

## Girl Engineer

# Enters Field on a Dare; Now Candidate for Degree

By DAN SCHLOSSBERG  
Herald-News Staff Writer

An attractive Passaic girl who got into engineering on a dare will graduate from George Washington University next spring with a string of honors—and a degree in mechanical engineering.

Miss Karen Spindel, who will be 21, July 31, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Spindel, 56 Amsterdam Ave. She inherited an interest in engineering from her dad, who is parts manager at Irwin Chevrolet, Passaic.

When she did well in science and math at Passaic High School, she began to think seriously about going into the field. Some of her relatives

IN ADDITION to winning full tuition scholarships this year and last year, she was elected secretary of Sigma Tau, the engineering honorary fraternity, and received the coveted Woman's Badge from Tau Beta Pi, engineering counterpart of Phi Beta Kappa. Only 600 women hold this honor, and Karen is the first

things mechanical, but Karen doesn't fool anyone in a bathing suit. She's spending her sixth summer as a nursery counselor at a cabana club in West Orange.

She enjoys other things, too: window shopping, adding to her collection of 28 pairs of shoes, talking with her roommates into the wee hours of the morning, and especially cooking and sampling her own work.

She also has the distinction of being the only girl at GW who carries a slide-rule in her pocketbook.

KAREN TREASURES the thank-you note she received from Ethel Kennedy this spring after she and her roommate, Myra Brown of Fairfield, Conn., were recruited for on-the-air work at the Junior Village telethon sponsored by the Kennedys in the school's Lisner Auditorium.

Celebrities she worked with included Woody Allen, Robert Morse, Jack Paar, John Glenn, Andy Williams, Claudine Longet, the Smothers Brothers and the Jefferson Airplane.

Among other things, Karen likes tootsie pops, ice cream pops, and popcorn.

"I LIKE STUFF that has pop in it," she says. Engineering certainly does, especially for a girl who likes excitement in her life. She has so much excitement this summer, though, that she seldom has time to argue politics or root for her ball club, the Minnesota Twins (she once had a crush on twins, she explained).

In addition to her six-day-a-week job, she has just completed a three-week chemistry course at Seton Hall — to boost her engineering credits.

All because her uncle said he'd eat his hat if Karen went into engineering.

## Fair Day In Ringwood Saturday

**Skyline Lakes  
Clubwomen Sponsor  
Annual Event**

Skyline Lakes Woman's Club will hold a Country Fair



Karen Spindel

and teachers urged her not to. "Engineering is for men," they said, and Karen thought about it.

"I first applied as a Russian major," she recalled, "but then I decided not to give in to all the badgering and teasing and go into engineering."

"When I started, I didn't expect to last more than a year, but I wanted to try. If I had gone into something else, I'd never be satisfied. I wanted to know how I would do in engineering."

THREE OTHER girls also tried it during Karen's first three years at GW. One transferred to Newark College of Engineering, one became a French major, and the other flunked out. For most of her college career, Karen has been the only girl engineer competing with 250 boys.

from the Washington, D.C. school ever to win it.

Her list of courses reads like a physics book: thermodynamics; vibration theory; incompressible fluid flow; compressible fluid flow (the other half of the fluid course); network theory; field, waves, and configurations; and even more unlikely titles. But she enjoys them all — and likes the all-male competition.

"As a girl, I had a desire to excel in an all-male field," she says. "If I were a boy, I never would have gone into engineering."

HER "OPPOSITION" accepts her now, however.

"They think of me as one of the guys," she says.

It is true she likes to wear dungarees, and knows about cars, fuse boxes, and most

# Freeholder's letter protested

The Herald-News: As Passaic County citizens involved in the struggle to provide a facility for battered wives, we object to the tone of J.R. Russo's letter (Nov. 7).

Freeholder Russo criticizes Ms. Duras for the amount of time she spends to argue with him and others involved on behalf of battered women. He accuses her of soliciting a patronage job because, by his inference, there is no such thing as an altruistic motive.

We would ask Mr. Russo whether

he feels that political favors motivate us, or the many others who are working on the problem, or the more-than-700 citizens who signed a petition for a shelter? Does he really think we're looking for jobs? Can't he understand the phenomenon of people giving time to a cause they feel is important?

Mr. Russo has grossly insulted a fine person, Passaic County needs more citizens like Gayle Duras who will not be cowed by personal at-

tacks, and who will continue to question public officials.

DOROTHY DONOFRIO  
KAREN SPINDEL  
JOE O'CONNOR  
RUTH MULDOFSKY  
JACKIE MILLER  
ROSEMARIE TRULAND  
CAROLINE FERRETTI  
LINDA MAURO  
BARBARA SAGE  
MICHAEL TRULAND  
RITA O'CONNOR

Passaic



**WORLD**

*Aquino urges 'a little more patience'*  
— Page 5



**LOCAL**

*Nun tells of hardships in aiding refugees*  
— Page 9



*Flyers rip Rangers  
to stay in 1st place*

— Page 23

**SPORTS**

Paterson's  
own newspaper

# The News

**Weather**  
Cloudy  
Showers likely tonight;  
Chance of showers tomorrow  
Details: Page 12

28 PAGES

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AP Laserphoto

Members of the National March for Women's Lives walk down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., toward the Capitol yesterday.

## Sacrificing Sunday sleep for their cause

By MEG NUGENT  
and IVETTE MENDEZ

Staff writers

If you cherish sleep and a day off, scrambling out of bed on a Sunday to catch a 6 a.m. bus to the nation's capital requires strong motivation.

For 32 residents of Passaic and Bergen counties, a chance to "March for Women's Lives" yesterday in Washington, D.C., was worth

the loss of sack time.

*'We're talking  
about a right  
people already  
have'*

— Rita O'Connor

Billed as the largest demonstration of support for birth control and legal abortion in U.S. history, the four-hour walk from the National Mall to the Capitol boasted as many as 120,000 participants.

And many of the Passaic-Bergen contingents were more than willing to discuss why as they prepared to leave from Wayne's Willowbrook

See LOCAL, Page 2

# March for a choice

## Rally supports abortion rights

By IVETTE MENDEZ

Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Tens of thousands of women from across the country converged on the capital yesterday for an abortion-rights march, protesting Reagan administration policies they say undercut women's rights.

To chants of "Not the church, not the state; women must decide their fate," the demonstrators marched almost 3 miles through the streets in a route that took them past the White House before a rally on the steps of the Capitol.

The marchers, who included groups representing feminists, gays, and labor activists as well as more than 100 student delegations, held placards, banners, and other visible expressions of their view.

These ranged from the longtime symbol for peace to coat hangers painted red. Hangers were long used to perform back-alley abortions.

One large black banner, held by women dressed in white to symbolize the feminist movement back to the suffragettes, stated: "In memory of all women who have died from illegal abortion."

"Oooh, no ambiguity in that statement," remarked a man to his female companion as they passed the banner.

A smattering of pro-life supporters who oppose abortion stood briefly in the mall area before the march began. The members

See NOW, Page 2

# Local NOW members 'marching for lives'

Continued from Page 1

Mall on the long bus trip to the rally.

"We're talking about a right that people already have," said Rita O'Connor, membership coordinator of the Passaic County chapter of the National Organization for Women.

"We're not talking about fighting to get a right — it's that other people are fighting to take away

that right," she added, referring to pro-life groups lobbying to make abortion and birth control illegal.

"I think it's paramount because it really is what it says — a march for women's lives," said county NOW member Linda Mauro as she passed out bagels and song sheets to bus passengers.

While Mauro worked the back of the bus as self-designated host, NOW colleague Gayle Duran work-

ed the front with a supply of orange juice, cups, and pecan cookies.

"Since '69 I've been doing this. I'm a veteran of many movements," the 35-year-old Duran said in response to comments about her food supply from a passenger who came unprepared.

"I'm here to keep a right to choose," Duran said of her reasons for the trip., "And I'd like to see a

nice turnout at the demonstration so that everyone can see that the majority still has the right to choose."

"That's right," said Clifton resident Karen Spindel. "And when you're stripped of one right, you could be stripped of another."

"We need a big turnout because it's important that people see we are the majority."

# NOW reports renewed interest

By Jennifer Delson  
Staff Writer

## Most callers angered over Thomas hearings

After spending hours watching the testimony of Anita Hill, Clarence Thomas and their respective supporters, some local residents were mad and decided they couldn't take it anymore.

So they called the National Organization for Women.

They grumbled about the Senate's approval of Hill, they looked for open ears for their years-old complaints of sexual harassment on their own jobs and they asked how they could advance the status of women in society.

The televised controversy brought national attention to questions about sexual harassment and is expected to boost NOW's membership rolls at the

county, state and federal levels.

"We've been getting lots of calls," said Barbara Simon, coordinator of the 650-member North Jersey Chapter of NOW. "I've answered at least 25 telephone calls in the last week."

Simon is responding by sending out membership material.

Passaic County's NOW chapter also received calls after the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Thomas' confirmation for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Karen Spindel, the membership coordinator for the Passaic County chapter, said she re-

ceived 25 calls, four times the usual number.

"Our chapter increased between 25 and 40 percent since the Webster decision," she said, referring to the 1987 Supreme Court decision giving states the right to ban abortions. "I'm expecting this Clarence Thomas thing to have a similar effect."

Spindel said many callers told her they were disgusted by the Senate approval of Thomas for the Supreme Court. One woman who called told her that she had been sexually harassed for years by the superintendent of her apartment building. Another caller was 16 years old. A previously inactive member called to get involved in the organization again.

The calls to Spindel resembled a sample of the nearly 200 calls received at the state NOW office.

"Many of the women are saying this happened to me," said Donna Puluka, president of NOW-NJ. "They are outraged the way Hill was treated and

they were mad about Thomas."

Ocean County NOW coordinator Tara Maffei said she received 47 telephone messages on her answering machine after being away for a day.

"Most of the messages said that the women wanted to be more involved, to speak out," she said.

Around the country, the response was equally strong.

A representative for NOW's national office in Washington, D.C. reported that last weekend when the Thomas hearings were broadcast on television, 400 people called and joined. The membership fee is \$35 a year, although there are reduced rates for students and economically disadvantaged people.

NOW Executive Vice President Patricia Ireland issued a written statement when Thomas was confirmed, saying that, "for a man with such a lack of respect for women to be confirmed to the Supreme Court is an insult to every woman in this country."

NOW opposed Thomas' nomination because he did not express his views on Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. The opposition mounted after Hill alleged that Thomas sexually harassed her.

# Love, trust cannot be legislated

On an emotional level, parental notification legislation appeals to me.

But parental support and trust cannot be legislated, neither can the personal feelings between a daughter and her parents. Just as a parental notification law will not send one daughter into her mother's arms, neither does the lack of a notification law somehow lessen another daughter's de-

sire to confide in her parents about an unwanted pregnancy.

Some daughters will go to their parents. Others, no matter how supportive their parents may be, will not. They may be too shy, too embarrassed, or too afraid. In any case, these daughters, maybe yours or mine, would do the unthinkable rather than have us find out about their predicament. It is these children, as well as those

from dysfunctional homes, about whom we must worry.

Childbirth and illegal abortion are certainly more dangerous to our daughters than legal abortion. There are medical procedures that do not require parental notification. Motherhood also does not. We cannot make what might be the best option for our daughter's future health and happiness, the most difficult for her to

obtain.

Out of love and concern for our daughters, whom we hope will confide in us, but whom we fear may not, Passaic County National Organization for Women urges defeat of Assembly Bill 565.

**Karen S. Spindel**  
**Linda Mauro**  
**Clifton.**

■ *The writers are chapter co-ordinators with Passaic County NOW.*

# Bush is not pro family

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1991 has been passed by both houses of Congress. This bill grants employees unpaid family and medical leave for the birth or adoption of a child, or the serious illness of a child, spouse or parent.

President Bush, supporter of strong family values, has threatened to veto this bill, which would make it easier for parents to raise children without fear of losing their jobs. He justifies this position by saying that the government has no place in family decisions (once your children are born). Without this legislation, however, employers, not families, are calling the shots. The Family Leave Act would take the employer out of family decisions, not put the government in.

Is Bush really the pro-family candidate?

I think not.

**Karen Spindel  
Clifton.**

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■ *The writer is membership coordinator for the Passaic County chapter of the National Organization for Women.*



**The North Jersey Herald & News**

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**METRO**

Tuesday, June 21, 1994

# Lodi mayor, NOW clash

## Toronto tells women to butt out of case

By ROYARAFEI  
The Herald & News

LODI — With police standing guard, embattled Mayor Philip V. Toronto last night squared off with a women's rights group, denying allegations that he beat his wife and telling protesters to stay out of his case.

"This has nothing to do with my official duties, nothing to do with Lodi and, quite frankly, ladies, it has nothing to do with you," Toronto told about 50 activists from the New Jersey chapter of the National Organization for Women who stormed the municipal council meeting after rallying outside borough hall last night.

Toronto abruptly ended the meeting after his statement, refusing to allow the outsiders to speak. The protesters left the meeting, chanting "Batter up" and "It's OK to be a wife beater." They sparred with the mayor's supporters, who told the activists, "Get out of Lodi."

Armed with signs that read "Battered women need support," NOW officials held the rally to express outrage at the trivialization of domestic violence, according to chapter President Myra Terry.

But just 100 yards away, Toronto supporters, mostly senior citizens carrying signs saying "We believe our mayor," held a counter-demonstration.

"He hasn't even had a court trial, and they're accusing him of abuse," said Bernadette McCaskey, president of The Tide, Toronto's political faction. "We know our mayor. He's an excellent mayor."

Toronto wields much political

clout in this borough. In late March, he easily survived a heated recall election organized by his political foes, who had accused him of patronage, mismanagement and abusive conduct.

Last month, just three days after his arrest on assault charges, the mayor's supporters packed a council meeting, gave him a standing ovation and wished him luck in his pending court battles. That televised ovation prompted NOW to organize yesterday's protest, Terry said.

"Domestic violence is a human issue — not a Lodi issue," Karen Spindel of Clifton, co-coordinator of Passaic County NOW, said at the yesterday's rally. "These are very serious charges that were trivialized when they applauded the mayor."

Toronto was arrested May 13 for allegedly striking his estranged wife, Consuelo "Connie" Toronto, in the head and chest with his hands and then choking her with a phone cord he had ripped from the wall. He was indicted two weeks later and faces 10 years in state prison if convicted.

The mayor last night continued to deny the allegations, claiming his 34-year-old wife fabricated the charges to extort a larger property settlement in the couple's pending divorce case.

State Superior Court Judge Elain Koblitz is expected to rule today in Hackensack on whether the media should be banned from a hearing tomorrow about the case and whether Mrs. Toronto's psychiatric records can be admitted as evidence.



DARYL STONE/The Herald & News

Gale Smith holds NOW sign as she and others demonstrate outside Lodi Borough Hall yesterday to protest what they say was the trivialization of domestic violence in the case of Mayor Philip Toronto.

# School chided over daughters-at-work day

By **JOHN CHADWICK**

Staff Writer

CLIFTON — A city woman said the national Take Our Daughters to Work Day wasn't taken seriously by school officials, despite a memo from top state education officials encouraging every district to participate.

Karen Spindel, an area coordinator for the National Organization for Women, says she's upset that the school district refused to excuse her 9-year-old daughter's absence during the April 23 event — a national public education campaign in which girls go to a parent's workplace.

The absence will not affect the pupil's

academic record, but the third-grader's mother said the district's handling of the issue left her cold.

"It seems like they're saying this is not a worthwhile activity," Karen Spindel said of the April 23 event. "This goes way beyond marking a kid absent or not. This is a program that should be encouraged; it should be part of the curriculum."

Superintendent William Liess said the district doesn't excuse absences for any reason other than illness, religious observance, or bereavement.

Liess said this case is irrelevant because a third-grader would never be placed into academic jeopardy from an unexcused ab-

sence. In cases where a high school student is at risk of losing credit because of missed classes, Liess said the district has more flexibility to determine whether credit should be awarded or withheld.

"I totally understand her interest in this event, but there are other things to be considered here," Liess said. "We are very strict about attendance."

Spindel's daughter, Rachel, went to work with her father at Lucent Technologies in the morning and returned to school for the afternoon.

This year, state Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz sent a memo to every district in New Jersey encouraging

schools to participate in the program and to excuse students' absences.

Spindel said she first raised the issue at a meeting of the school board's community relations council about a week before the event, and asked officials if they had any plans for Take Our Daughters to Work Day.

According to Spindel, Liess vowed to tell all district principals by e-mail to excuse students who were participating. But when Spindel inquired later in the week at her daughter's elementary school, she said the principal replied: "What e-mail?" Spindel said.

STEWART LEADS U.S. OPEN; RED SOX'S CHO GETS FIRST MAJOR LEAGUE WIN • SPORTS, E1

# Hartford Courant



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# WOMEN'S SOCCER TAKES OFF

## *World Cup Play Draws Throng To Sold Out Stadium*

By **LORI RILEY**  
Courant Staff Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Karen Spindel and Peggy Spickofsky sat in the shade of an umbrella next to their van in the Giants Stadium parking lot, eating hamburgers and potato salad.

Friends for a long time, long-time members of the National Organization for Women, they had never been to a big-time soccer game in their lives.

But this, the Women's World Cup, was different.

"If it was the men's World Cup, we wouldn't be here," said Spindel, the president of the Passaic County NOW chapter. "It had more to do with the idea of women playing soccer."

Apparently, all 78,972 people felt that way Saturday. It was the largest turnout at a single event

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### ■ WORLD CUP COVERAGE, SPORTS, E1

in women's sports in the world. The U.S. team obliged the American flag-waving fans by winning its first game, 3-0 over Denmark.

"This is what we always dreamed a World Cup could be," said U.S. star Mia Hamm, who had a goal and an assist. "We've seen it at the men's World Cup before. To see this crowd, and all the atmosphere around the stadium, was absolutely phenomenal."

To see Christie Pearce, a U.S. defender, a caravan of fans drove up from her hometown of Point Pleasant, N.J.

"I can't believe it was sold out," said Wendi Pearce, Christie's sister. "We were just saying the

Please see **WOMEN'S, Page A6**

FROM PAGE ONE

# WOMEN'S SOCCER KICKS

## World Cup Play Draws Throng To Sold Out Stadium

Continued from Page 1

The organizing committee started its marketing effort two years ago. The focus was on soccer clubs and the pre-teen and teenage girls who play for the clubs. The Mia Hamm wannabes, the ones who wore her No. 9 Nike jersey proudly around the stands Saturday and screamed when the teen group N Sync took the field for the opening ceremonies.

But their moms and dads and brothers came, too. So did their coaches, male and female.

"What I like about it is there's a lot of guys here," said Kevin Kilcullen of Morristown, N.J., father of son Jamie, 12, and daughter Katie, 11, both soccer players. "But it's more of a family environment. We come to a lot of football games here and today there's more children and less drinking."

Soccer balls flew through the air in the parking lot. Soccer flags — the Jersey Girls Soccer Club, the Cranford Soccer Club — marked spots where many set up tents and barbecue grills and boomboxes blared Bob Marley tunes. There was drinking, but it was friendly, not obnoxious.

One of the Danish team's sponsors, a food company called MD, had its local office in Summit, N.J., sponsor a barbecue. Everybody near the big white tent wore bright red shirts and carried Danish flags.

The Danes, an island of red in a sea of red, white and blue, ate and mingled and sang their native soccer songs. The Americans nearby responded with good-natured chants of "U-S-A."

"We're just having a good time," said J.J. Hjortthoj, an MD employee from Summit.

This wasn't the men's World Cup. No fights. No metal detectors at the gates. And a different passion, some would say. Just people who appreciate women's sports and good soccer.

The Brazilian fans might have something to say about that. A group of Brazilians from White Plains, N.Y., gathered near their bus exhorted passersby with "Ho's!" They greeted strangers enthusiastically, grabbed them, folded them into their group and took pictures.

"We will go to any sporting event," said Omar Nethersol, a Jamaican by birth, but a Brazilian, he said, in spirit. "Women's, men's. We love them. We love our team. We love the U.S. team."

A small pocket of about 30 green-and-yellow clad Brazilians occupied the upper deck, cheering on their team against Mexico. The men pounded on drums; the women wore feather headdresses and gyrated to the beat. At the men's World Cup, the entire upper deck would be filled with green and yellow pulsating



JOHN WOIKE / THE HARTFORD COURANT

**NO QUESTION OF LOYALTY** for Lea Davison, left, and Sabra Davison, both of Jericho, Vermont, as Women's World Cup soccer play got under way Saturday at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. The U.S. team defeated Denmark, 3-0, in the first game.

.....  
*"This is what we  
 always dreamed a  
 World Cup could be."*

**MIA HAMM**  
 U.S. team star

.....  
 ing to a samba beat.

But this was more of a U.S. event, a Mia Hamm lovefest, than an international event. Plus, the U.S. women are the favorites and they win practically all the time. What American could resist?

Jennifer Fitzgerald, 10, of Cranford, N.J., was a prototypical fan. Her face was painted red, white and blue. She wore blue Umbro soccer shorts. Her favorite player? Hamm,

of course. After all, Hamm took on Michael Jordan in those Gatorade commercials and even flipped him on his back in a karate sequence. The message the little girls took to heart: Be Like Mia, not Mike.

The media is getting the word out. About 600 credentials were issued for the opening game. Four years ago at the World Cup in Sweden, 50 reporters showed up, including only a handful from the U.S.

The next World Cup, president and CEO Marla Messing said, will be even better.

"This is going to help the development of women's soccer around the world," Messing said. "The next country will invest a lot more in it because of what we did."

But in four years, will American newspapers send reporters overseas to cover the Women's World Cup? Possibly, but not likely in the

droves they sent them to Giants Stadium Saturday.

In the past, there has also been talk of a women's soccer league in the U.S. Spurred on by the success of the Women's World Cup, could one survive? Given the uneven success of Major League Soccer — the men's soccer league — it's doubtful. Soccer, despite its grassroots popularity, historically has not fared well at the pro level in the United States.

Still, everybody was living for the moment on Saturday. Little girls swamped the concession stands, buying \$4 World Cup hair scrunchies and \$30 World Cup Barbies (she can kick and throw! the box boasted). They ran out of World Cup T-shirts and hats.

"It was a wonderful feeling to play in front of this crowd," Hamm said. "We have come a long way."

# Activists to Rally Against Roe vs. Wade

By ROBERT RATISH

*Herald & News*

Twenty-seven years after the Supreme Court ruled that women have the right to an abortion, local right-to-life activists plan to travel to Washington today to let legislators know they still intend to fight the Roe vs. Wade decision.

The trip has become an annual event for several area residents, some of whom have organized bus trips, encouraged support for the march at the capital, and hosted college students who are planning to attend the rallies.

## Right-to-Life Supporters Head for Washington

Although the debate over the abortion ruling has been going on since the 1973 court decision, support on both sides of the issue has not lost momentum.

"We're getting an awful lot of younger people involved, which I think is a blessing," said Steve Loboda of Wayne, a right-to-life activist.

Loboda is organizing a busload of 49 people who will travel to Washington today, attend a rally,

march past the Supreme Court building and visit legislators to voice their concerns.

Loboda said he has been going to the march for years, and has been organizing buses to Washington through the Knights of Columbus since 1993. In that time, the numbers have grown and the group has become more diverse.

"The amount of people every year is always greater than the previous year. It's nondenomina-

tional. It's really an ecumenical," he said.

And as support grows, so does the number of younger participants. Each year students from all over the country travel to Washington, he said.

While Marie Tasy of New Jersey Right to Life could not cite the number of state residents who attended past marches, she said there has been growing support among college students.

"We're very encouraged that the younger people are pro-life, and I think its because they are the generation that survived Roe vs. Wade," she said.

Eleanor Glasser of Hawthorne has also been participating in the march for years, but decided this year to organize another bus. She planned to take 33 people to Washington today where she said the diversity of marchers speaks to the support for the right to life.

"When I went down before, I

*See Abortion, Page B5*

# Abortion: Activists to Rally Against Roe vs. Wade

*Continued from Page B1*

went with two friends. We walked with people of all ages and races but with the common belief that human life is holy," said the retired schoolteacher.

"We still have people who are not part of the culture of life. I believe strongly in the fact that children should be given a chance to live," she said.

There were no plans for pro-choice demonstrations, said Mary Constan, a spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey.

Instead, she said the organization would focus its attention on a new abortion battle brewing in the Supreme Court this year.

The court agreed last week to

decide whether a Nebraska law banning late-term abortions is constitutional.

"We're very worried, because the fact that it got to the Supreme Court is something we couldn't even imagine. It's not just about abortion. It's about people wanting to put forth their morality above everyone else's," Constan said.

The Passaic Chapter of the National Organization for Women also has no plans to commemorate Roe vs. Wade. But that does not mean its members are remaining silent, said co-coordinator Karen Spindel.

"Our members are strongly committed to pro-choice legislation. We're there writing letters and making phone calls and doing whatever we can," she said, disputing claims that pro-life movement is gaining momentum.

"I think that the majority of the people are struggling for a choice," she said.