister in the United States, helped to found the American Women's Suffrage Association.

1882

Elizabeth Almira Allen (1854-1919), a teachers' rights advocate, became vice-president of the New Jersey Teachers' Association and later the first president of the New Jersey Education Association.



1895

Mary Philbrook (1872-1958) became the

first New Jersey woman lawyer to gain admittance to the bar as a result of an enabling act of the legislature.

1896

The New Jersey legislature granted women the legal right to their earnings and wages as separate property.

1901

Nurse Clara Louise Maass (1876-1901) of East Orange volunteered to participate in an immunization experiment against yellow fever in Cuba.



1920

The New Jersey became the 29th state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to the vote.

1922

Nellie Morrow Parker (1902-) surmounted controversy to become the first African American public school teacher in Bergen County.



1924

Mary T. Norton was elected to the House of Representatives from the 12th Congressional District of New Jersey. She was the first woman not succeeding her husband to be elected to the U.S. Congress, after 1920.

1934

Mary Norton was elected the first woman to serve as state chair at the Democratic Party State Convention in Trenton.

1941

African American historian and teacher, Marion Thompson Wright, (1902-1962) of Newark, wrote her path-breaking doctoral dissertation, "The Education of Negroes in New Jersey" to become the first black historian to receive a Ph.D. from Columbia University.

1946

Libby E. Sachar (1904-1994), South Plainfield, was the first woman appointed to the bench in New Jersey, serving as a

judge from 1946 to 1956.

1950

Frances Elkus White (1906-1985) became the first woman mayor of a New Jersey city (Red Bank).

1963

New Jersey Congresswoman Florence Price Dwyer (1902-1976) sponsored successful federal equal pay legislation.

1965

The state legislature was enlarged and new districts were drawn, providing the opportunity for the election of Mildred Barry Hughes (1902-1995), a Democrat from Elizabeth, as the first woman elected to the New Jersey Senate.

1971

Wynona Lipman (c. 1929-1999), became the first African American woman elected to the New Jersey Senate, serving nine terms representing the 29th Legislative District.

1982

Marie L. Garibaldi (1934-), a native of Jersey City, was sworn in as the first woman to serve on the New Jersey Supreme Court.

1993

Christine Todd Whitman (1946-), a Somerset County Republican, was elected the first female governor of the state.

1999

Evelyn Dubrow (1912 -), noted journalist and Women's labor union lobbyist from Passaic, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President William J. Clinton.

2000

Novelist and Princeton University Humanities Professor Toni Morrison won the National Humanities Medal as the most renowned black woman writer, 2000.





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Remembering Shirley Chisholm: "Unbought and Unbossed" A True Catalyst For Change

Shirley Chisholm was more than the first African-American woman elected to Congress and more than the first African American to run for President. She proved that the daughter of a factory worker and seamstress could challenge the institution of government and make elected officials pay attention to the concerns of minorities, of women and of children.

Congresswoman Chisholm once said: "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas."

The things she stood and advocated for are just as relevant today as they were 43 years ago.

Those who wish to honor Shirley Chisholm's legacy today would do so by getting involved in the political process and working to make their communities better



Legislative Update: Bills Sponsored by Gill

S836 which makes changes to the "New Jersey Women's Micro-Business Assistance Act" was signed into law on December 22, 2004. This new law establishes a permanent program, to assist potential female entrepreneurs who have little or no prior business experience. Participants must be self-motivated, willing to undertake an extensive training program, and willing to receive technical assistance that helps them gain the necessary experience to start a successful business. The program is funded through grants given to certified nonprofit community development corporations ("certified corporations") or an organizations whose primary objective is to support and encourage business ownership by women.

S470 Provides two alternative credits under the gross income tax for the ex-

penses of dependent care that enables taxpayers to be gainfully employed. The first credit is allowed to taxpayers based on a percentage of their expenses for the care of their dependents. The second credit singles out the care provided to dependent children under the age of 13 and provides a separate, heightened credit for the expenses of child care provided by a child care center accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs.

S2161 Provides that violating a domestic violence order issued in another jurisdiction would constitute contempt of a domestic violence order in New Jersey.

S2283 This bill extends up to age 30 the coverage provided to certain dependents under health benefits plans issued by health insurers, including hospital service corporations, medical service corporations, health

service corporations, commercial insurers, health maintenance organizations and health benefits plans issued pursuant to the New Jersey Individual Health Coverage Program, the New Jersey Small Employer Health Benefits Program and the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program.

S2426 Creates the Office on Women's Research and Policy in the Division on Women in the Department of Community Affairs. The objective of this office will be to stimulate and encourage statewide study and review of the status of women. Its primary functions will involve collaboration with state agencies and affiliated groups for research and dissemination of information, identifying gaps in existing data on women in order to provide a complete spectrum for policy makers.

Front Page Artwork

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| 1. Self-Portrait of Alice Bailly | 5. <i>Two Women</i> by Frida Kahlo | 10. Self Portrait of Mabel Alvarez |
| 2. <i>Las Quatas Diego</i> by Cecelia Alvarez | 6. <i>A Third World</i> by Hung Liu | 11. <i>Singing Their Songs</i> by Elizabeth Catlett |
| 3. <i>Julie Daydreaming</i> by Berthe Marisot | 7. <i>Lady With a Bowl of Violets</i> by Lilla Cabot Perry | 12. <i>Jenny</i> by Lois Maylou Jones |
| 4. <i>Portrait of Emile d'Erlanger</i> by Romaine Brooks | 8. <i>Yellow Hat</i> by Laurie Cooper. | 13. <i>The Duchess de la Salle</i> by Tamara de Lempika |
| | 9. <i>Prelude to a Concert</i> by Marguerite Gerard | 14. <i>Walking Blindly</i> by Elizabeth Catlett |