



# Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

March 2019 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

## Invitation to Tuesday, March 26, 2019 CWI Meeting

Noon-1:30 PM at 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>**

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

Many of us are thinking about how to preserve and share information on our feminist contributions. If we have not given it much thought, we should be doing so. All this valuable history should not be left to our descendants to toss--or figure out! What are our options? Our 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.

Should the bulk of our documents go to feminist archives such as Schlesinger, Duke, or Smith? Should some stories and summaries go to other entities such as oral history collections, or collections of our peer groups (e.g., women judges or spouses of U.S. foreign service officers), or to our local historical collections? What are feminist organizations like NOW and CWI doing to archive our history? Are oral histories usually accompanied by written summaries and digital links? To increase accessibility, should we submit our information to multiple history collections and repositories with especially easy public access like Wikipedia? Do some history collections only accept originals? Should we be making electronic copies of our key documents to send to other places or preserve for our families?

Two of our past CWI Board members, **Dr. Bernice "Bunny" Sandler** and **Tina Hobson** have inspired this meeting topic by reminding us of the importance of documenting and sharing our feminist history. At our January 22, 2019 meeting celebrating Bunny's life and legacy, we learned about her stellar example in preserving her feminist history. She archived many of her documents at the Schlesinger Library. She also helped update her and Title IX's Wikipedia page, and created [her own professional web page](#), which Marty Langelan and Amanda Berard will update and preserve. CWI Board member, Loretto Gubernatis is also assembling multiple videos of Bunny that she produced over the years, including Bunny's induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

**Tina Hobson**, as our first presenter, is currently exploring options to preserve her valuable documents, such as material she saved from being the first Federal Women's Program Director. Since these are federal documents, should they go to the National Archives or other places? Tina is also helping to make the contributions of her late husband, Julius Hobson, accessible. Most of his papers have already been donated to the DC historical collection at the Martin Luther King Library, but she is now working with colleagues to select a writer to complete his biography. Julius has a Wikipedia page, which she plans to review and correct. She will share insights on how we might encourage experienced women leaders to develop their own Wikipedia pages and to share their valuable information with collections which will make them accessible to historians and the public.

**Mary Jean Collins** serves on the Board of the Veteran Feminists of America, (VFA), an organization founded over 20 years ago to preserve the history of second wave feminism, as well as co-chair of VFA's Pioneer History Project, which gathers oral histories and accompanying written documentation on second wave feminists (1965-82). She will tell us how VFA is preserving feminist history through their website <https://VeteranFeministsofAmerica.org> and their partnership with the New York Historical Society's Center for Women's History <https://www.nyhistory.org/womens-history> which is both a museum and library that partners with Columbia University and others to develop women's

history curricula, on-line courses, and exhibits. Mary Jean is also in the VFA interview and document collection as well as in Wikipedia and in the NOW archives in the Schlesinger library.

Mary Jean was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and attended Alverno College, a Catholic women's college, where she graduated with a BA in history. One of her history professors, Sister Joel Read, was a founder of NOW. They started the Milwaukee Chapter of NOW in 1967 and from there, feminism changed her life. Mary Jean moved to Chicago in 1968, became President of Chicago NOW, then Midwest Regional Director, organizing chapters in 13 states. She served on NOW's national board, directed national Task Forces and worked on various campaigns including ERA ratification. In 1982, she was elected Program Vice-President for NOW, which brought her to DC. She went on to serve as the Deputy Director for Catholics for a Free Choice and finished her work life with 15 years at People for the American Way serving as Vice-President, Field, and Political Director.

Mary Jean will explain the purpose of the VFA Oral history project and the options for participating. She will review and provide handouts on the requirements, permissions, and process of getting the interviews done and posted. There are minimal requirements – active participation in the feminist movement of 1965-1982 -- and various ways of accomplishing the video or audio interview, such as using a smart phone with a friend as interviewer. The oral interviews are linked to additional materials and published on the interviewee's "VFA page." VFA is utilizing Facebook and Instagram to distribute new additions to the collection which has resulted in an extended reach of the materials. Mary Jean is anxious to discuss reactions and thoughts about how to reach more potential interviewees and people who want to know more about feminists and the movement. She will also mention the large numbers of collections which VFA is linking to and how feminists can record their history using Wikipedia and other easily accessible collections such as the HistoryMakers to be covered by our next speaker.

**Amy Tate Billingsley** is a civic leader originally from Chicago. She received advanced degrees in counseling psychology and marketing and management from Ohio State University and the University of Baltimore, respectively, and worked at Harvard's Center for Research in the Study of Personality. She also worked with her husband, Andrew Billingsley, on publications such as **Black Families in White America**, participated in campaigns of well-known Democrats and served in the Clinton Administration in the White House Public Liaison Office, the White House's Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and as Special Assistant to U.S. Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. While First Lady of Morgan State, she was one of the founders of the Black Women's Agenda. Amy will share insights from her role as regional Coordinator of the largest African American Video Oral History Collection -- HistoryMakers [www.theHistoryMakers.org](http://www.theHistoryMakers.org). This collection is also available at the Library of Congress. The public can do limited searches on the website, but need to subscribe for full access.

**To Everyone:** During our self-introductions, attendees will let us know if they are already in any historical archives -- (in addition to the CWI website) -- or if they have started to check out some possibilities.

After the presentations, attendees will have a chance to discuss their good and bad experiences with sharing feminist history. Please also invite other experts to join us and bring guidance/handouts to help us learn how we all can wisely include our feminist experiences and contributions to the annals of history.

**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 April 23, 2019 on "Financial Literacy"**

## CWI Meeting Summary, February 26, 2019

### The 2020 Census, Gerrymandering, and Voter Suppression

**Jeanette Lim Esbrook**, CWI's Vice President for Legal Affairs, arranged for **Jessica Jones Capparell**, from the League of Women Voters USA and **Andrea Senteno**, from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) to help us understand the importance of protecting every voice in our democracy by fighting against voter suppression tactics, advocating for fair redistricting reform, and working together to ensure a full count of the 2020 Census. (See photo left to right of Jeanette, Jessica and Andrea.)



**Jessica Jones Capparell**, the Policy and Legislative Affairs Senior Manager, League of Women Voters USA, joined the League in 2010. In this position, she works to deliver the League's message around federal advocacy priorities through lobbying and the development of advocacy strategies. She manages the day to day operations of the League's volunteer Lobby Corps, a group of League members from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia who work to deliver the League's messages to Capitol Hill on behalf of state and local affiliates across the country. She is an expert on League policy positions and works to implement grassroots strategies in coordination with members and organizational partners around the country. The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 as part of the suffrage movement and has remained a nonpartisan nonprofit. Prior to joining the League, Jessica worked on political campaigns throughout the United States focusing mostly on grassroots engagement as well as running statewide communications and field operations. Jessica has a B.A. from Culver-Stockton College.



Jessica Jones Capparell (left) used a [Power Point](#) as she discussed the harm of gerrymandering and voter suppression laws passed since 2010. She noted that the next 24 months will be incredibly busy on the national level. The Census count is on April 1, 2020, in advance of the presidential and congressional elections in November 2020. Redistricting will start in 2021 based on the 2020 Census. Jessica then reviewed voter suppression laws noting that since 2010, 25 states have passed laws aimed at making it harder to vote. Voter suppression laws, undermine the ability of individuals --- particularly those belonging to marginalized communities ---to vote in a variety of ways, such as through the reduction of early and late voting hours, limits to absentee voting, polling station reduction, limitations on the number of poll workers, proof of

citizenship requirements, voter roll purges, and more. The major gutting of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) is a result of the *Shelby County v. Holder* Supreme Court case, which paved the way for states to pass increasingly suppressive laws. Hillary Clinton recently noted that these laws contributed to her Electoral College defeat. Jessica highlighted the importance of remaining diligent in this space as the 2021 round of redistricting will be the first since the gutting of the VRA protections.

Jessica went on to discuss the impact of gerrymandering on representation. Currently, the League and other organizations are focused on taking the power out of the hands of politicians when drawing district maps. A key way to do this is to support independent redistricting commissions. She also explained how litigation has become a fairly common and effective way to challenge gerrymandering. In fact, on March 26, 2019, the Supreme Court will be hearing the partisan gerrymandering case *The League of Women Voters of North Carolina v. Rucho* which has been combined with the case *Common Cause v. Rucho*. Jessica ended her presentation by reminding attendees of the importance of remaining equally engaged in encouraging a full Census count.

**Andrea Senteno**, is the Regional Counsel within the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF).



She oversees MALDEF's legislative and regulatory work in the Washington, DC office and litigation work covering the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Fourth, and Eleventh Circuits. She is also responsible for MALDEF's national legislative and regulatory portfolios on immigration and voting rights, and assists with litigation in the Southeast Region. Additionally, she is responsible for MALDEF's federal immigration policy work, which focuses on issues related to enforcement, immigrant detention, administrative relief, and legislative proposals. She works to advance a legislative fix to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 following the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, among other election reform efforts to protect Latino and minority voting rights. She has had a long commitment to public interest work, as well as social and racial justice issues. Prior to attending law school, she advocated for government transparency and accountability in New York, focusing on election reform issues. She received her J.D. from American University Washington College of Law and B.A. from Pitzer College.

Andrea noted that In March 2018, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced their intention to include a citizenship question in the 2020 Census, which was published in the Federal Register in June 2018. She then reminded us that the Census is crucially important in allocating federal, state, and local funding to sustain communities. Thus, organizations are working diligently to fight against efforts aimed at undermining a full and accurate count, including bringing challenges to the Administration's citizenship question

Andrea further explained that because of distrust in the government from immigrant and non-English speaking communities, there is going to be an undercount of certain communities due to the citizenship question. Based on Census Bureau research, households that have some non-citizens will be less motivated to fill out and return the Census form. In addition, household rostering errors can impact a full and accurate count. For instance, if a household returns an incomplete form that leaves an individual off of the form, the full household will not be counted through non-response follow-up by the Census Bureau. People may fill out the form who have one or more non-citizens in their household, and may simply leave out some family members. She warned that there is no plan for the Census Bureau to capture the missing persons and there are strong indications that non-response follow-up will not be enough to motivate an accurate response especially if the omission of a family member was deliberate.

If we know that there will be disproportionate non-response from marginalized communities, we know that this will impact proportional representation on the state and federal level and give rise to inaccurate funding allocation for critical programs such as Title 1 funding streams. Indeed, Census data is used for a broad range of things, such as population estimates, per capita income, and poverty statistics. Threats to a full and accurate count have a very direct impact on individuals and trusted organizations. If allowed to persist they will create lasting harm throughout the decade and beyond.

She explained that there are currently six ongoing cases in three different courts: two in New York, two in California, and two in Maryland. Together with Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC, MALDEF represents Latinx and Asian American individuals, Native Americans, social service non-profits, state legislative associations, civil rights groups, voters' rights organizations, and community partnerships that would be forced to divert resources to combat a potential severe undercount in their communities in Maryland. All these cases have similar claims related to challenges on the basis of the Apportionment Clause of the U.S. Constitution, which states the need for an accurate count to create fair districts and on the Administrative Procedure Act. However, the MALDEF case in Maryland is unique because it is the only ongoing litigation that has a pending equal protection argument. Given the history and actions of the people in power behind the addition of a citizenship question, MALDEF is also asserting a conspiracy claim in the Maryland case, as the plan to include a citizenship question has been an organized effort by multiple Trump Administration officials to target certain communities and limit participation.



Andrea ended by emphasizing that our civic structure relies heavily on everyone being fully and accurately counted. The ongoing litigation brings hope, but does not combat the already existing fear in communities who will not be motivated to fill out Census information even if the citizenship question is not used. She emphasized that trusted voices must continue to carry out the message of encouraging everyone to fill out the Census forms. Finally, she encouraged attendees to submit public comments by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Here is the [link](#) to the federal register notice. The instructions for submission are at the end. And here is a link to the analysis of the comments the Census Bureau received for the original notice of the proposed 2020 plans last year: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USBC-2018-0005-79003>.

**Jeanette Lim Esbrook**, CWI's Vice President for Legal Affairs wrapped up the meeting by providing an overview of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress's HR1: For the People Act of 2019. She explained that the purpose of HR1 is to expand American's access to the ballot box, strengthen ethics rules, and shine a light on dark money in politics. This legislation includes a variety of provisions that would eliminate barriers to participation, including automatic voter registration, same day voter registration for federal elections, the establishment of Election Day as a federal holiday, voting rights restoration for felons upon completion of sentence, paper ballot requirements and the elimination of failure to vote as a reason to purge individuals from the voting rolls, amongst others.

The videos of this CWI meeting will be posted on the CWI website and are available on YouTube [PART 1](#) and [PART 2](#)

### **Important Vacancy Notice**

The CWI Board is looking for a member to join the Board and serve as **CWI Secretary**. 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 listed below.

### **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](mailto:president@womensclearinghouse.org). Check out CWI's Facebook [www.fac](http://www.fac) For more information, [click here.ebook.com/womensclearinghouse](http://click here.ebook.com/womensclearinghouse) and Twitter [www.twitter.com/CWINews](http://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.

**Friday, March 8, 2019. International Women's Day website:** <https://www.internationalwomensday.com>

**Friday, March 8, 2019, 11 AM EST, International Women's Day Webinar: Balance for Better. Million Women Mentors.** Free [Register](#)

**Saturday March 9, 2019 to Monday, March 11, National Young Feminist Leadership Conference**, Feminist Majority Foundation, DoubleTree Hotel, Crystal City, VA. [Register](#)

**Wednesday March 13, 2019, 7 PM. Women's History Month Celebration. Montgomery County Business & Professional Women.** Rockville Memorial Library, first Floor, 21 Maryland Ave, Rockville, MD. For more Information contact [SusanHorst@yahoo.com](mailto:SusanHorst@yahoo.com).

**Monday, March 11, 2019 – March 22, 2019, Side Events to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.** New York, New York. [Register](#). (Note some are live streamed.)

**Monday, March 11, 2019 – March 22, 2019, Parallel Events to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women,** New York, New York. [Register](#). (Note some are live streamed.)

**Thursday, March 14, 2019, 6-9 PM, After Hours at the National Gallery of Art, Wonder Women, a tribute to the trailblazing women who have created and inspired masterpieces of art from the last century.** East Building 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW 20565. Free, [Register](#)

**Thursday, March 14, 2019, 7-8:30 PM, Women of the World Art Exhibition Opening Reception.** Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave, Takoma Park, MD 20912. [For more information.](#)

**Friday, March 15, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM Ni Una Menos: Addressing Gender Related Killings Of Women And Girls,** Organization of American States, 200 17th Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20006 Free, [Register](#). It will be [livestreamed](#).

**Thursday, March 21 2-5:30 PM Symposium: Safety for Our Sisters: Ending Violence against Native Women,** Rasmuson Theater, National Museum of the American Indian.

**Friday, March 22, 7PM Film Screening, Warrior Women,** Rasmuson Theater, National Museum of the American Indian.

**Tuesday, March 26, Noon-1:30 PM. Ways to Share our Feminist History,** Clearinghouse on Women's Issues. (See page 1-2).

**Saturday, March 30, 11 AM-2:30 PM. 2019 Women's History Honorees Awards Luncheon and Program,** [Purchase Tickets](#) \$100 members, \$125 non-members.

**Sunday, March 31, 2019 12:30-5 PM. Women's History Conference: The Power of Women, MD NOW and MD Women's Heritage Center. The ARC of Frederick County 555 S. Mark St., Frederick, MD 21701.** \$55, \$27 students and NOW members, sliding scale at door includes lunch. [Register](#).

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 7 PM. Democratic Woman of the Year Award: Rep. Maxine Waters, Trailblazer Award: Parkland Students,** Woman's National Democratic Club. \$150 Members, 200 Non Members. [Register](#)

**Wednesday April 3, 2019, 6PM. Women Making History Awards, National Women's History Museum,** Carnegie Institution for Science, 1530 P Street, NW, Washington DC, 20005. Purchase Tickets by March 28 at [Womenshistory.org/2019-Award-Tickets](#).

### ***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/qcJ3PQ](http://goo.gl/qcJ3PQ) The seminars are free.

*CWI's newsletter is endowed by friends in loving memory of our previous longtime editor, Roslyn Kaiser  
Meeting summary by Alicia Gurrieri, League of Women Voters and the Presenters. Photos by Anne Martin*

*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.

**DIRECTOR EMERITA:** Elaine Newman, **EX OFFICIO:** Barbara J. Ratner  
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# 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](mailto:joseph.holly@gmail.com)

Or you may also join online using PayPal by going to the membership section of [womensclearinghouse.org](http://womensclearinghouse.org)

For membership questions: Contact VP Membership, Linda Fihelly, [lfihelly@hotmail.com](mailto: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 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

\*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.