JANUARY 2012

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Say Yes To the Equal Rights Amendment: Celebrate ERA's 40th Anniversary

Think America doesn't need the ERA to end sex discrimination? Think again. Women do not possess the absolute right to be paid equally for the same work or to be free of sex discrimination unless there is federal assistance. Federal and state governments have legal authority over every aspect of women's lives except for the right to vote, which is protected under the 19th amendment. Service women are excluded from combat pay and benefits, yet they serve on the front lines.

Virginia and four other states are working in 2012 to secure and advance women's progress under the Equal Rights Amendment. Discover the ABC's of the ERA; volunteer in Virginia in February to pass the ERA; solicit your congressional members to support passage of the ERA. Learn how you can help achieve equality for women.

Carolyn A. Cook, Founder/CEO of United 4 Equality, LLC, architect of HJ res. 47 in the 112th Congress and Secretary of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues.

Colonel BJ Thornburg, US Army (retired), an active member of ERA VA's coalition.

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 / 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.

This will be your last newsletter if you haven't renewed your dues.

To pay your 2011-12 dues, go to the membership tab on our website
www.womensclearinghouse.org and download the form.

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.

The CWI meeting will be cancelled if bad weather closes government offices.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Counteracting Pseudoscience: The Truth About Girls and Boys

WI's November speakers were **Rosalind**C. Barnett, senior scientist at Brandeis
University Women's Studies Research
Center and Janice Koch, professor emerita of science education at Hofstra University.

Rosalind Barnett
presented highlights from
her book, The Truth
About Girls and Boys:
Challenging Toxic
Stereotypes About Our
Children, which she
co-authored with Caryl
Rivers. She spoke of the
current neuroscience
research and literature
and the gross mischaracterization of that data to



Rosalind Barnett

the American public, mostly by the media. It is misleading to both educators and parents. The truth is very different than the picture painted; unfortunately, stereotypes are alive and well. It requires constant vigilance to dispel these overblown and misleading stereotypes.

Many media reports or junk science would have us believe that girls' and boys' brains are very different. These highly publicized accounts reflect shoddy and misleading science. Major new neuroscientific studies conclude that there is "surprisingly little evidence of sex differences in children's brains." There is no such thing as a "boy" or "girl" learning style. There is no scientific justification for the beliefs that girls can't "do math" and boys "are not nurturing." There are virtually no differences in verbal abilities between girls and boys. Boys and girls are equally caring. Just as girls are affectionate and caring to dolls, boys are affectionate and caring to their stuffed animals. A virtual flood of new research debunks the idea that girls are not

"wired" to do well at math. Girls and boys become aware of gender stereotypes even before they can speak. By the age of two, they are aware of what is "appropriate" behavior for males and females. Some ways in which those early percep-



Janice Koch

tions are reinforced is when mothers overestimate the degree to which their boy toddler wishes to engage in risky behavior and underestimate their toddler girl's desire to take risks. Parents tend to overprotect the girls.

Much has been made of the importance of hormones, particularly

testosterone. It has been stated that higher levels of testosterone causes boy children to strive for dominance and exhibit more aggression and competition. That theory is debunked by the fact that levels of testosterone do not differ in girls and boys from seven months of age to seven years. That similarity is borne out again by the fact that female and male infants respond equally to people and objects. Boy babies are not biologically "programmed" or "wired" to focus on objects, predisposing them to math and understanding systems, nor are girl babies "programmed" to focus on people and feelings. Studies have shown that mothers provide different experiences to each child. For example, boys are usually not asked to help mother with housekeeping or younger sibling care, but girls are routinely asked to participate in these roles. This behavior robs boys of important opportunities to care and be cared for.

Janice Koch began her comments with the caution that there are several questions that

should be asked when reviewing a scientific study. Among them are "who funded this research," "who carried it out" and "was it peer reviewed." The public must beware of science that upholds long-standing notions. The "catch-22" is that beliefs shape expectations, which in turn shape beliefs. The behaviors of girls and boys are opposite than media hype depicts them, but marketing using a pink brain/blue brain paradigm sells merchandise. In well-know shopping malls, a girls' tee shirt is embroidered "Fashion is my life." There are no tee shirts saying e.g., "Math is my Life" because contemporary culture and marketing are working against that perception. Social learning is important to acknowledge. Another example is a well-known large toy chain, which has "pink" and "blue" aisles. This sex stereotyping reinforces narrow expectations for both boys and girls.

Treating girls and boys differently is a key aspect of contemporary single-sex schools and is often continued in their future workplace. Many teachers place value on physical stimuli as an adjunct to active learning. A teacher may use a rock dance routine to get girls and boys active and thus ready for learning. In an evaluation of a contemporary all boys' class, the students were active, exploring items in the classroom and changing physical positions within the room. The girls' class was sitting quietly listening to Mozart. This difference in activity reflects the trap of generalizing all boys and all girls into stereotypes. There is more difference within groups of girls and boys than between them. Each gender should be entitled to the same expectations: the expectation of fair treatment; the ability to express personal feelings; having intelligence and physical gifts honored and ideas accepted and respected.

Even as young as a few months old, parents treat girls and boys differently. For example, studies show that they tend to bounce boys and cradle girls. Data are consistent and longstanding showing that parents' verbal behaviors differ depending on the gender of their child.

Command-directed speech is directed to boys and more emotion-tone language is directed to girls. Parenting is difficult, which makes it easy to fall in sex stereotyping. Usually the last thing a parent thinks is that s/he is treating the genders differently.

A recent study asks about young women in the creative sciences compared to women who avoided science at all costs. The beginning assumption was that those in the sciences had been interested early. The study showed that in pre-college classrooms, both cohorts were bored by science, but the women who pursued science had explored it in informal settings — museums, zoos, parks, etc. If students participate in math and science as practical activities from childhood up, they view the subjects as more accessible. Both girls and boys love "science" when they place a seed in a cup of dirt and watch it sprout and grow. Pattern recognition is a part of math so games can be used to develop this recognition and parlay that into other aspects of math. Unfortunately, by the age of ten, perceptions are held that math is a "boy thing."

Pre-history literature reinforces sex stereotypes although in reality hunters (attributed to men) and gatherers (attributed to women) hunted in groups. The women were as involved as the men. Women snared small game and participated in stripping and curing the large game. When we think of women as foragers in that society, we tend to overlook that foraging is tracking and spatial orientation, which are components of mathematical reasoning. If we look at contemporary books about the hunter/ gatherer society, all of the books are about men as hunters with no attribution to the contributions of women or their abilities to use both innate scientific and mathematical reasoning in their tasks.

For more information about Dr. Barnett's book, visit www.thetruthaboutgirlsandboys.com

To learn more about Dr. Koch, visit www.people.hofstra.edu/janice_koch

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 29, 2012

Rockville, MD 20852

Women's Legislative Briefing

Presented by Montgomery County Commission for Women.

Featuring VIP Panel Discussion: Women's Issues in the U.S. Congress. 12:30-6:00pm. General Admission \$15. University of Maryland Shady Grove Campus, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville MD. For more information: 240-777-8333 or www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw.

Photos: Carolyn Cook; November summary draft by D. Anne Martin; Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2011 - June 2012

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

DIRECTORS: Linda Fihelly, Bernice Sandler, Harriett Stonehill

FEBRUARY 2012

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Knowing Our History: Knowing Ourselves

Women's history experts will reintroduce us to legendary heroines in the fight for women's equality. How was the fierce fight for woman's rights waged by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B.Anthony relevant today? Their legendary, unbreakable friendship lasted fifty-one years; a powerful friendship that fueled and sustained the nineteenth-century fight for woman's rights, a fight Stanton and Anthony relentlessly waged despite fierce opposition, daunting conditions, scandalous entanglements, and betrayal by friends and allies. Using the often-invisible stories about the incredible strength, dedication, and contributions of our diverse foremothers can provide support for today's issues, and inspiration for upcoming generations.

Penny Colman, award-winning author of several women's history books for all ages will discuss her latest book: *Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B.Anthony:* A Friendship That Changed the World.

Jill Moss Greenberg, Executive Director of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center and Museum and founder of the 1980 Maryland Women's History Project.

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 / 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.

The CWI meeting will be cancelled if bad weather closes government offices.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Say Yes to the Equal Rights Amendment: Celebrate ERA's 40th Anniversary

WI's January speakers were Colonel BJ Thornburg, US Army (retired), an active member of ERA Virginia's coalition and Carolyn A. Cook, the Founder/CEO of United 4 Equality, LLC, and Secretary of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues.

Colonel BJ
Thornburg began his presentation by addressing his dedication to this great nation because of his multiple identities: a Virginian resident, a Christian, a citizen, and a retired Army Colonel. He emphasized the need to make the ERA a reality due to its



Colonel BJ Thornburg

beneficial impact on this nation: the ERA provides equal rights and protection for both men and women in this country. He clarified the ERA vision by challenging its typical assumptions. "The ERA is not just a women's issue; not about a partisan political agenda; not about gay rights; and not about abortion. It is about providing my daughter and yours the same protections under the constitution as my sons and yours."

Colonel Thornburg then shared his 31-year experience of military service and illustrated degraded status and maltreatment of women in the military. When he was a Vietnam draftee, he watched that women served mostly as nurses or "candy stripers," who put their lives at risk in the combat zone to provide much needed care for wounded soldiers for minimum payment. When he worked as a market researcher for the Army Recruiting Command in 1980s, he discovered disproportionate female enlistments in the Army. Women served merely 10 percent at that time while their number increased to 18.6 percent in 2011. When he served as the deputy director for

the Army Center for Land Welfare in the 2000s, he observed ostracization of his female supervisor. She was a rocket scientist with a PhD in aeronautical engineering, who was one of the brightest and most knowledgeable bosses that



Carolyn A. Cook

Colonel Thornburg
worked for throughout
his military career.
Nonetheless, she was
relegated to an
unprivileged technical
field without any hope of
future promotion. The
Pentagon male bosses
were intimidated by her
not only because she was
talented, but also because
she was a woman. Colonel

Thornburg was greatly disturbed by her demotion. "It was undoubtedly a criminal waste of one of our most valuable assets," he said.

Colonel Thornburg emphasized that women are a key component of the military mission to "Provide for the common defense." Women, with their male comrades in arms, can fight and die for our country. Notwithstanding, women are not afforded equal protection under the constitution. He, therefore, is convinced that it is time that all of us need to work for ERA ratification in Virginia and turn the "Three State Strategy" into a "Two State Strategy."

Carolyn Cook shared her experiences working towards the ratification of the ERA and explained why it is so important. She began by mapping out American women's history, explaining how women used to be considered property and were completely at the mercy of their husbands and the men in their lives. She urged the group that it is time to break patriarchal tradition and amend the Constitution to bring "our living document up to date." She

pointed out that white males are still the standard and now the rest of us have to fight for our rights to equal theirs. Although comments on blogs and in other places claim that the ERA is unnecessary and women already have protections under the law, this is not enough. She emphasized that the ERA is an important tool for changing both the mindset of the oppressors and the oppressed.

Cook said that the ERA says to society, "we aren't going to be held back" because we are female. She lamented that the upcoming generation will be challenged by the lack of movement in public policy towards meeting women's needs. For example, some women still find that they need to leave successful jobs and careers because their needs are not met by the government's policies. She explained that the ERA is so attractive because it breaks down gender boxes and just lets people be defined by themselves, not their gender.

Describing where we are now in the fight for the ERA, Cook explained the technicalities that are holding the ratification back. She explained how Congress had put an expiration date on its passage so that in 1982, ten years after it was initially introduced, the ERA "expired." By 1982, 35 of the 38 necessary states had ratified it. Despite this threat of "expiration," many groups including Cook's United for Equality, LLC, have been working towards getting three more states to ratify the ERA. She finished her presentation by urging more grassroots support for the ERA, asserting that more action will get others excited about it again. She proposed the example of holding a protest on the Key Bridge, a bridge that connects Washington, DC to Virginia in order to raise awareness that Virginia should ratify and become the 36th state.

For more information about United for Equality, LLC, visit www.united4equality.com

Virginia: For Lovers or Misogynists? www.prlog.org/11789769

Discussion

Q: Does the culture of the military today still ostracize women? Will women still enter the military if they cannot advance?

Col. Thornburg: Yes, the culture persists. However, women can still advance. It is not the military that is the problem, but rather the people in it. This can be changed over time, especially with the passage of the ERA.

Q: In a discussion between Rep. Carolyn Maloney and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Justice Ginsburg expressed that the ERA would never pass the U.S. Supreme Court's muster regarding the deadline/expiration issue. Can the three-state approach still be effective then?

Cook: There is an argument against this. For example, other amendments didn't have this deadline. Furthermore, Congress kept extending the deadline, setting a precedent that different sessions are not necessarily held to each other's actions. Also, the deadline was not written into the actual text of the amendment. Above all

though, the power rests with Congress, not the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court would have to send it back to Congress in the end thereby countering Justice Ginsburg's concerns.

Q: What is the grassroots movement doing now?

Cook: Each year, the ERA is being brought up in the state legislatures. They know it won't pass but they still have to continue the fight to keep the attention on it and keep people informed. It's about raising awareness. So even if it doesn't pass it's still good because of the attention it attracts.

Q: What happens after we get the three states?

Cook: It goes to Congress. Once those last three states are won the ERA will officially be ratified by three-fourths of the states. The states are not permitted to rescind their ratification.

Q: What is currently the most important thing to do to motivate those who have been exhausted by the process?

Cook: We need to get the excitement back. We need to get people interested again and keep people fighting for the ERA.

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

Thursday,
 March 22
 Morch 22
 Grab lunch, meet a friend and show your support for HJ Res. 47 /

ERA's three-state strategy. For more information, contact www.united4equality.com

or Carolyn A. Cook at ccook@united4equality.com

Thursday, Feminist Majority Foundation Forum & 25th Anniversary Luncheon. Capitol Hilton Hotel, 1001 16th Street NW, Washington DC.

Honoring Senators Barbara Boxer and Barbara Mikulski, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker. For more information: www.feministmajority.org/events/2012WMP

Photos: D.Anne Martin; January summary draft by Hannah Gordon, FMF Intern and Yukako Tatsumi, CWI Intern; Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2011 - June 2012

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MARCH 2012

www.womensclearinghouse.org

HERvotes

National organizations are working together to mobilize women voters to assure that those elected will protect the gains that women have made and ensure that women are not disenfranchised by new voting laws. HERvotes (Health and Economic Rights) coalition members, over 50 national organizations, will pool their expertise to communicate with voters on issues that affect women ranging from the war against women's health, to preserving successful policies such as Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act and the Violence Against Women Act. Our presenters will describe how everyone can participate in these critically important non-partisan activities to protect and advance women's rights. Representatives from other HERvotes organizations are invited to participate in Q&As after the presentations. Visit www.HERvotes.us

Kim Gandy, Vice President and General Counsel Feminist Majority & Feminist Majority Foundation, and former President of the National Organization for Women

Lisa Maatz, Director Public Policy & Government Relations, American Association of University Women, and former Legislative Aide to New York Representative Carolyn Maloney

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 / 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, April 24, 2012 on Title IX's 40th Anniversary with Bernice Sandler

Knowing Our History: Knowing Ourselves

WI's February Speakers were **Penny**Colman award-winning author of several women's history books, and **Jill Moss**Greenberg, executive director of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center and Museum, and

founder of the 1980 Maryland Women's History Project.

Penny Colman
discussed her latest book
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
and Susan B. Anthony:
A Friendship That
Changed the World.
Colman gave a brief background on the various
accomplishments of Susan
and Elizabeth and noted



Penny Colman

that until she met Elizabeth, Susan was not as passionate about the women's rights movement as she was about temperance work.

Colman illustrated the main points of the new book by summarizing eight key accomplishments of Elizabeth and Susan: • Convinced countless numbers of people of the "wisdom and truth of the then new gospel of women's rights." This quote is from Frederick Douglass, who first met Elizabeth in about 1845 at a gathering in Boston where, he later recalled, "She did me the honor to sit by my side and by the logic of which she is master, successfully endeavored to convince me of the wisdom & truth of the then new gospel of woman's rights." • Organized and addressed numerous women's rights conventions including an annual national convention in Washington, DC for 26 years. They also attended conventions organized by other people, and if unable to attend, they sent a letter to be read aloud. • Addressed state legislatures and testified before many state and federal legislative committees beginning in 1854 when Elizabeth addressed the NY state legislature. In 1896 after Susan testified before a New York state legislative committee, she noted that it was "now populated by the sons and grandsons of men she and Elizabeth had

appealed to in previous years... (And she was) tired of begging for liberty from men not half her age and with not a hundredth of her knowledge of state and national affairs." • Spearheaded a federal suffrage campaign and participated in



Jill Moss Greenberg

including iconic documents such as the

many state campaigns starting with two in 1867 in New York and Kansas. The Hutchinson Family Singers joined them in Kansas and sang suffrage songs. • Created an Everest-size mountain of written material: addresses, appeals, resolutions, petitions, tracts, articles, editorials, books, leaflets, and letters galore,

"Declaration of Sentiments," which is engraved on a water wall at the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls. • Traveled and lectured in territories and states throughout the U.S. For eleven years, Elizabeth was on the road "speaking steadily for eight months of the year." Susan was constantly in motion; her last diary entry for 1871 reads: "A year full of hard work, six months east, six months west of the Rocky Mountains; 171 lectures, 13, 000 miles of travel." • Founded consequential organizations — the Women's Loyal National League 1863, to enlist women in a "War of Ideas" for the emancipation of all slaves. "Shame on us," Susan declared, "if we do not make it a war to establish the Negro in freedom." They conducted a massive grassroots petition campaign, the first in American history on behalf of the 13th Constitutional amendment, which abolished slavery. They also founded the National Woman Suffrage Association 1869, which eventually merged into the National American Woman Suffrage Association. This group reformed into the League of Women Voters after ratification of the 19th Amendment. They also started the International Council of Women 1888. At the first meeting in Washington, DC in 1888, for eight

days, delegates from seven countries and from 53 different women's organizations met in what Elizabeth called "a splendid agitation." • Modeled an exemplary friendship, where they emphasized how their different skills were complementary. They also were careful to never disagree in public although they had good discussions about some different views and strategies.

Jill Moss Greenberg began by discussing her current work with the Maryland Women's Heritage Center. Beginning in 1980, the Maryland Women's History Project worked with all Maryland schools, coordinated by Linda Shevitz, incorporating an annual women's history curriculum to recognize significant Maryland women in history. She spoke about educating young children, and taking a good look at schools to make sure that important women of history are included and emphasized. She stated, "The more you learn about people and their contributions the more you respect them. And the more you respect them the less likely you are to abuse them." Greenberg used the example of Margaret Brent, a founding settler of the Colony of Maryland in the 1600's. She was appointed the executor of Lord Calvert's, the Governor of Maryland's, estate. Brent was the first woman in the colonies to demand a vote, when she was denied two votes; one as a woman, and one as a property owner, despite the fact that the Maryland legislature let England know that "we would rather have our colony in her hands than any man else's." Greenberg then shared some current projects of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center as well as some of its future goals. She highlighted the continued importance of collaboration between women to make sure these goals are achieved.

Greenberg announced that one goal of the organization was to reframe history statewide by using a model which includes diverse women of different cultures, ages, economic backgrounds, etc. She hopes that eventually a heritage center dedicated to women's achievements will exist in every state. She highlighted two continuous exhibits: the *Maryland Women's Hall Of Fame*, honoring renowned women such as Carmen

Delgado Votaw and Bunny Sandler (CWI members), and the Unsung Heroines Gallery, where anybody can submit the names and stories of ordinary women, current and historical, who have impacted our lives. The purpose of the exhibit is to acknowledge the daily trials and achievements of countless women who are often written out of history or overlooked. Greenberg also mentioned that the Maryland Women's Heritage Center currently has an exhibit called Explorations & Discoveries: Maryland Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This includes posters and a book that recognize diverse women of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt MD. Greenberg noted that these women were extremely pleased to have their contributions to science acknowledged publicly for the first time.

For more information on author Penny Colman, please visit: www.pennycolman.com.

For more information on the Maryland Women's Heritage Center and Museum, please visit: www.mdwomensheritagecenter.org.

Discussion

Q: What does Susan's quote, "Women want bread, not ballots" mean?

Colman: "Women want bread, not ballots," was the title of Susan's speech in which she stressed the need to convince working-class women that the way to get more bread is by empowering themselves with the ballot. In other words, the ballot brings bread.

Q: Why is there a misconception that Elizabeth Cady Stanton was racist?

Colman: This is a misconception perpetuated by Ken Burns at the time of the release of the documentary about Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. If you read her work over her lifetime Elizabeth said awful things about lots of people. This is not to excuse her for her language, but at the same time she's said to be saying racist things while she was fighting for the rights of African Americans and for the rights of black women in particular.

10401 Grosvenor Place #917 Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

Thursday,
March 22

Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) will introduce companion legislation to
HJ Res. 47: Removing deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment.
Get involved to achieve ERA by 2015! Russell Senate Office Building
Rm. 385; 11am-1pm. Speakers and press welcome. For more information, contact
www.united4equality.com or Carolyn A. Cook at ccook@united4equality.com

Thursday, Feminist Majority Foundation Forum & 25th Anniversary Luncheon.

March 29 Capitol Hilton Hotel, 1001 16th Street NW, Washington DC.

Honoring Senators Barbara Boxer and Barbara Mikulski, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker. For more information: www.feministmajority.org/events/2012WMP

Photos: D.Anne Martin; February summary draft by Ali Tweedt, FMF Intern; Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

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DIRECTORS: Linda Fihelly, Bernice Sandler, Harriett Stonehill

APRIL 2012

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Title IX at 40

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Title IX is the most important legislation passed for women and girls since women obtained the right to vote in 1920. What impact does it have and why is it so important?

Featured presenter **Dr. Bernice (Bunny) Sandler**, senior scholar at the Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI), was called the "Godmother of Title IX" by *The New York Times* for her work on the development, passage, and implementation of Title IX. Sandler will discuss the early history of Title IX as it was developed 40 years ago as well as what women and girls have gained from having Title IX and what still needs to be done.

Additional Title IX experts will expand briefly on Sandler's insights by discussing a key triumph and an important continuing challenge for full Title IX Implementation in the following areas:

- Career and Technical Education: **Susan Rees**, director of policy and national programs, Wider Opportunities for Women
- Discrimination against specific subgroups such as pregnant and parenting students and minority students: **Lara Kaufmann**, senior counsel for education and employment, National Women's Law Center
- Role of the Title IX Coordinators: Linda Shevitz, MD State Title IX Coordinator.

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 / 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.

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 Investigative Reporting with Kathy Spillar, Ms. magazine Executive Editor

HERvotes

WI's March speakers were **Kim Gandy** former president of the
National Organization For Women
(NOW) and current vice president and
senior counsel at the Feminist Majority
Foundation (FMF), and **Lisa Maatz** director

of public policy and government relations at the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Kim Gandy and Lisa Maatz both discussed the HERvotes (Health, Economics, Rights) coalition. HERvotes is a communication strategy shared by a



Kim Gandy

coalition of over 50 national organizations to mobilize women voters and educate them about what is at stake in the upcoming 2012 election. What are the issues, and why are these issues important? Some of the coalition members include: Advocates for Youth, Black Women's Health Imperative, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Jewish Women International, MomsRising, and NARAL Pro-Choice America. Gandy and Maatz discussed the top twelve advances for women currently at risk in the upcoming election which include: Women's Right to Vote (1920), the Violence Against Women Act (1965), Title IX of the Education Amendments (1972), Roe v. Wade (1973), and the Affordable Care Act (2010). Both Gandy and Maatz emphasized that HERvotes is a way to coordinate communication and promote similar interests while still upholding the specific interests of each coalition member.

Some coalition members have a specific message they want to promote to their audience. Maatz emphasized, "HERvotes is very careful that each individual group gets to do their own thing." For example, AAUW is developing an "It's my vote, I will

Lisa Maatz

be heard" strategy targeting 15 states and they are making their Congressional Voting Record widely available.

Maatz stressed the fact that women are the super majority of voters. Interestingly, women are also the significant majority of

late deciders. HERvotes is a communication method to reach out to those undecided voters and inform them of women's issues. One way HERvotes mobilizes and informs women voters is through blog carnivals with the hash tag #HERvotes. Gandy cited the recent Susan G. Komen/Planned Parenthood controversy as an example of social media outreach. By hosting blog carnivals, women can share personal stories and read the stories of other women regarding how successful policies have personally benefited them. Gandy spoke about how the Feminist Majority Foundation has hosted its 12th blog carnival to date. The most recent blog carnival theme was in support of the Affordable Care Act, and the FMF received upwards of 84 entries. Maatz stated, "Once you tell women what the Affordable Care Act does, they support it!" These blog carnivals are

one communication strategy to share personal perspectives and stories, which drive individuals and the press to further share these stories in the media.

Discussion

Q: How do you get college students to vote when students are not politically involved at this time?

Maatz: Actually the number of student voters came out higher than the number of seniors that voted in the 2008 election. We found that college students did not know that they could vote through their college so HERvotes hosts voter registrations. Unfortunately, voter laws can vary by state, which suppresses targeted voters such as African Americans and students. Making sure that students register and exercise their vote will be the challenge.

Gandy: Feminist Majority Leadership Alliances do voter registration on 240 campuses. Together the coalition makes for a huge difference over all, and we're hoping that these trusted messengers would have

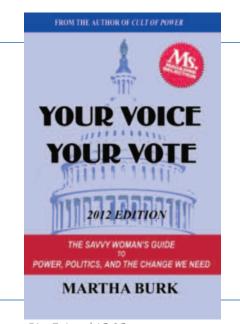
more impact in the months leading up to the election.

Q: How are you attempting to reach minority women?

Gandy: These messages are very urgent. If you look at these groups we have many diverse organizations; strong and broad women of color representation groups. We'd like to have more!

Maatz: The AAUW is reaching out to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and coalition partners. HERvotes is recruiting women to vote and elect women who want to bring up women's issues. Separate organizations have their own strategies to educate and mobilize women voters. We hope to inspire smaller groups to take these materials and ensure that women vote for candidates who support issues important to women and families.

For additional information see www.hervotes.org and www.aauwaction.org/index.php/my-vote



Your Voice, Your Vote is a manifesto for this year's woman voter and for male voters who care about the women in their lives. Martha Burk empowers the reader to cut through the double talk, irrelevancies, and false promises, and focuses directly on what's at stake for women not only in the 2012 election, but also in the years beyond. Where women stand, what women think, and what we need—with tough questions for candidates to hold their feet to the fire. Your Voice, Your Vote should be carried to every political rally, every press conference, every precinct meeting—and into the voting booth.

www.amazon.com/dp/1470165538/ref=rdr_ext_tmb

List Price: \$15.95

10401 Grosvenor Place #917 Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 28

2012 Annual Rachel Carson Open House

11701 Berwick Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Noon to 4pm, at the National Historic Landmark home of Rachel Carson, where she wrote *Silent Spring*. The house will be open to the public without charge and will feature three outstanding speakers. Organic refreshments will be provided. The house serves as the headquarters for the Rachel Carson Council. For further information, call 301-593-7507 or visit www.rachelcarsoncouncil.org/

Photos: D.Anne Martin; February summary draft by Ali Tweedt, FMF Intern; Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2011 - June 2012

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

DIRECTORS: Linda Fihelly, Bernice Sandler, Harriett Stonehill

MAY 2012

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Feminist Investigative Reporting

What is Feminist Investigative Reporting? Who is doing it? How can it advance gender equality and improve our world?

Feminist investigative reporting can help connect the dots to learn how money and power are blocking feminist (and ethical governance) goals. Join us to hear perspectives from leaders in the field on what's at stake for women, how investigative reporting can help us counteract policies that are especially harmful for women, and how you can help.

Our speakers are:

Katherine Spillar, Ms. magazine Executive Editor and Executive Vice President of the Feminist Majority and Feminist Majority Foundation.

Melanie Sloan, Executive Director of the DC congressional watchdog group, CREW (Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington)

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 / 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, June 26, 2012 Highlights of the work of CWI Organizational Members

Title IX at 40

WI's April speaker was **Dr. Bernice**"**Bunny**" **Sandler**, senior scholar at the
Women's Research and Education
Institute (WREI) in Washington and "Godmother"
of Title IX. She was followed by Title IX experts:

Linda Shevitz, Maryland State Title IX Coordinator; Jenny Egan, Margaret Fellow with the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), and Susan Rees, Director of Policy and National Programs, Wider Opportunities for Women.

Sandler spoke about the 1960s, when the women's movement was still new and the term "sex discrimination" or words "sexism" or "sexual harassment" had not even been invented. There wasn't much interest in women's issues. She shared a story about a woman who applied to a well-known and respected

school. Her rejection letter read, "Your qualifications are excellent but we already have a woman in this department." Sandler described how women were not permitted to take courses, such as auto mechanics or chemistry, and were required to take "traditional" women's courses, such as home economics and sewing. In 1969, when Sandler's application was not considered for a full-time position at University of Maryland she was told "You come on too strong for a woman." It was her then-husband who asked, "Are there any strong men there?" When she said, "All of them," he stated, "Then it's not you, its sex discrimination."

Sandler discovered that the 1963 Equal Pay Act exempted professional, executive and administrative positions, so that teachers and other education professionals were not covered. The 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibited discrimination



Bunny Sandler



Jenny Egan

based on race, color, religion, national origin and sex, but exempted educational institutions. Finally she came across a footnote on President Johnson's Executive Order 11246, which "prohibits federal contractors from discriminating in



Linda Shevitz



Susan Rees

employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin and federally assisted construction contractors and subcontractors, who do over \$10,000 in Government business in one year, from discriminating in employment decisions on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin." Realizing that most many colleges receive federal contracts, in January of 1970 Sandler filed the first of many complaints regarding sex discrimination in higher education, and encouraged women throughout academia to compile evidence at

their respective schools and file their own complaints. She subsequently filed sex discrimination complaints against approximately 250 colleges and universities. Sandler pointed out the common pattern in academe and elsewhere: "the higher the rank, the fewer the women.

Representative Edith Green (D-OR) had been interested in education equity for a long time, and, as a result of Sandler's charges, introduced a the bill prohibiting sex discrimination in higher education that received any federal funding.

In 1972, Title IX of the Education Amendment was enacted, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in all federally funded education programs and activities. When President Nixon signed Title IX into law Sandler said, "Few knew that how much this would change education and schools." Representative Green even dissuaded Sandler from lobbying Congress, "She said

nobody should know about the bill and then vote against it."

It was only after Title IX was signed into law that people realized the bill covered everything unless specifically excluded. Among other things, it would have a huge impact on athletics. Sandler listed some examples of discrimination in athletics: The University of Michigan budgeted over a million dollars for men's varsity athletics, and zero for women's programs. At another school, when a female athlete sprained her ankle, her coach asked the athletic director to use the ice machine. He refused saying, "Tell her to put her foot in the toilet and keep flushing."

Title IX effectively abolished almost all sex discriminatory policies in all levels of education. Bullying that contains a sexual component is also considered sex discrimination under Title IX based on a report by the National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs which was chaired by Sandler. Title IX gave women hope and courage to organize for change and it helped increase the self-esteem of many women and girls. In closing, Sandler stated, "We're talking about [Title IX contributing to] a social revolution, changing the relationships between men and women, and boys and girls." Title IX gave women hope and courage to organize for change and it helped increase the selfesteem of many women and girls.

Linda Shevitz spoke about the responsibilities of the State Education Agencies (SEAs) and the network of local school district coordinators (LEAs), whose roles are to provide leadership, updated information, consultations, resources, and technical assistance in ensuring compliance with Title IX. Shevitz explained that the U. S Department of Education provided financial resources to support State Title IX Coordinators and ten regional Equity Assistance Centers through Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Funding was also provided through the Women's Educational Act (WEEA) and Vocational Education Sex Equity Coordinators through the Federal Carl Perkins Act of 1984. Sex equity was added to funding categories of race and national origin equity for states and assistance centers

after Title IX was passed in 1972. Every SEA and LEA is required by law to appoint a Title IX Coordinator.

Jenny Egan discussed research regarding pregnant and parenting studies and Title IX. Before Title IX was implemented female students would be expelled if they became pregnant. In the case of Chipman v. Grant County (1998), two pregnant high school girls were kicked out of a National Honors Society for being unwed mothers. The reason for their expulsion was "violation of the moral code." The girls won their case because they were protected under Title IX which also helped pregnant girls keep their athletic scholarships. The National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE) has asked the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to provide guidance to better protect pregnant and parenting students from sex discrimination.

Susan Rees, a high school student in the 1960s, attested to her exclusion from vocational and technical studies such as architecture and construction. A highlight in Title IX support to decrease sex discrimination in vocational education was The Carl D. Perkins Act and subsequent reauthorizations. It required every state to have a sex equity coordinator, and made vocational education accessible for all students. Rees distributed a chart of current female post-secondary enrollment that showed the high proportion of women in human services, health science, education and training, and the low proportion in manufacturing, architecture and construction, and transportation. She pointed out that there were fewer women in the career preparation clusters such as construction than in the construction workforce.

There are many useful resources on implementing the many aspects of Title IX on the website of Dr. Sandler, www.bernicesandler.com. Also see www.ncwge.org for The National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education's executive summary of their 2008 report on Title IX at 35 and a forthcoming report on Title IX at 40.A new teaching lesson on Title IX is available on http://www.tolerance.org/activity/legislating-equal-access.

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

Train the Trainer and Escort Training presented by the

Saturday, May 19

Washington Area Clinic Defense Task Force, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, Room A-9, Washington, DC, 1-2 pm (Train the Trainer), 2-4 pm (Escort Training). Please email training@wacdtf.org to let us know if

you can come and include whether you are a current or new trainer. All trainings will be held at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library (901 G Street NW). Directions are available at http://dclibrary.org/mlk/.

Photos: D.Anne Martin; April summary draft by Ali Tweedt, FMF Intern; Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2011 - June 2012

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DIRECTORS: Linda Fihelly, Bernice Sandler, Harriett Stonehill

JUNE 2012

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Meet our Member Organizations

CWI's June meeting will present speakers and materials from our organization members highlighting their activities 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, goals and activist priorities. Also, members will vote on the Board of Directors slate for 2012-13.

Our invited organization members include the:American Council on Education Office of Women in Higher Education;American Federation of Teachers; Center for Women Policy Studies; Fairfax County Commission for Women; Feminist Majority Foundation; Feminist Peace Network; League of Women Voters of DC; Maryland Women's Heritage Center; Montgomery County National Organization for Women; Service Employees International Union (SEIU Local #500); United For Equality; Union Theological Seminary NYC; Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW); and Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER).

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

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 26, 2011 / 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 25, 2012

Feminist Investigative Reporting

WI's May speakers were **Katherine Spillar**, *Ms*. Magazine executive editor, and Executive Vice President of the Feminist Majority (FM), and Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF), and

Carrie Levine, Research Director of the Washington DC congressional watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW).

Kathy Spillar explained the FMF, which is based in Los Angeles and Arlington, VA, began publishing *Ms*. Magazine in



Katherine Spillar

2001. "We decided to take on publishing *Ms*. because we realized its great potential and value to the movement." The magazine has always been seen as a reliable source of information that has been diligently fact checked and researched. In fact, they have worked closely with CREW on several articles including one on a series of scandals fraught with ethics violations, sexual harassment, and discrimination involving former Nevada Sen. John Ensign.

Spillar spoke extensively on two major stories *Ms.* broke and of which she is particularly proud: the investigation of Ward Connerly, who campaigns to end Affirmative Action, and the murder of George Tiller, a Kansas physician who performed late-term abortions.

The FMF first came into contact with Connerly in 1996 when he began his crusade to dismantle affirmative action programs for women and minorities in public education, contracting, and employment. He started out by getting the first initiative, Proposition 209, on the California ballot that year. Many organizations opposed it. When they joined the campaign to stop this proposal, the opposition was 60 points behind at 80-20. Although voters passed Proposition 209 by a 54-46 margin, it was a very close campaign.

In the end, they were outspent by Connerly and his supporters.

In the following years, Connerly found success in states like Oregon, Arizona, Michigan,



Carrie Levine

and Washington, but was defeated in Texas. It was when he set his sights on Colorado, while looking ahead to placing propositions on state ballots in Missouri and Oklahoma, that *Ms.* decided to undertake an investigation. During their extensive research, including an examination of the financial

records (990s) of his non-profits, they uncovered a pattern of a large percentage of money contributed by well-known donors like the rightwing Scaife Foundation, was actually paid to Connerly and his consulting firm. The resulting Ms. investigative feature, which also exposed the deceptiveness of the wording of the initiatives, was used by women's rights, civil rights, and labor groups in the states he was attempting to qualify ballot measures, and they met with success in defeating him. Although the magazine detailed these events four years ago, in January of this year the New York Times ran a front-page story featuring Connerly's financial woes, while alluding to a possible investigation by the California Attorney General.

Since its inception, the FMF has been involved in tracking and monitoring anti-abortion extremists like Scott Roeder, who in 2009, murdered Dr.Tiller. In 2010 *Ms.* ran an award-winning article about Roeder and other right-wing terrorists. This came after years of frustration with the mainstream media who have insisted these violent attacks were always the act of a lone gunman. Yet, through their investigative reporting, it was revealed that Roeder had a 15-year affiliation with the Army of God, an

unrelenting group that believes in justifiable homicide, and has been targeting and harassing doctors like Tiller for decades.

Spillar ended by saying the aim of the magazine's investigative reporting is to be a vital part in reshaping issues in the arena of public debate, and impacting the progression of women and girls' rights in this nation, and throughout the world.

Carrie Levine leads a team of five researchers at CREW, a nonpartisan nonprofit whose mission is to hold elected officials accountable for their activities. In the past year, CREW has filed complaints against members of Congress and requested investigations by the Internal Revenue Service, Department of Justice, and the Federal Election Committee. In CREW's Family Affair report, released earlier this year, CREW discovered more than half of the members of the House of Representatives used their positions to benefit themselves and their families. The report sparked extensive media coverage, including multiple stories about Rep. Aaron Schock (R-IL) who misused campaign funds for a stay at a luxury hotel in Greece, and to purchase fitness videos he classified as "health care." "All our investigations have one thing in common: they start with a question about whether the people who run our government are acting in the best interest of the public. All too often, the answer is no," Levine noted. CREW was also instrumental in uncovering the ethics violations of the aforementioned Sen. Ensign.

An investigation of Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY), chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, was recently written about on the front page of the *New York Times*. Rep. Rogers has multiple ways of diverting money into his district, including in the form of earmarks for his

campaign donors. In this case it was for a company that happens to make rather expensive drip pans for Black Hawk helicopters and sells them to the US Army at \$17,000 apiece.A competitor sells similar drip pans for less than \$2,500. CREW filed multiple requests for documents under the Freedom of Information Act, but the investigation took more than a year and is still ongoing. CREW has repeatedly investigated the actions of Rep. Don Young (R-AK), including in the so-called "Coconut Road" scandal. Although Rep. Young is from Alaska, he earmarked millions of dollars for an interchange project on a tiny stretch of highway in Florida. The project was linked to a developer who also raised money for him. The Justice Department investigated but did not bring charges against Rep. Young. CREW sought documents tied to the Young investigation to determine why the Justice Department decided against charging him. The Justice Department declined to release the documents, citing Young's privacy rights, and CREW sued them, seeking the documents' release. The court forced the Justice Department to turn over the documents, citing the public's right to the information. These documents, now in the public domain, showed Rep. Young and his wife used campaign funds for everything from hunting trips to dry cleaning.

Levine was careful to interject that there are elected officials in Washington working hard for justice. Still, CREW has proven time and again that there is a need to hold our public servants accountable for their actions, and guard against the corrosive influence of money in politics.

For more information, consult: www.msmagazine.com/ or www.feminist.org for the FMF and www.citizensforethics.org/ for CREW.

2012-2013 Slate to be voted upon at the June meeting:

VP Program:VP Membership:Treasurer:Secretary:Carolyn CookSue KleinHolly Taggart JosephD. Anne Martin

Directors: Linda Fihelly, Kathryn Braeman, Janice Koch

10401 Grosvenor Place #91/ Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

June 29 - 2012 National Organization for Women Conference: July 1 Energize! Organize! Stop the War on Women!

Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport, 1739 West Nursery Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 20190. The nation's largest annual gathering of grassroots women's rights activists and allies will take place in Baltimore, where hundreds of women and men will convene to strategize and organize a vision for the months ahead in the fight for women's equality. http://www.now.org/organization/conference/2012/.

Photos: D.Anne Martin; May summary draft by Pamela Turchin; Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2011 - June 2012

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DIRECTORS: Linda Fihelly, Bernice Sandler, Harriett Stonehill

SEPTEMBER 2012

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Protecting Our Democracy: Ensuring Fair Elections

Throughout our country, just weeks ahead of the November 2012 election, states are passing laws that threaten to suppress the vote and groups are organizing activities likely to intimidate voters at the polls. Laws and tactics include restrictive registration and voter ID requirements, limited polling hours and facilities, and voter purges. These activities have a disproportionate impact on women, minorities, seniors, individuals with disabilities, students, and low income Americans and threaten to deter voter participation in our democratic process. What can be done to maximize participation and ensure that every vote is counted?

Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq, National Chair, National Congress of Black Women, former Counsel to the US Congress DC Sub-Committee on the Judiciary & Education and former Professor of International Law at Southern University Law Center in Louisiana.

Marcia Johnson-Blanco, Esq, Co-Director Voting Rights Project, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. She is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law School and previously served as deputy director of the National Commission on the Voting Rights Act.

Date/Time:

Sept.
Meeting
Place:

Tuesday, September 25, 2012 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm. Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

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

Annual dues are payable in September.

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

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 23, 2012

Meet Our Member Organizations



Jeanie F. Jew

Fairfax County Commission for Women (CFW) is working toward recommendations to improve access to safe and affordable housing for domestic violence victims. Planning is also underway on a project to increase young women's awareness of

and involvement in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). In the past year, CFW's proposed domestic violence in the workplace policy was adopted by the County, and they conducted a successful Women's History Month essay scholarship competition. This local CFW has been advising the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 1971. Commissioners are appointed by the Board and serve as volunteers. CFW is charged with advising the Board on ways to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County.

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



Debra Miller

Our organization operates as a C3, the **Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF)** and as a C4, the **Feminist Majority**. Our President, Eleanor Smeal is also the publisher of *Ms*. Magazine. FMF has programs regarding education equity, global

women's issues, specifically in Afghanistan, and many different aspects of women's health. There are also many available programs for young feminists like the Feminist Campus Choices Program, which is existent on many campuses all across the country. Feminist Campus' current largest project is the *Get Out Her Vote* campaign, which encourages young women to register to vote and become involved in the upcoming election. We are also affiliated with Girls Learn International, which teaches middle and high-school aged girls about issues relating to women's rights. Be sure to take advantage of our Feminist News Wire, Blogs, online resources and sign-up for activist lists in your areas of interest. Go to www.feminist.org.



Holly 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.mcmdnow.org

SEIU Local 500

represents education professionals in Maryland and Washington DC. These workers are in fourteen bargaining units from early childhood education, which includes: Maryland child care providers, Headstart, K-12 Support Staff in Montgomery



Beth Myers

County Public Schools; higher education part-

time professors at Montgomery College, American and George Washington Universities; and developmental disabilities units, caring for children and adults with autism and mental disabilities. We also represent employees in the non-profit world who advocate for the consumer and inform on policy and world hunger. SEIU Local 500 has grown to be the most active education and public service union in the Mid-Atlantic. Our members are also connected to 2.1 million SEIU members across the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. We educate, mobilize, and empower members to stand up for good jobs and for an economy, society, and political systems that serve workers and communities. www.seiu500.org



Carolyn Cook

United 4 Equality,
LLC (U4E) is a feminist
public policy and
work/life solutions firm,
based in Washington
DC, committed to the
ratification of the Equal
Rights Amendment
(ERA) to advance
America's global
standing with regard to
women's rights in the

21st Century. U4E is the architect and strategist behind House Joint Resolution 47 and Senate Joint Resolution 39: Removing the Deadline for Ratification of the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment. By engaging bi-partisan, congressional support, we intend to win the 36th, 37th and 38th states required to guarantee the equal legal treatment of women and girls under the U.S. Constitution by 2015. U4E offers lively, interactive presentations on their ERA 2015 campaign, provides advocacy materials for congressional outreach and can organize Advocacy Days on the Hill for interested groups. To get involved, LIKE us on Facebook @unitedforequality and Twitter @united4equality. For more information, visit www.united4equality.com.



Shawn McMahon

For nearly half a century, Wider
Opportunities for
Women (WOW) has worked to improve opportunity and economic security, across the lifespan, for America's women, families and seniors.
WOW works in its hometown of

Washington DC and in partnerships across the country to improve access to education, training, employment, public assistance and secure retirement. www.wowonline.org

The Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) is a nonprofit organization that works to help women, educators and policymakers understand the important issues surrounding women's retirement income. WISER creates a variety of consumer



Lara Hinz

publications including fact sheets, booklets and a quarterly newsletter that explain in easy-to-understand language the complex issues surrounding Social Security, divorce, pay equity, pensions, savings and investments, banking, home-ownership, long-term care and disability insurance. WISER has also reached thousands of women through workshops held across the nation, and has been a driving force behind a series of state and local events aimed at leveling the playing field for women on long-term financial security. To learn more and to sign up for our e-newsletter, visit www.wiserwomen.org



Dawn Aldrich

The National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO) is a non-partisan network of over 240 organizations representing more than 12 million women. Affiliates, which include America's leading women's research, service, and

advocacy groups, are diverse and their platforms vary. All, however, work for women's equal participation in the economic, social and political life of our country and the world. Our numbers are the critical force that gives NCWO its power and strength. In addition to organizational members, NCWO welcomes individual members. NCWO is committed to building a society free from inequality, discrimination, and oppression. We support programs and policies that address the economic, legal, social, and physical wellbeing of women and girls across the lifespan. We focus on 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; and from education issues to health challenges. www.womensorganizations.org



Coralie Farlee

The DC Branch of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) supports and implements policies and programs of WILPF National, which was founded in 1915. These policies include: (1) connecting peace,

environmental, racial, and social justice issues; (2) opposing war and militarism; (3) supporting a just economy and a healthy planet; and (4) advancing human rights. National WILPF has nine issue committees including: Advancing Human Rights/CEDAW; Human Rights/racial, economic, gender justice and peace; Corporations vs. Democracy; Disarm/end wars; Cuba and other Latin American issues; Pan Africa; Water; and the Middle East, especially Israel/Palestine. Members of WILPF DC Branch are focusing especially on: Elimination of the use of DU in Wars; Elimination of Nuclear Weapons; Assistance to/Support for the Women of Guinea; Reversing or Correcting the Supreme Court decision that "Corporations are People;" Human rights issues in Haiti, Cuba, Venezuela; and the Passage of CEDAW. www.wilpf.org

Joyce D. Miller, President Emerita (WORKERS UNITED/SEIU), founding member of Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), and longtime CWI member, passed away Friday, June 29, 2012.

Joyce was a first in so many ways: she became president of CLUW in 1977 and in 1980 was the first woman elected to the AFL-CIO Executive Council and remained as CLUW's president until 1993 when she stepped down to serve as the Executive Director of the Glass Ceiling Commission. At every CLUW Convention the Joyce D. Miller Award is given to the chapter that has increased membership most significantly during the preceding period of time. Miller attended conventions regularly and wanted to be there to present the award in person. After her retirement Joyce remained very active and always held the wellbeing of CLUW close to her heart. Joyce will always be admired for all she did during her life to advance the rights of women workers.

2012-13 Membership / Payable in September

NAME			
ORGANIZATION			
ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
PHONE	CELL		
EMAIL			
Checks should be made payable to CWI, Holly T. Joseph, Treasurer, 8504 R		D 20814	
☐ Individual - \$25 ☐ Under 3	30 years - \$15		
☐ Virtual-\$20 (live outside metro Was	shington area/electronic nev	vsletter only)	
☐ Organization - \$40 or three years	\$100		
☐ I would like to help CWI's outreac	h with an additional tax-ded	uctible contribution: \$	

Meet Our New Board Members



Janice Koch, Ph.D. is Professor Emerita of Science Education at Hofstra University on Long Island, New York where she directed IDEAS—the Institute for the Development of Education in

the Advanced Sciences. This outreach institute fosters the public understanding of science as well as furthering the professional development of pre-college teachers of science. Dr. Koch is the past President (2007-2009) of the Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE). She has taught courses addressing introduction to education, action research, science education, qualitative research and gender issues and education. Dr. Koch earned her Ph.D. in Education at New York University where her cognate area was environmental science. Her research explores furthering the science experiences of girls and women and minorities through science teacher education. She is the author of the forthcoming textbooks, TEACH, 2nd edition (2013), an introduction to education textbook, and Science Stories: Science Methods for Elementary and Middle School Teacher, 5th edition (2013). Janice and her husband live in Howard County Maryland and have two daughters and two granddaughters living nearby. They are active tennis players and enjoy theater.



Kathryn "Kat" Braeman is committed to expanding opportunities to achieving equity for women and girls, and is an Executive Coach who empowers people to live their dreams:

www.thekatalystconnection.com. She is the author of the forthcoming book, The QUESTioning Woman: Building Connections and Creating *Impact*. Formerly a lawyer at the U.S. Department of Justice and an Administrative Judge at the U.S. Department of Defense, Kat serves on the national board of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and is Board liaison to the Legal Advocacy Fund. She seeks to enhance leadership development strategies at the local, state and national levels. Kat has had a wide variety of leadership roles in church, community and legal groups, including being a member of the National Association of Women Judges. She has a BA from Northwestern University, an MA in English from the University of Kansas, and a JD in law from the University of Nebraska. Kat lives on Capitol Hill. Her daughter, Elizabeth Kristen, is a public interest lawyer and Title IX advocate in San Francisco; they worked with AAUW LAF to develop the KNOW THE SCORE program in a box available at www.aauw.org. Her son and two grandsons live in Indiana.

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 20

Maryland Women's Legislative Agenda (MLAW) Fall Conference: Harnessing the Power of Grassroots Organizing. 9:30 am, Maryland Women's Heritage Center, 39 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD. This year's conference will focus on using social media in our grassroots lobbying efforts. Other conference highlights include the presentation of legislative proposals for the upcoming 2013 legislative session. For more information, call 443-519-1005 or

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013 **SAVE THE DATE: 2013 Women's Legislative Briefing.** 12:30-6 pm. The Universities at Shady Grove Campus, Building II, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. Keynote address by Dr. Bernice Sandler, the woman whose struggle led to the enactment of Title IX, America's foremost educational equity legislation. To co-sponsor and/or to register, visit http://wlb2013.eventbrite.com/.

Photos: D.Anne Martin; Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

email mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com.

CWI Board of Directors, July 2012 - June 2013

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

DIRECTORS: Linda Fihelly, Kathryn Braeman, Janice Koch

OCTOBER 2012

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Strategies for Advancing Women: The Role of Unions, Federal Agencies and the Courts

Our program will honor the leadership work of Joyce D. Miller, an icon dedicated to advancing women in the labor movement. Our speakers will present a progress report on the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) which Ms. Miller founded; the challenges and individual costs of union organizing in a hospital setting; and the purpose of the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) to enforce the contractual promise of affirmative action and equal employment opportunity required of those who do business with the federal government.

Carol Rosenblatt is Executive Director of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).

Kitty Richardson is an award-winning nurse, a leader in AAUW, and serves with AAUW Lobby Corps on Capitol Hill.

Donna R. Lenhoff is Civil Rights Advisor to the Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCCP) in the U.S. Department of Labor.

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 23, 2012 / 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, November 27, 2012

Program Summary — September 25, 2012

Protecting Our Democracy: Ensuring Fair Elections

WI's speakers were **Dr. E Faye**Williams, Esq., National Chair,
National Congress of Black Women

and **Tanya Clay House**, Esq., Public Policy Director, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Barbara Ratner, CWI president, began the discussion by pointing out the timeliness of the event, on September 25th, National Voter Registration Day. "The point of the whole election is to



E. Faye Williams

get voters out," Ratner said, an appropriate transition to the discussion of the current oppositional efforts to suppress the votes of millions in the upcoming elections.

Dr. E. Faye Williams was former Counsel to the U.S. Congress D.C. Sub-Committee on the Judiciary & Education and former Professor of International Law at Southern University Law Center in Louisiana. In addition to these accomplishments Dr. Williams also just authored a book titled *The Truth Shall Set You Free*, is a host of several radio shows, and the CEO of Natural Health Options.

Williams spoke from a position of great experience and knowledge concerning the ethics of elections and voter rights in the United States including how she narrowly lost an election to Congress as the first African American from Louisiana after a mysterious computer breakdown. She laid an inspirational groundwork for the audience, asking them to band together and protect the rights that the feminist movement worked so hard to secure in the past. "Indeed we are in perilous times right now," Williams stated, and stressed the need for both men and women

to continue moving forward in their efforts for equality, and stand firm against their opposition. She said, "We won't go back."



Tanya Clay House

While Williams did not undervalue the past accomplishments of the feminist movement, she warned the audience to never assume that the fight for equality is over. She referenced the various bills threatening women's access to healthcare and abortion, new voter ID laws, and other measures that put

many individuals at risk. In order to avoid the catastrophic effects these measures would have on vulnerable populations in the US people **must** vote, she noted.

How are our votes being suppressed? Williams discussed schemes that state legislatures use to deter voters. Voter registration laws have become stricter, polling locations are often moved, there are very few resources readily available that provide voters with information on how, when, and where to vote.

"We can't just sit around and ask what can we do," Williams said, and urged the audience to help people struggling with the voting process. Aid individuals filling out the proper forms, call, email, text friends and remind them the election is fast approaching, inspire new people to vote, volunteer at local polls to insure fairness on election day, and be vocal about the forces working to suppress eligible voters.

Tanya Clay House is the Public Policy Director, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and former Public Policy Director at People for the American Way. She also worked for Sen. Barbara Boxer, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, and the Kentucky Department of

Education. House's legal knowledge spans issues surrounding voter rights, employer discrimination, the environment, and other civil rights issues.

"I do want to scare you a little bit," House said as she detailed the various ways votes are being suppressed in the US. She listed the same tactics discussed by Dr. Williams, including voter ID laws, and explained that these measures are a political campaign in themselves. Following the 2008 elections, where there were high voter turnouts, major restrictions were introduced.

House used Florida as an example, citing a law that the state tried to introduce following the 2008 elections. Florida wanted to eliminate early voters, particularly on the Sunday before voting day. This was found to be a racially charged proposal — African Americans voted at a rate of 50% in 2008, and 25% of the voting was on the Sunday before Election Day. Thus, the sudden introduction of a bill that would eliminate the ability to vote on that day was a strategic move on the state legislature's part to suppress the votes of African Americans. The Lawyers Committee sued the state, and the right to vote on the Sunday before Election Day has recently been secured in some counties.

House informed listeners about various other efforts of state legislatures and grassroots groups to suppress votes of specific groups. Requirements for birth certificates and government-issued ID's make it difficult for seniors, young people, veterans, and other vulnerable populations who may not have access to

these documents in time to vote. Many are striving to raise awareness about these restrictions.

Both speakers inspired the audience to not only educate themselves on how to protect their votes in the upcoming election, but also provided them with the resources and knowledge needed to educate others. Both speakers addressed the urgency of our times due to the November 2012 elections and debilitating state laws such as voter ID laws, limited polling hours and voter purges, which disproportionately threaten the voting rights of women, minorities, seniors, individuals with disabilities, students and low income Americans.

In discussing what can we do to help, House asked us to spread the word about "Protect Your Vote" which sponsors an educational hotline (1-866-OUR-VOTE or for Spanish 1-888-Ve-Y-Vota) to answer voters' questions no matter how simple or complex. Be a voting VIP and verify your registration, make sure you have the proper ID for your state, and know your correct polling site or precinct. The Election Protection project needs approximately 25,000 volunteers both at the grassroots level and legal level to help insure fairness on Election Day. "What we are doing now doesn't end on November 6th," House reminded the audience.

Both speakers emphasized the vital need for people to always keep their sights fixed on protecting democracy in the United States. Each and every one of us can contribute individually by voting on or (as permitted) before Election Day, but beyond that we all must work together to ensure that our voices are heard.

For additional information on the National Congress of Black Women and E. Faye William's new book, *The Truth Shall Set You Free*, see www.nationalcongressbw.org.

For more information on the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and their information on voter suppression battles across the nation and their Voting Rights Project: www.lawyerscommittee.org/projects/voting_rights.

NWLC has created a Voter Education page with an easy-to-use registration engine, along with some great resources that explain WHY women need to vote in 2012: nwlc.org/voter-ed.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 29

Rockville, MD 20852

Sewall-Belmont House & Museum Annual Holiday Bazaar & Annual Meeting. 11 am - 7 pm. 144 Constitution Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Do not miss this opportunity to pick up great gifts, such as the Votes for Women ornaments. (You may shop online as well.) RSVP today for your chance to win one of several exciting prizes and giveaways from the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum! www.sewallbelmont.org/programs/join-us-holiday-bazaar-annual-meeting.

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013 **SAVE THE DATE: 2013 Women's Legislative Briefing.** 12:30-6 pm. The Universities at Shady Grove Campus, Building II, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. Keynote address by Dr. Bernice Sandler, the woman whose struggle led to the enactment of Title IX, America's foremost educational equity legislation. To co-sponsor and/or to register, visit wlb2013.eventbrite.com.

Photos: Carolyn Cook; Draft Summary: Shawn Austin, FMF Intern; Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.

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NOVEMBER 2012

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Election Results: What's Next for Women?

The 2012 election is over. While the 113th Congress will again be divided, with the Democrats controlling the Senate and the Republicans controlling the House, the body will have the largest number of women ever, as well as increased diversity, among its membership. Gender-related issues played an important role in the election. What impact will these facts have on what happens in the upcoming session? What is ahead for women and women's rights? What strategies can we employ to move our agenda forward? Our speakers are uniquely qualified to help us examine the opportunities and challenges that face us.

Bonnie Erbe, Host of PBS' *To the Contrary*, CEO of Persephone Productions, Inc., and columnist with the Scripps Howard Newspapers.

Cheryl Williams, Vice President, Women's Policy, Inc., and former Senior Staff Assistant to Congresswoman Eleanor Norton.

Date/Time: Tuesday, November 27, 2012 / 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.

This will be your last newsletter if you have not paid your dues. Form is on our website or attached to the renewal letter you received.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 22, 2013

Strategies for Advancing Women: The Role of Unions, Federal Agencies and the Courts

WI's October speakers were: Carol Rosenblatt, Executive Director of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), Kitty Richardson, an award-winning nurse, a leader in the American Association of University

Women (AAUW) who serves with **AAUW Lobby Corps** on Capitol Hill and Donna R. Lenhoff, Civil Rights Advisor to the Director of the Office of Federal **Contract Compliance** Programs (OFCCP) in the U.S. Department of Labor.







Donna Lenhoff

Carol Rosenblatt

Kitty Richardson

Carol Rosenblatt kicked off the discussion honoring Jovce D. Miller, CLUW's longest-serving president from 1977-1993 who was a trailblazer for working women.

The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) was formed in 1974 around four goals: to strengthen the role and participation of women within unions and the trade union movement overall: to seek affirmative action in the workplace; to organize millions of unorganized women workers and to encourage union women to take an active role in the legislative and political processes of unions and our nation, such as to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Early in Miller's presidency, she established the Center for Education and Research. One noteworthy initiative was the Reproductive Rights Project educating union women on their right to healthcare, including abortion services without government interference.

Miller was elected to serve as AFL-CIO Vice President to the Executive Council in 1980 the first woman to serve in that capacity. In 1984, Miller addressed the Democratic National Convention and said that under President Reagan, working women had been victims of "outrageous policies that benefitted the wealthy and hurt the poor and middle class — where compassion had been replaced by greed."

the Glass Ceiling Commission under the Clinton Administration. The commission held hearings throughout the country collecting testimony on the status of female employment and investigating the

upward mobility

of women in the

workforce that

culminated in a report on their findings.

In 2010 11.1 percent of working women belonged to unions and 45.6 percent of all union members were women, up from 19 percent in 1962. Education and government had the highest unionization rate at 37.1 percent.

In May 1993 Miller retired from her union,

accept the appointment as Executive Director of

stepped down from the AFL-CIO Executive

Council and later as President of CLUW to

Unions made the difference in the median hourly wages of predominantly female, lesserpaid occupations. Union preschool and kindergarten teachers earned 64 percent more than their non-union counterparts while union elementary and middle school teachers earned 32 percent more. Union librarians earned 28 percent more than their non-union counterparts while union social workers and counselors earned 31 percent and 41 percent more, respectively. Union registered nurses earned 21 percent more. Union workers are more likely than nonunion workers to have health and pension benefits, paid holidays and vacations, and life and disability insurance. Overall, union women earned weekly wages that were 28 percent greater than non-union women.

Kitty Richardson delved deeper into the positive impact unions have had for women by recounting her inspiring, personal experience as a nurse. In 1990, after working at Fairfax Hospital for 16 years, Richardson was unlawfully fired during a nurses' effort to form a collective

bargaining unit/union. For the next 5½ years she pursued justice through the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Leading up to this, Richardson explained that in 1988 operating room nurses had grown concerned about workplace conditions and asked for a meeting with their supervisor. Unsatisfied with the response received, they requested a meeting with the Director of Nursing. The Director listened to their concerns and set a date for a follow-up meeting to present solutions, but the meeting was cancelled with no explanation and was not rescheduled.

The nurses finally received help from the District of Columbia Nurses' Association (DCNA), which had extensive experience in union organizing. DCNA's lawyers held meetings with Fairfax Hospital's nurses to explain the unionizing process. As the union campaign was underway, Fairfax Hospital and the Inova Corporation mounted an aggressive counter campaign with an anti-union law firm.

Numerous labor laws had been broken, such as limiting dispersal of union literature, intimidation using videotape and surveillance, unfairly disciplining union leaders and firing Nurse Kitty Richardson.

NLRB's case was heard by an administrative law judge who rendered an opinion in June 1991 overwhelmingly in support of the nurses. Richardson was ordered to be reinstated and "made whole" which meant she would suffer no loss of wages or benefits for the time she had not worked. Fairfax Hospital appealed the judge's decision to the full NLRB board that assigned a judicial panel to review the case. The panel also sided with the nurses and upheld the judge's decision. Fairfax Hospital further escalated the case to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, which again upheld the judge's opinion issuing even stronger criticism of the hospital's actions.

In the end, Fairfax Hospital appealed the case all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States where it was denied a hearing. A final settlement came about in April 1995. Nurse Kitty Richardson returned to Fairfax Hospital in September and worked there for 12 more years without incident.

The union election was to be held at Fairfax Hospital after all remedies were enacted by the Hospital. The majority of nurses voted against having a union, but Richardson was proud that a majority of the nursing staff had participated in the decision. Ironically, many of the union's requests were put into place resulting in a child-care center and the Nursing Congress to determine how care was to be provided.

Richardson said she was struck by the friendship and support of other women — her family and friends, AAUW branch members and coworkers throughout. She was grateful to the wonderful, young women lawyers associated with the NLRB and believes it was their thoroughness and dedication that won her case.

Donna Lenhoff concluded the presentations by discussing how the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) at the Department of Labor provides a level playing field for women and minorities through various workplace protections, diversity awareness efforts and law enforcement. A video highlighted the stories of three different workers who had been helped by her office.

The OFCCP follows three legal authorities: Executive Order 11246, Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 503) and the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 (VEVRAA). Under these laws, the OFCCP requires that federal contractors provide equal employment opportunity on the basis of: national origin, race, color, sex, religion, disability, and protected veteran status and take affirmative action to promote opportunities for women, minorities, people with disabilities, and protected veterans.

Under the leadership of President Barack Obama, the agency's staff has grown by 35 percent and its budget increased 25 percent. OFCCP has reviewed more than 15,000 contractor establishments, employing nearly 7½ million workers, recovered \$38 million in back wages, interest and benefits and ensured that 8,000 job offers were made to nearly 80,000 workers.

OFCCP's top priorities are to strengthen enforcement, broaden outreach to identify more individual complaints from workers, and focus on reducing discrimination in compensation. Specifically with regard to women, OFCCP investigates complaints, ensures qualified workers are alerted to job opportunities in construction trades, conducts compliance evaluations, and recovers financial remedies and job offers.

10401 Grosvenor Place #917 Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMING EVENTS

Through August 31, 2013

Fashioning the New Woman: 1890-1925.

The DAR Museum exhibition traces the evolution of women's fashion and how it reflected the changing societal roles and activities of women during the Progressive Era. Through August 31, 2013. 1776 D Street NW, Washington DC. www.dar.org

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013 2013 Women's Legislative Briefing. 12:30-6 pm.

The Universities at Shady Grove Campus, Building II, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. Keynote address by Dr. Bernice Sandler, the woman whose struggle led to the enactment of Title IX, America's foremost educational equity legislation. To co-sponsor and/or to register, visit wlb2013.eventbrite.com.

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