



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

February 2018 Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

**Invitation to the February 27, 2018 Meeting of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)
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, south exit)**

Learning from Sisters of Color and Each Other On How to Bring It to the Polls Nov '18

Let us build on our power and expertise to ensure we will have many victories in electing and appointing feminists for all governmental offices. We invite organizations' representatives with feminist members to share ideas how they have been and will encourage constituency groups to actively pursue progressive electoral victories and safeguard voting justice. How do we collaborate as individuals and groups to identify and train candidates, conduct advocacy events, support women's issues and increase media coverage for progressive change in areas such as education, worker's rights, environmental, and reproductive justice? Each organizational representative will be asked:

- 1-What was the participation of their constituency group in recent elections?
- 2-What are the issues of particular concern to your constituency?
- 3-What strategy worked/didn't work and what do you plan to do to elect candidates who support your issues?

To start our meeting and celebrate Black History Month, **Janice Mathis, Esq., Executive Director of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)**, and former long-time leader of Operation Push with Rev. Jesse Jackson will address the above questions and emphasize successful strategies used by African American Women and their male allies. These strategies may include working to end gerrymandering, voter registration, implementing policies to make it easier for people to vote, and other activities such as forming 501 C-4 organizations and Political Action Committees (PACs) to support progressive candidates as well as social media strategies. She will also describe the leadership role of NCNW to activate their membership and other allies.

Melina Olmo, President of the DC Chapter of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women will address our key questions and discuss how their members are not only raising funds and support for rebuilding Puerto Rico, but also energizing chapters across the US to elect progressives.

Amy Hinojosa, President and CEO, MANA, A National Latina Organization will share information on their Latinas Run initiative and success in getting their members elected to school boards, city councils and as mayor in addition to answering our questions.

Vimala Phongsavanh, a Lao American, is the Public Policy Director of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF). She will address our three questions and discuss how NAPAWF plans to help bring out votes for candidates who support their priority issues related to economic and reproductive justice and immigrant rights.

We also hope to have a representative from an advocacy organization representing Seniors such as the Alliance for Retired Americans. (Note the Older Women's League (OWL) no longer exists as a national organization.)

Members from other organizations willing to provide education and advocacy leadership on women's issues will also be invited to play an active role in this "Bring it to the Polls" discussion.

CWI meetings are free and open to the public. Bring lunch. Next CWI meeting Tue. March 27, 2018 is on networking women's history organizations and sites. Check www.womensclearinghouse.org for meeting cancellations.

Dear Current and Future CWI Members,

As American citizens and CWI members, we need to examine what we mean by the American ethos and culture, and how our view of individual injustices fit into a framework of our American belief in a democratic society. Seeking social justice is essential to our country's moral identity.

We, as CWI members, honor this identity by providing educational information on a broad variety of issues that we examine during our meetings. It is then our individual responsibility to find resources and act on these issues. A key response to this need is to ensure that people vote. A general Congressional election will take place in 2018 and all eligible people must vote in this election and other federal state and local elections. We also need to monitor appointees at all levels to ensure they are qualified, do not have conflicting interests, and share our values on issues of concern to women, families and many other progressive goals. CWI's meeting host, the [Alliance for Justice](#) provides information on judicial nominees and much more including its Boulder Advocacy program which provides assistance on federal laws related to the roles of 501 c(3) organizations in supporting issues 501 c(4) organizations in supporting specific candidates.

What works to get out the vote? What does CWI need to do to encourage women and men to vote and to enlist others to vote? CWI must present a strong message that states "each and every vote counts." We need to elect persons who will truly work, once elected, on legislation that will ensure that all persons are included in its benefits.

In in upcoming 2018 elections, there are more women running for office than ever before – seeking governorships, seats in local governments, and in both House and Senate congressional seats. This election will affect individual lives on a daily basis: protecting immigrants and "dreamers," providing adequate health care, educational opportunities, affordable housing, etc.

It is our obligation as citizens and moral human beings to make sure that all persons have a voice in the government. "Getting out the vote" offers us the opportunity to see that social justice pervades. We cannot be spectators as we look to the future for ourselves and future generations. Political initiatives will affect all these lives. Getting out the vote is a call for action and we must act now.

CWI will be highlighting Black History Month in February. In our Feb. 27 CWI meeting on "Learning from Our Sisters of Color and Each Other on How to Bring it to the Polls Nov. '18", we will provide an opportunity for attendees to meet and learn from Janice Mathis, Esq. the fairly recent Executive Director of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). To celebrate Women's History Month in March, Molly MacGregor, Executive Director, National Women's History Project (NWHHP) headquartered in CA will lead our March 27 CWI meeting on "Networking Women's History Organizations and Sites". Both organizations are sponsoring DC history month luncheons open to non-members for \$125 tickets. The NCNW Luncheon is Feb. 24 and the NWHHP luncheon is March 24. See newsletter announcement page for more details.

Cordially,

[Harriett Stonehill, Co-President](#)

[Sue Klein, Co-President](#)

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Meeting Summary
"Update on US based International Programs to Help Girls",
January 23, 2018, 12 noon to 1:30 PM at Alliance for Justice,
11 Dupont Circle, Washington, DC

Co-president Harriet Stonehill introduced the meeting's theme by highlighting the importance of developing programs to help girls in the "Global South" and high poverty countries to obtain an education and address their critical needs. Harriet Stonehill said, "the next generation is our future" and we need to support the many programs that focus on providing direct support to girls or on improving policies such as full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The four programs discussed at the meeting were Girl Up, School Girls Unite, Girls Gotta Run and Girls Learn International.



Kelsey Carroll is the Communications and Digital Media Associate for "[Girl Up](#)," the United Nations Foundation's adolescent girl campaign that engages girls to take action to achieve global gender equality. "Girl Up" provides leadership development programs to inspire, train and connect girls from different sections of the world, helping girls become leaders and create change. "Girl Up" currently works with girls in six countries: Guatemala, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, India, and Uganda. For each country, the focus is different depending on the girls' critical needs and issues they face in the specific country. Kelsey briefly described Girl Up's work in Liberia. It aims to help girls find and develop professional careers. Girl up also funds a comprehensive program in Liberia run by UN agencies that provide educational tools that will help girls shape their futures, offer health services and reduce harmful traditional practices such as early marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Girl Up is also present on high school and college campuses in the US and other countries. Currently, there are more than 2,000 Girl Up clubs in 98 countries. Girl Up campus clubs are organized by dedicated youth leaders who learn about world challenges and solutions, take action, and build movements for girls' rights worldwide.

Wendy Schaezel Lesko is the President of the [Youth Activism Project](#) that encourages teens to advocate on policy issues such as gender equity and sexual violence. In the CWI meeting, Wendy discussed "[School Girls Unite](#)," one of this nonprofit organization's programs. School Girls Unite is a girl-led initiative focused on providing education for girls in Mali and lobbying Congress to make education a top foreign policy priority. Since 2004 School Girls Unite, in partnership with a sister organization in Mali, has provided scholarships to 75 girls in rural villages. Twenty of these students have completed 9th grade which represents a significant achievement. Less than 1% of Malian girls living in extreme poverty reach this level of education. Through student-organized fundraising such as concerts and film screenings in the US, School Girls Unite continues to generate enough money to continue its scholarship program for the remaining 23 girls who have been supported since they were in 1st grade. Wendy also shared the book, [Wonder Girls](#) that features the School Girls Unite philanthropy and policy advocacy.



Gaby Grebski, a school counselor, health educator and coach, is a Board member of the [Girls Gotta Run Foundation](#), a unique grassroots non-profit using the national sport of running in Ethiopia to help empower female runners to stay in school, avoid child marriage, and improve their own economic circumstances while increasing economic opportunities for their families and communities. Founded in 2006, Girls Gotta Run was inspired by a Washington Post article about the plight of young female runners in Ethiopia using running as a means to escape an ongoing cycle of poverty with aspirations of becoming the next Olympic hopeful. Through Athletic Scholarships, Girls Gotta Run invests in middle school girls during the time period they are most at risk of dropping out of school by providing important resources such as tuition fees, books, school uniforms, hygiene products, food, health care, athletic gear, and access to coaches, female mentors and training facilities. Girls Gotta Run partners with the [Center for Creative Leadership](#) in teaching a life skills and leadership curriculum to all girls in the program that addresses healthy relationships, family planning, nutrition, HIV prevention, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship. Girls Gotta Run also works with the families, providing mothers with access to the Women's Savings and Entrepreneurship Group and small grants that help families build and sustain small businesses that help to support their daughters as they graduate from high school and move on to higher education. Scholarships are now being provided to 100 girls in two regions. For more information, please visit www.girlsgottarun.org.



Marzia Nawrozi is the Feminist Majority Foundation's (FMF) Afghan Expert and presented FMF's [Girls Learn International](#) (GLI) program. GLI works with over 200 chapters in middle and high schools throughout the US and is headquartered in FMF's Los Angeles Office. The GLI Program focuses on closing the gender gap in education so that all young people have the chance to go to school. Girls are disproportionately excluded from education, but it is crucial that girls, boys, transgender and non-binary youth, and adults all work together in order to come up with creative and realistic solutions to solve the crisis in girls' education. GLI members have the opportunity to learn and teach one another about worldwide issues such as human trafficking, racial discrimination and sexual and reproductive rights. Members also use their

knowledge of these issues to fundraise for projects that keep girls worldwide enrolled in school with the GLI Partner School Network. While presenting GLI, Marzia shared personal stories of growing up during the Taliban regime and not being allowed to go to school for six years. Marzia also talked about struggles that girls face in developing countries and how programs such as GLI, Girls Up and School Girls' Unite are beneficial and make differences. Marzia believes that coming to the United States as an exchange student changed her life. After completing her program, she went back to Afghanistan and worked on women's rights for two years. She came back to the United States through the Initiative to Educate Afghan Women's program. She dedicated her life to help girls with their education.

These four programs are among the many programs dedicated to breaking social and cultural barriers that limit girls' freedoms, successes and empowerment. Girls worldwide are struggling with systemic oppressions including gender-based violence, human trafficking and child marriages. For many girls in the Global South and developing countries, education is a both a privilege and a rarity. Currently, 130 million girls around the world are not in school and more than 1 in 3 women alive today were married before the age of 13, according to Girl Up.

The speakers concluded the meeting by listing ways in which we can help, support and achieve gender equality worldwide. Girl Up encourages high school and college students to apply for their yearly [Women in Science \(WiSci\) STEAM Camp](#) which aims to close the gender gap through access to education, mentorship opportuni-

ties and leadership training. This year, the WiSci STEAM camp will be in Namibia. Students can also help Girl Up by joining or creating a [Girl Up campus club](#). Individuals can support Girl Up by [donating](#) to the campaign, attending an event or fundraising for Girl Up. With more support and help, Girl Up can increase girls' opportunities, help shift public perception around the world about the value of girls and advocate for the implementation of policies that support girls' rights and equality.

We can help support School Girls Unite through [social media](#) for event updates. We can also show your support by printing out and signing the [Equal Education for Girls Globally Petition](#) to create awareness for the importance of education. Finally, if you are a student, you can use the [Activist Gameplan](#) to start your own School Girls Unite Group. We can also support School Girls Unite through [donations](#).

We can support Girls Gotta Run by [donating](#) or [sponsoring an athlete](#). Sponsoring an athlete will provide a year-long Athletic Scholarship for a girl in Sodo or Bekoji, Ethiopia. The scholarship allows girls to attend school, have access to healthcare, access to libraries and daily meals. We can also support Girls Gotta Run by attending their [fundraisers](#) or organizing your own fundraiser which can include marathons or art exhibits.

We can support GLI by [donating](#), becoming GLI members and joining or organizing GLI campus clubs. Chapter members can be a part of the GLI partner network of international schools in 10 different countries to help create fundraising projects to keep students in school. We can also create more awareness for GLI through social media and students can write in the student-driven GLI [blog](#).

Over the past decade, there has been tremendous progress around the cause of equal education access for girls globally. Many organizations have brought attention to the importance of gender discrimination and accessible education worldwide, which was prioritized by the [Malala Fund](#). The Malala Fund is a real engine on the international level and Girl Up is a major driver in the US. However it is also important to learn about, sustain, and foster collaboration among the larger and smaller organizations such as School Girls Unite, Girls Gotta Run, and Girls Learn International. Perhaps for the next United Nations October 11 [the Day of the Girl](#) there can be a collaborative effort to publish and publicize information on the many US-based organizations that are working on this global movement for gender justice and youth rights.

Coming 2018 DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

In 2018 we will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list. Please share your upcoming feminist events to post in 2018 CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org. Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us.

Here is link to DC Area Women's Voices Theater Festival with many plays.

<http://www.womensvoicestheaterfestival.org/>. Some of us already saw Sovereignty at Arena Stage and recommend it!

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018, Noon – 1:30 PM. Women and Girls in Sports Day Briefing, US Capitol Visitor Center Room SVC 208-09. [RSVP](#) required by 2-5 if possible.

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018. 3-7 PM. Building a Safe, Economically Secure Future for Women and Girls, YWCA. Kennedy Caucus Room, 325 Russell Senate Office Building. [Registration Link](#).

Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018 11AM-12:15 PM. Black Women & the Economy. Economic Policy Institute. House Office Building [RSVP here](#). Livestreamed at <https://www.facebook.com/Keith.Ellison>

Wednesday, Feb. 21. 11 AM-3:30 PM. Internet, Data, & Privacy Colloquium: Law and Technology: Where Humanity & technology Meet. Dialogue on Diversity, The Rabin Group, 1341 G St. NW 5th Floor, Washington, DC. Register www.dialogueondiversity.org

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018, 12:15 PM. 92nd Annual Black History Luncheon, National Council of Negro Women, Washington Renaissance Hotel, 999 9th St. NW, Washington, DC [Register](#) .

Monday, February 26, 2018, Supreme Court Rally to Support Labor Unions in the Janus Supreme Court Case. Contact: Connie Cordovilla for details. ccordovi@aft.org

Tuesday, February 27, 2018. Noon-1:30 PM. Learning from our Sisters of Color and Each Other On How to Bring it to the Polls Nov. '18, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues, Alliance for Justice, See page 1.

Saturday-Monday, March 17-19 2018. National Young Feminist Leadership Conference 2018. Sponsored by the Feminist Majority Foundation, The Double Tree Crystal City. Contact feministcampus.org/conference/ for more information and Early Bird Registration.

Saturday March 24, 2018, 11-2:30PM. Nevertheless She Persisted, National Women's History Project Honoree Luncheon, Hamilton, 600 14th St. NW Washington DC. For information and to purchase tickets at \$125 go to <http://www.nwhp.org/2018-theme-honorees/> and then to the [store](#).

Tuesday, March 27, 2018. Noon-1:30 PM. Networking Women's History Organizations and Sites, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues, Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, Washington, DC.

Extras

[Free Podcast](#) from Montgomery County NOW. Episode 29 for Jan. 2018 is on the "World of Entertainment and Ida B. Wells-Barnett".

Now to Feb. 18, 2018. **Theater Recommendation: Sovereignty** by Mary Kathryn Nagle at [Arena Stage](#). (Good equity and feminist focus re Cherokee lawyers and important Violence Against Women 2013 Amendment.) Tel. 202-488-3300. Ask for special ticket prices.

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

Photos: Anne Martin, Draft of 1-23-1817 meeting summary, Aina Ramiamanana, FMF Intern,

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2017 – JUNE 2019

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Membership Form

www.womensclearinghouse.org

1. 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

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

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Enclosed is a check for CWI membership **July 1-June 30** (Please fill in year/s.) _____

___ **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)

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TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

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