

2017 Celebrating Women's Voices Event
Welcome Remarks from
Judy Buckman, the Fund for the Future President

Welcome to the third annual Fund for the Future's "Celebrating Women's Voices" event. For those of you who are new to the Fund for the Future, it's a nonprofit 501c3 organization that provides monetary support for the educational activities of the South Jersey NOW–Alice Paul chapter, as well as other organizations in the South Jersey area from Trenton to Cape May. Unlike donations to South Jersey NOW, your contributions to the Fund for the Future are tax-deductible.

The Fund for the Future has seven Board members, six of whom are here tonight and I'd like to introduce them to you. In addition to me, there's **Lisa Dunne, Anita Sopenoff, Rita Spaulding, Lorraine Petrie, and Joanne Schwartz.**

I'd like to thank many of the people who have helped make this event such a success:

- the Alice Paul Institute** for printing our invitations
- our **wine donor** Ann Stockton
- our **volunteers**, several of whom are acting as our photographers, capturing this event for our website and for posterity: Janis Hines, Mary Ellen Quinn, Catherine Neuberger, Nancy Buchanan, Marilyn Quinn, and Dea Evans.
- I'd also like to thank our **musicians**: Suzette Ortiz and Rene Ginnett
- Our **artists**: Jenn Carvin, Susan Stutts Ewart and Diane Wolff-Pastore
- And last, but not least, all of our **auction donors** who are listed in the program book.

Introduction of Mikayla Tucker

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to Mikayla Tucker, to whom the Fund for the Future awarded a scholarship for her participation in the Alice Paul Institute's Lead-A-Way Program. This is a biography that she prepared for us.

Mikayla Tucker is a rising 8th grader in Lumberton Township. She lives with her mother and is the oldest of three children. Mikayla enjoys helping others, reading, and anything Michael Jackson. Her personality is laid back, nurturing and resilient. Recently, Mikayla was displaced for six months. Despite this unfortunate circumstance, she ended her school year as Guest Superintendent for the Day at Lumberton Township Schools, as a team member and strong support for the Track and Field teams, and won the Best Camper medal at Streamside Camp.

Mikayla hopes to attend Drexel University to study and become a physician's assistant, complete ministerial training as a Chaplain, and possibly serve two terms in the United States Air Force.

Mikayla attended the Alice Paul Institute's program to explore leadership as a woman. Also, after aging out of childcare, her mother needed to find something productive for her to do. Mikayla is certainly going places will use the confidence she gained from the API Lead-A-Way program to move successfully into her final year in middle school.

I proudly present to you: Mikayla Tucker.

Mikayla Tucker's Personal Experience with the Lead-A-Way Program

On the first day of the Lead-A-Way program I was kind of nervous because I had no idea what we were going to do and I knew that I wasn't really a leader. I had problems with speaking up about my ideas and I was lacking some of the traits that are expected of a leader. I consider myself to be a shy person, so I thought I wouldn't quite fit in. But on the first day we went on a field trip and learned about the American women's rights activist Alice Paul. I learned that she was shy like me, too, but was still able to make a change by building up a group of women who had different talents and making a difference. So, I started to feel comfortable and realized I could be a leader even if I am shy.

The rest of the week was also a great experience because I started to get to know different people and stepped into my comfort zone. We discussed things like leadership traits, communication, and passive, aggressive and assertive behaviors. The days were actually fun. I participated in activities on teamwork and using quotes within my presentations (which I need a lot of help on). By attending the camp, I learned how to have more confidence. I can now strive to become a great leader and change things in my community or even across the world.

As an African-American female in poverty and a single parent home, I believe there are very few opportunities for me to become an influential leader. The Lead-a-Way program showed me that I can work hard to fight for what I think is right and join with others to share my beliefs. For example, me and my group picked the topic of *Racism* and completed a project to raise awareness. My idea was to wear two different colored shoes to spread the message that color doesn't matter but they walk the same. I felt confident enough to speak up and give more of my ideas on what I feel we should have done. This experience was great!

Introduction of Marty Moss-Coane

Since the election, I've found it uplifting, healing and gratifying to be in a room of like-minded people—whether it's a small group or one that's as magnificent and beautiful as the one that has gathered today in this room.

Sometimes, in order to go on, we need to swallow our fears. Organizing can be difficult and tedious. It takes time and effort and it's not always successful. But without it, as Margaret Mead said, there is no progress. Democracy doesn't work unless we all engage—use it or lose it!

It was so inspiring for me to see all the pink hats and the millions of people who gathered on January 21 of this year to protest Trump's election. Women started it, organized it and marched with half a million people on each coast, in the middle of the country and internationally. The power of those women, pictured in *Time Magazine*, was so beautiful, so courageous, so inspiring and beyond what any of us could have expected or imagined. Not only that, but the power generated by those marches has been repackaged and carried forward by dozens of small, local groups headed by and powered by people who (listen to this, it's important) "by people—men and women—who said they had never before done a political thing in their lives". That is true power. Started by women.

One group that has carried the spirit of the January 21 marches forward is SJNOW Indivisible. They, along with dozens of other local groups, have accomplished the unimaginable by getting our very own Congressman Tom MacArthur (author of the terrible Trumpcare bill) to come to a town meeting after he adamantly said he'd never do so. And they worked tirelessly to defeat the passage of his Trumpcare bill as well as subsequent similar legislation.

You can't just freak out every day over the news. Eventually you need to do something. And SJNOW Indivisible has helped many of us do just that. Their accomplishments have been tremendous. On your way out, at the registration table, there are some articles about Indivisible's efforts. Their contact info is at the bottom of the front page of South Jersey NOW's newsletter, which is also on the registration table. I want to express my deepest thanks and appreciation for the efforts of the SJNOW Indivisible team, some of whom are here tonight and represent 25% of the people in this room.

We all need leaders who can look deep inside us and understand that we're capable of accomplishing more than what we thought was possible. All too often, women don't know the power that's within them. I certainly did not. When I became a women's rights activist, I did not have one clue that I had the potential to be a leader. Like Alice Paul, I was a shy and retiring young woman who would rather stand in back of a demonstration that I had organized, rather than take the podium as I'm doing today.

I am at this point because I stand on the shoulders of, and take inspiration from, the powerful women who have come before me. Certainly, the shoulders of Alice Paul, those of our South Jersey NOW hero Lucile Pfleeger, as well as my unbelievably wonderful mother, role model and activist, Lucy Glick, all of whom I have mentioned in past years' remarks. But also on the shoulders of Katherine Johnson, the NASA mathematician whose life was depicted in the film "Hidden Figures" who achieved what she did only because she refused to take "no" for an answer (and that's a lesson that should be imprinted on all of our brains). And Delores Huerta who started the United Farm Workers Union with Cesar Chavez, but who got none of the credit, acclaim or status that was accorded to him.

In spite of the fact that Delores organized the grape and lettuce boycotts, was beaten within an inch of her life, and stood next to Robert Kennedy on the stage at his last campaign stop before he was assassinated, and she did this at the same time she was raising 11 children, my guess is that kids are still not reading about Delores Huerta's labor and civil rights accomplishments in their history books.

Last month, I attended a feature length documentary that Carlos Santana made about Delores Huerta's life. Delores, who is now 87 years old, and still going as strong as ever with the DH Foundation, was scheduled to speak after the film. I had heard her speak 25 years ago at National NOW conferences so I was very much looking forward to seeing the film and hearing her remarks. When I got to the theatre, the doors were plastered with signs indicating that the show was sold out. I was extremely disappointed and almost turned around to leave. But I had already paid for parking, and I said to myself, "Delores would not want me to give up this easily!". So, I turned back around and asked the ticket seller if I could pay for a ticket and sit on the floor. He said, "You don't have to sit on the floor. We reserved seats for students that I know won't all be coming. I'll be glad to sell you a ticket".

The film included not only Delores' activist career but also what she and her family had to give up in order to make the momentous changes for which she was responsible. Delores' trademark phrase "Si, se puedo" was angelized by Barak Obama for his own campaign ("Yes we can!") and for which he thanked her while he awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Please rent that film when you get a chance to do so.

After Delores' wonderfully relevant and timely Q&A, she went out to the sidewalk in front of the theatre, where folks took photos with her and I got the chance to tell her my story about refusing to take no for an answer. Her appreciation of that added even more to the high I was on as a result of seeing the film.

Oprah Windfrey, another one of my heroes, has said that your legacy is comprised of the lives that you've touched. If that's true, and I believe that it is, Marty Moss-Coane's legacy extends not just from one end of the Delaware Valley to the other but also nationwide based on the number of people who listen to her radio program every day at 10am, 11pm or via the Radio Times archives.

Even when I'm not sure that I'm going to be interested in the show's topic, in Marty's skilled and capable hands, I'm quickly drawn in and always rewarded by learning something interesting and valuable. And even when the topic is one that I thought I knew a lot about, such as Single Payer Healthcare, as a result of Marty's wonderfully chosen and informative guests, I find myself understanding it so much more fully.

I wish everyone in this room had the time to listen to all of Marty's past shows from the past month. But if you can only listen to four of them (get something to write with), these are the "must listen-to shows" from the past few weeks: Number 1: google Radio Times + Single Payer. Number 2: google Radio Times + Betsy DeVoss, our controversial Secretary of Education. Number 3: google Radio Times + E.J. Dionne, One Nation After Trump. And Number 4: google Radio Times + Van Jones, Beyond the Messy Truth. That last one is a must-hear. Just do it, you can thank me later.

Marty is far and away the best interviewer anywhere. In addition to her thoroughness, empathy and insight, I am in awe of her ability to follow her guest out on a tangent during a discussion, asking pertinent questions along the way, then bringing them back to the original starting point and picking up exactly where they left off to carry the conversation forward. That's more than a skill, that's a gift. One that Marty displays on a regular basis, clearly impressing not only me but her extremely varied guests as well.

From Mark Zandy, Chief Economist at Moody's Analytics, to the outstandingly memorable and much loved American Indian writer Sherman Alexie. A true appreciation of Sherman Alexie is something that I think Marty and I share; you also need to google him and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*.

All of Marty's guests uniformly and consistently express their deep appreciation and respect for her unparalleled skills as an interviewer. Within the past two weeks, at the end of the program, I've heard her guest say, "What a thoughtful conversation!" and "Thanks, Marty, great discussion!". Just a few days ago, her guest said that her interview was "profound and beautiful". How often do you hear that? Never. Unless you listen to Marty's program.

Marty is three years younger than I am but we both attended college in Washington, DC during the turbulent 1960s. We came of age when women's voices were rarely heard,

much less celebrated. In the intervening years, that has changed. Not enough, but it has changed. One small indication of that I think, is that last weekend someone handed me a page of comic strips, which normally I never read, and two side-by-side strips, had the word “feminist” in them. I never thought I’d live long enough to see that. The times, I think, they ARE a changing!

Another thing Marty and I share is that when we each began working in our chosen fields, she in broadcasting, I in women’s rights activism, neither of us knew exactly what we were doing or had any specific training for what we were about to do for the next 30 years.

Way back then, when a group of South Jersey NOW members, several of whom are in this room, and I started the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation, now called the Alice Paul Institute (the group that provided Mikayla with such a positive experience), if we had known that we’d be not only purchasing Alice’s birthplace, but also buying her papers and books at auction, obtaining a National Historical Landmark designation for the house, getting a postage stamp with her face on it, and starting a leadership center for women and girls—if we had known exactly what we were getting ourselves into, some of us never would have agreed to jump in at the start.

But, fortunately, we were all able to benefit from Barbara Irvine’s strong leadership, plus we had the youthful strength and optimism that permitted us to just put one foot in front of the other. Not to mention that we also refused to take “no” for an answer. That served us well and is what we had in common with Alice Paul, Lucile Pfleeger, Katherine Johnson, Dolores Huerta, and other women I’ve mentioned.

I’ve spoken about several women on whose shoulders I stand. Well, there’s one more. It is my deepest pleasure and greatest honor to present the 2017 Fund for the Future’s “Celebrating Women’s Voices Award” to the quite incomparable Marty Moss-Coane.