



MAVIS LENO TO SPEAK

AT WOMEN UNITED IN PHILANTHROPY FALL GATHERING

BERGEN COUNTY, NJ, August 21, 2009— On Thursday, October 15, 2009

Women United in Philanthropy, New Jersey's first women's giving circle, will host its 5th Annual Fall Gathering at the Stony Hill in Hackensack from 6 – 9:30 p.m.

Mavis Nicholson Leno, chair of the Feminist Majority's Foundation's Campaign to Help Afghan Women and Girls and wife of late-night talk show king Jay Leno will be the featured speaker. Leno is an outspoken critic of the Taliban's horrific treatment of women and is currently leading the effort to make the restoration of women's rights a nonnegotiable element of a post-Taliban Afghanistan.

“Mavis Leno has become the voice for women a world away who have lost theirs,” said Maxine Frampton, Director of Women United in Philanthropy. “She is an informed and articulate spokeswoman who understands the world and the role we as women play in changing it. This will be an evening of inspiration like no other, and a celebration of women helping women here in Bergen County, and around the world.”

Women United in Philanthropy was started in 2004 by a group of local women dedicated to promoting the economic power of women to affect change in each other’s lives. The group formed a giving circle, with membership extended to women who contribute \$1,000 annually to the collective fund. Each year, members gather at the Stony Hill Inn for their Annual Fall event and vote to award a large grant to a local program helping women.

“Five years ago, we began as a small group of women committed to using our own money and talents to lift women in Bergen County out of poverty,” said Susan Mitchell Abate, Chair of the Grants Committee. “Since then we have given \$275,000 and changed the lives of countless women and an immeasurable number of children in our corner of the world.”