



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)

April 2019 CWI Newsletter

<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Invitation to Tuesday, April 23, 2019 CWI Meeting, Noon-1:30 PM

**The Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 5th Floor; entrance on New Hampshire Ave., NW.
(Nearest Metro Stop: Dupont Circle, north or south exit)**

RSVP is now required. See <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Financial Literacy: From a Feminist Lens

As spring shows its lovely blooms and the weather warms, it's timely to think about financial planning as we prepare our income tax and take stock of our financial picture. The United States has designated April as Financial Literacy Month and its purpose is to call attention to the need to maintain healthy financial habits. The Federal Reserve Board reports that almost half of all Americans do not have enough cash to cover a \$400 emergency. The Board also reports that student loan borrowers collectively owe \$1.5 trillion and a study by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign states that over half of the study's emerging adults are financially precarious (32%) or financially at risk (36%). Women are three times as likely as men to say they can't afford to save for retirement. Women earn less and thus save less, but their living expenses are the same as men's beginning right out of college. On average, women make about 20% less than men working full time.

Our two speakers, **Dr. Laurel Beedon, Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)** and **Dr. Abigail Sara Lewis, American Association of University Women (AAUW)** will discuss the complex issues facing women of all ages as they navigate a lifetime of managing money from her first salary negotiation to planning for retirement which needs to begin with that first salary. **Dr. Beedon** recently retired from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) where she was a Senior Analyst in the Education, Workforce and Income Security Division. She is currently volunteering as a Senior Research Fellow at WISER. Previously she was a Senior Fellow at the National Academy of Social Insurance, Senior Policy Adviser at the Public Policy Institute, and, prior to PPI, she was at the Social Security Administration's Offices of Research and Statistics and Governmental Affairs. She has numerous publications and was a faculty member at George Washington University. She is currently a member of the Alumni Advisory Board at Virginia Tech University. **Dr. Lewis** is the Vice President of Programs at the American Association of University Women where she oversees the Salary Negotiation program, leadership and campus initiatives and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) efforts. Previously she was at Barnard College, most recently as Associate Dean of Pre-Professional Advising. Dr. Lewis has worked and taught at Rutgers University, New York University and the CUNY Graduate Center. She holds a Ph.D. in History from Rutgers (with a certificate in Women and Gender Studies), a B.A. from Columbia and a M.A. from UCLA, both in African American Studies.

*Note: **AAUW** was founded in 1881 and is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. It examines and takes positions on the fundamental issues of the day, educational, social, economic and political. AAUW initiated a program entitled "Start Smart and Work Smart" which teaches young women how to identify and articulate their personal value, how to develop an arsenal of persuasive responses and other strategies to use when negotiating, how to conduct objective market research to benchmark a target salary and benefits and about the pay gap, including its long term consequences on their lifetime earnings and retirement saving. **WISER** is a nonprofit organization that works to help women, educators and policy makers understand the important issues surrounding women's retirement income. It reaches thousands of women through workshops held across the nation and has been the driving force behind a series of state and local events on long-term financial security aimed at leveling the playing field for women. WISER is a leading source of financial training and technical assistance. Its model programs and interventions reach women who have traditionally not had access to this type of financial and retirement education.*

CWI meetings are free and open to the public. Bring your lunch and information to share. An RSVP to attend is required. Go to <https://womensclearinghouse.org>. Next CWI Meeting, noon Tuesday May 28, 2019, "A Feminist Approach to U.S. Foreign Policy" organized by Megan Corrado, CWI VP for Global Issues.

Dear Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Members,

A recent review of the book **Team Human** by Douglas Rushkoff (Washington Post, 3/31/19) urges us "To rediscover actual social interaction." This statement clarified why CWI and other organizations continue to be so important in delivering significant information through actual meetings.

Yes, the topic at these monthly meetings such as, *sustainable energy: key for gender equity and women's empowerment; protecting every vote: procedures for safe and fair elections; post-election issues and the impact on women; gerrymandering; honoring the godmother of Title IX; sharing our feminist history; etc.* could be shared digitally and could provide the same facts and figures but having it presented as actual face-to-face meetings defines CWI as a "team human."

Being able to listen to these carefully prepared presentations and then to be able to directly address the speakers with questions and comments, broadens our opportunities to bring new dimensions and new possible actions on the issues. Participants can then become informed advocates. We can further act on these concerns by connecting with others in attendance and joining them and their organizations to increase the impact.

Through this face-to-face "team human" we become an inspiring educated team dedicated to CWI's mission. Keep coming to live meetings, listen and participate and respond. Also encourage your favorite feminist organization to join and participate in CWI leadership.

In addition to our in-person monthly meetings, during the past six years, CWI has been providing additional information for our members in the DC area and around the nation who are not able to attend our noon meetings. We provide meeting announcements and summaries in our monthly CWI newsletters and videos of many of our meetings produced by Loretto Gubernatis, our VP for Media Relations. These records are available on our website, <https://womensclearinghouse.org> maintained by Sherry Klein, our VP for Technology. We hope these summaries help attendees carry on their activism and that they also share feminist advice beyond our CWI members. For example, many of our meeting videos are available on public TV and our newsletters and website are available in the Women's History Collection at the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe/Harvard in Boston. Also visit our Twitter and Facebook sites and use our resources to help us have a combined positive impact on ending sex discrimination and empowering women domestically and globally.

CWI is also looking for new Board members and Officers for two year terms to be elected at our June meeting. Join a dynamic team that plans and coordinates CWI programs and coordinates with other feminist and social justice organizations. Don't delay, contact any of our Board members.

Cordially,

Harriett Stonehill Co-President and Sue Klein, Co-President

PS you may also want to attend Harriett's Wise Aging Seminars

Wise Weekly Aging Seminars by CWI Co-President, Harriett Stonehill, starting in April 2019

A series of seven sessions starting on April 1, 2 PM - 3:30 PM will be conducted at the Cleveland Park Library. Harriett Stonehill, a trained facilitator, will initiate discussions addressing the challenges and opportunities of aging. Discussion topics will include: What is special about this stage of life, revitalizing and nourishing healthy relationships, forgiveness and reconciliation. The seminars are based on the book "Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit" by Rachel Cowen and Linda Thal. Register at: goo.gl/gcJ3PQ. The seminars are free. Contact Harriett at estone456@aol.com for other seminars such as those at Thomas Circle Residences.

CWI Meeting Summary, March 26, 2019

Ways to Share Our Feminist History: Stories, Videos, Artifacts, Documents



In introducing this women's history month meeting, Co-President, Sue Klein urged us to figure out how we should be working on preserving and sharing our feminist contributions and encouraging our colleagues to do the same. This valuable history should not be left to our descendants to toss--or figure out! Our four presenters will help us learn what, where, and how we should share information on our lives, especially our contributions to fight for women's rights and empowerment. More details on the meeting focus and presenters are in the two-page meeting invitation in our March 2019 CWI newsletter on our CWI website <https://womensclearinghouse.org>.

The videos of our four March 26, 2019 presenters are under Programs on our CWI website and on [youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com) and listed here. We hope you will take time to watch them and learn more than we are providing in this written summary. This is a photo of Sue Klein in front of the HistoryMakers website display taken by presenter Amy Billingsley.

[Amy Tate Billingsley](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ud0VvogiPZQ&feature=youtu.be) (16 minutes, 16 seconds)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ud0VvogiPZQ&feature=youtu.be> ([The History Makers](#))

[Mary Jean Collins](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AV3tyRJNFpc&feature=youtu.be) (10 minutes, 34 seconds)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AV3tyRJNFpc&feature=youtu.be> ([Veteran Feminists of America](#))

[Tina Hobson](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsBekdi2PGo&feature=youtu.be) (15 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsBekdi2PGo&feature=youtu.be>

[Elsa Little](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihu-qSnO0dg&feature=youtu.be) (6 minutes, 54 seconds) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihu-qSnO0dg&feature=youtu.be>

After self-introductions of the meeting attendees, former CWI Board Member, [Tina Hobson](#) presented our challenge. (See video, [Tina Hobson](#)). She said she was convinced that we will continue to make the same mistakes if we are unaware of history. She shared her three goals before she turns 90 in November of this year and requested ideas to further them. She stipulated that it is important to know how to record information and how or where to retrieve it to make it available. She mentioned a few current locations for Women's Historical Information including Smith College, Duke, and the Schlesinger library.

Her three personal goals are the following:

- 1) To decide where to place original documents she created as the first Director of the Federal Women's Program at the Civil Service Commission from 1967-69. She has the original two reports which contain data about how many women served in the Federal Government at that time and at what GS level.
- 2) To find someone to create a biography of her husband, Julius Hobson, who was an activist for 20 years, deceased in 1977. She gave as an example of a Julius Hobson story regarding a rat problem in Anacostia (rats biting children in cribs, etc.) that was not getting funding to fix. Julius's response was to get a car, put a cage on top with a rat in it, take it to Georgetown. There he said "If you're not going to kill the rats, we'll equalize them." That nonviolent demonstration got enough attention and traction to obtain requested funding for the Anacostia rat problem of that time. She mentioned there is again/still a rats problem in Anacostia, nowadays, but used the story to illustrate one instance that would make for good biography material.
- 3) To write something about her own life as Tina Hobson. Although she doesn't see her life as particularly noteworthy, she shared a story of when the FBI surveilled her and tapped her phone. She learned that this started when she announced her engagement to Julius Hobson and they attended every anti-Vietnam war gathering they could. She and Julius filed a case with the ACLU against five FBI agents and won the case 12 years later after Julius's death. They were finally awarded money, for "humiliation, embarrassment, personal injuries and intrusion into her apartment" along with an apology. She passed the money on to her and Julius's children. She thinks that it may be unique that children wound up getting money from a legal case (in effect against the FBI) via the agents.

Tina Hobson finished by pointing to Wikipedia as a resource to find information, as well as other Google searches, for personal information which may be either free or available at minimal cost. She asked us to create a list of where we can go for information because it is important to be able to find information. Tina then introduced Elsa Little, (left in photo) who is helping Tina (right in photo) with her three goals.



Elsa Little is a former vice-president for finance at the Council for Basic Education and at the Rosemont Center, a multicultural early childhood center. She later managed all DC Head Start finances at United Planning Organization. She is now a consultant in financial management for non-profits and has experience in documenting family history. Watch Elsa Little's presentation at this link [Elsa Little](#).

Elsa addressed the questions: "How do we determine our own legacy?" and "How will we be remembered by others?" She mentioned that often we get involved in tracking our employment/employer and family first, but not ourselves. Acknowledging that we all have a story to tell, we can leave a family legacy of "accomplishments, benefits, actions, and guidance that we demonstrate in our lives that carry forward to future generations." She appealed to our passions and the importance of imparting them to those who follow when we are gone, by placing our historical legacy online.

Elsa suggested an advantage of recording our legacies online is that we can link them to each other and many other things. She referred to the different perspectives and topics of the presenters from this March 26th meeting to exemplify scope of the points of view: Tina Hobson with preserving documents from the Federal Women's Program and history of her late husband Julius Hobson, Mary Jean Collins' focus on preserving feminist history through the Veteran Feminists of America, and Amy Tate Billingsley's coordination of the largest African American Video Oral History Collection – The History Makers.

Elsa shared a handout with some websites to get started preserving our own legacy/legacies and gave some ideas of features to use on the sites, such as adding people to the family tree, photos, documents, audio memories in "Memories" and "Gallery" components of the sites, as well as placing professional achievements. These can be linked or mention organizations as well. The websites include: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/> ; <https://www.ancestry.com/?> ; <https://www.accessgenealogy.com/>; <https://www.genealogytoday.com/> ; <https://www.familytreearcher.com/> ; <https://www.findagrave.com/>

Mary Jean Collins, Veteran Feminists of America (VFA) <https://www.veteranfeministsofamerica.org/>



VFA was started for camaraderie and to teach about the 2nd Wave of Feminism. All the conferences have been videotaped and recorded. VFA also has given awards to some women and collaborated on a history project. The current VFA Pioneer Histories project focuses on 2nd Wave Feminists active from 1965-82. 1966 was the founding of NOW. 1982 was chosen since it was the original ratification deadline year of the ERA. The goal is to get a breadth of interviews to provide different perspectives of events, not just of the "superstars of the movement". The project is recruiting interviewees and interviewers since all the staff is volunteer. All that is needed to interview is a cellphone, tripod, and power source. VFA supplies the Interview questions which participants are allowed to modify. Generally, interviewers review information about the next interviewee they will engage with before the interview, then interview them. VFA has a volunteer handbook describing how to handle the technical aspects of the interview, environment,

consent form, etc., here: <https://www.veteranfeministsofamerica.org/vfa-pioneer-histories-project-2/> Once the interview has been executed, the interviewer sends the recording to VFA and it is edited, with the interviewer and interviewee's approval. The videos are transcribed. The VFA is working on getting the interviews placed as part of a permanent collection in an archive.

Mary Jean Collins said that interviewees may also request that their interview be linked to other relevant online resources and sites. She also mentioned that in addition to the current 2nd Wave project, she is encouraging other waves of feminists to do interviews from their waves. She gave the example that she gave an interview 20 years ago which is very different than the same interview would be now, and an interview now would include the target 2nd wave years as well as years after 1982.

The VFA is also creating pages for deceased feminists also and welcomes submissions of links from other sites that contain information about the people. Mary Jean Collins welcomes volunteers to join the fun of interviewing and/or being interviewed. She provided leaflets and business cards to get in touch. Watch the [video of Mary Jean Collin's CWI presentation](#).

Amy Tate Billingsley, The History Makers, <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/> spoke about the commonalities in the need to preserve African American History and Feminist History. She quoted an African proverb: "Until the lions tell their own stories, tales of hunting will always glorify the hunter." "The History Makers was founded to address the lack of documentation and preservation of African American Historical records." The interviews in the database start in 2000. Before that, only one large scale attempt existed to capture African American history from a first person perspective (The Works Progress Administration slave narratives are in the Library of Congress.)



Biographies and some of its over 10,000 hours oral history videos are visible on the website for free. On the website, Biographies are categorized as ArtMakers, BusinessMakers, CivicMakers, EducationMakers, EntertainmentMakers, LawMakers, MediaMakers, MedicalMakers, MilitaryMakers, MusicMakers, PoliticalMakers, ReligionMakers, ScienceMakers, SportsMakers, StyleMakers.

Many more videos are available for a yearly subscription to the site. As a member of the site, the digital archives is searchable by topic. All the videos are transcribed with the transcriptions visible as the video plays. If anyone mentions a name or subject, they then appear in the search results as the transcripts are searchable. Ms. Billingsley logged in with her member account and showed us the results from search term "Julius Hobson", "Emmett Till", and "Amy Tate Billingsley". We were treated to a minute of video of Dorothy Height being interviewed.

To broaden the accessibility and knowledge of the site, the HistoryMakers have contracted with over 100 Colleges, Universities, Public Libraries. **You can support the HistoryMakers by subscribing monthly or yearly.**

The HistoryMakers collection is archived in the Library of Congress. Watch Amy Billingsley's CWI presentation at [Amy Tate Billingsley](#).

Related Information:

- June Willenze, author of ***Women Veterans, America's Forgotten Heroines*** (1983) brought flyers on her book which documents discrimination and neglect of women veterans by the US government.
- As she discussed at the January 22, 2019 CWI meeting "Honoring the Wonderful Feminist Life of Dr. Bernice "Bunny" Sandler, Godmother of Title IX", Marty Langelan who is helping to update and continue to archive Bunny's legacy pointed out that another challenge is how to update and maintain important websites after the person has died. Marty's article on "*The Godmother of Title IX: A meticulous scholar and consummate strategist, the late Bunny Sandler paved the way for the most important legislation for women since the 19th Amendment*" is now available in the Spring 2019 issue of ***Ms. Magazine*** on pages 40 and 41. As you read the article you will notice some insights from our January Clearinghouse on Women's Issues meeting which Marty helped organize!
- CWI is a member of the National Women's History Alliance which just sent this notice: The first installment of the **Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States (OBD)** is now freely accessible online at <https://documents.alexanderstreet.com/VOTESforWOMEN>.

Coming DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

We will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list. Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org. Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/CWI for more information, click here www.ebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us, as well as SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Times are EST. A benefit of CWI membership is receiving timely forwarded email messages on Feminist meetings and activities.

Sunday, April 14, 2 PM. Sunday at the Movies: The Best Democracy that Money Can Buy – The Case of the Stolen Election, League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878 [For Information](#)

Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 11:30-2PM, Julie A. Burkhart: Fighting for Reproductive Justice, Trust Women Foundation, Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036. \$30 with lunch or \$10 lecture only. [RSVP](#)

Thursday, April 18, 2019. Serge Seiden, Managing Director & Producer at the Mosaic Theater, presents "How Theater is Dealing with Gender Issues." Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036 \$30 with lunch or \$10 lecture only [Register](#)

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 8 AM Legislative Wrap-Up Breakfast, NARAL 8905 Fairview Rd, Suite 401, Silver Spring MD 20910 [TO RSVP](#)

Tuesday, April 23, 2019, Noon CWI meeting on Financial Literacy. See Page 1 of this newsletter.

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 6-9 PM, 13th Annual Wine and Chocolate, Women's Law Center of Maryland, Westminster Hall, University of Maryland at Baltimore, 519 West Fayette Street, Baltimore. To [RSVP](#)

Thursday, April 25, 10 AM-4 PM, Public Policy Forum, Women's History and Issues. Dialog on Diversity, Busboys & Poets 450 K St. NW, Washington, DC 20001 Free [Register](#)

Thursday, May 2, 2019, Elaine Weiss: The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote. The Woman's National Democratic Club.

Friday-Saturday, May 3-4 Conference and 40th Anniversary, Business and Professional Women of Maryland Sheraton BWI, Linthicum Heights, MD [FOR MORE INFO](#)

Note the events with purple are from Montgomery County Now

CWI's newsletter is endowed by friends in loving memory of our previous longtime editor, Roslyn Kaiser

Meeting summary by Sherry Klein and the Presenters. Photos by Anne Martin and Amy Billingsley

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2020

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill; VP Membership, Linda Fihelly; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis; VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Technology, Sherry Klein; VP Global Issues, Megan Corrado; VP Strategic Planning, Connie Cordovilla; and VP Organizational Management, Anne Martin.

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700 Seventh St. SW, Suite 3, Washington, DC 20024 Tel. 202/438-5655



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Membership Form

womensclearinghouse.org

Bring a check, payable to CWI, along with this form to a CWI Meeting or mail to:

Holly Taggart Joseph, CWI Treasurer

8504 Rosewood Drive, Bethesda MD 20814-1434 or joseph.holly@gmail.com

Or you may also join online using PayPal by going to the membership section of womensclearinghouse.org

For membership questions: Contact VP Membership, Linda Fihelly, lfihelly@hotmail.com or 301-599-1942

NAME of Individual or Organization* _____

For Organizations also Provide Name and emails of two PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVES

NAME/Title _____

NAME (Org. Representative 2) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____

EMAIL (Org. representative 1) _____

EMAIL (Org. representative 2) _____

WEBSITE ADDRESS: (URL)* _____

Enclosed is a check for CWI membership. Membership year is: **July 1-June 30** (Please fill in beginning and end date). If you pay before July 1 your membership year(s) will start early and not end until June 30 of the next year. _____

____ **Individual** ____ \$25 for one year ____ \$45 for two years ____ \$65 for three years

____ **Individual under 30 years old** (\$15/one year)

____ **Virtual** (\$20/one year) (Email newsletter only for members outside Washington, DC area)

____ **Organization** (\$40/one year or \$100/three years)

____ Additional tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ **Date of Payment** _____

*If organizational member, indicate if you would like a link to your organization to be listed on CWI's website. (Listing subject to CWI approval) Circle One: ____ YES ____ NO

Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.