

Gender Equality: United Nations and US Federal Support

Progress in gender equality continues to be a major concern. The Clearinghouse January meeting will discuss the following issues: Is the US federal support for global gender equality improving? What are the changes in UN offices with responsibility for gender equality? What is the US planning to contribute to the upcoming Beijing+15 Meetings?

Our speakers will be **June Zeitlin**, attorney, Director of the CEDAW Education Project, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Education Fund and **Karen Richardson**, Senior Advisor on International Organizations to Melanne Verveer, Ambassador for the Global Women's Issues Bureau at the State Department.

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm.

Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

Place: American Council on Education,
One Dupont Circle, 8th Floor Kellogg Room

Bring brown bag lunch, soft drinks available from a machine.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A photo ID must be shown at the security desk of One Dupont Circle.

Please allow time to go through the sign-in system.

In case of bad weather and closing of government offices, the CWI meeting will be cancelled.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2010

The White House Council on Women and Girls: Empowering Women

The speakers at the November meeting were, **Terry O'Neill**, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), chair of the NOW Foundation and the NOW Action committee, and **Tina Tchen**, executive director of the White House Council on Women and Girls and director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.

O'Neill said that eight years of the Bush administration had pushed women's issues back quite a bit, "We need to make up a lot of lost ground, particularly in terms of economic justice for women."

She said that in the US women's participation in politics has fallen behind the rest of the world, because the US Senate has never ratified CEDAW (Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women). She noted that only 16 percent of the U.S. Congress is female; less than 15 percent of state governorships are held by women, which should be 50 percent. Money is a major reason that keeps women from participating in politics, because women earn 77 cents on the dollar, compared to men and they are less willing to take the economic risk of running for office.

O'Neill asked, "Do we realize how much women bear the brunt of national health care reform?" She said that we are charged more for insurance premiums, up to 50 percent more, and then denied care when it is needed, justified by insurance companies because women need pregnancy care, prenatal care and childcare — care that is essential for women and newborns to survive. Mothers and their babies have a much higher death rate without prenatal care.

In the health care debate, she explained, the right wing has decided to attack women's reproductive health care needs. She said the health care bill that is currently on the Senate side



Terry O'Neill



Tina Tchen

includes a strong anti-abortion provision. One of the troubling things, according to O'Neill, is to hear elected officials and public leaders say that abortion is always a tragedy, always a bad thing. But an unplanned pregnancy is an unplanned pregnancy. She quoted an Episcopal priest, Catherine Ragsdale who said, "For the woman who freely chooses it and needs it, abortion is a blessing."

Abortion is healthcare, she emphasized. It's an ordinary part of a women's reproductive health care needs. O'Neill asked the audience to think of a woman who has cancer, and is undergoing treatment, and experiences an unplanned pregnancy. Under the Hyde amendment (which restricts federal money for abortions), if she's a woman in need and low-income, she cannot use federal dollars to terminate the

pregnancy unless it is bringing her to death; if this woman has cancer, she cannot terminate her pregnancy in order to get well.

However, O'Neill said, the area where we can make real headway is in implementing family-friendly policies so women can earn more money.

She wrapped up by saying that it is her understanding that President Obama is very open-minded and eager to work with the women's community to advance women's issues.

When Tina Tchen was asked to lead what is now the White House Office of Public Engagement, she said she would only be interested if she could also take a leadership position on helping women and girls. This led to her role in establishing the White House Council on Women and Girls. She said that she wanted to have special responsibility for liaison with the women's community as part of her public engagement responsibilities. (Valerie Jarrett is the chair of

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this Council and Tchen is its executive director). In an effort to help with grassroots outreach, her office is working with organizations that have state chapters; they are trying to work with new media; and they are starting to work with offices of public liaison/public engagement across the country in the various agencies, such as Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture, in order to get the community involved.

Tchen said that they wanted to try to push forward the work that had already been done. They also wanted to make sure that women's issues were embedded in the ongoing work of the federal government, so that it could not be taken away by political change.

President Obama decided that, rather than having one White House cabinet-level office on women, that every part of the government needed to have responsibilities related to women's issues because women's issues need to be the responsibility of everyone. The Council asked each agency secretary to appoint a representative to the White House Council on Women and Girls to work with her and her staff on an ongoing basis.

The agencies were asked to consider what they were doing externally for women and girls, as well as to look internally at what they were doing to promote their female employees. This information was compiled into reports that will eventually be released to the public. Tchen said that she expects each agency will have a spot on their website for their work with women and girls. Tchen said that they want to continue to move forward. The Council is supporting the work of each agency.

There have been several inter-agency efforts for which the Council is providing coordination, issues that are of particular interest to the President, First Lady Michelle Obama and Vice President Biden. These include violence against women, financial security and financial literacy that empowers women and girls at all stages of life; growing women's jobs, with a focus on helping women in small businesses both domestically and internationally; the experience of women in the American workforce, and, in particular, how women are disproportionately affected because

they have to maintain a balance of life and work. Health care and its importance to women is a critical concern of the White House offices. Tchen said, "No one should have to choose between a roof over their family's head and their own medical treatment."

During the Question and Answer session, Tchen was asked what the Council does internationally. She said that she has been working with Melanie Verveer, the Ambassador for global women's issues at the state department, talking about global business development and how it affects women around the world. They are also very concerned about the vulnerability of young girls, and Valerie Jarrett attended two meetings in Singapore on the subject of trafficking and is also working on getting the United States involved in the Beijing+15 meeting, which will take place in 2010.

Tchen was asked what the Council is doing in connection with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs for girls. She said that they have been leading an effort to highlight the work that is being done around the country on STEM, and calling attention to the work of the Department of Education on this project. This includes the "Race To The Top" initiative, which gives priority funding to STEM projects that include outreach programs to minorities and women.

Tchen was asked how she plans to include the legislative and judicial branches of the federal government. Tchen said that she and Valerie Jarrett sat down with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the co-chairs of the House Women's Caucus on those agencies. Unfortunately, she said, her office cannot interact in the same way with the judicial branch. She pointed out that there is a significant problem of under representation of women on the federal bench.

A leader of an organization focusing on needs of mothers pointed out to Tchen that they will be limiting women and girls if they don't bring in and show the value of care work. She said that women are paid less because they are assumed to be providing care. She also said that care work should be included in the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) as it is in some other countries.

Tchen said that emailing her is the best way

Program Summary, continued

to reach her and her staff and suggested that members of the audience ask to be put on the Council's email list. public@who.eop.gov.

O'Neill was asked if the public option is the only way for health care costs to be controlled. She answered that the women's movement needs to readjust after battling the past eight years. We now have more friendly people in leadership and congress but neither the White House nor the congress will do what is best for us unless we keep pressuring. For example, having an anti-abortion measure in the health care bill is a disaster.

She pointed out that the health care reform bill will get rid of gender rating, but does not eliminate age rating. Older people can be charged three times more than younger people. Who does this affect most: middle-aged women.

O'Neill suggested that, to the extent that we may have to retain restrictions on public funding for abortion, the language should be modified so that federal funding of abortion will be allowed to preserve the health of the mother and will

consider fetal problems.

A questioner asked about Catholic Charities which she said are getting 65 percent of their money from the federal government and still violating civil rights protection, which may be a violation of the IRS codes. O'Neill said, "Good question. I think the IRS needs to investigate."

Another question: Do you think more women will get elected in 2010? "If progressive women think someone is not out working for them they turn their attention to what is more amenable to their needs and their immediate problems. They drop out of political participation. Instead of voting for conservatives they just will not vote."

For more information go to www.now.org. Also see the recent article by Frances Kissling, "Reclaiming Legal Abortion as a fundamental right." Kissling was formerly president of Catholics for Choice and spoke to CWI in March 2009 on *Feminist Concerns About Federal Support of Faith-based Activities*. www.womensmediacenter.com/ex/010410.html.

Margaret Feldman and Mary Gardiner Jones

We acknowledge the recent passing of two active feminists and CWI members, Margaret Feldman, 93, and Mary Gardiner Jones, 89.

Dr. Feldman was a former professor of social work at Ithaca College in New York and past president of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly in DC. She received a master's degree in social work from Case Western Reserve University, and later received a doctorate in educational psychology from Cornell. After retiring in 1981, she and her husband came back to Washington, and she served as representative for the Council on Family Relations. Dr. Feldman and her husband attended the International Women's Conferences in Beijing and Kenya in the 1990s. Donations in her memory may be sent to the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues, Att: Linda Fihelly, Treasurer, 5618 North Marwood Blvd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

Jones, an anti-trust lawyer, was the first woman Federal Trade Commissioner and a nationally recognized feminist according to *The Washington Post* obituary notice. She graduated from Wellesley and then enrolled in Yale Law School. "After the war, she found that a female lawyer, even one who was managing editor and a board member of the Yale Law School, couldn't get a job at the top law firms." She became an ardent consumer advocate who was concerned about consumers' rights. Jones had a long-standing interest in race relations and endowed a scholarship at Howard University for students who work toward improving Black/White relations. Jones Beach in New York is named after her family.

January is Cervical Awareness Month www.cluw.org/cervcancer.html

President's Message

We tried something new with the websites in the November newsletter. All you had to do was click on the words that were underlined and they would get you directly to the website. This worked fine for the electronic version of the newsletter, but did not work for the printed version. Therefore, I have listed the sites that were used with their full addresses. Sorry if anyone was inconvenienced, baffled or frustrated (or all of the above).

Page one: www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cwg/; Sue Klein sklein@feminist.org;

Page two: Fran Buntman at www.gwu.edu/~soc/; Deborah Golden at www.washlaw.org

Nancy La Vigne at www.urbaninstitute.org

Page three: The 1996 Prison Litigation Reform Act www.acslaw.org/files/Golden-

[%20Prison%20Litigation%20Reform%20Act%20-%20June%202006%20-%20Advance%20Vol%201.pdf](http://www.acslaw.org/files/Golden-%20Prison%20Litigation%20Reform%20Act%20-%20June%202006%20-%20Advance%20Vol%201.pdf)

Second Chance Act www.opensocietypolicycenter.org/resources/publication.php?docId=64

National Reentry Resource Center www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/

AAUW blog www.blog-aauw.org/2009/10/30/women-in-prison-what-rights

Page four: Ms www.nytimes.com/2009/10/25/magazine/25FOB-onlanguage-t.html?_r=4&scp=3&sq=ben+zimmer&st=cse

Page five: The Shriver Report and A Woman's Nation www.awomansnation.com/

Barbara J Ratner

New Mexico Gov. Richardson Calls for Pay Equity

Last month New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson took steps to ensure gender equity goals by ordering agencies "under his control to report annually and remedy any gender pay gaps among their workers, and (he) established a firm schedule and process for private contractors with the state to do the same."

The Governor's directives come from recommendations by his Task Force on Fair and Equal Pay, created in 2008 to examine gender and racial pay equity and job segregation within the state government. Dr. Martha Burk, former president of the National Council of Women's Organizations of which CWI is a member, chaired the Task Force, which was composed of members from the private and public sectors.

Women's Media Center

The WMC has launched a new website www.notunderthebus.com/ with Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin, intended to strengthen the voices of women and organizations devoted to a health care reform that is fair to women. Their press release says, "We won't let Congress run over women's health... We are furious that our reproductive rights and our health have been compromised by politicians in Congress, who for political gains oppose national health reform to the detriment of more than 16 million women."

Books

From former CWI Member Sonia Fuentes

Fuentes was interviewed by Lee Ann Banaszak for her book, *The Women's Movement Inside and Outside the State*, recently published by Cambridge University Press. Prof. Banaszak wanted to document the role feminists in the federal government played in the legal revolution that took place in this country starting in the early 1960s, a subject that was generally hidden from, and unknown to, the general public. Banaszak is an associate professor of political science and women's studies at Pennsylvania State University.

The book's cover shows Betty Ford and Rosalynn Carter and two other feminists behind a podium that says, "ERAmerica," taken in 1977 at an ERA rally. (That was 32 years ago and we're still waiting for ratification of the ERA says Fuentes.)

When Every Thing Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women From 1960 to the Present

Gail Collins, the first woman editorial page editor for *The New York Times*, looks into the changes in the lives of American women over the past fifty years in her recently published book (Little, Brown and Company). She covers what didn't happen as well as what did happen.



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

**Sunday,
Jan. 31**

Women's Legislative Briefing. University of Maryland, Shady Grove Campus, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, MD. 12:30 - 5:30p. Keynote speaker will be pay equity heroine Lilly Ledbetter. General admission \$10; students \$5. Online registration required. The Briefing will conclude with a reception providing the opportunity to meet with county and state elected officials, and to network with advocates and representatives of other women's organizations. For more information, call 240-777-8330 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw

**Tuesday,
March 2**

Business and Professional Women's Policy and Action Day, designed to improve the working place for women. AARP Brickfield Center 601 E Street, NW, in DC. 8:00a - 8:00p. Issues impacting women and families that will be covered: healthcare, employment, environment, paid sick days, equal pay, and the Family and Medical Leave Act. Information at policy@bpwfoundation.org

Photos: D.Anne Martin; Editors: Roslyn Kaiser and Jessica Lazar; November meeting summary draft by Cori Fordham, FMF intern. Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2009 - June 2010

OFFICERS: *President*, Barbara J. Ratner; *VP Program*, Sue Klein; *VP Membership Co-chairs*, Kellye McIntosh and D.Anne Martin; *Treasurer*, Linda Fihelly; *Secretary*, Harriett M. Stonehill.

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Rights and Wrongs: The GLBT Experience

Public attitude toward the gay and lesbian community has eased in recent years, yet many concerns face the lesbian community. What issues does a lesbian face as she ages? Are they different from what any woman faces as she ages? What is the impact of same sex marriage on lesbians and on our society? What about civil unions? Is it true the military discharges lesbians more often than gay men? What will be the effect of "don't ask, don't tell" if it is repealed? Please join us as our speakers provide facts and answers to the questions that are quite often in the news.

Our speakers will be **Laurie Young**, Interim Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and **Captain Lory Manning**, Director of the Women in the Military project at the Women's Research & Education Institute.

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm.

Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

Place: One Dupont Circle, 8th Floor, Washington DC

Bring brown bag lunch, soft drinks available from a machine.

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Gender Equality: United Nations and US Federal Support

The New UN Women's Offices and US Plans for Beijing+15

WT's January speakers were **June Zeitlin**, director of the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) Education Project at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and **Karen Richardson**, senior advisor on International Organizations to Ambassador for Global Women's Issues, Melanne Verveer, in the US Department of State.

June Zeitlin explained how this was a propitious time for her and others to work on US global women's policy after her years working on international women's issues at WEDO (Women's Environmental and Development Organization) in New York. She presently is in Washington DC at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. Her CEDAW project is an example of their expanded human rights mission. She has also been involved for a long time in coalition efforts to create a stronger women's agency at the UN that would consolidate the work of the four UN agencies with women-specific responsibilities.

Zeitlin has worked with the GEAR (Gender Equality Architecture Reform) campaign composed of 300 supporting groups from around the world for the past four years. It focused on creating a new UN Agency to better serve women and address gender equality. In the hierarchical UN structure, consolidation of the current four women-focused agencies with a high-level head should help give women's issues a consistent place at the high-level policy meetings and an increased budget as well as increased efficiency. The new consolidated UN women's office would include the four UN women's agencies: UNIFEM



June Zeitlin



Karen Richardson

(UN Development Fund for Women), INSTRAW (the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women); DAW (the Division for the Advancement of Women) and OSAGI (The Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues). UNIFEM has been the main operational agency at the United Nations to support women's programs around the world. Other agencies work to advance women's rights but it is only part of their mandate; advancing women's rights is UNIFEM's sole mandate. Of course other UN agencies also have responsibility for gender equality and gender mainstreaming is encouraged in all UN agencies and activities.

These four agencies have a staff of approximately 200 people worldwide, most of them are in UNIFEM. The total budget for all four agencies combined is now almost \$200 million but it had been \$100-150 million for UNIFEM alone. This budget for the four women's agencies is small compared to other UN agencies with typical budgets of \$800 million for UNFPA, or to UNICEF's more than \$3 billion budget. This illustrates how women's issues have not received the attention and priority necessary to fulfill the commitments governments have made in the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW and all the other human rights instruments that the UN is supposed to be helping governments implement. While we've made huge gains through the UN system for women's rights and many very good commitments on paper, translating them into action to bettering the lives of women all around the world has been ad hoc and slow.

In September 2009 the UN adopted a resolution to create a new consolidated gender

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equality entity headed by an under secretary-general. The secretary-general just issued a report on how this office would be implemented, consolidating the four small entities mentioned above into one stronger entity, thereby linking policy with implementation. It has a strong focus on working with and getting support at the country level and working with civil society entities such as NGOs. The report still needs to be approved by the General Assembly and the under secretary-general needs to be selected. Therefore, establishing this new office (which still doesn't have an official name), will provide a much stronger and expanded capacity to carry out the commitments to gender equality.

Consultations with countries and obtaining their additional budgetary support for the new office is a major undertaking. The GEAR campaign has suggested selection criteria for the under secretary-general and people are talking about choosing someone such as the past President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet. They would like to see someone appointed soon so she can lead the transition process. The candidate should know women's issues, have ties to the woman's movement, know how to operate in the UN system and how to raise money. The secretary-general's report recommended funding at \$500 million although the GEAR campaign asked for \$1 billion. The US Ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice, has been very supportive. GEAR would like to see the US give more than the \$9-10 million it has been giving to UNIFEM even though this is much better than in the past. Zeitlin pointed out that getting this far in four years is quite an achievement in the UN process.

She then gave a brief summary of the status of CEDAW, which just celebrated its 30th anniversary. The US is in the company of only seven other countries such as Iran, Somalia and Sudan in failing to ratify CEDAW. It had been favorably reported by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee with bipartisan support in 1994 and 2002 but never voted on the floor. The CEDAW project at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights is pursuing multiple approaches. The NWLC (National Women's Law Center) is undertaking a legal analysis of the benefits of CEDAW in the US. The International

Center for Research on Women is reviewing examples of the impact of CEDAW ratification in other countries, the Communications Consortium is developing new communication tools and we will all be mobilizing groups around the US to push for ratification. Zeitlin urges more groups to join the expanded campaign to get CEDAW ratified which requires a vote by 2/3 or 67 Senators.

Karen Richardson described what should be very exciting news during the March 2010 meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York City. The groups participating in the GEAR (Gender Equality Architecture Reform) Campaign have almost accomplished their initial mission to establish a high level, stronger, and better supported office focusing on women's rights in the UN. Richardson described how the US was planning to contribute to the activities of the two weeks of meetings of the UN Commission on Women and the one day celebration of Beijing+15, March 1-12, 2010 in NYC. These meetings should include the appointment of an under secretary-general as the first head of this new consolidated women's office as well as the announcement of the structure, mission, and funding for this office.

Richardson said that by the US paying attention to Beijing +15 and other activities of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) we would be continuing Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton's message that women's issues were very important. During the CSW March 1-12 meetings there will be panel discussions, speeches, and resolutions. Her office was still discussing what the US resolution may focus on, perhaps global health issues. Women's economic empowerment may be the focus of a US side event. The role of men in combating violence against women may be a joint session with France. Ambassador Verveer may be a panel speaker. Richardson also hopes that Secretary Clinton will participate. The ambassador's office will be sending delegates from the public and office staff. As Tina Tchen, executive director of the White House Office on Women and Girls, mentioned at our November 2009 meeting, Verveer's office is also working with the White House Council on Women and Girls. There may be a combined report with that

Program Summary, continued

office on what the US has accomplished to update the country reports on progress on the Plan of Action from the 1995 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing.

Both speakers are very interested in continued interaction with those who attended this CWI meeting. If you would like to be updated, please contact the speakers to be put on their email list. June Zeitlin: Zeitlin@civilrights.org and Karen Richardson: Richardsonke@state.gov.

During the discussion following the speakers' presentations they were asked, "At previous CSW meetings there have been NGO briefings by the US delegation. Will this be done in March 2010?" Richardson said there will be discussions with NGOs at lunch time.

An attendee said, "there has been no information on what is happening for interested supporters such as the current meeting attendees as in the past. How about doing this?" Richardson said Verveer's office is working closely with Ambassador Rice and Secretary Clinton and that they are still planning and learning what is going on with these meetings. Someone later suggested that Verveer's office host a joint state and NGO meeting in DC to brief folks. Richardson appreciated that suggestion.

"What will the salary of the under secretary-general be and who will pay it?" Zeitlin said she didn't know but it would be in the UN budget.

Gender Action's Elaine Zuckerman suggested that Verveer's office get involved in influencing the IMF and other Development Banks to be more accountable on women's issues. Often their

loans hurt women. Richardson will arrange for her to follow-up more with Verveer.

"There were many meetings for NGOs before and during CFW session; what will be happening this year?" Richardson and Zeitlin pointed out that Beijing+15 is just a declaration and celebration for one day of the two week CSW, during which CSW countries will report on their implementation progress on the Beijing Plan for Action. Recent CSW negotiations were not useful because they decreased rather than increased some countries' commitments to progress on women's rights. Richardson agreed with a suggestion that it would be good to have video of UN CSW sessions and other information on the global women ambassador's website.

"Will there be a US report on implementation?" Richardson said yes, it may also build on the White House Council on Women and Girls forthcoming report from the agencies.

"How will these efforts and CEDAW help the ERA?" Zeitlin answered that some countries have incorporated human rights provisions in constitutions and other ways. Congress has to pass laws to implement treaties once the treaty has been ratified. We need 67 Senate votes to ratify CEDAW. It was pointed out that the US has let marriage age be established at state levels so the US can't commit to this part of CEDAW. Zeitlin said there may be reservations related to federalism issues as in other human rights treaties. CEDAW and disabilities rights are the two human rights treaties the Senate should be considering soon.

Bunny Sandler inducted into the Maryland Hall of Fame

CWI member Bernice (Bunny) Sandler will be inducted into the Maryland Hall of Fame in March. The Hall of Fame was established in 1985, to "honor Maryland women who have made unique and lasting contributions to the economic, political, cultural and social life of the state and to provide visible models of achievement for tomorrow's female leaders." The annual ceremony is held during Women's History Month at the Maryland State House in Annapolis.

www.msa.md.gov/msa/educ/exhibits/womenshall/html/whflist.html.

The Hall of Fame has 125 inductees. Previous inductees include Clearinghouse long-time members Carmen Delgado Votaw and Sonia Fuentes (who has moved to Sarasota, FL). They are in good company with the likes of Clara Barton and Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski.

Maryland to Open Women's Heritage Center and Museum

According to the *Baltimore Sun*, The Maryland Women's Center and Museum will open sometime this spring in temporary headquarters on the first floor of the former Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. The center will include a mix of exhibits and displays, including a reference library, a student learning center and a history archive.

The idea for the center came from Jill Moss Greenberg, who serves as executive director. She is an activist, historian and educator and is herself in the Hall of Fame. Linda Shevitz, coordinator, Maryland Women's History Project, Maryland State Department of Education, was also instrumental to the fulfillment of the plans for the center; she is now program/education chair. Greenberg said, "Our motto is 'adding her-story to history to tell our story' so everyone's included."

Global Gender Gap

For the past four years the Global Gender Gap Index has been issued by the World Economic Forum to provide gender parity progress information on the world's nations. This year the forum, held annually in Davos, Switzerland, included gender as an item in many of the issues discussed.

From *Women's e-News* "The Forum's annual Global Gender Gap report has become a trusted source of information about the world's nations towards gender parity. Its premise is that a nation's well-being is correlated to the status of women. One has only to look at the top of the report's rankings, dominated by Scandinavian countries, to see the connection.

The Washington Post columnist, Ruth Marcus said, "The focus is on the gap between men and women in each country rather than women's overall achievement, so countries are ranked on the gender differential rather than development level ... the U.S. ranked No. 31, where it's been for the past few years but worse than its No. 23 ranking from the first survey in 2006. Most of the other countries improved their rankings. ... The US did best on education. There is no gender gap in literacy rates, and women outperform men on school enrollment. We lag furthest behind on

political empowerment, with the female-to-male ration putting us at No. 70 on 'women in Parliament' this year ... the gap between the shares of women and men participating in the U.S. labor force is fairly small, but census data indicate it has increased rather than shrunk, and that differential has grown more in the U.S. than in any other country."

Black History Month

From the National Women's History Project

The idea for acknowledging Black history was originated in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson, who chose the second week of February to mark the birthdays of two Americans "who greatly influenced the lives and social condition of African Americans — Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass." The "week" later became Black History Month.

An 18" x 24" poster celebrating Black women's history is available from the museum. The two-color design features original portraits of Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Mary McLeod Bethune, Madame C. J. Walker, Lena Horne, Lorraine Hansberry, Wilma Rudolph, Rosa Parks, and Marion Anderson. For further information, visit www.nwhp.org.

In Remembrance

Ruth Proskauer Smith, long time reproductive rights advocate who helped found what is now NARAL Pro-Choice America, died recently at 102.

Beth Shulman, a member of WOW's board of directors, died Feb. 5. Shulman was one of the highest ranked women in unions, serving in various positions with The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

President's Message

It is time to begin thinking of new board members. If you would be interested in participating, please contact me. I understand we are all stretched to the maximum; however, we need interested people to help us continue presenting these outstanding programs. About four to five hours a month, including the monthly meetings, would be greatly appreciated. You can reach me at 301-493-0002 or

cwi-info@womensclearinghouse.org.

Barbara J. Ratner



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

February is Black History Month.

**Saturday,
March 13**

Creating Your Ideal World: Economically, Socially, and Professionally

presented by Xi Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, 9am - 4pm;
The Catholic University of America, Caldwell Hall, 620 Michigan Avenue NE.
www.akaxo.org/ Registration and additional information, contact Allison Watts;
howaru93@verizon.net or Daphne King; daphnelk1908@yahoo.com.

**Thursday,
March 18**

Bernice (Bunny) Sandler's induction ceremony into the Maryland Hall of Fame
in Annapolis at 5:30pm. \$30. President's Conference Room of the Miller Senate Office
Building, followed by a reception at Government House (the Governor's home) hosted by
First Lady Katie O'Malley. Reservations and information: Kenya Johnson at 410-767-8695 or
e-mail kjohnso7@thr.state.md.us

May 5-9

Legal Momentum's Women of Achievement Awards, in San Francisco.

*Photos: D. Anne Martin; January meeting summary draft by Sue Klein;
Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.*

CWI Board of Directors, July 2009 - June 2010

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DIRECTORS: Alvin Golub, Sarah Gotbaum, Roslyn Kaiser, Ruth G. Nadel, Ellen S. Overton, *ex officio*.

Women's Museums: Feminist Art

How is feminist art impacting political and social norms today? Feminist artists have had a profound impact on society, informing artistic practice, challenging commonly held assumptions and by making art that reflects women's unique lives and experiences. Contemporary women artists are pushing the boundaries of what is expected from women in the arts, helping to inform and expand definitions of how we view art. CWI's March meeting will focus on how women's museums support female artists, the challenges they face, and the impact women's museums have in advancing feminist art. Speakers will also share observations about support for the arts by the Obama administration.

We are pleased to have three accomplished speakers: **Susan Fisher Sterling**, Director of the National Museum of Women in the Arts; **Jennifer Krafchik**, Director of Collections for the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum and home of the historic National Woman's Party; and **Joan Wages**, President & CEO and founding board member of National Women's History Museum.

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm.

Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

Place: One Dupont Circle, 8th Floor, Washington DC

Bring brown bag lunch, soft drinks available from a machine.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A photo ID must be shown at the security desk of One Dupont Circle.

Please allow time to go through the sign-in system.

In case of bad weather and closing of government offices, the CWI meeting will be cancelled.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Rights and Wrongs: The LGBT Experience

The speakers at the Clearinghouse February meeting were **Laurie Young, Ph.D.**, Interim Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and **Captain Lory Manning (USN, Ret.)**, Director of the Women in the Military project at the Women's Research & Education Institute. They both discussed issues facing LGBT citizens in the US.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people and their issues are often invisible to the general political community. **Laurie Young**, expressed how important it is for the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues to remain informed about and support LGBT issues. After all, Young said, the L (lesbians) and T (trans-women) are women of our community.

Young brought up the Hate Crimes Protection Act, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama on October 28, 2009. It gives the Department of Justice the power to investigate and prosecute bias-motivated violence — where a perpetrator has selected a victim because of the person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

LGBT people are twice as likely to age alone and four times less likely to have children, Young informed the room. They are also twice as likely to live in poverty (with a yearly income below \$10,000 per person). In a national survey of more than 6,000 transgender respondents, 97 percent noted they experienced harassment and job discrimination in the work place.

She went on to discuss the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would provide basic protections against workplace



Laurie Young



Lory Manning

discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Such legislation will finally provide protection for LGBT people from employment discrimination on the federal level.

Young also announced that the Task Force put together a briefing book in 2008, which was to be given to whomever became president. The New Beginnings Initiative lists 80 federal policies that are detrimental to LGBT individuals that can be changed without the use of the legislative process. In addition, the Census Bureau has announced that starting in 2010, they will report same-sex married couples as married couples. Many people do not realize that between five and ten percent of the US's population is LGBT. They reside in 99 percent of counties in the U.S. and their needs should not be ignored.

The Administration on Aging plans to develop a technical assistance research center for LGBT elders. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will redefine "family" to make it more equitable for LGBT people to obtain housing vouchers and supported living arrangements. They will make sure states that have LGBT protections that these are enforced.

For more information, Young can be reached at lyoung@thetaskforce.org. You can find a new report she distributed "Outing Age 2010: Public Policy Issues Affecting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Elders" at www.theTaskForce.org. Go to search at the top of the page.

Captain Lory Manning discussed the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy and how it affects women in the military. She explained that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) represents a 1993 com-

Program Summary, continued

promise between President Bill Clinton and Congress. At the time, military regulations forbade homosexuals from serving in the military. Clinton intended to issue an Executive Order that would allow LGBT people to serve openly in the military.

Unfortunately, Congress did not allow Clinton to do this and instead the Executive Branch and Congress came to a compromise that allowed homosexuals to serve in the military as long as they did not engage in any homosexual conduct. Homosexual conduct covered a broad range of activities including telling anyone that you were a homosexual.

The compromise was put into the 1994 Defense Authorizations Bill that prevented anyone who “demonstrates a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts” from serving in the military because their service “would create an unacceptable risk to high standards of morale, good order & discipline and unit cohesion.” This “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” compromise put into federal law what had previously just been in military regulation. While before, members and recruits could be asked about their sexual orientation so they could be “outed” and prohibited from serving, the compromise allowed homosexuals to serve as long as they did not “out” themselves.

This law affects all homosexuals in the military, but in some ways it affects women much more than it does men. For some reason, women make up a substantially higher percentage of those discharged for homosexual conduct than their percentage in the service. For example, women made up 20 percent of the Air Force but 61 percent of Air Force personnel discharges for homosexuality were women. Women comprised 14 percent of the Army yet received 36 percent of the Army’s discharges. For the Navy, the respective figures are 14 percent and 23 percent and for the Marine Corps, 6 percent and 18 percent.

One reason for this disparity could be that ever since 1943, when there was a large increase of women entering the military during World War II, people have been questioning the morals

and sexuality of women in the military. Femininity standards were enforced including make-up, grooming, and deportment requirements. Women in the military still bear the burden of proving their sexuality. There have been large numbers of sexual harassment cases where men threaten to report women for being lesbians if they did not sleep with them and prove they were heterosexual. Both homosexual and heterosexual women have been affected. A British study revealed that when the British military allowed homosexuals to serve openly, the number of sexual assault cases dropped.

If DADT is repealed then a different issue arises. As of now, getting married to a same-sex partner is considered telling and a service member could be discharged. Once DADT is repealed, homosexual members will be able to get married in states that allow same-sex marriage. The question becomes if a homosexual member of the military gets married, will the same-sex spouses be able to receive benefits under the federal government? This is similar to what women had to deal with in the 40s when their husbands could not receive benefits unless they could prove that they were dependent on them for more than 50 percent of the family’s income. It was not until 1973 when the Supreme Court ruled in *Frontiero v. Richardson* that benefits given by the United States military to the family of service members cannot be given out differently because of gender.

A question was asked about how we can account for turn around by high ranking officials such as General Raymond Odierno, General David Petraeus, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mike Mullen and Collin Powell claiming that homosexuals serving in the militaries is “no big deal.” Manning answered that this is no surprise because it has never been much of a big deal. She claims that a higher percentage of the high ranking military officials than we think do not take much offense to it. She knows officials that had known people were gay since military school and they had no problem with it. The main problem the military is worried about is

Program Summary, continued

parents in the South not letting their children join the military if they knew they would be serving along side homosexuals.

Manning has high hopes that the act will be repealed. She believes that if it is repealed there will be no serious repercussions. According to the Palm Center of the University of California, Santa Barbara, studies of gays in the military internationally have found that in similar countries such as Canada, Great Britain, and New Zealand, unit cohesion did not go down, recruitment numbers did not reduce, and members did not quit.

For more information, Captain Manning can be reached at lmanning@wrei.org. You can find a report on "Women in the Military, Where They Stand" Sixth Edition at www.wrei.org.

As a followup to this presentation:

By Anne Gearan, Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon has moved to lift a decades-old policy that prohibits women from serving aboard Navy submarines, part of a gradual reconsideration of women's roles in a military fighting two wars whose front lines can be anywhere.

President's Message

We need your input. We are considering changes in the newsletter and want to know how important it is to you. Do you read the summary from the previous meeting? Are the articles informative? Do you use the calendar? Any comments and suggestions would be helpful. You can email me at cwi-info@womensclearinghouse.org or call 301-493-0002.

Barbara J. Ratner

Workforce Investment Act

Federally-funded training may reinforce sex segregation according to a recently released Institute for Women's Policy Research briefing paper, *The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Women's Progress: Does WIA Funded Training Reinforce Sex Segregation in the Labor Market and the Gender Wage Gap?* (WIA was enacted in 1998 and will probably come up for reauthorization in this congressional session.)

According to the briefing paper:

- Women on average earn \$1500 to \$2000 less per quarter than men after federally funded career counseling or training. After completing services, women earn 79.5 per-

cent of what men earn among adult participants and 74.1 percent of what men can earn among dislocated workers.

- The wage gap is not due to less training: on average women received more weeks of WIA-funded training than men.
- WIA-funded services primarily train women for female-dominated, typically lower paying occupations and men for male-dominated, typically higher paying occupations.
- Fewer than 3 percent of WIA exiters received training for non-traditional occupations, occupations where the opposite sex accounts for at least 75 percent of workers.
- Previous IWPR research suggests that women typically are not made aware of the difference in potential earnings during career counseling, and that, with better information on earnings; they might have entered different training programs.

WIA includes 'self-sufficiency' as a stated objective of training services... Unless greater attention is paid to the causes of the gender earnings gap after WIA services, that goal will remain elusive for many." To view the Briefing Paper, see www.iwpr.org/pdf/C372WIA.pdf

Gender Parity in the Corporate World

The www.forbes.com business page carried an article entitled, *Why Women Don't Make it Up the Ladder*, by Julie Coffman and Orit Gadiesh. The authors say that "The corporate quest for equality for women management is a lot like motherhood: Everybody is for it..."

"Many businesses recognize that retaining more women as they ascend the corporate ladder will add diversity of experience and perspective and also will help them understand women as buyers and influencers. Higher retention rates will also save companies millions in recruiting and retraining costs. There's only one problem: The mechanism for getting women into leadership positions is flawed.

"Women constitute 50 percent of the workforce in America, but they represented only three percent of the chief executives of the country's 500 largest companies in 2009. The female-to-male ratio rapidly dwindles at almost every rung of the ladder upward, across organizations and across industries. It's the biggest disappearing act on earth, and it arises from two significant blind spots that most companies seem to have...

"The first has to do, literally, with motherhood. Companies have responded to parents' demands for more flexibility by letting them go part-time or take time off to raise their children, but they haven't figured out how to bring them back onto a viable career path when they're ready to return to the workforce. The reality is that in any group of equally competent and talented men and women of the same tenure, women who have taken time off or worked part-time for family reasons lack equal experience, by definition. That matters a lot when they are considered for promotion. Result: Men usually get the job.... The second blind spot is inattention to how gender-parity initiatives are actually done. Most employees find their companies' efforts disjointed, underfunded and lacking in strong communication and leadership.

"At a minimum companies need to have a systematic approach that's at least as rigorous and thoughtfully executed as a major product launch or a business merger. Employees know when top management is serious about a goal."

UN Commission on the Status of Women

The 5th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women met early in March and announced they will conduct a fifteen-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The study will focus on "the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenge... Member States, representatives of non-governmental organizations and of UN entities will participate in the session. A series of parallel events will provide additional opportunities for information exchange and networking... Ongoing national and regional review processes are feeding into the global review process."

The commission was established in 1946. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Ambassador to the UN Susan Rice, and Ambassador-at-large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer are included in the US delegation to the meeting. For more information, contact The Division for the Advancement of Women at www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/.

Women/State Legislatures

From WomensENews

According to a recent report from the Center for American Women and Politics, located in Rutgers, NJ, political parties, organizations and women themselves are being encouraged to get more women elected to state legislatures. The report, called *Poised to Run: Women's Pathways to the State Legislatures*, says that "more can be done to get women into state legislature offices and looks at the way women's pathways to public office have changed over time." Highlights include the following: women are more likely than men to be recruited for office rather than deciding on their own to run; female candidates who reach the legislature usually have the support of their parties; the pool of female candidates is larger than is commonly believed.



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

March 2010 marks the 30th anniversary of:

- **the Older Women's League (OWL)**
- **Women's History Week, now Women's History Month**
- **the National Women's History Project**

**Wednesday,
March 17**

Pearls for Success in Business, 12-2pm, investment banker Carla Harris, Sumner Museum, 1201 Seventeenth St. NW, information at www.nataliecofield.com.

**Tuesday,
March 23**

An Evening With Cokie Roberts, 6:30-8:30pm, Sewall Belmont House. Talk, book signing and reception \$10. RSVP to rsvp@sewallbelmont.org or (202) 546-1210, x23.

Photos: D.Anne Martin; February meeting summary draft by Mariel Kirschen and Ilona Globa, FMF interns. Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2009 - June 2010

OFFICERS: *President*, Barbara J. Ratner; *VP Program*, Sue Klein; *VP Membership Co-chairs*, Kellye McIntosh and D.Anne Martin; *Treasurer*, Linda Fihelly; *Secretary*, Harriett M. Stonehill.

DIRECTORS: Alvin Golub, Sarah Gotbaum, Roslyn Kaiser, Ruth G. Nadel, Ellen S. Overton, *ex officio*.

Single-sex Public Education: Bad for Boys, Bad for Girls, Bad for Everyone

Are we marching backwards toward sex-separated schools? Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Since November 2006 schools receiving funding from the U.S. Department of Education have been allowed to establish single-sex classes, schools, and programs, thus weakening the safeguards against sex discrimination previously provided by Title IX.

No one knows the full extent of this sex segregation, but recent estimates suggest that there are more than 600 public schools which practice deliberate sex segregation. Many of these schools are based on false assumptions such as a strong belief that boys and girls are so different that they learn best by being sex-segregated. Our speakers will describe some of the sex-segregated programs, common beliefs, arguments, and research used to justify them, and the strategies for ending sex-segregated public education.

Our speakers will be **Dr. Bernice Sandler**, Senior Scholar at WREI (Women's Research and Education Institute), often referred to as the Godmother of Title IX and **Dr. Sue Klein**, Education Equity Director at the Feminist Majority Foundation.

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm.
Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

Place: One Dupont Circle, 8th Floor, Washington DC
Bring brown bag lunch, soft drinks available from a machine.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A photo ID must be shown at the security desk of One Dupont Circle.
Please allow time to go through the sign-in system.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Women's Museums: Feminist Art

The speakers at CWT's March 23 meeting were **Joan Wages**, president, CEO and founding board member of the National Women's History Museum, **Susan Fisher Sterling**, director of the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA), and **Jennifer Krafchik**, director of collections for the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum.

Joan Wages talked about the National Women's History Museum, (NWHM) and its efforts to be a "visible" voice in honoring and engaging women and to educate girls, boys, men and women so that future generations can have a better understanding of women's history. The museum currently has a website with 19 cyber exhibits on topics ranging from women's right to vote to women in journalism to Chinese-American women. This "Cybermuseum" has 250 biographies and many lesson plans for educators. Twenty-four hundred higher educational institutions around the world access the website for information.

One of the first efforts of the NWHM was lobbying Congress to move the suffrage statue. Also known as the portrait monument, the statue was donated by the National Women's Party in 1921 in honor of women getting the vote. After it was donated to the Capitol building, the all male Congress had the statue moved from the main rotunda to the crypt in the basement. Wages used this event as an example of how women's history "comes to light and then it is buried in the archives, buried in the basement, never to be seen again."

In 1997, NWHM, along with other women's organizations, finally raised enough money to



Joan Wages



Susan Fisher Sterling



Jennifer Krafchik

have the statue moved back up to the rotunda. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, who led the efforts in the House stated, "Well we've done it. We've cracked the concrete ceiling of the Capitol rotunda. It is a victory for all American women who believe it is important to honor our American female heroes in the same way we honor our American male heroes."

Legislation for the creation of the museum was introduced by Carolyn Maloney in the House and Susan Collins in the Senate. The bill passed in the House in October 2009 and is coming up for vote in the Senate. NWHM recently found a location for the museum near the Mall at 12th and Independence Avenue SW. Ralph Appelbaum Associates will design the interior of the museum. They are known for designing the Holocaust Museum, Newseum, and another 140 museums around the world. NWHM plans to hire a female architect to design the museum building; she will be the first woman to do so. NWHM is currently building committees in large cities across the country. Wages said "You can help the museum by becoming a member and telling your friends about the museum." Visit www.NWHM.org for more information.

Susan Fisher Sterling spoke about feminist art, emphasizing that not all art by women is feminist art. She explained that feminist art is a movement in art history that looked at the ways women's experiences could be inserted into art. It began in the late 1970s and continues today. NMWA was started in the 1970s and 80s, based on the idea that women artists have as much

Program Summary, continued

innate value and ability as their male counterparts. NMWA uses women in art as a medium through which we can discuss equity issues.

The museum is focused on feminism moving forward. Whether the exhibition is about contemporary women artists of Turkey or the more historical exhibitions, the curators look at the artworks in the context of the women who created the art. These are not just examples of women artists from the past, but examples for the future. The museum's collection continues to grow; they want to keep the collection current and interesting to the public. In addition, they hope to create a place where women will convene to discuss varied pertinent issues not only about art. The museum will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2012 with special exhibitions.

Sterling spoke about the museum's New York Avenue Sculpture Project. The goal is to have a corridor of sculptures "dancing" down New York Avenue as a revitalization project for the area. Phase I of the project will feature the sculpture of the late Niki de Saint Phalle, one of the great founding feminist artists. For more information about the New York Avenue Sculpture Project and the museum, go to www.NMWA.org.

Jennifer Krafchik reminded us that the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum is also the

headquarters of the historic National Woman's Party (NWP) and the Washington home of its founder and Equal Rights Amendment author, Alice Paul. One of the oldest houses on Capitol Hill, it now contains more than 100 works from female artists, many made by members of the party. The NWP, which has always supported female artists, wanted to create an internal gallery to showcase the talents of their members. The Sewall-Belmont House uses art to tell the story of the NWP and the fight for women's equality throughout the world.

Krafchik discussed two artists who are featured in the museum: Nina Allender who was the NWP official cartoonist and Betsy Graves Reyneau. Through her political cartoons on the covers of the NWP newspapers *The Suffragist* and *Equal Rights*, she created a modern image for the suffragists. The Sewall-Belmont House holds the only collection of Allender's work in the country. Betsy Graves Reyneau, a member of NWP, was always working towards civil rights; some of the art featured in the museum includes Reyneau's portraits of founding NWP members. She was also one of two artists who painted the portraits of outstanding Americans of Negro Origin.

For more information about the Sewall-Belmont House and its art, visit www.sewallbelmont.org.



Bernice Sandler was inducted into the Maryland Hall of Fame

Attending the ceremony were CWI members (left to right) Harriett Stonehill, Linda Fihelly, Bernice Sandler, Carmen Delgado Votaw, Ellen Overton, D. Anne Martin and Sue Klein.

President's Message

Spring is finally here. We earned this one, making it through a very difficult winter the same way we continue to make progress with women's rights, one day at a time. CWI selects the topics of our meetings to best inform our members and guests so they are equipped to make knowledgeable decisions. Please try to take time to attend our monthly meetings. I have never left without being better informed.

—Barbara J. Ratner

Why is it Called Sewall-Belmont House?

The land on Constitution Avenue NE was purchased by Robert Sewall, who built the house in 1800. It was purchased for the National Women's Party in 1929 with the help of a NWP benefactor, Ava Belmont. What is now known as the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum was declared a National Historic Monument in 1974.

Women's Health

The Society for Women's Health Research is presenting a one-day conference entitled *What a Difference an X Makes: the State of Women's Health Research* on July 16, with a distinguished roster of presenters on women's health research, who will discuss advances in sex differences research and its implications on health and disease. Registration fee for the conference is \$35 per person. The conference will be held at the Barbara Jordan Conference Center at the Kaiser Family Foundation, 1330 G Street NW, in DC. For additional information, please contact Eileen Resnick at eileen@swhr.org.

Dorothy Height

Renowned civil rights leader, Dorothy Height, celebrated her 98th birthday on March 24. A video interview with Dr. Height, part of *The Wisdom of Elders Across America* series can be seen at www.icarevillage.com.

Harvard

From the NY Times

"It has been five years since Lawrence H. Summers, then the president of Harvard University, suggested at an academic conference that innate differences might explain why fewer women than men succeed in science and math careers. His remark sparked a firestorm that brought many changes — among them, Mr. Summers's resignation and the naming of the university's first female president, Drew Gilpin Faust.

"Harvard has changed since then. Last year, tenure offers went to 16 women and 25 men. University-wide, slightly more than a quarter of Harvard faculty members are women, an all-time high, with senior faculty accounting for most of the increase. And not only is the president a woman, but so are the deans of the engineering school, the law school, the education school and Harvard College and the Radcliffe Institute.

"Since Summers's resignation in 2006, Harvard has poured millions of dollars into child-care centers and family-friendly programs for faculty — including child-care subsidies of up to \$20,000 and research-enabling grants that let junior faculty take their babies and nannies on field trips. But Harvard's endowment has lost \$11 billion, and there may be changes coming in spending on such programs.

"And at Harvard, as at most American research universities, math and science remain male domains. The math department's first tenured woman, Sophie Morel, arrived just three months ago. The department admitted two female graduate students this year and none last year. The earth and planetary sciences department tenured its first woman, Ann Pearson, this year."

A biology professor stated that "Different departments are at different points ... In biology, where women earn half the Ph.D's; it's not so hard to hire women. You don't need any hand-wringing; if you're doing a good search, you'll get women. In physics, we need to work on getting more young women into the field as undergraduates."

Bias Continues as a Hurdle for Women in Sciences

The American Association of University Women recently released a report on the under representation of women in science and math, which found that stereotypes and cultural biases still impeded women's success in science, technology; engineering and math (STEM), despite gains that have been made, men still outnumber women in those fields. Supported by the National Science Foundation, the report *Why So Few?* studied decades of research for recommendations to bring more women into the STEM fields.

The report states "We found a lot of small things can make a difference, like a course in spatial skills for women going into engineering, or teaching children that math ability is not fixed, but grows with effort." It found that "among mathematically precocious youth — sixth and seventh graders who score more than 700 on the math SAT — 30 years ago boys outnumbered girls 13 to 1, but only about 3 to 1 now.

"The report treads lightly on the hot-button question of whether innate differences between the sexes account for the paucity of women at the highest levels of science and math ... although it acknowledges differences in male and female brains ... none of the research convincingly links those differences to specific skills, so we don't know what they mean in terms of mathematical abilities ... making judgments about an individual's abilities based on his or her sex is a classic form of discrimination."

WMC Special for Women's History Month

In recognition of the 30th anniversary of Women's History Month the Women's Media Center celebrated *30 Women Making History* with a campaign goal to raise \$10,000 to support WMC exclusives, hiring writers to comment on major news stories and report topics often neglected by the mainstream media.

www.womensmediacenter.org.

Florence Kelley

The University of Illinois recently published *The Selected Letters of Florence Kelley, 1869-1931*, edited by Kathryn Kish Sklar, and Beverly Wilson Palmer.

"Florence Kelley ran the National Consumers' League from 1899 until her death in 1932. In 1953 Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter said that she 'had probably the largest single share in shaping the social history of the U.S. during the first 30 years of this century.' If Frances Perkins was the woman behind the New Deal, Florence Kelley was the woman behind Frances Perkins. Kelley viewed her work as a campaign for 'social rights' ... She led the struggle to regulate industrial work, campaigning to end child labor, reduce the working hours of women and provide women with a minimum wage, all with a view of extending such legislation to include men. She helped create the U.S. Children's Bureau and the Women's Bureau ... An ally of W.E.B. Du Bois, she was a founding member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People." Visit www.wilsoncenter.org.

The International Museum of Women

From the blog of Sharon B. Ufberg at <http://womensmediacenter.com/blog/2010/03/exclusive-a-vibrant-encounter-space-online-the-international-museum-of-women/>

"The International Museum of Women is an innovative 'new media' approach that utilizes women's creative powers as a bridge for activism. IMOW found a way to inspire global action using the arts as the entry point.

"Launched in 1997-98, the museum went virtual in 2005. Envisioned as a 'social change' museum, its presence provides creative space for art to build a bridge to activism. The exhibitions call viewers to action and connect people worldwide. The museum has an international focus and commitment to building community and women's voices are palpable throughout the website www.imow.org."



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 18 **United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
Walk to End Violence Against Women and Girls.**

Gateway Park, Rosslyn, VA to Dupont Circle. 8:30am - noon.

Annual Spring 5K Walk. Proceeds go directly to the UN Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence Against Women. For more information, visit

<http://www.unifem-usnc.org/natcapital/calendarofevents>

Tuesday April 20 **Equal Pay Day:** Today women catch up to what men earned last year.
Wear red to symbolize how far women are "in the red."

Photos: D.Anne Martin; March meeting summary draft by Mariel Kirschen and Ilona Globa, FMF interns. Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2009 - June 2010

OFFICERS: *President, Barbara J. Ratner; VP Program, Sue Klein; VP Membership Co-chairs, Kellye McIntosh and D.Anne Martin; Treasurer, Linda Fihelly; Secretary, Harriett M. Stonehill.*

DIRECTORS: *Alvin Golub, Sarah Gotbaum, Roslyn Kaiser, Ruth G. Nadel, Ellen S. Overton, ex officio.*

How has the financial turmoil affected women?

The economy continues to face enormous challenges and the financial industry has demonstrated that significant reform is required to protect the American people and women in particular. Our speakers' focus is on a bill pending in Congress, SB 3217, *The Restoring American Financial Stability Act*, and on how the public can develop a voice in policy debates.

Speakers at our May meeting are experts, activists in financial reform efforts. **Heather Booth** is Executive Director of Americans for Financial Reform, Vice President for External Affairs of USAction, and President of the Midwest Academy. Our second speaker, from America Speaks, will update us on the process and progress of the national conversation.

Americans for Financial Reform is a coalition with over 250 organizational partners, dedicated to real financial reform. America Speaks is an organization committed to engaging citizens in governance. They are currently developing a process to engage thousands of citizens across the country in a discussion of the nation's fiscal challenges.

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm.

Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

Place: One Dupont Circle, 8th Floor, Washington DC

Bring brown bag lunch, soft drinks available from a machine.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A photo ID must be shown at the security desk of One Dupont Circle.

Please allow time to go through the sign-in system.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Single-Sex Public Education: Bad for Boys, Bad for Girls, Bad for Everyone

The speakers, **Dr. Bernice Sandler**, Senior Scholar at Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI), and **Dr. Sue Klein**, Education Equity Director, Feminist Majority Foundation, provided answers to key questions about sex segregation in K-12 public education exclusively.



Sue Klein and Bunny Sandler

How does Title IX prohibit sex segregated education?

Sandler: Many people have said that Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is the most important law passed for females since women obtained the right to vote in 1920. Virtually all sex segregated classes, programs and schools have always been considered as sex discrimination under Title IX. Sex stereotyping has been considered as sex discrimination. Allowing single-sex classes, programs and schools especially when based on stereotypes is the largest threat to Title IX since it was passed. When Title IX passed in 1972, routine sex segregation such as shop for boys and home-economics for girls was prohibited. At the same time, many people concerned about educational equity pushed for coeducational classes and schools to become less sexist. And also to incorporate into coeducational classes, a variety of teaching techniques, including collaborative learning that had been used in some single-sex settings. In the past few years, there has been an increase in K-12 public schools with single-sex classes, programs and schools. Many of these are based on sex stereotypes, inadequate research, and misinterpretation of research. Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions receiving federal funds. A few exceptions allow sex segregation, such as in sexuality classes and contact sports. You can't classify (or discriminate against)

people on the basis of sex. Just as under other laws such as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, you can't assign or give extra benefits to students on the basis of race or national origin. You can sort students in many other ways, (e.g. test scores, previous grades) but not by sex.

Klein: Under Title IX regulations some affirmative action (to help females or males) is allowed as long as the purpose is to reduce sex discrimination—the key purpose of Title IX. However, very few sex-segregated programs have been used for affirmative action under Title IX. Additionally, there are some protections against sex discrimination under the Constitution and some federal and state laws.

How did the Bush Administration weaken legal protections against sex discrimination in education in 2006?

Klein: When the draft version of this regulation was released in 2004 only about 100 of the over 6000 public comments were supportive, but the Department of Education issued its new regulation allowing single-sex programs in 2006.

Sandler: The regulation specifically allowed single-sex classes, schools, programs, and extra curricular activities in primary and secondary non-vocational public schools as long as there is "substantial equality." It also stated: Enrollment in a single-sex class or school must be voluntary; Schools must provide a "substantially equal" coeducational class or extracurricular activity for the excluded sex; There has to be an "important objective to improve educational achievement of its students, provided that the single-sex nature of the class or extracurricular activity is substantially related to achieving that objective." Thus,

Program Summary, continued

the school must justify a link between an education goal and the single sex program; Periodic evaluations are required to justify the single-sex class, program or school.

What have we learned about how schools chose to sex segregate?

Klein: The Feminist Majority Foundation study on the State of Public School Sex Segregation in the States, and legal challenges brought by ACLU, have shown that these minimal protections as well as other Title IX requirements have been ignored. Schools rarely choose sex segregation as a way to decrease sex discrimination. Few, if any, schools have done the required evaluations to see if their objectives have been met. The regulation stresses that the single sex classes must be completely voluntary. However many children have been placed in single sex classes without their permission or that of their parents. Often there is no required coed option. Even if a coed class is offered there often is no substantial equality. It is hard to have substantial equity in three types of classes — boys, girls and coed. In many cases schools and classes are not “substantially equal,” they often increase sex stereotyping by teaching girls and boys differently and sometimes with different content.

Does sex-segregated public education increase sex discrimination compared to sex-integrated public education?

Sandler: Yes. Although there are still inequities other than single-sex programs in our public schools, the inequities in the sex segregated schools and classes are far more damaging, as shown in the ACLU challenges to these programs.

- **Why is sex segregation especially bad for girls?** Girls generally get inferior resources and more sex-stereotyped limitations. The “best” teachers may be assigned to boys’ classes because boys “need more help.” Stereotypes about girls’ passivity, being “feminine” or girly and boys being strong and “manly” are often emphasized.
- **Why is sex segregation especially bad for boys?** Masculine stereotypes tend to be exaggerated and encouraged. Boys who do not fit

masculine stereotypes are made to feel like outsiders. Bullying related to homophobia is often exaggerated in all male groups.

- **Why is sex segregation bad for everyone?** Sex-segregated classes focus on the differences between girls and boys and thus make the “other gender” strangers and opponents.

What is the nature of the increase in sex segregation in Public K-12 Education?

Klein: Our Feminist Majority Foundation study on sex segregation documents over 600 public schools with single-sex classes in 2007-9. We now estimate that there are over 1000 schools with intentional sex segregation.

What are the reasons people are supporting sex segregated public education?

Sandler: Belief in differences between the sexes; using gender stereotypes to explain behaviors. Belief that boys and girls are so different in the ways they learn, that they will learn better in sex-segregated classes. Belief that sex-segregated education is more effective at least for some children—the “boy” problem. Concern about academic problems makes sex-segregated classes look like a quick and easy solution to low achievement and discipline problems. Belief that everyone should have a choice for single-sex education like the parents of children in private schools. Belief that high achievement in private single-sex schools is related to gender separation rather than other factors (e.g. high socio-economic status, smaller classes, highly selected students, weeding out of discipline problems, more personal attention). Belief that girls won’t get into “trouble” (read “pregnant”) if kept away from boys. Belief that boys are so distracted by girls that they cannot learn in their presence.

Reasons for opposition to sex-segregated classes and programs.

Sandler: Misperceptions and pseudo-scientific theories about nature and importance of sex differences in brains and, even in teaching and in learning. There are no male and female “learning styles” or any sex differences in brain physiology that specifically relate to learning or abilities.

Most research on single-sex education has been on private schools, not public schools, and badly conducted, badly interpreted or based primarily on anecdotal observations. Differences between boys and girls are not nearly as great as the differences among all girls or all boys. Even when sex-segregation proponents acknowledge that not all boys or all girls fit generalizations (such as boys are competitive), they ignore the effect of their programs on such students. Sex-segregated programs often are successful at the beginning because they are new or because of high expectations for their success. Boys are being reinforced for being competitive and thus are not learning cooperative and collaborative behaviors; the reverse is true for girls. Boys and girls need to learn both styles of behaviors.

Klein: Educators are finding that single-sex classes are more expensive than equivalent coed classes.

In Summary

Sandler: We still face many obstacles in getting the 2006 Department of Education Title IX single sex regulation rescinded: Many people support the stereotypes about boys and girls being different. Although the Obama Administration is doing

more than its predecessors, it is not clear that they will withdraw the regulation. Education Secretary Duncan seems impressed with the Chicago Boys School, although its success is likely due to other factors, such as being a better school experience than its being sex segregated. There are better and fairer ways to get additional education resources to male and female students than using sex segregation. Single-sex schools, classes and programs are the biggest threat to educational equity. We must work together to restore full compliance with Title IX and educate educators and the public about the dangers we discussed today.

Klein: Please join us in: Supporting the rescission of the regulation allowing sex segregation and sex discrimination; Reinvigorating the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education (ESEA) Reauthorization; Creating an office for gender equity in the Department of Education, like the Women's Bureau in the Department of Labor; Supporting multiple efforts to end overt and subtle sex discrimination and educate to create a new gender-equitable society.

For further information visit
www.feminist.org/education/sexsegregation.asp.

CWI Slate for 2010-11

We will vote at the June meeting.

Sue Klein, *Vice President Programs*

Holly Taggart Joseph, *Treasurer*

Holly is active in NOW and the League of Women Voters.

Directors: **Al Golub**, **Linda Fihelly**

Sarah C. Albert is a Social Policy and Advocacy Director at YWCA USA Washington DC and co-chair at The Working Group for the Ratification of CEDAW.

Dr. Bernice R. (Bunny) Sandler is a Senior Scholar at the Women's Research and Education Institute in Washington, DC, where she consults with institutions and others about achieving equity for women and is an Adjunct Associate Professor at Drexel University College of Medicine.

President's Message

Our June meeting will focus on our organization members. Each group will discuss their mission and interests. The time allotted for each organization depends on the number of participants. Your group must be a paid organization member to participate. Membership forms are on our website: www.womensclearinghouse.org. To register your speaker's presentation email cwi-info@womensclearinghouse.org or call 301-493-0002 after May 26th please.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get your message out to women. We had excellent attendance last year.

—*Barbara J. Ratner*

Dorothy Height

She died April 21 at age 89. According to *The New York Times*, Height was “a leader of the African-American and women’s rights movements who was considered both the grand dame of the civil rights era and its unsung heroine.

“With Gloria Steinem, Shirley Chisholm, Betty Friedan and others, she helped found the National Women’s Political Caucus in 1971 ... if Ms. Height was less well known than her contemporaries in either the civil rights or women’s movement it was perhaps because she was doubly marginalized, pushed offstage by women’s groups because of her race and by black groups because of her sex. Throughout her career, she responded quietly but firmly, working with a characteristic mix of limitless energy and steely gentility to ally the two movements in the fight for social justice. As a result Ms. Height is widely credited as the first person in the modern civil rights era to treat the problems of equality for women and equality for African-Americans as a seamless whole, merging concerns that had been largely historically separated.”

Let’s Help Lilly Ledbetter Get what She Deserves!

(from the National Council of Women’s Organizations)

Lilly Ledbetter, who worked as a supervisor at Goodyear Tire & Rubber in Gadsden, Alabama, sued Goodyear for discrimination when she found out she was being paid significantly less than her male counterparts. She was awarded \$3 million, but the US Supreme Court overturned the award because the complaint was made more than 180 days after the first discriminatory paycheck. To remedy such situations, President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay law. However, Lilly can’t benefit from this.

Two Seattle women, Deb Bluestein and Linda Mitchell, struck by the unfairness of Lilly’s situation, have started a campaign to ask one million women to send a gift of \$3.00 to Lilly to undo the wrong that was done.

Send your check, made payable to Lilly Ledbetter, to Bluestein/Mitchell at 964 Denny Way, Seattle, WA 98109 and they will send it on to Lilly. To give via PayPal send your gift to lillyledbetter@hotmail.com. There is more information on how to give online at www.makelillyright.com.

Justice Stevens and Woman’s Rights

(Women’s eNews)

In a blog on the Huffington Post, Marcia D. Greenberger of the National Women’s Law Center said that few articles on the tenure of Justice John Paul noted that women have been particular beneficiaries of Stevens’ service on the Supreme Court.

“Justice Stevens has left a profound stamp on women’s legal rights during the past 35 years. He wrote critically important opinions that established students’ rights to sue for sex discrimination under Title IX and that protected the privacy rights of pregnant women. He cast important votes in closely divided cases on other legal issues of key importance to women and girls as well, including cases that allowed students to sue school districts for sexual harassment by other students; that prohibited state universities from excluding applicants on the basis of their gender; and that reaffirmed the essential holding of *Roe v. Wade*. He was a strong vote in favor of ensuring that individuals have access to the federal courts to enforce their legal rights to health and safety protections.

“It is especially appropriate to underscore the profound respect and gratitude for his remarkable service to this country that he is due. Quite simply, he has ensured that virtually every woman and girl in this country has a legal right to pursue her dreams and aspirations. But his retirement is also a reminder of how fragile these rights and opportunities can be with the replacement of even one Justice. Nothing is more important than President Obama’s honoring Justice Stevens’ legacy by nominating an individual who is just as committed to equal justice for all to take his place on the Supreme Court.”



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

Friday, July 16

What a Difference an X Makes

The Society for Women's Health Research will present an all-day seminar with a distinguished roster of doctors and researchers discussing various aspects of women's health, including sessions on: cardio-vascular problems, pain, stroke, obesity, immune systems and the brain. Barbara Jordan Conference Center, Kaiser Family Foundation, 1330 G Street NW.

info@womenshealthresearch.org

Photos: D.Anne Martin; Editor: Roslyn Kaiser; April meeting summary draft by Alicia Jurek, former FMF intern; Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2009 – June 2010

OFFICERS: *President*, Barbara J. Ratner; *VP Program*, Sue Klein; *VP Membership Co-chairs*, Kellye McIntosh and D.Anne Martin; *Treasurer*, Linda Fihelly; *Secretary*, Harriett M. Stonehill.

DIRECTORS: Alvin Golub, Sarah Gotbaum, Roslyn Kaiser, Ruth G. Nadel, Ellen S. Overton, *ex officio*.

Meet Our Member Organizations

CWI's June meeting will present speakers and materials from our organization members highlighting their good work for women and girls. By joining CWI they show appreciation for our efforts and our programs. This is a great opportunity for our members and guests to hear them discuss their important missions and goals. Also, members will vote on the Board of Directors slate for 2010-11.

Our invited organization members include the: American Council on Education Office of Women in Higher Education; Americans for Financial Reform; ERA Campaign Network; Equal Visibility Everywhere; Fairfax County Commission for Women; Federally Employed Women; Feminist Majority Foundation; Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women; Maryland Women's Heritage Center; Montgomery County Commission for Women; National Organization for Women; National Women's Law Center; Service Employees International Union (SEIU); United For Equality; Wider Opportunities for Women; and Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER).

The Clearinghouse is a member of the National Council of Women's Organizations, and they also have been invited to present at our June meeting.

Date/Time: **Tuesday, June 22, 2010 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm.**

Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

Place: **One Dupont Circle, 8th Floor Kellogg Room, Washington DC**

Bring brown bag lunch, soft drinks available from a machine.


IMPORTANT NOTICE

A photo ID must be shown at the security desk of One Dupont Circle.

Please allow time to go through the sign-in system.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 28, 2010

How Has The Financial Turmoil Affected Women?

 ur May speakers were **Heather Booth**, executive director of Americans for Financial Reform and **Dr. Carolyn Lukensmeyer** founder of *AmericaSpeaks*.

Heather Booth pointed out the May 24 *Time Magazine* cover featuring three women who are cleaning up the Wall Street mess: Elizabeth Warren, chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel created to monitor TARP; Mary Schapiro, chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); and Sheila Bair, chair of the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

She stated that the key elements of the reform bill are:

- Consumer protection. Someone needs to be looking out for the consumer on financial products like mortgages and credit cards, as someone is looking out on consumer products. Most financial transactions are confusing without transparency. This consumer protection part of the financial reform bill is moving ahead. Recently some members of Congress tried to exempt auto dealers. Autos are the second largest purchase of families after buying their house. Auto dealers make more money from loans than the actual car sales. Attorneys general could help with consumer protection. The keys to good consumer protection are: independence of the agency from veto by the regulators who have the banking interests as their main concern; **all** products are included; states have a role as cops on the beat.

- Derivatives or the “casino economy.” This is “Hedging of a Bet,” a \$600 trillion international market, which is 90 percent unregulated. It is not known if there is any money to back up the bet. Bets were common on the



Heather Booth



Carolyn Lukensmeyer

number of houses to foreclose. The reforms in this area include ensuring that derivatives are at least transparent bets, have money behind the bets via a clearinghouse and that there are no exemptions.

- No more taxpayer bailouts and holding the big financial institutions accountable. Large institutions need to be reined in and separated (commercial from risky bets) again. Since the depression, the risky derivatives were separate from commercial banking; but allowed to combine in 1996 legislation. Taxpayers insure commercial banking through the FDIC, but we should not insure the risky and speculative derivatives.

The Volcker Rule allows study of the feasibility of this separation. There is also a proposal to make the separation statutory through the Merkley-Levin amendment. If banks are too big to fail they are just too

big. In the future we will need to address bank size. Should banks pay for guarantees up front for bailout? Republicans in the Senate propose that those involved in the bailout only pay at the end, not up front. This is now a compromise proposal in the bill.

- Credit-rating agencies. If an investment is rated Triple A, it shouldn't be garbage. Honesty of credit rating agencies is in the Senate version. Some items in the reform bills focus on limiting executive pay. The Senate version of the bill is stronger than the House version in many of the provisions (indicating how public pressure was growing over the time the bill was moving from the House to the Senate).

Booth said that financial agencies pay \$1.4 million a day fighting reform. They have 70 lobbyists who were former members of Congress. She added that there is helpful presi-

Program Summary, continued

dential leadership providing the framework for the reform; there are many citizen protests such as the recent K Street rally; that five big banks control 90 percent of derivative money; that we need organizers to make progress. Contact the conference committee to push for the strongest financial reforms. Elizabeth Warren is a heroine of Consumer Protection as is Brooksley Born, former Chair of Commodity Futures Trading Commission, who called for reform of derivatives during the Clinton Administration, but was ignored by the male officials. Sheila Bair and other women leaders are still fighting for these reforms. To read more in detail Google *Obama Financial Reform Plan Fights for Women: Enforcing Common-sense Rules of the Road* or visit Americans for Financial Reform's website: www.ourfinancialsecurity.org.

Dr. Carolyn Lukensmeyer explained how she saw the connection of her organization's efforts to the work of Heather Booth's. Both organizations are focusing on public discussion and involvement, but *AmericaSpeaks*' next discussion will be on our federal budget with an emphasis on the deficit and entitlements. So she is talking about different financial content than Booth. Her focus is on concern about the health of our democracy and civil participatory discussions in the US.

Lukensmeyer created *AmericaSpeaks* because she believes in our founders' deep conviction in humans' capacity to govern themselves. Her approach is to create safe spaces for deliberation for people all across the ideological spectrum. Her goal is creating a public space for people to have honest dialogue. She spoke about how public space in this country has been reduced over several decades. As an example, Carl Stokes, Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, got many hundreds of people together to meet at the convention center; space he had access to for no cost to the city. Now most have to pay for this public space for public discussions. *AmericaSpeaks* wants to recreate the capacity of people with different views to talk respectfully. She tries to recreate a safe democratic space for public discussions, but needs public support that lasts beyond a couple of elections.

Lukensmeyer wants government to respect

the wisdom of common ordinary people. She disagrees with many who think expert knowledge is more important than common wisdom. She wants a place for large scale groups as large scale meetings are important to get attention; she works to make sure that they are demographically representative, that they are tied to real decision-making processes; and she also links public engagement with technology so participants actually make decisions together.

AmericaSpeaks' national discussion on June 26, 2010, *Our Budget, Our Economy* is funded by three foundations. This event will link 4,000 Americans in 20 cities for a discussion of our federal budget. She wants more young and low income people and ethnic minorities to participate. Her experience with her other town hall mass meeting taught her how to get representative groups in the meeting. For details on the event and information on how to sign up, go to www.USABudgetDiscussion.org. Members of the President's Commission on Fiscal Reform will be included in the discussion.

AmericaSpeaks doesn't take a stand on the issue but reports on what the public, encouraging people to make their own decisions based on the discussions.

Lukensmeyer has worked 15 years on these gatherings and has discovered that radical solutions from right and left fall off the table very quickly — that Americans want to solve the country's problems. Although the country seems radically divided on immigration they can actually get a solution that moves to the center and the resulting policy is more inclusive and more just. For further information visit www.americaspeaks.org.

Discussion

How do you account for current roles of Geithner and Summers? Booth answered: they help shape the administration's position to get sensible common-sense regulation, they provide aggressive support for consumer protection and control consumer economy. There are other areas of reform that will need additional focus, like breaking up the bigger banks. This bill is a strong start, but is a first step in a longer push for

reform — transparency and accountability.

What about corporate contributions to elections. Will the Presidential Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform be toothless? Fourteen of 18 members have to vote to have something go back to Congress. However, it is good that these recommendations will go to Congress after the November 2010 election. Alice Rivlin, director of the Greater Washington Research project at Brookings, is on this commission. Booth said she has concerns with this commission. The focus on the deficit and deficit reduction is undercutting the needed focus on investment and jobs.

On campaign financing, there are no restrictions on corporate contributions. The person who funded the corporate fight to the Supreme Court (in the Citizen's United case) which declared that money is speech and so unlimited,

also has funded an effort to undermine financial reform. Frank Luntz, the message guru of the Right Wing says it should be called "big bank bailout bill." This message didn't work because otherwise why would the banks be fighting it so heavily? They now say it is "bureaucratic overreach" and it will increase the deficit. The argument about the deficit is often the argument to undermine progressive reform. Lukensmeyer said "Citizens United" is a misuse of language. It was really designed to help corporations, not citizens. This is a degradation of democracy. How to encourage advocacy? She said that corporations and the "haves" in society have more weight so public decision-making needs to create more balance. She believes that one of the results of her June Forum will be a mix of spending and tax increases and an increase in people's understanding the fiscal challenges facing the nation.

The Nominating Committee presents the 2010-11 slate:

VP Program: Sue Klein

Treasurer: Holly Taggart Joseph

Directors: Al Golub, Linda Fihelly, Sarah Albert and Bernice Sandler



Holly Taggart Joseph came to Washington, DC from Wheaton College in Norton, MA to work for her Senator from Oklahoma, Henry Bellmon. She later worked at the (then) Department of Health, Education & Welfare

before having two children who both live in the area. She became involved in NOW, the League of Women Voters and currently lobbying with its Lobby Corps, Bethesda Community Garden Club and PTA. Her PTA interest may re-ignite as she now has a granddaughter born July 4, 2009.



Sarah C. Albert is a Social Policy and Advocacy Director at YWCA USA Washington DC and co-chair at The Working Group for the Ratification of CEDAW.



Bernice Sandler is a senior scholar at the Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI). She consults with colleges and universities, has given over 2,500 presentations, and has written over a hundred articles. Bunny is

best known as the "godmother of Title IX" for her work in its development, passage and implementation. Her work in filing sex discrimination charges against over 250 colleges in 1970 led directly to the passage of Title IX.

During the 20 years she directed the Project on the Status and Education of Women at the Association of American Colleges and Universities, she produced the first reports on campus sexual harassment, campus gang rape, campus peer harassment and the chilly campus climate which described how men and women students were treated differently in classrooms.

Born in and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Bunny calls Washington her "real" home, having lived here more than 40 years. Her two daughters, three grandchildren, and two granddogs live in California where she travels often. As a former folk-singer she now sings mainly in the shower. She is also very interested (but not too talented) in watching and learning about birds.

Sewall-Belmont Corrected Version

There were some factual errors in our April issue.

The land on Constitution Avenue NE was purchased by Robert Sewall, who built the house in 1800. It was purchased for the National Woman's Party in 1929 with the help of a NWP benefactor, Alva Belmont. What is now known as the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1974.

President's Message

I can't believe we are ending our 36th year. Thanks to our wonderful board for contributing to this longevity with interesting and timely programs each month. Led by our program vice-president, we discuss the topics and the speakers and then decide which programs to present. We've had good attendance so we feel CWI's efforts are still viable to the women's community. We look forward to working with our new board members.

—Barbara J. Ratner

CWI member Bernice (Bunny) Sandler was honored this week by the University of Maryland. She was inducted into the UMD Alumni Hall of Fame, as the "godmother of Title IX," and for her work on women's issues.

Female Grads Make West Point History

From the U.S. Army Home Page

"Second Lt. Alexandra P. Rosenberg and Elizabeth Betterbed made West Point history this week, becoming the first women to graduate with the school's top honors: valedictorian and top cadet, respectively. In his commencement speech, President Barack Obama recognized this landmark moment, adding, "In the 21st century, our women in uniform play an indispensable role in our national defense. Time and again, they have proven themselves to be role models for our daughters and sons — as students, soldiers, and as leaders in the United States Army."

Women's eNews

Women's eNews has been celebrating 10 years of telling women's stories through articles by excellent women journalists; CWI uses many of these articles in the Clearinghouse newsletter.

"During the past decade Women's eNews has grown into an interactive news organization: distributing women's images and narratives across the Internet in three languages, into 55,000 plus e-mail inboxes every day; viewed on our YouTube channel; connected to via Facebook; downloaded as Podcasts and Tweeted to our growing list of followers.

"Our reporting in the U.S. maintains a focus on women's issues that are often simply ignored. Women's eNews is the definitive source of substantive news—unavailable anywhere else—covering issues of particular concern to women and providing women's perspectives on public policy."

Their Web site is www.womensenews.org; Take a look. The service is free.

Girls' Math Classes Include Lessons in Anxiety

"Across the United States, exhaustive studies funded by the National Science Foundation show there just aren't gender differences anymore in math performance in American schools." But, according to *Women's eNews*, "stereotypes, some coming from teachers themselves, keep alive the myth that women and numbers don't mix. For some women, anxiety about math is taught in the classroom." The article says that, "Having a highly math-anxious female teacher may push girls to confirm the stereotype that they're not as good as boys in math."

In a study released earlier this year, published by the National Academy of Sciences, it was found in the classes that were studied, "female first- and second-grade teachers could pass on their uneasiness about math to female students. By the end of the school year, the higher a teacher's math anxiety, the lower the girls' — but not the boys' — math achievement.

"...However, more than 90 percent of elementary teachers in the United States are women, and elementary-education majors have the highest rate of math anxiety of any college major."



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 26 ***Our Budget, Our Economy*** presented by AmericaSpeaks. A national discussion on the nation's fiscal challenges. For details on this event and information on registering go to www.USABudgetDiscussion.org.

Women's History Walk Tours

Find maps of the tours at

www.tailoredtours.com/pdf/TailoredTours_DC_WomensHistoryMaps20_21.pdf

Photos: D.Anne Martin; Editor: Roslyn Kaiser; May meeting summary draft by Sue Klein;

Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2009 – June 2010

OFFICERS: *President*, Barbara J. Ratner; *VP Program*, Sue Klein; *VP Membership Co-chairs*, Kellye McIntosh and D.Anne Martin; *Treasurer*, Linda Fihelly; *Secretary*, Harriett M. Stonehill.

DIRECTORS: Alvin Golub, Sarah Gotbaum, Roslyn Kaiser, Ruth G. Nadel, Ellen S. Overton, *ex officio*.

Pay Equity: Past, Present and Future

Despite the extensive research and advocacy over the past decade, the pay gap remains unchanged with women still earning just over three-quarters of the wages men receive. Why? What can we do to change this? We will discuss the establishment of Equal Pay Day, the recent figures on the gap, how the work environment affects women and the importance of the Paycheck Fairness Act. Changes are happening. What's ahead for fairness and equity in pay?

Our speakers will be **Michele Leber**, Chair of the National Committee on Pay Equity and **Catherine Hill**, Director of Research, American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Date/Time: **Tuesday, September 28, 2010 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm**
Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

Place: **One Dupont Circle, Floor 1B, Conference Room A,
Washington DC**
Bring brown bag lunch, soft drinks available from a machine.

***Renew Your Membership month.
Please fill out the form on page 5 and mail it with your dues.***

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A photo ID must be shown at the security desk of One Dupont Circle.
Please allow time to go through the sign-in system.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 26, 2010

Meet Our Member Organizations



Debra Louallen-Cole

influence women's equity, diversity and advancement. www.acenet.edu/

Equal Visibility

Everywhere (EVE) is dedicated to achieving gender parity in the symbols and icons of the United States. EVE is working to change the culture and face of America by encouraging state legislatures to add more statues of women to National Statuary Hall; suggesting women for the U.S. Postal Service to commemorate on stamps; proposing that municipalities name streets and buildings after prominent female citizens and persuading school systems nationwide to increase the number of schools named after women; encouraging the government and private sector to include women in the celebrations of our nation's heritage; analyzing the gender ratio of monuments and memorials on the local, state, and national level and encourage greater representation of women; advocating the full and fair treatment of women and



Lynette Long

Office of Women in Higher Education (OWHE), since 1973, has provided information and counsel to constituencies within the higher education community regarding policies, issues, education and research that

women's history in our nation's museums; urging our government to include more women's images on our coinage and to print a second set of paper money featuring images of great American women; and educating the private sector regarding the lack of female images in media representations.

www.equalvisibilityeverywhere.org

Fairfax County Commission for Women's

mission is to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County, VA.

The Commission analyzes barriers to women's equality, gaps in services for women, and emerging trends

and concerns affecting women and girls. The Commission advises the Board of Supervisors on how to address these problems and provides leadership in implementing solutions.

www.fairfaxva.gov/Host/women



Diane Hoyer

Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF), now led by President Eleanor Smeal, was founded in 1987 as an organization dedicated to advancing legal, political and social equality for women through research, policy, and action. FMF has gained a reputation as a trail blazer for its proactive initiatives which often seek to change public policies to advance gender equality domestically and globally. These initiatives include: a Global Health and Rights campaign, a campaign to improve the

Program Summary, continued



Kashay Sanders, Sue Klein, Nakita Dziegielewski

conditions of Afghan women and girls; the Campus Program, which mobilizes young college women around the country; the push to improve education equity and full implementation of Title IX; the National Center for Women & Policing and the compassionate use of mifepristone. FMF is also home to Ms. Magazine, one of the nation's most prominent and well-established feminist publications.

www.feminist.org



Linda Mahoney

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families.

The group advocates for progressive legisla-

tion and policy that promotes and protects the well-being of Maryland women and their families and provides them opportunities to develop their full potential.

www.mdlegagenda4women.org

Maryland Women's Heritage was established to preserve the past, understand the present, and shape the future by recognizing, respecting, and transmitting the experiences and contributions of Maryland women and girls of

diverse backgrounds and from all regions of the state. It provides a place to learn and teach about the contributions of renowned Maryland women who have been inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, as well as the Unsung Heroines, and a place to hold forums addressing issues impacting girls, women and their families.

www.MDWomensHeritageCenter.org



Carmen Delgado Votaw



Holly Taggart Joseph

Montgomery County's Chapter of the National Organization for Women (MCNOW)

addresses local, state, and national level issues that are of greatest concern to women, among them pay

equity, access to affordable health care for themselves and their families, and issues of domestic violence. It is a support group for women as well as an advocacy organization. It is political in that it seeks strong and effective public officials to advance its positions on women's issues.

www.mcnow.org

Program Summary, continued



Susan Scanlan

National Council of Women's Organizations

(NCWO) is a non-partisan coalition of more than 230 progressive women's groups that advocates for the 12 million women they represent. While these

groups are diverse and their membership varied, all work for equal participation in the economic, social, and political life of their country and their world. The Council addresses critical issues that impact women and their families: from workplace and economic equity to international development; from affirmative action and Social Security to the women's vote; from the portrayal of women in the media to enhancing girls' self-image; and from Title IX and other education rights to health and insurance challenges. www.womensorganizations.org

National Women's Law Center (NWLC)

protects and advances the progress of women and girls at work, in school, and in virtually every aspect of their lives. Since 1972, the Center has used the law, public policy, and advocacy to expand the possibilities for women and their families. To join our action www.nwlc.org

Service Employees International Union Local 500 represents 18,000 women and men working in child care and education, and in service to communities and the public interest in Maryland and Washington, DC. Many of our



Anne McLeer

members are women who work in traditionally "feminized" jobs, like child care providers, paraeducators, and Head Start teachers. The important work done by these women has historically been invisibilized and under-valued. Through their union these women work to bring respect and professionalization to their jobs, while empowering themselves as leaders and advocates in their communities, and fighting to gain a voice in decision-making in their industries. We also represent adjunct and part-time faculty in area colleges and universities. SEIU Local 500 also works to expand collective bargaining rights to thousands of other part-time faculty members, child care providers and other workers who remain marginalized and struggling to survive in the low-wage workforce. www.seiu500.org/

United For Equality, LLC is a strategic social justice enterprise committed to implementing a national, grassroots campaign to revive the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The inspiration behind U4E was Hillary Clinton's presidential

campaign and the desire to end the unbridled sexism and misogyny both she and many woman face daily in the United States. U4E believes that until the US declares sex discrimination unconstitutional, "women's issues" will continue to be marginalized.

united4equality.wordpress.com



Carolyn Cook

2010-11 Membership

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

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CELL _____

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Checks should be made payable to CWI and mailed to:

CWI, Holly T. Joseph, Treasurer, 8504 Rosewood Drive, Bethesda MD 20814

☐ Individual - \$25

☐ Under 30 years - \$15

☐ Organization - \$35 or three years \$90

☐ I would like to help CWI's outreach with an additional tax-deductible contribution: \$ _____

The Fairfax County Commission for Women's

staff has been drastically reduced. If you have an idea or suggestion to help in this regard, please contact diane.hoyer@fairfaxcounty.gov/cfw.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Diane T. Hoyer, Immediate Past Chair

President's Message

We begin again, a new year for the Clearinghouse, number 36. New stimulating programs, but, unfortunately, not many new topics. Despite progress made in some women's issues, we are all still working to resolve the many that remain. CWI's monthly meetings present information from expert speakers so that you can make knowledgeable decisions. September is our membership month; dues are payable for the upcoming year. Your membership enables us to continue our outreach to the women's community. Please consider renewing your membership, mail your check with the above form. We look forward to seeing many of you at our meetings — as we begin again.

— Barbara J. Ratner

Senator Ted Stevens

(Women's eNews)

Ted Stevens, former senator from Alaska, who was recently killed in a plane crash, was a dedicated champion of Title IX. In 1984 the Supreme Court ruled that Title IX applied only to programs that directly received federal funds; this left women's sports opportunities unprotected. "...after intense lobbying on Capitol Hill, Stevens helped pass the Civil Rights Restoration Act, which corrected the Supreme Court ruling by extending Title IX to all programs run by a school that receives any federal aid."

Brinegar to Direct OWL

Bobbie Ann Brinegar has been appointed executive director of OWL, The Voice of Midlife and Older Women (Older Women's League). According to OWL's announcement, Brinegar has a "strong background in membership organizations, including faith-based groups, political campaigns and in the health care and mental health arena. She is an experienced issue advocate who led efforts to reform voting systems and improve election procedures for a leading national voting integrity organization and has extensive experience working with the US Senate, US House and executive branch."



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

- September 21** **National Women's History Museum**, *Our Nation's Daughters* dinner, featuring **Meryl Streep**, Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Information: Anne Brady 202-546-9250 or rsvp@nwhm.org.
- September 22** **Sewall-Belmont honors Nancy Pelosi**, at the *Alice Award* luncheon. Information: Elisabeth Crum, 202-546-1210 ext. 17 or www.sewallbelmont.org/mainpages/AliceAward.html
- September 25** **The DC chapter of the League of Women Voters fall luncheon** officially establishes the Sheila Willet Distinguished Service Award, which will be given to one of LWV's members each year. Cost \$35 non-members; \$30 LWVDC members. 11am—2pm. Clyde's of Gallery Place, 707 7th Street NW. Information: LWVDC@aol.com or 202-222-0710.

Photos: D. Anne Martin; Editor, Roslyn Kaiser; Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2010 - June 2011

OFFICERS: *President*, Barbara J. Ratner; *VP Program*, Sue Klein;
VP Membership Co-chairs, Kellye McIntosh, D. Anne Martin;
Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; *Secretary*, Harriett Stonehill

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Ruth G. Nadel, Bernice Sandler, Ellen S. Overton, *ex officio*



Iran's Resistance to Women's Rights

Iranian women lost many rights including legal, political and social rights following the Islamic Revolution in 1979. When Dr. Haleh Esfandiari went to visit her mother in Iran, she was arrested and imprisoned in solitary confinement. Iranians who now live outside the country have been active in trying to reverse this oppression. Our speakers will help us understand what has been happening in Iran to limit women's human rights and advise us how we can work with them and others to change this situation. Dr. Esfandiari's book, *My Prison, My Home*, will be available in paperback for sale at the meeting.

Our speakers are **Dr. Haleh Esfandiari**, Director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center and **Leila Milani**, a human rights lawyer with special expertise in dissident and activist groups based both in and outside of Iran.

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 26, 2010 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm

Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

Place: One Dupont Circle, 8th Floor Kellogg Room, Washington DC

Bring brown bag lunch, soft drinks available from a machine.

Renew Your Membership.

Please fill out the form on page 5 and mail it with your dues.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A photo ID must be shown at the security desk of One Dupont Circle.

Please allow time to go through the sign-in system.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 23, 2010

Pay Equity: Past, Present and Future

The September meeting featured **Catherine Hill, Ph.D.**, Director of Research at the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and **Michele “Mike” Leber**, Chair of the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE). Both speakers addressed the persisting wage gap for women in the United States today.

Dr. Hill reviewed statistics on the discrepancy between men’s and women’s earnings and addressed two issues: 1) what are the questions that come up about the gender pay gap and 2) how do we persuade people to believe it exists and to take it seriously. Dr. Hill began by discussing the fact that despite the progress that was achieved in decreasing the wage gap in the 1970s and 1980s, in this decade the gap has remained relatively unchanged. Hill suggested that the economic boost of women’s education advances may be leveling off. Women are still investing in education, indeed more women than men are now receiving doctoral degrees. All this education has helped increase women’s earnings in the 1980s and 1990s, but the education effect may be cooling as the job market absorbs more and more graduates.

Hill then differentiated between the varying ways to calculate the pay gap, and emphasized the need for women’s groups to be able to respond to criticism about inconsistent numbers concerning the gap by explaining why and how different numbers are reported.



Catherine Hill



Michele “Mike” Leber

The pay gap is sometimes reported using the annual earnings measure, based on survey questions that ask respondents to report their yearly earnings. The seasonally-adjusted statistic is calculated using only full-time, year-round workers and includes bonuses. The pay gap was calculated as 23% in 2009, with women receiving 77 cents for every dollar that men are paid, according to the Annual Economic Supplement released by the US Census Bureau.

Another method for calculating the pay gap is the weekly earnings measure, based on survey questions which require that respondents report only their pay for a week of work. The weekly earnings measure tends to include a slightly different population than the annual measure, as these respondents could be doing different work the next week. Only full-time workers are included, though respondents may or may not work full-time on a permanent basis. According to the weekly earnings measure, the pay gap for women was 20% in 2009, with women receiving 80 cents of pay for every dollar received by men, a ratio very similar to those reported in 2008 and 2007.

Hill also discussed the fact that educated women in the workforce receive lower pay than their male counterparts. One year after graduating from college with a bachelor’s degree, women’s weekly full-time earnings were just 80% of those of men who had graduated at the same time. That statistic fell to 69% ten years after graduation, when women were

Program Summary, continued

earning only 69 cents to every dollar earned by a man. The ratio for part-time workers fell from 73 one year after graduation to a meager 56 ten years after graduation.

Hill noted that when the AAUW reexamined these surprising statistics, controlling for factors that might influence the amount of pay a worker receives (such as occupation, industry, hours, experience, educational attainment, GPA, region, race, and others), they found that the pay gap persisted. The gap for one-year post-graduates was still 5%, while the pay gap ten years after graduation was a considerable 12%. That the gap cannot be entirely explained by such factors is more proof to non-believers that pay equity is still a significant problem in the US and not merely the result of different choices.

The second speaker, **Mike Leber**, shared some sobering facts about the wage gap, and reasons why it is still around today. The NCPE was founded in 1979 in response to the unacceptable wage gap of 59.7 cents to the dollar—even lower than what it was twenty years before in 1959. She said the advances in narrowing the wage gap that took place in the 1990s were not because of women's earnings rising, but largely because men's earnings fell. She also stated that there has not been much progress since 2001, and that the gap has remained mostly static, emphasizing that there is still a long way to go toward pay equity.

Leber also discussed the importance and significance of Equal Pay Day, started in 1996, and the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill already passed by the House and currently sitting in the Senate. She urged listeners to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, bill S.182, which would update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963, by contacting their respective senators and asking them to vote for the bill and vote without amendments. (See follow-up on

page 4.) The Paycheck Fairness Act would close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act so employers must have a legitimate reason for paying women less for the same work. Among other improvements, it would prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information, reinstate collection of wage data, provide training for enforcers, eliminate geographic limits in comparisons, and help level the playing field so employers who pay fairly are not disadvantaged.

Leber then discussed reasons for the continued wage gap, which focused heavily on the theory that historical discrimination has been built into the wage system. She highlighted the sex segregation of occupations as a major contributor to the gap and that women also earn less than men in the same occupations ranging from doctors to dishwashers.

As of the late 1800s, men advocated hiring women because they “could be paid less,” Leber said, adding that “old attitudes die hard.” For this she suggested that the relationships between fathers and their daughters might be used to push for pay equity, since it has been noted that men seem to be more concerned with whether their daughters make pay equal to male colleagues than whether their wives do.

During the discussion time we also learned from a graduate student from Sweden that they have a smaller pay gap than in the US and much more generous family leave policies where fathers and mothers are allowed equal leave days. However, since the leave days can be combined, it is more likely that women will take much more of the leave. The discussion also highlighted other complexities in attaining equal pay, such as the differential valuing of males and females with the same qualifications and that women are even penalized when they negotiate salaries as assertively as males.

It Takes a Candidate — Why Women Don't Run for Office

That's the title of the book written by Jennifer Lawless (co-authored with Richard L. Fox). Lawless is director of American University's Women and Politics Institute. On Nov. 29, AU will present a program with a book signing by Lawless at 5:15pm, to be followed by a panel discussion at 6pm with Dee Dee Myers, Dana Perino and Jennifer L. Lawless on the outcomes of the 2010 midterm elections. The program will be held at the AU's Katzen Arts Center, on Massachusetts Avenue near Nebraska Avenue. For more information call 202-885-2903.

Women and Poverty

The National Women's Law Center

NWLC has analyzed the new census data and says, "It paints a bleak picture for women and families." Some of NLWC's findings include:

- Poverty among women climbed to 13.9 percent in 2009, the highest rate in 15 years and the largest single year increase since 1980. Rates are even higher for women of color and single mothers. More than 15.4 million children lived in poverty last year, over half of them with single mothers.
- Lack of insurance coverage among women has never been so high: 19.1 million women aged 18-64 — nearly 1 in 5 — are uninsured. Even more women would have joined the ranks of the uninsured without the safety net of public health insurance programs such as Medicaid.
- For women in the workforce, the wage gap hasn't budged: women still make only 77 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earn. In an already down economy, women and their families remain short-changed by an unfair wage gap.

NWLC says "These numbers are staggering. We can't gloss over the stark reality of what women today face." To find out more on what these new numbers mean for women, advocates, and policymakers alike, visit www.nwlc.org.

CWI Member Organizations

Americans for Financial Reform

www.ourfinancialsecurity.org

Office of Women in Higher Education (OWHE)

www.acenet.edu/

Equal Visibility Everywhere (EVE)

www.equalvisibilityeverywhere.org/

Fairfax County Commission for

www.fairfaxva.gov/host/women/local.html

Federal Employed Women (FEW)

www.few.org

Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF)

www.feminist.org

League of Women Voters of DC

www.lwvdc.org

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)

www.mdlegagenda4women.org

Maryland Women's Heritage

www.MDWomensHeritageCenter.org

Montgomery County's Chapter of the National Organization for Women (MCNOW)

www.mcmdnow.org

Montgomery County Commission for Women

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw

National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO) www.womensorganizations.org

National Women's Editorial Forum

www.mediaforum.org/NWEF

National Women's Law Center (NWLC)

www.nwlc.org

Service Employees International Union Local 500

www.seiu500.org/

United For Equality, LLC

www.united4equality.wordpress.com

Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)

www.wowonline.org

WISER (Women's Institute For A Secure Retirement) www.wiserwomen.org

Paycheck Fairness Act

Bill S.182 passed the House in January of 2009 but has never been voted on in the Senate. Because Sen. Harry Reid has filed a cloture petition on the Paycheck Fairness Act, there will probably be a vote early in the next session.

2010-11 Membership

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

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☐ Individual - \$25 ☐ Under 30 years - \$15 ☐ Organization - \$35 or three years \$90

☐ I would like to help CWI's outreach with an additional tax-deductible contribution: \$ _____

President's Message

The midterm election approaches and many of us are very discouraged that the economy has not shown more improvement. Despite that fact, please support your candidates and encourage your friends and family to vote. We all know the stories of women fighting to get the vote, we still need to exercise that right. VOTE!

Barbara J. Ratner

Gender in Media

In 2007, Academy Award winner Geena Davis and star of the TV series *Commander in Chief* established the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, which publishes a weekly bulletin, *SmartBrief*.

While watching children's entertainment with her young daughter, Davis noticed a remarkable imbalance in the ratio of male to female characters which led her to commission the largest research study ever undertaken on gender in children's entertainment. Findings showed that in the top-grossing G-rated films, there were three male characters for every one female. You can receive free issues of *SmartBrief* by signing up at: www.smartbrief.com/gdigm/

Women We Should Know

The Maryland Women's Heritage Center is presenting Saturday performances, part of its Living History Series. The performances are free and will "portray three diverse and extraordinary women of Maryland, who walked with Harriet Tubman, Ella Shields, and Rachel Carson."

On Saturday Oct. 23, 2 pm, Harriet Lynn will portray Ella Shields, the Baltimore-born vaudeville and British Music Hall legend.

On Saturday Oct. 30, 2 pm Kate Campbell Stevenson will be featured as Rachel Carson, noted environmentalist and author.

(The first performance took place Oct. 9.)

The performances will take place at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center in Baltimore. For information call 410- 767-0675 or visit www.MDWomensHeritageCenter.org

National Women's History Museum

from Feminist News

Senators Jim deMint and Tom Coburn placed a hold on the bill that would permit the purchase of federal land for a National Women's History Museum. They are concerned about the financial aspects of the project and that there are similar museums throughout the country that already receive government money.



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

- Wednesday, October 20** **Aging in Place in Montgomery County Symposium.** The event is free and open to the public from 10a-noon at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland. For more information, contact Regional Services Director Ken Hartman at 240-777-8200.
- Saturday, Oct. 23 and 30** **Maryland Women's Heritage Center**, West Lexington and Liberty Streets in Baltimore. For information call 410-767-0675. See article on page 5. For parking and directions, visit www.MDWomensHeritageCenter.org.
- Wednesday, November 17** **National Women's Law Center 2010 Awards Dinner** honoring Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large, Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State. Washington Hilton Hotel. Reception: 6p; Dinner: 7p. More information at www.nwlc.org or email ndelahoyd@nwlc.org or call (202) 588-5180.

Photos: D.Anne Martin; Editor: Roslyn Kaiser; September meeting summary draft by Renata Maniaci and Allyson Gasdaska, FMF interns; Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2010 - June 2011

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