

## Encouraging Girls and Women in STEM

The issues surrounding the participation of girls and women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) address both the need for girls and women to be engaged in this slice of the workforce, and the need of STEM industries for women's voices. Longstanding stereotypes can prevent female participation at many stages of the education and industrial pipeline. Both Girls Inc programs and educational interventions funded by the National Science Foundation make contributions on behalf of reducing the risk of girls being turned off by STEM fields.

**April Osajima**, Director of Strategic Growth Projects at Girls Incorporated

**Dr. Jolene Jesse**, Program Director, Research on Gender in Science and Engineering, Division for Research on Learning, National Science Foundation

**Dr. Janice Koch**, Professor Emerita, Hofstra University, Long Island, NY

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, January 22, 2013 / 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, February 26, 2013

## Election Results: What's Next for Women?

WT's November speakers were **Cheryl Williams**, Vice President of Women's Policy, Inc., and former Senior Staff

Assistant to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, and **Bonnie Erbé**, Host of PBS' *To The Contrary*, CEO of Persephone Productions, Inc., and columnist with the Scripps Howard Newspapers.

This meeting focused on what is ahead for women's rights, strategies we can employ in moving forward, and how the newly-elected Congress will impact issues after the recent Presidential election. Congress continues to be divided as, again, the Democrats control the Senate and the Republicans control the House. Yet, the elections resulted in great victories for women this year. Congress will have the largest number of women ever, as well as increased diversity amongst its membership.

**Cheryl Williams** described Women's Policy Inc. (WPI) as a non-partisan, non-profit public policy organization that grew out of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, which is comprised of all women members of the House. WPI helps ensure that federal policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels make the most informed decisions on important women's issues.

WPI focuses on a wide range of issues such as health, education, global women's rights, violence against women, economic issues, and childcare. WPI provides a weekly legislative

report of congressional activity and in-depth insight into pertinent women's issues. The briefings hosted by WPI serve to provide the

Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues (Women's Caucus) and others with balanced information on issues important to women and their families. WPI also works with the Women's Caucus as the Caucus puts forward its legislative priorities for each Congress.

"As we all know, Congress is extremely polarized right now," said Williams, "but the Caucus provides a place for agreement." The caucus focuses on issues of common ground for Democrats and Republicans, creating a means by which they can address areas important to women.

While clearly partisan issues, such as abortion, are not discussed within the Women's Caucus, other women's health issues, such as maternal mortality and sexual assault in the military, are consensus issues within the Caucus. Caucus co-chairs Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) and Gwen Moore (D-WI) are also providing leadership on reducing the gender wage gap. Williams describes these activities as "finding the meeting points," and she claims it is important because women are likely going to be on the forefront of bipartisan discussions. Williams ended on an optimistic note; "I think that having women in leadership positions is going to translate into a lot more movement on issues that are important to us."



Cheryl Williams



Bonnie Erbé

## Program Summary, continued

**Bonnie Erbé** began, “I just finished covering what was an incredible election season, the most incredible thing was that reproductive rights mattered to women again.” Erbé explained that abortion had lost its powerful impact on women voters up until this election. “Abortion rights was a winning issue in the 2012 Presidential elections.” She also said that ever since the 1980s and 1990s, when sonograms became widely available, voter sentiment started to turn against abortion rights.

But the outlandish comments made by Republican candidates during the election race this year, such as Missouri’s Todd Aikin’s “legitimate rape” comment, among others. Erbé claimed these comments, “Really motivated women voters to support the Democratic Party in the election and see abortion rights as a critical issue again.”

While single women gave 68 percent of their votes to Obama, 53 percent of married white women voted for Romney. Erbé explained this by saying, “Everyone is voting for their pocketbook here. Single women and women of color tend to be about 10-20 percent more reliant on government support, while married, white women tend to be more reliant on their husbands’ salaries.” Erbé also discussed the lower voter turnout for Romney amongst Christian Evangelicals due to his

Mormon faith, a statistic from the elections rarely spoken about in the media.

The speakers then answered questions from CWI members and guests. In response to a question about the pro-life/pro-choice debate, Erbé quoted former Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) who said, “Conservative interest in life begins at conception and ends at birth.”

Another participant in the discussion asked about the budget and sequestration. Williams explained that Women’s Policy Inc. will produce a comprehensive budget analysis after the President releases the new budget for FY2014. The analysis will highlight issues that are of great importance to women economically.

Finally, Williams explained that she was optimistic that the Violence Against Women Act would be reauthorized, “My optimism comes because House and Senate Republicans do not want to be portrayed as anti-woman...I believe that — the bill has to be reauthorized — there is going to be a renewed will to get it done...I think women are going to be at the forefront of real solutions going forward.”

For more information on the contributions of Cheryl Williams and Women’s Policy, Inc. see [www.womenspolicy.org](http://www.womenspolicy.org)

For Bonnie Erbé and *To the Contrary* see [www.pbs.org/ttc](http://www.pbs.org/ttc)

---

*Photos: D. Anne Martin; Summary: Shawn Austin, FMF Intern;  
Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design*

### **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, Harriett Stonehill

**DIRECTORS EMERITA:** Roslyn Kaiser and Ruth G. Nadel

**EX OFFICIO:** Ellen S. Overton



## Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

### COMING EVENT



Sunday,  
January 27  
2013

# WLB

Women's Legislative Briefing

OPENING CEREMONY WITH KEYNOTE ADDRESS:  
**Dr. Bernice Sandler, "The Godmother of Title IX"**

TIME: 12:00 - 6:00 pm

LOCATION: The Universities at Shady Grove, Bldg II,  
9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, Maryland

**The Montgomery County Commission for Women**  
and our many co-sponsoring organizations  
invite you to the 2013 Women's Legislative Briefing.

**GENERAL ADMISSION \$15 IN ADVANCE, \$20 AT THE DOOR**

For more information or to register, please contact the  
Montgomery County Commission for Women at 240-777-8333 or visit:

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw)

12 noon	<b>Registration Opens</b> with Light Refreshments
12:30 pm	<b>Opening Session</b> with <b>Keynote Address</b>
1:30 pm	<b>Panel Discussion</b> on <b>Women's Issues in Congress</b>
2:30 pm & 4:00 pm	<b>Eight Seminars</b> on <b>Legislation Important to Maryland Women</b>
5:15 pm	<b>Closing Reception</b>

Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, **but no less than 72 hours prior to the event.** If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, please call 240-777-8207 or email a request to [richard.bingham@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:richard.bingham@montgomerycountymd.gov).

GOLD SPONSOR:

KAISER PERMANENTE®  **thrive**

SILVER SPONSOR:

 **AARP**®



## Strategies for Addressing Inequities for High School Students of Color

The [Campaign for High School Equity](#) is a diverse coalition of national organizations representing communities of color that believe high schools should have the capacity and motivation to prepare every student for graduation, college, work, and life. Higher standards cannot be met if students do not have equitable access to effective teachers, rigorous curricula, and safe, high-quality educational environments that are conducive to learning. The public must demand changes in policy and practice that will support the transformative redesign of secondary schools which prepare every student — regardless of race, ethnicity, ZIP code, or socio-economic status — for success in life. They seek to provide a unique and important perspective on federal and national education policy issues critical to high school reform; to educate diverse communities about the need and options for serious reforms in high school education; and to engage in strategic advocacy activities that mobilize constituencies to push for changes that produce positive outcomes for students of color and low-income students.

**Rufina A. Hernández**, Executive Director, Campaign for High School Equity

**Jacqueline Ayers**, Legislative Director, Education & Health Policy, National Urban League Policy Institute

**Date/Time:** February 26, 2013 / 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: March 26, 2013



# Encouraging Girls and Women in STEM

CWI's January speakers were **Dr. Janice Koch**, Professor Emerita at Hofstra University and CWI board member; **Dr. Jolene Jesse**, the National Science Foundation (NSF), program officer-in-charge of Research in Gender and Science Engineering; and **April Osajima**, Director of Strategic Growth Projects at Girls Inc.

**Dr. Janice Koch's** introduction to the topic explained that men are still dominating the historically male fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, collectively referred to as STEM.

Stereotypes and other constraints prevent female participation in STEM. The overarching concern of the meeting was the relative dearth of female engineers and computer scientists, physicists and chemists, but the focus was rightfully on girls because it is in childhood that women learn, implicitly and explicitly, that STEM is for boys. Surprisingly, boys and girls develop different attitudes about math (and who can excel at it) as early as second grade. The million-dollar question of course is "What can we do to foster girls' engagement with these subjects?"

**Dr. Jolene Jesse's** answer to the question centered on classroom instruction. A social scientist by trade, Dr. Jesse has been steeped in research on how girls and boys experience the education system since 2000. One of her tasks at the National Science Foundation is to make the wealth of information digestible and applicable, as in the *Girls In Science: A Framework for Action* which is available through NSTA [www.nsta.org/store/product\\_detail.aspx?id=10.2505/9781933531045](http://www.nsta.org/store/product_detail.aspx?id=10.2505/9781933531045) and *Why So Few?* developed by AAUW [www.aauw.org/learn/research/whysofew.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/learn/research/whysofew.cfm).

Sections of both publications are available for download or purchase. These publications outline the biases of society and how they may leak into classroom instruction despite best intentions. They also suggest curriculum changes and teaching tips

that give girls the chance to love STEM.

One thing Dr. Jesse urged was hands-on exposure to fresh topics. In school, most girls will get to interact with chemistry and biology, but what about

mechanics? An activity that asks students to gut an old PC would put girls face-to-face with the inner workings of technology, many for the first time. It won't inspire every girl to sign up for computer camp, but the teacher will have helped to plant some seeds. Brief encounters can have huge effects.

In that same vein, Dr. Jesse highlighted the importance of teacher encouragement and support. The occasional kind, private acknowledgment of how well a student did on her science test can go a long way. Providing the class with women in STEM to emulate is also invaluable — to see one's background represented in a favorite field is to feel that much more welcome.

Teachers would also do well to dispel the myth of "natural ability" for their students. In this society, we tend to think of intelligence as innate, effortless, and immovable: if you weren't born a numbers person, no amount of math drills will make you into one. Dr. Jesse opposes that mindset, advocating a belief in "growth potential" instead. The brain is plastic, and thousands of hours of practice will get one very far. Teachers should cast academic struggle, within reason, in a positive light — it means students are really expanding their limits. The growth potential model is helpful



Dr. Janice Koch



Dr. Jolene Jesse



April Osajima

## *Program Summary, continued*

to students of both sexes, but considering the fact that girls seem to self-assess harsher than boys, it is a boon for girls in STEM especially.

Dr. Jesse concluded that as a society we must give girls the confidence to explore. We need to get them familiar with tools, teach them to push through when they're confused, and help them view failure as something positive: it is a sign that they put themselves out there and learned something.

**April Osajima** focused on the world outside of school hours, that of informal STEM education. This kind of education can happen in the context of community organizations, field trips, or family activities; it is distinct in that it often lacks the rigid time constraints of a school day. This greater freedom is wonderful for the sciences in particular, as it allows girls to become truly immersed in a phenomenon and in the search for its cause.

A good example of this comes from Girls Inc., which is a nation-wide organization focusing especially on the empowerment of low-income minority girls. One of the Girls Inc. affiliates gave its members a battery, some copper wires, a light bulb, and the directive to make it light. When this popular experiment is done in the classroom, kids are usually allowed to tinker with various connections for about ten minutes. Then the teacher shows the right way to connect the elements, draws circuits on the board, and before the kids know it class is adjourned. Curriculum and nation-wide tests make this a reasonable method of teaching, but it often enhances learning if kids are permitted to try things out until they come to the solution themselves. Informal education can provide just this. The girls in the activity mentioned earlier spent three afterschool sessions trying to get the light bulb to light; on the third day they did it. In all that time, there was no intervention by an adult who felt, consciously or unconsciously, that girls are delicate and need to be rescued from confusion. Not only did the girls get hands-on experience with electricity, they exposed themselves to their own competency.

Osajima provided three Girls Inc. pointers for adults who want to help girls consider STEM.

First, assume girls are interested in STEM, and make STEM activities part of what everyone does. This is important because a young girl who says, "I don't want to build a catapult" may be a girl who just feels out of her element. Rightly so: the media, gendered toys, and maybe a few adults in their lives come together to send girls the message that women do frivolous things and men do important things. Girls start receiving this broadcast very early in life, and not all question the validity. When girls say, "I don't want to," they may really be saying "I can't" or "I shouldn't." It's up to schools, families, and community groups to tell them "Don't knock it before you try it."

Secondly, we must let girls make big, interesting mistakes. Osajima and Dr. Jesse were in agreement: struggle is good, don't chase it away. Concerned adults should exercise restraint, have patience, and keep in mind what a fantastic teacher trial-and-error can be.

Thirdly, we must get past what Girls Inc. calls "the yuk factor." Society puts a lot of stock in the appearance of girls and women. We tend to care more about preserving girls' clothes than boys' clothes when the paint or the chemistry set comes out. We also may get frustrated more quickly with a girl who's playing with her food than with a boy doing the same thing. We should tell girls it's okay to get messy, and watch ourselves for overvaluing neatness and prettiness. To this end, we should also think twice before including an empowering activity that produces something decorative, i.e. an ornament, a picture frame, a quilt. Get away from fine motor skills like coloring and sketching and go towards larger ones demanding full-body engagement.

Dr. Jesse and Osajima's presentations complemented each other well, communicating the fact that gender equity in education and vocation requires motivation in school and everywhere else.

---

For more information about the National Science Foundation, visit [www.nsf.gov/](http://www.nsf.gov/).

For more information about Girls Inc., visit [www.girlsinc.org/girls-inc.html](http://www.girlsinc.org/girls-inc.html).



## Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

### COMING EVENTS

**2013 celebrates noteworthy anniversaries of  
several historic advances for women and families.**

**January 22** was the 40th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*;

**February 5th** is the 20th anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act;

**June 10th** the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act; and

**October 31st** the 35th anniversary of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act.

It's a year to celebrate past successes, but also to remember how much work remains  
to protect women's health and advance families' economic security.

*National Partnership for Women and Families January newsletter*

---

*Photos: D. Anne Martin; Summary: Allie Lundquist, FMF Intern;*

*Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.*

### 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, Harriett Stonehill

**DIRECTORS EMERITA:** Roslyn Kaiser and Ruth G. Nadel

**EX OFFICIO:** Ellen S. Overton





## Women's History Month Comes Alive!

Celebrating women's history month, Board members of CWI present a very special program traveling back in time to portray several of America's pioneering foremothers. Their stories of courage and strength, told in the first person, will inspire and touch you when you realize they were women just like us. Our performers will connect the dots of our proud past, so that we may better understand the special bond we share as women. Knowing of their actions to secure the freedom women enjoy today, we can more fully appreciate and embrace our unique role in advancing progress for generations of women to come.

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013/ 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 23, 2013

# Strategies for Addressing Inequities for High School Students of Color

WI's February speakers were **Rufina A. Hernández**, Executive Director of the Campaign for High School Equity, and **Shree Chauhan**, Legislative Manager, Education and Health Policy, the National Urban League.

**Rufina A. Hernández** explained that The Campaign for High School Equity (CHSE) is comprised of ten civil rights groups with the ultimate goal of seeing a 100 percent graduation rate in U.S. high schools. She distributed a dataset compiled by the Department of Education listing each state in the nation and the District of Columbia, the graduation rate of all the state's public high schools, and then the graduation rates of subgroups within the whole including: various races and ethnicities, students with limited proficiency in English, and those of low socioeconomic status. However, it did not include any information on the graduation rate by gender because this reporting is not required.

In North Dakota, for example, the general graduation rate is 86 percent. This seems like a good number, but the breakdown reveals the 18 percent who do not graduate typically fall into the non-white category. Ninety percent of white students finish high school, while only 74 percent of black and 76 percent of Latino/a students do the same. White students enjoy a greater rate of graduation than their minority counterparts across most of the 50 states. The dataset can be viewed here:

[www2.ed.gov/documents/press-releases/state-2010-11-graduation-rate-data.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/documents/press-releases/state-2010-11-graduation-rate-data.pdf)

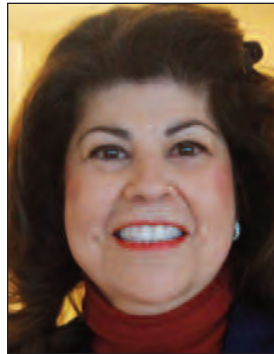
So, despite improvements, minority students still face barriers in education. From a human

rights standpoint, it is important to provide extra support and resources to groups which have been historically discriminated against and still face trouble, no matter how small the groups are. Hernández showed through additional data that

minorities actually figure quite largely in American schools, and in doing so she gave an additional economic incentive to watch the performance of these students: education is linked to vocation, and vocation is linked to what the nation-at-large puts its money towards. Hernández explained that an

inadequate high school education correlates with a series of jobs earning lower wages than jobs that require or prefer a high school diploma. An adult lifetime of significantly reduced earnings means an increase in the possibility that an individual will need welfare to make ends meet. Hernández obviously does not advocate shutting down the welfare system, but rather adjusting the institutions that aim to keep the future generation out of poverty.

The Campaign for High School Equity aims to increase funding for schools (26 states are providing less funding per student this year than they were last year) to make classes more engaging and culturally sensitive. CHSE hopes that if schools make it a point to highlight high expectations for young men and women of color and their contributions to the various core subjects, this will motivate students who would otherwise slip through the cracks to stay in school. A baseline goal of the organization is to at least get all schools to report on how minorities and majorities are faring, and to do so with the same criteria. There have been recent efforts to



*Rufina A. Hernández*



*Shree Chauhan*

## *Program Summary, continued*

ensure that school districts use common definitions to report on graduation rates, but differences in reporting still makes it difficult to discern which schools are in most need of changing their strategies to help their most vulnerable subgroups.

**Shree Chauhan** stated that education is becoming an increasingly small-scale issue, controlled by individual schools, districts, and states as opposed to the national government. She said that the National Urban League (NUL) understands this and focuses much attention to helping at the local level. The NUL has 97 affiliates across 36 states and, like the CHSE, believes that bolstering the education system will bolster the economy at large. In 2010 they launched their Educational Equity and Excellence Project in Pennsylvania and Tennessee, which prepares urban middle school children for the challenges of high school, and advocates for a higher quality curriculum in individual schools. The Project strives to first understand the limits of the schools, then create a realistic plan of action as opposed to giving all schools the same lofty goals. The National Urban League is not content to consider their job finished once high school students cross the stage at graduation; they also try to provide supplementary skills that will serve students well in college and in their first jobs. Literature that Chauhan provided also highlights the Educational Equity and Excellence Project and the NUL's commitment to activating the community to help their children and improve the quality of their education. It encourages families, community leaders, and education stakeholders to advocate for higher standards and more complete reporting on graduation statistics.

In the discussion portion of the meeting, the question was raised that it is expensive for schools to report all they could to the federal government — in a nightmare situation, more money could be spent in telling the government what poor shape a school is in than in spending the funds to fix problems. The speakers agreed,

but said what their organizations aimed for was a relatively simple standard criterion of student success to hold next to all the public schools in the nation.

Someone asked what exactly increased funding for schools was supposed to do for the dropout rate. Chauhan responded that more finances mean better, more plentiful, education resources. A teacher who isn't running around trying to compensate for too few resources is a teacher who may have the time to address and encourage individual pupils he or she deems at risk for leaving school due to a lack of support. Ideally, a well-stocked classroom, an intriguing, culturally sensitive curriculum and a teacher who isn't perpetually overwhelmed, will come together to foster personal relationships between teachers and students. Such relationships could mean the difference between dropping out and graduating.

Another question raised was that of teaching to the test: in a school's quest to gather crucial data on the performance of students, perhaps for the first time, wouldn't classes receive an onslaught of tests? Wouldn't students who are considering dropping out because they're struggling academically become all the more likely to drop out in the new environment? The question was that an abundance of tests would force teachers to "teach to the test," replacing any creative, effective, hands-on learning methods with drills. Hernández and Chauhan responded that such a situation should indeed be avoided, and what they would like is for schools to report on the annual Standards of Learning test (SOL) in a uniform way.

Hernández and Chauhan chose to speak to CWI because all inequities are linked, whether they are based on race, sex, sexual orientation, class, or ableness.

---

For more information visit the Campaign for High School Equity website at [www.highschool equity.org](http://www.highschool equity.org), and the National Urban League website at [nul.iamempowered.com](http://nul.iamempowered.com).



## Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

### COMING EVENTS

**Tuesday,  
April 2**

**Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) presents "An Update from the House"**

Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington DC

Time: 11:30 am - Bar opens; 12:15 pm - Lunch; 1-2 pm - Presentation and Q & A

Price: \$20 Members; \$30 Non-members (includes lunch); \$10 Lecture only

Since his election in 1996, Congressman Jim McGovern has been widely recognized as a tenacious advocate, a tireless crusader for change, and an unrivaled supporter for social justice and fundamental human rights.

For more information and reservation:

[www.democraticwoman.org/index.cfm?action=events&sub=event&event=84](http://www.democraticwoman.org/index.cfm?action=events&sub=event&event=84)

---

*Photos: D. Anne Martin; Summary: Allie Lundquist, FMF Intern;  
Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.*

### 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, Harriett Stonehill

**DIRECTORS EMERITA:** Roslyn Kaiser and Ruth G. Nadel

**EX OFFICIO:** Ellen S. Overton

## **Trafficking of Women and Girls: A Human Rights Crisis**

Latest reports state that trafficking involves more than one million children. Driving this industry is the profit from the control and exploitation of victims who are forced into labor or services. Trafficked individuals are forced into commercial sex acts using women and children, domestic work, and farm work. Victims are found working in the world's restaurants, homes, fisheries, brothels, and farms. Human trafficking is considered one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world.

**Dr. Leslie R. Wolfe**, President, Center for Women Policy Studies

**Priya Dhanani**, Director of Prevention Education, FAIR Girls

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, April 23, 2013 / 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, May 28, 2013  
on violence against women



## Women's History Month Comes Alive!

**C**WI's March meeting was a fun farewell to Women's History Month, eschewing speakers in favor of actors. Various members of the Clearinghouse board and one member became seven inspiring women who famously and tirelessly worked against oppression in American society.



*Maureen Gehrig as  
Dolley Madison*

**Dolley Madison**  
(1768-1849)  
is noted for the warmth and gentility she brought to the White House, leading one to believe that “feminine charm” was the

First Lady's main export. It is true that her involvements in the political area were generally social, entertaining statesman's wives and soothing ruffled feathers, although Madison had a mind for independence. After James' death in 1836, the widow chose not to remarry, thus suffering the consequences — her funds dwindled rapidly. Madison was able to keep herself afloat in part by selling her deceased husband's presidential documents to the government. Madison never expressly championed women's rights, but she was a woman in the public eye during our nation's infancy — the general public surely noticed her living out her last years unsupported by a man. For that time period, this was something of a wild feminist move.



*D. Anne Martin as  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton**  
(1815-1902)  
was launched into thoughts of women and their vulnerability in society when one night her recently widowed

cousin paid a visit to the Cady estate. She was in desperate straits because, before he died, her alcoholic husband gambled away all of her inheritance. Her cousin was bereft. Freshly aware of the dark side of one sex's control over the other, Cady began to speak out against patriarchy, as well as the control of white men over black men and women. During the Civil War, she fought for the abolition of slavery. When she married, she and her husband traveled to London to the 1840 World Anti-Slavery Convention. The Convention did not sufficiently promote equality, as it barred female delegates. Enraged, Stanton worked with Lucretia Mott and others to put on a women's rights convention New York. The now-famous Seneca Falls Convention attracted much attention, as did Stanton's Declaration of Sentiments pastiche of the Declaration of Independence airing the grievances of (white) womankind. Stanton died before seeing the 19th amendment pass, but her writing, passion, and drive to mobilize helped it to come about.

## Program Summary, continued



*Kellye McIntosh as  
Harriet Tubman*

**Harriet Tubman**  
(1820-1913)  
was born into slavery as Araminta Ross — she became “Harriet” shortly after puberty, the change in name signifying her readiness for marriage. She

resided in Maryland, which was still a slave state, and suffered abuse at the hands of many white overseers. Tubman sustained a serious head injury at age thirteen which led to seizures and visions later in life. She married a free man named John Tubman in 1844. The two did not see eye-to-eye about her vulnerability; she was still a slave and could be sold away from him any day, so she wanted them to move north. John felt comfortable where they were, and he felt there was no need. When Harriet Tubman spoke of one day helping slaves escape to freedom, her husband threatened to tell her master. She left his household, went to Philadelphia, shed her slave status, and joined the Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society, where she learned of the Underground Railroad and became a guide. She eventually even led her parents out of bondage to Canada. Of her successes as a guide, Tubman is quoted as saying “I freed a thousand slaves; I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves.” She saw the second-class status of freed African Americans and urged all to expect a higher quality of life. Tubman is known first and foremost as a guide on the Underground Railroad. She is also a veteran, having served many perilous roles in the bloody combat of the Civil War. When Tubman settled in New York to retire, she was granted veteran’s pension only because her estranged husband

had served in the Union; her own contributions were deemed unworthy of a reward on the grounds that she was female.



*Holly Joseph as  
Alva Belmont*

**Alva Belmont**  
(1853-1933)  
was known for a time as “the most hated woman in America.” This was so because she was a women’s rights activist with the kind of vast financial power that makes one’s

cause a force to be reckoned with. Alva E. Smith was born fairly wealthy, so when the Civil War broke out, the family left the continent in favor of France. Upon return, the Smiths settled in New York, where Alva met and married a man of the Vanderbilt bloodline. She had great social capital, persuading her father-in-law to distribute his money equally among his sons upon retirement. This placed the young Vanderbilt couple in the upper echelon of New York society. Alva Vanderbilt was happy to throw parties and build chateaus for a time, but eventually grew bored. She chose to invigorate herself by beating a friend at her own game — donating to big social causes. She divorced Vanderbilt, married a man named Belmont, and began her life as a suffragist. She wrote the check for the National Women’s Party headquarters and marched at many protests alongside various women’s groups. Although her treatment of other suffragists has been characterized as “intrusive” and “aristocratic,” she truly believed in the notion that men and women have equal value and so deserve equal rights. Belmont’s life may not be the story of an idol, but she indubitably helped put women’s rights in America on the map.

## Program Summary, continued



*Sue Klein as  
Alice Paul*

### **Alice Paul**

(1885-1977)

was the founder of the National Women's Party that Belmont supported financially. An education in the United Kingdom informed Paul about peaceful

protest. Paul brought this concept to her fellow women's rights advocates in America, and in 1913 she led 5,000 suffragists through the streets of D.C. in support of women's right to vote. Many women's groups thought this was a state-by-state issue; Paul thought it was a national one that needed to get to the desk of President Wilson. When Wilson snubbed the National Women's Party, Paul gathered supporters and picketed silently outside the White House. She and her cohorts were arrested for "obstructing traffic," but protest was in Paul's blood — when she discovered the appalling conditions of the work prison, she went on a hunger strike. The prison punished her by force-feeding her raw eggs. In 1918, Wilson came out in support of the 19th amendment, and Paul saw a woman's right to vote finally ratified. She spent a number of years after that traveling and lecturing, but she never put politics on the backburner. Paul helped include protections against sex discrimination in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and fought hard for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in the seventies. Paul was imprisoned and abused many times in her life, but it never stopped her.

**Rosie the Riveter** (WWII 1939-45) is the iconic image of a muscle-flexing World War II factory worker; she's "loyal, efficient, patriotic,



*Linda Fihelly as  
Rosie the Riveter*

and pretty" as the song says. The image communicates a powerful message: women have the ability to do a traditional man's job (though she'd better step aside when the boys come back from war; the

government is sending women to work out of sheer necessity). The parenthetical was thankfully lost on a generation of children who remembered mom earning a living for a time; this generation challenged gender roles as it grew. "Rosie" is based on Rose Will Monroe of the Willow Run Aircraft Factory in Michigan.



*Barbara Ratner as  
Billie Jean King*

### **Billie Jean King**

(1943- )

a legitimate game-changer, has spent her life forcing the sports world to reevaluate its take on women, but her biggest splash arguably came in 1973. Wimbledon champion Bobby

Riggs challenged her to a tennis match, positing that women were physically inferior to men in tennis. King accepted the challenge and shouldered the weight of all womankind. "I thought it would set us back fifty years if I didn't win that match," she said, "it would affect all women's self-esteem." After some pre-match antics involving scantily clad women bringing Riggs out in a chariot and buff men carrying a languid King out on a golden litter, they got down to playing, and King was victorious. Many



## *Program Summary, continued*

countries tuned in to watch. It was a great achievement for women in and out of the sports world. King is devoted to fostering equal respect for male and female athletes. King was not impressed with the tennis world's attitude towards women when she first began competing: women were consistently given lower cash prizes than men for winning the same matches. Her activism is helping to fix

that. Today she provides many safe spaces and communities to female athletes through her women's tennis clubs and centers. King is also a champion of Title IX, LGBT rights, global health, and co-founded GreenSlam, an environmental initiative for the sports industry. She founded the Women's Sports Foundation and is currently serving on its board as well as that of Elton John's AIDS Foundation.

---

For more information we have listed some websites.

**Dolley Madison:** [www.whitehouse.gov/about/first-ladies/dolleymadison](http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/first-ladies/dolleymadison)

**Alva Belmont:** [www.biography.com/people/alva-belmont-9206429](http://www.biography.com/people/alva-belmont-9206429)

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton:** [womenshistory.about.com/od/stantonelizabeta/a/stanton.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/od/stantonelizabeta/a/stanton.htm)  
[www.biography.com/people/elizabeth-cady-stanton-9492182](http://www.biography.com/people/elizabeth-cady-stanton-9492182)  
[womenshistory.about.com/od/suffrage1848/a/seneca\\_declaratn.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/od/suffrage1848/a/seneca_declaratn.htm)

**Alice Paul:** [womenshistory.about.com/od/paulalice/p/alice\\_paul.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/od/paulalice/p/alice_paul.htm)  
[www.sewallbelmont.org/learn/who-is-alice-paul/](http://www.sewallbelmont.org/learn/who-is-alice-paul/)

**Rosie the Riveter:** [womenshistory.about.com/od/worldwariiposterart/ig/World-War-II-Victory-Home/Rosie-the-Riveter-.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/od/worldwariiposterart/ig/World-War-II-Victory-Home/Rosie-the-Riveter-.htm)

**Harriet Tubman:** [womenshistory.about.com/od/harriettubman/a/tubman\\_slavery.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/od/harriettubman/a/tubman_slavery.htm)  
[www.archives.gov/legislative/features/claim-of-harriet-tubman/](http://www.archives.gov/legislative/features/claim-of-harriet-tubman/)

**Billie Jean King:** [www.wtt.com/page.aspx?article\\_id=1252](http://www.wtt.com/page.aspx?article_id=1252)  
[www.nytimes.com/2006/04/26/arts/television/26stan.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/26/arts/television/26stan.html?_r=0)

### **Roslyn Kaiser**

Roslyn Kaiser (1924–2013) died peacefully in her home on April 1, 2013, surrounded by her loving children, grandchildren and her companion of many years.

Ros was a longtime member of CWI, served on the Board, and was a Director Emerita. She wrote the CWI newsletter for many years, and then served as its editor. She served as a Program Facilitator over the years, and co-chaired the first “Meet Our Organization Members,” allowing the organizations to showcase themselves.

She had a strong commitment to CWI and assumed many responsibilities to ensure that its mission would continue.

Ros was an avid birder, traveler and enjoyed her loving family. We shall miss her cheerfulness, her intelligence and her friendship.



## Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

### COMING EVENTS

**Tuesday,  
May 7**

**Film screening of *Unequal Justice* and discussion with Nan Aron, President, Alliance for Justice.** Woman's National Democratic Club. 1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW. 11-2pm. \$20 Members; \$30 Non-members (includes lunch); \$10 Lecture only

During this term alone, the Court will decide monumental cases that may determine who can get married, who is responsible when a drug company harms a patient and who can vote. Join us for a film screening of *Unequal Justice*, a short documentary narrated by Katrina vanden Heuvel, editor of *The Nation*. Following the screening, Nan Aron will share her insights on the Court. To register:

[www.democraticwoman.org/index.cfm?action=events&sub=event&event=95](http://www.democraticwoman.org/index.cfm?action=events&sub=event&event=95)

---

*Photos: John Keller; Summary: Allie Lundquist, FMF Intern;  
Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.*

### 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, Harriett Stonehill

**DIRECTORS EMERITA:** Roslyn Kaiser and Ruth G. Nadel

**EX OFFICIO:** Ellen S. Overton



## **Violence Against Women: Can Legal Protections in Education Save Lives?**

What legal protections are available under three federal statutes: Title IX, the Clery Act and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for students of all genders who become victims of peer gender-based violence? How have women been denied their Title IX rights in the public safety realm? A key focus will be on non-sports related retaliation against university officials and others with responsibility for preventing sexual violence. This discussion will include how a school's obligation to respond to gender-based violence among its students, interact with and compare to the responses of the criminal justice system. The VAWA represented the first comprehensive federal approach to combating violence against women. Since VAWA's initial passage in 1994, the number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased for women, and the rate of nonfatal intimate partner violence against women has decreased even more. Now the fight begins to ensure Congress fully funds VAWA programs including its new "Campus Save Act."

**Nancy Chi Cantalupo Esq.**, attorney and adjunct law professor at Georgetown University Law Center

**Susan Burhans**, former Public Safety Educator at Yale University

**Allendra Letsome**, Membership Vice President, National Organization for Women

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 / 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 25, 2013  
Spotlighting our Organizational Members

## Trafficking of Women and Girls: A Human Rights Crisis

WT's April speakers were **Priya Dhanani**, Outreach Manager in prevention and education for the group FAIR Girls, and **Ari B. Redbord**, Assistant Attorney in the Department of Justice and coordinator for the Washington DC Human Trafficking Taskforce. Both have made it their life's work to fight the scourge of sex trafficking in America, which is sadly a lucrative crime — "You can sell a child over and over, you can sell cocaine once," said Redbord. Dhanani does so from a non-governmental organization (NGO), while Redbord works within the judicial system. Both said that victims stand a better chance of prospering when NGOs and law enforcement collaborate.

Given the hush-hush environment surrounding sex work and sex crimes, some definitions will be helpful. Trafficking and prostitution are discrete — trafficking implies that another individual, usually through the use of threats, has coerced a sex worker into the lifestyle. Much or all of the money earned by the victim may go to this individual. In prostitution, the element of a coercing second person is usually missing at the onset. Children who are involved in sex work are automatically considered trafficked.

**Priya Dhanani** explained that trafficking is not something that only happens "elsewhere" — it happens in America, and it happens to citizens born and raised here. Only two of the girls she is currently working with at FAIR Girls are from countries other than the U.S. The movie "Taken," in which a child is kidnapped within and trafficked, does not represent the norm; a stranger off the street does not nab most trafficked women. They are generally young women who are extremely vulnerable, both financially and emotionally. In fact, the most highly trafficked women aren't even women yet — they are twelve to fourteen year-old

girls whose basic needs like shelter and sufficient food aren't being met. On top of this, they may have a negligent or otherwise troubled family. This vulnerability makes them targets for older men, the abusers are mostly male, who have the resources

the victim lacks. A romantic relationship develops, and abuse creeps in gradually. The abuse can escalate to the point where the boyfriend is telling the victim she must have sex with such-and-such a person, or face some consequence.

Dhanani tries to keep this scenario from playing out with the FAIR Girls *Tell*

*Your Friends* program, which travels from school to school, talking to a class an hour a day for four days. It is designed to help students define, think about, identify, and avoid unhealthy relationships. Dhanani educates the classes on sex trafficking, who it involves, what it entails, and how it often begins with an unhealthy relationship. She points to the various ways in which our culture glorifies or normalizes "pimp culture," and asks the students to recognize that they are talking about real people exploiting or being exploited. At the end of the program, Dhanani opens the floor to the students to take their comments and questions. Many students raise their hands to say they've just realized a friend is in a dangerous situation. Some schools never outline the warning signs of a bad relationship — that's something that needs to be fixed.

**Ari B. Redbord** began with the sad circumstance that started his and FAIR Girls' professional relationship. Several years ago, Redbord helped prosecute a man who had sexually abused his four daughters as they grew up. Later he received a call from one of the daughters — her boyfriend wasn't treating her or her sister right, both were having sex for money under his orders. Knowing that the judicial system focuses mostly on the perpetrator,



Priya Dhanani



Ari B. Redbord

## *Program Summary, continued*

Redbord referred the two women to an NGO whose job it is to concentrate on the victim. This organization was FAIR Girls, and ever since he's referred victims to the organization.

Dhanani said that FAIR Girls does all it can, but being an NGO it often lacks the funds to show victims first-hand what life outside of trafficking can offer. The first time a victim moves into a new living situation after leaving the abuser (or the abuser being arrested) is a critical period; the experience can determine whether or not they immediately turn back to the lifestyle they know. Lacking ready housing, FAIR Girls usually puts victims into a women's shelter. Dhanani was upfront in saying these shelters are very stressful places, so stressful that a victim may think back to her former abuser and the house or apartment he provided and think "I had it good." Both speakers emphasized that even with help, the road for a trafficking victim is very rough; it's hard to build a case around the evidence, which may not have a paper trail, and it's hard to provide the ingredients for a happy, healthy life, particularly after trauma.

Groups that understand the plight of trafficked people focus on meeting basic needs, whether that be through their own resources or their connections with other helpful groups. The groups also place an emphasis on helping victims emotionally work through what was done to them, perhaps through therapeutic activities that double as a source of personal income.

Although Redbord's group, the DC Human Trafficking Taskforce, speaks to many police academies about proper treatment and resources for victims, not all law enforcement officials know that an individual's trafficking isn't over once the abuser is out of the equation. This is why it is vital for governmental and non-governmental bodies to work together in cases of sex trafficking.

Dhanani and Redbord helped paint a picture of domestic sex trafficking in Washington, DC. When police discover a trafficking situation, it's seldom because a person called to say, "I think so-and-so is doing something seedy with girls/women." Instead, they uncover the signs of trafficking while investigating a different allegation, such as domestic violence, in a person's home or place of business. In the past few years, DC police have stumbled upon

a number of massage parlors, which serve as fronts for the real business: sex work. The Department of Justice has successfully shut many of the known parlors down on the grounds of pandering and procuring. It suspects a number of establishments in the Columbia Heights area to be brothels, but they have had less success in gaining access to these places. Redbord prosecutes six to ten trafficking cases each year, though trafficking is obviously much more common. As said before, trafficking can be difficult to prove. DC and Virginia are still working hard to eliminate sex work in massage parlors and trafficking controlled by gangs.

### **Discussion**

Girls living in impoverished communities are much more likely to be exploited. As one commenter pointed out, this means there is a racial component to trafficking; most impoverished areas in America have more people of color than white people. Girls with no community — girls who have run away from home — are four times more likely to become involved in trafficking. Dhanani noted that most trafficked girls are still at home and in school, though. This means that teachers and school administrators are in a unique position; they may be able to recognize the warning signs before families do. A girl with a significantly older boyfriend or male friend who frequents the schoolyard is one such sign. Branding, the practice of tattooing oneself on the neck or face with the name of the man, is falling out of fashion, but it still crops up. An insecure girl who thinks nothing of speaking to strange men on social media sites and meeting up with them is also at risk.

Commenters voiced their frustration at the fact that sex trafficking in America garners little to no national attention. The general public associates sex trade with south Asian countries, not its own. One woman asked the group to break the silence and talk about the problem's existence with their friends. Someone asked about the "johns" who go to massage parlors — are efforts made to educate them on the nature of exploitation? Redbord responded that sadly, so-called "john's schools" have flopped so far. For more information:

[www.fairgirls.org](http://www.fairgirls.org)



## Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

### COMING EVENTS

**Tuesday,  
June 4**

**WNDC Members' Speak Series: Ruth Nadel**

Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington DC  
11:30a-2p \$20 Members; \$30 Non-members

With a national award for a lifetime of volunteering, plus a career as a Social Science Adviser at the Labor Department's Women's Bureau, Ruth Nadel has seen the benefits of unpaid work. Hers were accredited and led to the independence that a pension brings. Her only paid work experience began in her 50s. You will hear of the opportunities that evolved through taking advantage of the needs she encountered. Register with Pat Fitzgerald 202-232-7363.

---

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

*Photos: Barbara Ratner; Summary: Allie Lundquist, FMF Intern;*

*Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.*

### 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, Harriett Stonehill

**DIRECTORS EMERITA:** Roslyn Kaiser\* and Ruth G. Nadel

**EX OFFICIO:** Ellen S. Overton

## **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 2013-14.

Our invited organization members include the: American Council on Education (ACE); Communications Workers of America; DC Rape Crisis Center; Fairfax County Commission for Women; Feminist Majority Foundation; League of Women Voters of DC; Maryland Women's Heritage Center; Montgomery County National Organization for Women (MCNOW); Service Employees International Union (SEIU Local #500); United For Equality; Union Theological Seminary NYC; Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW); Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

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 25, 2013 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm.**

Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

**Place: One Dupont Circle, Conference Room A, Level 1B, 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 24, 2013**



# Violence Against Women: Can Legal Protections in Education Save Lives?

WT's May speakers were **Nancy Chi Cantalupo**, an attorney and adjunct law professor at Georgetown University; **Susan Burhans**, a former member of Yale University's public safety office; **Wendy Murphy**, Burhans' attorney and adjunct law professor at New England Law|Boston, and **Allendra Letsome**, membership vice president at the National Organization for Women (NOW) and a mediator.

**Nancy Chi Cantalupo** began by explaining that gender-based violence (here used as a term that includes sexual violence and sexual harassment) is violence that is directed at women because they are women, that has a disparate impact on women or that is directed at men when they do not conform with accepted views of masculinity. In this summary, the assailant will be gendered as male and the victim as female because that is the most common scenario, but it is important to acknowledge that other dynamics do exist.

One might think, "Why college men and women? Why not be more inclusive and lecture on sexual assault among all young adults?" The answer is that environment matters: young adults within and without higher education have different likelihoods of sexual assault. One of Cantalupo's slides stated that college women are significantly more likely to experience sexual assault or rape than women the same age but not in college.

This suggests that there's something about the culture of colleges and universities that encourages the perpetration of gender-based violence. All speakers were in agreement that at least in part, that "something" is the permissive attitudes

of some school administrative teams towards the crime of sexual assault. Cantalupo emphasized that, although the law generally cannot create the kind of culture change that institutions need, school officials can change campus cultures, and the law can compel school officials to take steps that will encourage such culture change.

**Susan Burhans** has the misfortune of being well-versed in this area. The former Yale University employee worked within the vice president's office and is the first non-sports-related higher education administrator to file a Jackson v Birmingham Title IX Retaliation Complaint. The lawsuit against Yale University details public safety programs and initiatives Burhans tried to put into place to support Title IX and the Clery Act, and then recounts the retaliation she endured when she spoke out against the way Yale University handled sexual assault allegations. She was not at liberty to give details at the meeting. Burhans said Title IX rights were violated when students were victims of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, when the option to report to police was swallowed up by the judiciary system within the university, which had untrained members and policies that retraumatized victims.

Cantalupo explained that gender-based violence, especially sexual violence, is a form of sexual harassment classified as sex discriminatory under Title IX of the Education Amendments (1972), the landmark civil rights statute prohibiting sex discrimination in education. Burhans' lawyer, **Wendy Murphy**, who explained that Burhans' lawsuit against Yale is unusual and important in that



*Nancy Chi Cantalupo*



*Susan Burhans*



*Wendy Murphy*



*Allendra Letsome*

## *Program Summary, continued*

Burhans, as an employee but not a student, is nevertheless able to sue under Title IX on the grounds that she was prevented from performing her responsibilities and to ensure enforcement of Title IX during her employment. Murphy wrote the seminal law review article articulating the relationship between sexual assault and civil rights laws, and noted that “civil rights” should be the first and only argument out of our mouths when talking about Title IX and sex crimes in higher education. Murphy is an impact litigator who has filed strategic claims with the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Education against many non-compliant schools over the past twenty years, and whose claims against Harvard, Princeton and the University of Virginia led to the issuance of the “Dear Colleague Letter” in April 2011. That letter provided unprecedented clarity and guidance on the responsibilities of schools to ensure that a victim’s complaint receives a “prompt, equitable and effective” response. Murphy also described that a new federal law known as “Campus SaVE,” was sponsored by lobbyists for influential schools and that when SaVE becomes law in early 2014, it will undermine many important provisions identified in the Dear Colleague Letter.

Title IX states that an individual’s sex may not be a factor in barring them from any area of education. It is most often brought up in conjunction with sports, as it is the rule that requires public schools to have, or be ever working up to, approximately as many athletic opportunities for women as it does for men. Its reach extends far beyond the playing field; however, it identifies a number of intimidation tactics that disrupt the wellbeing of the historically oppressed female sex, and calls them tantamount to hate crimes.

The various breeds of sexual violence are on that list. Colleges and universities, then, are required by law to treat a rape allegation as an allegation of violated civil rights. If guilty, this implies that the assailant is a menace to more than just the victim — he is a menace to woman-kind. Few colleges do so.

Providing examples from her discussions with administrators at other Ivy League schools, Burhans painted a dismal picture of gender-based violence:

- Countless victims have dropped out of school due to intense anxiety and depression in the

face of justice unserved. Their assailants, meanwhile, were able to move unfettered toward graduation.

- When a rape report is made, one responsibility of a school’s Title IX coordinator is to help the alleged victim and assailant avoid interaction. If the two individuals share a class, schedules are changed. An obvious step would be to also change the living situation of one of the individuals if they currently share a dorm, but few coordinators have gone beyond class schedules.
- Title IX coordinators cannot hold other positions that present a conflict of interest. At one university, the coordinator was responsible for publishing the statistics required by the Clery Act, which is indeed a conflict of interest.
- An aspiring female scientist who reported a post-doctorate for lewd behavior experienced such personal and professional retribution that her mental and emotional health failed; she had to drop out and spend time in a mental hospital.
- A school did not address complaints made by a female grad student who reported a peer had harassed her; he later raped and murdered her.
- In a non-peer-to-peer case, the university police had sufficient evidence to prove that a professor had raped one of his students. A call from the professor’s lawyer to the District Attorney’s office kept the arrest from taking place. That professor has gone on to enjoy many prestigious positions at the nation’s top colleges and universities without a mark on his record.

Needless to say, this was all incredibly disappointing to hear. In university cultures at large, a woman who reports a sexual offense is a stick-in-the-mud who is probably exaggerating, and the thing most in need of protection is the reputation and life path of the accused. In the case of the second bullet (above), there seems to be blatant ignorance or disregard of the ire a victim faces when she speaks out.

The Ivy League experiences gender-based violence about as frequently as state schools that

## *Program Summary, continued*

funnel major money towards football programs. A high aptitude does not always breed a healthy respect for women. It's easy to see how in fact two decades of being told you're marked out for greatness might give one a sense of invincibility and entitlement.

**Wendy Murphy** has been fighting universities and colleges on their shady handling of sexual assault claims since the start of her career. Schools have found various ways of getting around the Clery Act, the act that requires schools to publish statistics on the crimes that happen on their campuses. A high number of rapes do not bode well for the school's reputation, and parents are reticent to send their daughters to a place that may be hostile to them. If schools can discourage the number of formal rape reports they file, the applications will continue coming. Murphy gave one example of a school that adopted a corroboration rule in which the victim must present independent evidence supporting her claim that a rape took place before the administration would even discuss the matter. Murphy filed a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) against that school forcing them to abolish the corroboration rule. That case, from more than ten years ago, was the first time OCR allowed a case to be filed based on a challenge to the policy alone, without the need for an actual victim to have suffered the harm from a noncompliant policy. Before that time, OCR would only take cases where a specific student had a particular complaint about how her case was handled. Other ways that schools try to keep numbers artificially low include having rules that deter reporting, such as requiring a victim to prove her credibility by "clear and convincing" evidence where nothing short of a video of the attack seems acceptable. Murphy has seen schools mislead victims to believe the administration is on their side and seeking justice, but in the end, the school sides with the perpetrator usually by telling the victim that she was not credible enough to justify punishment of the offender. Another tactic Murphy described involves schools stalling investigations and final decisions for months or even years, until the virtual eve of the victim's graduation because if they rule against the victim right before she leaves campus, the chances are much lower that the victim will file a lawsuit or a complaint with a federal oversight agency such as OCR at the Department of

Education (DOE). Because rape reports reflect badly on schools, many become utterly heartless in their attempts to protect themselves.

The topic of schools looking out for themselves brings us to a major talking point of the meeting: the Campus SaVE Act within the 2013 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). It can be found under Title III, section 304 of the law. All of the speakers viewed it as a slice of harmful legislation slipped into a vastly beneficial bill. Murphy explained in a page on her website [wendymurphylaw.com/campus-sexual-assault/](http://wendymurphylaw.com/campus-sexual-assault/) that we should have become suspicious when so many university bigwigs threw their support behind its addition to VAWA.

**Allendra Letsome** explained some of the characteristics of the SaVE Act. First, the basics: it is an amendment to the Clery Act, not Title IX. Under Title IX, a student can take their school to court for denying their rights. A student cannot sue the whole institution citing a violation of the Clery Act. It is also important to note that it has not taken effect yet — it is due to kick in on March 7, 2014, if VAWA still retains it (new additions to long-standing Acts like VAWA tend to be eliminated). One improvement it makes upon the Clery Act is that it makes more efforts to protect victim privacy; the victim must remain anonymous in reports. Cantalupo advanced in an e-mail that on the whole, Campus SaVE does very little to fix the problematic aspects of the Clery Act and it does a lot of harm to those aspects of the Dear Colleague Letter that provided promising new guidance to ensure that schools complied with Title IX. The Clery Act has three basic components: 1) provisions governing how campuses must report crime that takes place on or adjacent to campus, 2) provisions generally referred to as the Campus Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights, and 3) Campus SaVE. Campus SaVE does not fundamentally change the approach of the reporting requirements, which assume that the school's responsibilities are similar to that of a landlord, so they tend to focus a school on issues such as good lighting, emergency phones and police after-dark escort services. However, those types of services assume a perpetrator who is unknown to the victim. Studies have demonstrated that this "stranger rapist" is a myth, since most campus sexual violence victims know their assailant and most of the violence takes place in private places



## Program Summary, continued

such as dormitory rooms. The Clery Act does not track campus peer sexual violence effectively because it assumes the stranger rape myth.

In addition, the Campus Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights portion of the Clery Act essentially repeats the rights that victims already get under Title IX as it is enforced by the Office for Civil Rights. Therefore, because Campus SaVE does not significantly alter these provisions, it adds nothing to the broader protections already provided by Title IX. Cantalupo stated that, in her opinion, the main positive addition Campus SaVE makes to the Clery Act is the requirement that the school inform victims who report about the school's policies regarding sexual and other forms of gender-based violence such as relationship violence and stalking. Murphy explained, however, that the benefit of this piece of SaVE is substantially offset by the fact that women will not be informed of their rights under Title IX, Title IV or Clery unless and until there is a report made. Because only a very small number of victims report sexual assaults, this provision is dangerous. Prior to Campus SaVE, schools were obligated to inform victims of their rights even if a report was not made, and schools were otherwise obligated to take affirmative steps to address sexual assaults when officials "knew or should have known" that a rape occurred. SaVE has reduced the responsibility of schools such that they are not obligated to take proactive steps to address rape on campus in the absence of an actual report. Obviously, this is dangerous not only because it inhibits victims' access to justice, but also because it will further incentivize schools to discourage reporting as a way to keep measurable numbers of sexual assaults artificially low.

Campus SaVE states that colleges and universities (and high schools) need to respond to all reports of sexual assault promptly. Unfortunately, the meaning of "prompt" is not provided and there is no time limit on when a school must make a "final determination," so schools are still essentially at their leisure to stretch investigations out for months or years.

Early drafts of the SaVE Act said that all schools receiving federal funding had to have the same definition of "preponderance of evidence." That standard refers to approximately 51 percent proof that an assault took place. In other words, if officials believe the victim a little bit more than they believe the perpetrator's denial, the school must take some action. This aspect of the Act attracted a number of supporters who were told that SaVE would "codify" the Dear Colleague Letter, which would be good for victims. By the time all the elements of VAWA were cut down to size however, that preponderance component was gone, giving schools discretion to demand a 75 percent ("clear and convincing") confidence level that the offense was committed. Murphy and Letsome both predict that in future court cases, schools will be able to argue that Congress wanted them to have the freedom to choose between preponderance or clear and convincing standards because the act of including and then eliminating the preponderance language is an expression of Congressional intent to allow for discretion.

Cantalupo closed with a proposal: what if we stopped looking to the administration at colleges and universities for information on sexual violence on the American campus? Why not go directly to the students themselves and cut out the school as the "reporting middleman," where the students report to the school and then the school reports to the general public? Cantalupo proposes that the Department of Education create a survey to measure the incidence of gender-based violence among students that it would require every institution to administer every four years and to publish the results to the general public. She also advocates that schools create victims' services offices to act as "one-stop shop" resources for violence victims. She referred participants to her research, especially the article entitled *Burying Our Heads in the Sand* available for free download at [ssrn.com/author=884485](http://ssrn.com/author=884485), for more details on these proposals. Perhaps then we'd pave the way for civil rights progress.

---

CWT's newsletter is partially funded by donations in loving memory of our longtime editor Roslyn Kaiser.

*Photos: D. Anne Martin; Summary: Allie Lundquist, FMF Intern;  
Production: Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design.*



## Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917

Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

### 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, Harriett Stonehill

**Director Emerita:** Ruth G. Nadel

**Ex Officio:** Ellen S. Overton

### 2013-2014 SLATE

**Co-Presidents:** Harriett Stonehill and Sue Klein

**Co-VPs Membership:** Kathryn Braeman and  
Linda Fihelly

**Secretary:** D. Anne Martin

**Directors:** Kellye McIntosh, Elaine Newman,  
Carmen Delgado Votaw

*Board not up for election*

**VP Program:** Carolyn Cook

**Treasurer:** Holly Taggart Joseph

**Director:** Janice Koch

**Ex-Officio:** Barbara Ratner

**Directors Emerita:** Ruth G. Nadel and Ellen Overton

**President's Message:** My third two-year term as president now draws to a close. This has been an incredible experience, and I hope the incoming Board gets the same satisfaction that I have had after every meeting — for at every meeting we have offered the community in-depth information about another dimension of a woman's issue. We have been fortunate to learn and become better informed by listening to expert presenters and having the opportunity to exchange information with others. My gratitude to our Board and everyone involved in making the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues such a success. — *Barbara J. Ratner*





## Title IX Enforcement Challenges for High School Athletics: Remedies to Advance Change

Though Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in many areas of education, this meeting will focus on sports. High schools across the country often fail to provide a fair opportunity for girls to play sports. This noon dialogue will explore how to find remedies to address this pressing equity issue -- particularly in urban districts like the District of Columbia. This CWI event will be co-sponsored by the Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and will be held at the Mayor's Press Room. Feature speakers are experts on Title IX athletics at the high school level.

**Janice Dove Johnson** is a parent advocate, the mother of three daughters who were scholar athletes in the DC Public School System. She is also executive director of the Sankofa Project which aims to increase gender equality in athletics by: increasing awareness of the physical, psychological and educational benefits of participating in school based team sports; informing students, parents, and others of their rights under Title IX; identifying scholarship opportunities; and inspiring middle and high school students to explore non-traditional career paths.

**Neena Chaudhry** is Director of Equal Opportunities in Athletics at the National Women's Law Center (NWLC). After highlighting inequities that girls face in athletics across the country, she will discuss the NWLC's recent administrative complaint (to the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights) against the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) for its failure to give high school girls equal athletic opportunities under Title IX, the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in federally funded education programs.

**Seth Galanter** is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. He served as the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Office for Civil Rights for the past nine months. He will discuss the federal government's role in addressing sex discrimination in federally funded education programs, including opportunities to participate in athletics at the high school level.

**Date/Time: Tuesday, September 24, 2013 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm.**

Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

**Mayor's Press Room, Wilson Building, Room G-9**

1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (14<sup>th</sup> & Pennsylvania Ave. near Metro Center or Federal Triangle Stations)

Bring brown bag lunch.

**Reminder: Annual Dues are payable in September.**

# Welcome from the Co-Presidents and New Board



*Left to Right Back Row: Kellye McIntosh, Janice Koch, Holly Joseph; Middle Row: Harriett Stonehill, Carmen Delgado Votan, Kathryn Braeman, Barbara Ratner, Ellie Newman, Linda Fibel; Front Row: Ellen Overton, Ruth Nadel, Sue Klein, Anne Martin, Absent: Carolyn Cook*

Dear CWI Members,

It is with great pleasure that we begin our term as Co-Presidents. We look forward to the opportunities and challenges that this position provides. We begin our term with the determination to fulfill the CWI Mission to be creative, and to work with our full membership in broadening our directions.

As we begin this term we acknowledge the achievements and vision of our past CWI Presidents, and dedicate our efforts to continue to provide stimulating discussions on issues of significance that will be a catalyst for action to advance gender equality.

It is our privilege to celebrate CWI's 40th anniversary. We propose to honor this milestone by initiating a CWI 40th Anniversary Campaign. Through this campaign we will increase our membership and initiate and implement a wide variety of events and programs. We look forward to the participation of all our members in the design and outreach of this campaign. -- Harriett Stonehill and Sue Klein

*Right: Barbara Ratner receiving CWI Board Gift of a Fine Art Print: Equity Rules, Be Fair, Be Fair, Be Fair from Artist Patricia E. Ortman to thank Barbara for serving as CWI president for the past six years.*



## Program Summary — June 26, 2012

# Meet Our Member Organizations



*Mary Farmer*

For 40 years, the **DC Rape Crisis Center** (the Center) has been pursuing its mission to create a world free from sexual violence. In 1972, the Center operated a single-line hotline out of the home of one of its founders; today, it offers a comprehensive program of services provided by 14 professional staff, over 100 dedicated volunteers, and seven board members who lend their professional expertise. The Center's goals are to: help adults and children heal from sexual violence; use public education strategies to increase awareness, reduce risk and promote prevention; provide a strong voice for survivors; and stimulate social change through outreach, education, and legal/public policy initiatives.

[www.dcrapecrisiscenter.org](http://www.dcrapecrisiscenter.org)

24/7 Hotline Number for Survivors of Sexual Assault, their families and friends: 202-333-7273.

The **Feminist Majority Foundation** was founded in 1987 by longtime women's rights activist Eleanor Smeal. FMF is the nation's largest feminist research and action organization dedicated to women's equality, reproductive rights and health, non-violence, and empowerment of women and girls in all sectors of society. The organization holds feminism--the policy, practice, and advocacy of political, economic, and social equality for women at its core. To carry out these aims, FMF engages in

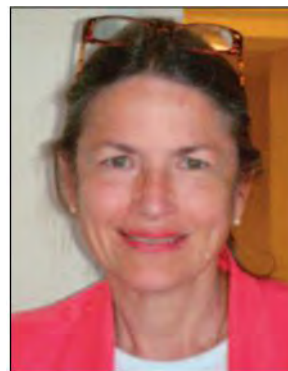


*Allison Butler  
Nicole Carroll  
Chris DiCesare*

research and public policy development, public education programs, grassroots organizing projects, and leadership and development programs. Its sister organization, the Feminist Majority, focuses on empowering women in public policy-making as well as gender balance in elective and appointive offices. FMF is organized on a project basis. Currently FMF has 11 active projects including: Choices Campus Leadership Program, the Campaign for Afghan Women and Girls, Ms. Magazine, and Education Equity. The Campus Choices Leadership Program was launched in 1997 to train the next generation of feminist leaders. FMF is working with several hundred Feminist Majority Leadership Alliances and affiliated feminist organizations on college campuses nationwide, and the network continues to grow. The Campaign for Afghan Women and Girls works to build a US women's grassroots foreign policy constituency around the issue of the rights of women and girls. Ms. aims to inform inspire and empower feminists to take action to achieve justice and equality. The Education Equity project at FMF is spearheaded by Sue Klein and seeks to ensure that schools uphold the promise of Title IX.

[www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org)

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



*Holly Joseph*

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](http://www.mcnow.org)



## *Program Summary, continued*

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 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, pension and retirement plans, savings and investments, home-



*Lara Hinz*

ownership, long-term care and healthcare. 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](http://www.wiserwomen.org)

The **Communications Workers of America (CWA)** is an international union that has 700,000 members, the majority of which are women. The

CWA Human Rights Department includes the National Women's Committee and the National Civil Rights & Equity Committee. The mission of the National Women's Committee is to educate, inspire and empower women while focusing on organizing, movement building, and



*Nancy Biagini*

representation. Recent actions include:

supporting VAWA, CEDAW, voting rights, the Healthy Families Act, Paycheck Fairness Act, reproductive rights, and the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. CWA also fought against "democracy blocks" such as the excessive use of the filibuster in the US Senate and was successful in getting approval for the National Labor Relations Board members. To learn more about CWA actions for workers rights, women's rights, family rights, and economic stability visit <http://www.cwa-union.org/issues/entry/c/human-rights>

The **National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO)** is a nonpartisan network of over 240 organizations representing more than 12 million women. Affiliates, which include America'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.



*Dawn Aldrich*

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](http://www.womensorganizations.org)

## COMING EVENTS

### Tuesday and Wednesday, October 8-9

Women, Money, Power Summit sponsored by the Feminist Majority

October 8 - Summit and Luncheon, [Capitol Hilton Hotel](#), 1001 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW

Washington, D.C. 20036

October 9 – Congressional Visit Day sponsored by the Feminist Majority

<http://feministmajority.org/women-money-power/2013WomenMoneyPower/default.htm>

Phone 703-522-2214

### Saturday, October 12

Induction of former CWI Board Member, Dr. Bernice Sandler, Godmother of Title IX, into National Women's Hall of Fame, Seneca Falls NY.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/>

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

*Photos: D. Anne Martin, Newsletter organized by Allison Butler*

### **CWI Board of Directors, July 2013 – June 2014**

**OFFICERS:** Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill; VP Program, Carolyn A. Cook; Co-VPs Membership, Kathryn Braeman and Linda Fihelly; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary, D. Anne Martin

**DIRECTORS:** Linda Fihelly, Janice Koch, Elaine Newman, Carmen Delgado Votaw

**DIRECTORS EMERITAE:** Ruth G. Nadel and Ellen S. Overton **EX OFFICIO:** Barbara J. Ratner

Copyright © 2013 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI). All rights reserved.





# Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

## Membership Form

---

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

CWI  
c/o Holly Taggart Joseph (Treasurer)  
8504 Rosewood Drive  
Bethesda MD 20814

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE (if organization\*) \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
WEBSITE \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for CWI membership for September 2013 – June 2014.

\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$25.00)  
\_\_\_\_ Individual under 30 years old (\$15.00)  
\_\_\_\_ Organization (\$40/one year or \$100/three years)  
\_\_\_\_ Virtual-\$20 (Email newsletter only for members outside Washington, DC area)  
\_\_\_\_ Additional tax deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*If organizational member indicate if you would like your organization to be listed as a supporting member on CWI's website along with a link to the website. (Listing subject to CWI approval)

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

[www.womensclearinghouse.org](http://www.womensclearinghouse.org)



# Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

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

OCTOBER 2013

[www.womensclearinghouse.org](http://www.womensclearinghouse.org)

## Reproductive Rights in the Balance: The Battle Rages On

Many Americans are waking up to the stark reality that rights they have held for four decades may no longer be secure. The disturbing reality is that 40 years after *Roe v. Wade*, women across the country are seeing their reproductive rights slip away. These laws—whether they place impossible requirements on abortion providers, compel women to undergo intrusive procedures, drastically reduce the length of time during which abortion is legal, or grant fetuses “personhood” rights—all have one thing in common: they are designed to undermine women’s constitutional rights and, as the Governor of North Dakota put it, “to discover the boundaries of *Roe v. Wade*.” Join us for a discussion of the impact of the widespread attacks on reproductive rights, the legislative and legal contexts in which the battle is being waged, and how we can fight back to protect the constitutional right to safe and legal abortion.

### Featured Speakers:

**Kristine Kippins**, Federal Policy Counsel, Center for Reproductive Rights

**Kimberly Inez McGuire**, Associate Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

**Michelle Schwartz**, Director of Justice Programs, Alliance for Justice

**Cosponsored by Alliance for Justice**

**Date/Time: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm.**

Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

**Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

Close to Dupont Circle Metro Stations (Behind “Books a Million”)

Bring brown bag lunch.

**Reminder: Annual Dues are payable in October. See last page.**  
**Special Holiday Pot luck Lunch Meeting, Nov. 26, 2013**

Dear CWI Members,

It is with great pleasure that we can report on the significant and exciting new items that are unfolding. Kudos to all who participated and worked on the September meeting "Title IX Enforcement Challenges for High School Athletics: Remedies to Advance Change" co-sponsored by the Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and held in the Mayor's Press Room. (See next pages for a summary of that meeting.) Since the meeting, one of the meeting panelists, the Office for Civil Rights, approved a detailed resolution agreement to improve Title IX athletics compliance in the DC public schools. The complaints by our friend Herb Dempsey and colleagues, news articles, and the resolution letter are included in the 10-4-13 <http://title-ix.blogspot.com>. We encourage creative formats and partnerships for all our meetings as well as active follow-up!

We have also launched our greatly revised [www.womensclearinghouse.org](http://www.womensclearinghouse.org) web page based on the work of CWI Vice President, Carolyn Cook. Under the "Leadership" tab you can read about all of our distinguished CWI Board members. But to start off, here is a little information on the new co-presidents.



**Harriett M. Stonehill** is an author, educator and administrator. She is an Adjunct Professor at the University of the District of Columbia, and was Director of the MegaSkills Education Center, providing training to build partnerships. She also coauthored with Dr. Bernice Sandler, *Student to Student Sexual Harassment K-12: Strategies and Solutions for Educators to Use in The Classroom and Community*. She served as staff to The White House Conference on Families, and as Washington Representative for major Women's Organizations. She received an M.S. Ed. degree from Queens College, NY, and has completed Post Graduate Studies in NY and Paris, France. Harriett lives in Washington, DC with her husband Elliott.



**Dr. Sue Klein** is the Education Equity Director of the Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) focusing on fully implementing Title IX, the key federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in publicly funded education. Sue joined FMF in 2003 after 34 years in the research offices in the U.S. Department of Education where she worked on gender equity issues, education dissemination and evaluation. In addition to editing the 1985 *Handbook for Achieving Sex Equity through Education*, Sue edited the 2007 *Handbook for Achieving Gender Equity through Education* and has focused on fighting sex discrimination in sex segregated public schools and classes. Sue's Doctoral Degree in Educational Psychology is from Temple University. She has written around 200 publications and presented at multiple meetings.

We look forward to your joining this wonderful all CWI volunteer organization, co-sponsoring meetings and using this as a way to join us in advancing gender equality. In January we will launch "CWI Celebrates 40 Years." We welcome all members to join in designing and implementing exciting events during this time and to suggest meeting topics and presenters. CWI now has many new ways of connecting and sharing information and action including Twitter:@CWINews and Facebook:@WomensClearinghouse using the revised website. We also invite you to contact any Board member and join in.

As a "Heads Up" our November 26 meeting will take a different format. Since it is so close to Thanksgiving we will hold a pot-luck lunch. Please bring your easy-to-do food for about 10 persons. If you wish, you can attach a recipe. Kate Campbell Stevenson will be our invited presenter to demonstrate how she portrays the roles of famous women in history to educate audiences of all ages on ways to advance gender equality.

Cordially,

Harriett Stonehill and Sue Klein, CWI Co-Presidents

## PROGRAM SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

### Title IX Enforcement Challenges for High School Athletics: Remedies to Advance Change

The Clearinghouse on Women's Issues held its September meeting in the Mayor's Press Room in the Wilson Building in the District of Columbia with the co-sponsorship of the Office of Women's Policy & Initiatives, directed by Terese Lowery.

#### Terese Lowery



Before the panel discussion of the challenges to full athletic participation for district schools and the nation, CWI Co-President Sue Klein presented Dr.

**Bernice "Bunny" Sandler** with an artist print "Equity Rules: Be Fair, Be Fair, Be Fair" on behalf of CWI to recognize her upcoming honor as an inductee into the **National Women's Hall of Fame** in Seneca Falls, NY on Oct 12, 2013.

#### Dr. Bernice Sandler



Dr. Sandler, often referred to as the "godmother" of Title IX, began by recognizing, that generations will need to maintain this call to action to ensure an absence of sex discrimination in the nation's public schools. She remarked that, "it will take a lifetime to see full compliance." Another honored guest in the audience, Dr. Gwendolyn Mink, the daughter of the late Patsy Mink (D-HI), co-author of Title IX legislation, was introduced.

The presentation was designed as a panel with the moderator Kat Braeman, VP of CWI, asking focused questions.

The distinguished panel included:

- **Janice Dove Johnson**, parent advocate and Executive Director of the Sankofa Project, [www.sankofaproject.org](http://www.sankofaproject.org)

- **Neena Chaudhry**, Director of Equal Opportunities in Athletics at the National Women's Law Center [www.nwlc.org](http://www.nwlc.org), and
- **Seth Galanter**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) [www.ed.gov/ocr](http://www.ed.gov/ocr).

**Kat began by asking the panel to respond to the question, "Why do we care?"**

#### Kat Braeman



"Many people don't." **Janice** replied. She began this fight in 2004 and reminded the audience that it is important that we care about Title IX for girls in athletics. It helped her daughter, Patrice who recently graduated from Wake Forest University

on a full basketball scholarship. Janice wants more parents to know about the benefits of playing school-based team sports and that program parity and resource equity are their right under the law.

#### Janice Dove Johnson

This law allows our sons and daughters to play with purpose and with the hope of receiving college admissions and support, a sense of pride and purpose. Like the boys, athletics allows talented girls to

receive college scholarships. The Sankofa Project sponsors a "Positive Peer Pressure" Program <http://youtu.be/Lix9pA7UIN>



Neena commented on the enormous benefits that team sports afford for girls, both physically and emotionally, i.e. teaching wonderful life skills, avoiding high risk activities and propelling success and personal wellness.

Seth noted that participation in athletics is much more than being on a team, even more than



learning about leadership; it is empowering for young women to be seen as athletes. He added that advocacy with girls and athletics leads to the other areas where advocacy for equity is required. In athletics, social group exposure and adherence positively influence the participants.

**Next panel question: What are the strategies to advocate for change?**

Janice remarked on the effect of positive peer pressure. She said that her organization invites some best players and coaches in the country to come to DC so that counselors, coaches, players and parents can be inspired to strive for the next level.



**Neena Chaudhry** spoke to the importance of all schools being in compliance with Title IX, noting of course, that Title IX

covers much more than athletics. She explained that the National Women's Law Center advocates for parents going directly to the school if a daughter has no pathway for sports participation in that school. Litigation is another option along the spectrum of advocacy. Currently, they are hoping that the DC Council will move forward requiring schools to collect participation data on DC high school sports programs. At the college level, a federal law already requires reporting the data on men's and women's teams. Neena explained that DC has an opportunity to lead on this issue at the pre-college level with its newly introduced legislation that has been sponsored by all members of the DC Council.

Seth explained that ED provides a number of tools to promote change, including collecting and reporting data. For 100,000 public K-12 schools in the U.S., OCR collects and reports information on participation of boys and girls in high school athletics ( <http://www.ocrdata.ed.gov> ). For postsecondary education ED also collects information on spending on coaches,

equipment, etc. ( [www.ope.ed.gov/athletics](http://www.ope.ed.gov/athletics) ). Federal law requires a coordinator is to ensure compliance with Title IX. Neena said that despite the law, many districts do not appoint a Title IX Coordinator.

**Seth Galanter** said coaches are also excellent advocates for under-resourced teams - usually the girls. The ED OCR gives technical assistance for Title IX compliance-educating schools and districts and following up on complaints. In the last 3 years, the ED has entered into 135 resolutions with schools involving Title IX athletics that have resulted in changes.



Moderator Kat Braeman reminded us that parent advocates are an important first step. She talked about *Know the Score*, a program sponsored by the AAUW and available on its website <http://www.aauw.org/resource/title-ix-compliance/>. For example, Chico, CA schools were not in compliance with Title IX athletics mandates; and it was a parent advocate who collected data to document gender inequity. She then filed a complaint with OCR that was investigated.

Neena used a power point presentation to describe basic non-discrimination requirements as well as three prongs used to judge equity in athletic participation of girls and boys. She noted that girls' participation in sports in high schools, although much higher than it was in 1972, is still not as high as the boys participation in 1972! Schools must show that athletic participation is proportionate to enrollments; or schools must have a history and continuing practice of expanding girls' participation opportunities (the sports do not have to be identical); or schools must show full and effective accommodation of girls' interests – i.e. that they are offering sports that girls are interested in playing.

This was expanded upon when a member of the audience asked what happens if there are not



enough girls interested. Because this is such a crucial “leveling of the playing field” the panelists were quick to explain the issue of “noninterest” is a “nonissue”, meaning that it is the responsibility of the athletic programs to engender interest and engage girls. (For more information see Neena’s webinar

[http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2013\\_4\\_18\\_atletics\\_webinar\\_final.pdf](http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2013_4_18_atletics_webinar_final.pdf))

The bill before the DC Council currently is very important as a few schools in the district have no basketball for girls; only 4 schools have soccer for girls and many schools lack other established sports for girls. Boys and girls programs must be overall equal - assuring equal quality of facilities, coaches, travel, scheduling, recruiting, tutoring, and housing. The school must be certain that the benefits for males and females are equal.

Seth acknowledged that there were pending complaints with the OCR regarding DC school sports but that he and his colleague, **Amanda Dallo** from the OCR HQ Title IX Team, could not comment on pending investigations. (However, before the government shutdown, OCR signed a very detailed resolution agreement with DC public schools on one of these complaints. See p. 2 of this newsletter.)

**Amanda Dallo**

Seth observed that over the last three years, one out of every eight OCR complaints at the ED has been a Title IX complaint.



When a complaint is received, OCR looks to see if the complaint identifies that the school is not meeting any of the three major criteria (prongs) of Title IX compliance. Seth explained that when it opens a complaint, the OCR goes to the school site to fully investigate the claim of not being in compliance. For example, one complaint is that girls’ teams did not have access to locker rooms, and facilities comparable to the boys’ facilities. The ED tries voluntary resolution

before cutting off federal funds, so most school districts eventually comply. Seth said no Title IX complaints had been referred for fund cut off to the Department of Justice (DOJ) in the last 20 years, but there were some earlier race discrimination referrals.

**Kat pointed out that the DC schools’ failure to comply with Title IX Athletics has been headline news.**

Janice’s group found that the data was sometimes skewed. The DC parents trust Janice’s group to advocate on their behalf. However, girls play for their coaches, so when a coach gets transferred to another school, they want to follow them. But now, under a new DC ruling, they are not allowed to change schools when their coach transfers. Also, once a school builds a good athletic program, good academic support is needed for the girls. Janice stated that there is something very wrong for girls and high school athletics in the District of Columbia. For example, girls’ teams play at 4PM when parents are at work and boys play at 6:30PM, creating yet another inequity in DC. Title IX guarantees equal access to practice and competition so if not corrected quickly, this complaint should be filed with OCR.

**Q&A:**

When asked **how long violations take to reach resolution**, Seth and Neena explained that every subsequent violation takes less time than the previous one to reach resolution. There are 12 regional offices for OCR. If a district is found to be out of compliance, ED prefers that districts not cut boys’ teams, because cutting boys’ teams has given Title IX a bad reputation and because it denies boys the benefits that flow from athletics. Results are expected as soon as it is feasible. Districts begin by doing surveys of their students, parents and teachers. Gaps in participation opportunities are difficult to resolve in the very large school districts. Every other year the OCR collects data on every school district on the athletic participation of boys and girls as well as many other categories of data collection.

When asked **if private schools are required to comply with Title IX**, only those private schools participating in some form of federal funding are held accountable.

Another audience member asked about **additional inequities facing girls of color**. Neena confirmed that this was a problem nationwide and certainly in DC. She and Janice urged individuals and groups to express support for the “**Title IX Athletic Equity Act of 2013**,” a District of Columbia Council Bill drafted by Kate Mitchell on behalf of Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie and supported unanimously by all Council members. The bill would require each public elementary, middle and high school to annually

report data on their athletic programming and make such data publicly available. It requires the Mayor to develop a five-year athletic equity strategic plan. The bill would require the Mayor to publish a list of schools that do not submit an assurance of compliance and will include an annual report on each school’s athletic programming and participation by gender.

## COMING EVENTS

Note: CWI member organizations are especially encouraged to send us events.

**Sunday, October 27 2:30-5:00pm “Latinas in Transition: Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future”**, features CWI Board Member, Carmen Delgado Votaw and others. Silver Spring Civic Building (Ellsworth Room) 8525 Fenton Street at Ellsworth Avenue. Free Parking in public garage on Ellsworth. Online registration \$8 <http://www.thetransitionnetwork.info/pages/events/chapter/chapters-washington-dc/> Contact: Bernice.garza@gmail.com OR Mimi Hassanein – [mimicatzoo@yahoo.com](mailto:mimicatzoo@yahoo.com), Co-Sponsored by the Transition Network Capital Area Chapter.

**Sunday, Nov. 10 6:30-8:30 PM Free Film “The Law in these Parts”** Arlington Central Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1015 N. Quincy St. Film explains Israel’s military legal structure governing Palestinians in occupied territories. Co-Sponsored by Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Contact 240-425-7581 or [jvpdcmetoro@gmail.com](mailto:jvpdcmetoro@gmail.com) or [www.JewishVoiceforPeace.org/DCMetro](http://www.JewishVoiceforPeace.org/DCMetro)

**Tuesday, Nov. 26 Noon to 1:30 CWI Holiday Meeting** featuring Kate Campbell Stevenson as she demonstrates and discusses her portrayal of Famous Women. This will be a potluck lunch. Alliance for Justice 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 11 Dupont Circle, NW. See [www.womensclearinghouse.org](http://www.womensclearinghouse.org) for emerging details.

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

*Photos: D. Anne Martin, Newsletter organized by Sue Klein*

### **CWI Board of Directors, July 2013 – June 2014**

**OFFICERS:** Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill; VP Program, Carolyn A. Cook; Co-VPs Membership, Kathryn Braeman and Linda Fihelly; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary, D. Anne Martin

**DIRECTORS:** Kellye McIntosh, Janice Koch, Elaine Newman, Carmen Delgado Votaw

**DIRECTORS EMERITAE:** Ruth G. Nadel & Ellen Overton **EX OFFICIO:** Barbara J. Ratner

Copyright © 2013 Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues (CWI). All rights reserved.



## Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Membership Form

---

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

CWI  
c/o Holly Taggart Joseph (Treasurer)  
8504 Rosewood Drive  
Bethesda MD 20814

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE (if organization\*) \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
WEBSITE \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for CWI membership for September 2013 – June 2014.

\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$25.00)  
\_\_\_\_ Individual under 30 years old (\$15.00)  
\_\_\_\_ Organization (\$40/one year or \$100/three years)  
\_\_\_\_ Virtual-\$20 (Email newsletter only for members outside Washington, DC area)  
\_\_\_\_ Additional tax deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$\_\_\_\_\_

\*If organizational member indicate if you would like your organization to be listed as a supporting member on CWI's website along with a link to the website. (Listing subject to CWI approval)

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

[www.womensclearinghouse.org](http://www.womensclearinghouse.org)



## Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

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

NOVEMBER 2013

[www.womensclearinghouse.org](http://www.womensclearinghouse.org)

### A Pre-Thanksgiving Celebration: Trailblazing Women Past and Present

Nationally recognized singer-actor, and women's activist, **Kate Campbell Stevenson**, will demonstrate and discuss dynamic women role models from history. Come and experience compelling women's contributions to American life as they inspire future generations.

Since this CWI holiday meeting will include **lunch**, if you plan to come, please **RSVP to [President@WomensClearinghouse.org](mailto:President@WomensClearinghouse.org)**. Let us know if you will bring a "pot luck" dish.

**Kate Campbell Stevenson** combines over 30 years of professional experience in music, theater, and education to create *Women: Back to the Future*, a series of one-woman shows. This CWI meeting will focus on her education and feminist advocacy work. Kate will discuss how she selects characters with "can do" attitudes to portray, how her portrayals have impacted students ranging from elementary schools to senior citizens, and what she has learned about effective and ineffective strategies to engage different audiences.

We also plan to have a lively Q&A where you can ask Kate questions and members of the audience can share insights on how portrayals and other strategies can help us all learn and preserve our feminist history. For more information on **Kate** and her performances visit: [www.katecampbellstevenson.com](http://www.katecampbellstevenson.com).

### Pre-Thanksgiving pot luck lunch "Trailblazing Women, Past and Present"

**Date/Time: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 / 12 noon sharp to 1:30 pm**

Open to the public, no reservation necessary but helpful for this buffet meeting.

**Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

Close to Dupont Circle Metro Stations (Behind "Books a Million")

**Reminder: Please Pay your CWI Dues for the 2013-14 year. See last page.**

Next CWI Meeting: January 28, 2014 featuring Sheila Tobias on Women and STEM



**Dear CWI Members,**

Future CWI monthly meetings will continue at the Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 2nd floor. Our sincerest thanks to AFJ and to CWI Board Member Kellye McIntosh for arranging this lovely space for us.

We are looking forward to our November 26 meeting. As we initiate new formats for our meetings, focusing on new collaborations, encouraging leadership for all CWI members, increasing advocacy and action, we also focus on growing friendships among our members.

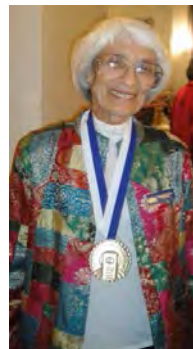
The November 26 meeting comes just before Thanksgiving. To celebrate, we will socialize and share some food. If you wish, but not necessary, bring a side dish or dessert for about 5 to 10 people. (Home-made or store-bought). Bring your own lunch, or just enjoy the buffet. The program will feature Kate Campbell Stevenson, an actor who interprets famous women. (See page 1.)

CWI members have been active in attending conferences, events and meetings on issues that are of concern to CWI.

The October highlight was the induction of new members in the **National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY**. Anne Martin, Sue Klein, Holly Joseph, Carmen DelgadoVotaw, and Kate Campbell Stevenson travelled to celebrate the induction of DC's Nancy Pelosi and Dr. Bernice (Bunny) Sandler, former CWI Board member and "Godmother" of Title IX. On October 12, 2013, we first visited the National Women's Hall of Fame where on the left Sue, Kate, and Carmen are next to the commemoration plaque for Bernice Sandler who is in the photo on the right at the evening gala wearing her medal.

The weather was beautiful and sunny and we walked a few blocks down the street to visit the Women's Rights National Historical Park. In the photo on the left Sue and Carmen are in front of the two National Park buildings which were closed because of the federal government shut down. We then drove to the tea and Induction Ceremony which thankfully had not been scheduled to be on federal property. Many of us sat at the table with Bunny and her family, next to Nancy Pelosi's table. Below are some photos of the celebration! Left to right: Carmen Delgado Votaw, Nancy Pelosi, Anne Martin and Holly Joseph followed by the congressional delegation that came to help Nancy Pelosi and all the honorees celebrate. (More information including a video of the induction ceremony and speeches by the inductees are on the Hall of Fame website: [www.greatwomen.org](http://www.greatwomen.org)).

On October 29 CWI Board members Harriett Stonehill, Carmen Delgado Votaw, and Kat Braeman attended The Transition Network (TTN) Capital Area Chapter event "Latinas in Transition, Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future". Carmen was a speaker. CWI welcomes TTN as a new member.



CWI will begin the 40th Anniversary Celebration Year January, 2014. Kellye McIntosh and Harriett Stonehill welcome, and indeed need, additional members to help design and implement celebratory events and activities. All ideas are welcome. Other noteworthy activities include CWI sign-on letter for DC residents to ask the DC Council to hold hearings and pass the Title IX Athletic Equity Act of 2013. Kudos to Kat Braeman who spearheaded the Sept. CWI meeting on "Title IX Enforcement Challenges for High School Athletics" that encouraged this action.

Cordially, Harriett Stonehill and Sue Klein, CWI Co-Presidents.



The October 22, 2013 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues meeting brought together feminist voices from varied backgrounds to discuss the condition of reproductive health, rights, and justice in 2013. The meeting focused on attacks on access to abortion that have come to define the post-Roe era.

The Alliance for Justice's new documentary, ***Roe at Risk: Fighting for Reproductive Justice was screened.*** Narrated by Emmy nominee **Amy Brenneman**, the film documents the disturbing reality that 40 years after *Roe v. Wade*, women across the country are seeing that their reproductive rights are being denied through increasingly radical state laws. The film tells this story through the prism of women's day-to-day struggles in Mississippi and Texas, two states facing the dramatic and wrenching consequences of radical anti-abortion legislation. This 15 minute film highlights ways women and their allies are fighting back and standing up for their constitutional rights. It may be viewed at [www.RoeAtRisk.org](http://www.RoeAtRisk.org).

A panel discussion followed featuring **Amy Friedrich-Karnik**, Federal Policy Advisor for the **Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR)**, **Kimberly Inez McGuire**, Associate Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs for the **National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH)**, and **Michelle Schwartz**, Director of Justice Programs at **Alliance for Justice (AFJ)**.

**Kimberly Inez McGuire** began her presentation by noting that a women's constitutional right to safe and legal abortion came under attack soon after passage of *Roe v. Wade* in the form of the Hyde Amendment. Named

for the policy's sponsor, former Congressman Henry Hyde (R-IL), the Hyde Amendment is a legislative provision, passed each year, that withholds coverage for abortion services for Medicaid-eligible women. This provision disproportionately impacts low income women and women of color—as we were reminded through the story of Rosie Jimenez



of McAllen, Texas. A Latina single mother with a 5-year-old daughter, Rosie was a scholarship student six months away from her teaching credential. Rosie was the first known victim of the Hyde Amendment. Too poor to pay for the procedure at a private clinic, she died in agony from a botched illegal abortion. Because of women like Rosie, NLIRH works for reproductive justice, a movement and conceptual framework that links reproductive and human rights with social justice, recognizing intersectional oppression and centering the voices and experiences of people of color and low income. Reproductive justice provides a framework that focuses on social, political, and economic power differentials among different communities that contribute to infringements of reproductive justice.

Women of color are more likely to experience unintended pregnancies and have less access to abortion than white women. Low income women and women of color often live in communities that lack proper sex education and are more likely to receive their health care from Medicaid or another public source. Barriers to accessing safe, legal, and affordable abortion include lack of adequate health care facilities and providers. Economic barriers include access to affordable childcare and transportation, lack of sick leave or time off from work and the cost of abortion procedures that make abortion cost prohibitive for many women. For women receiving health insurance from a public source, including military service members and dependents, Peace Corps volunteers, federal employees, and Native American women, coverage of abortion services is denied, leaving women few choices but to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars out of pocket. Many women are forced to carry a pregnancy to term against their will.

Although reproductive rights are presently under attack, there is renewed energy to fight back. Effective messages to counter conservative talking points include that activists reframe the discussion about "*tax payer funded*" abortions to a conversation highlighting the fact that "*women need comprehensive healthcare coverage*". Most people agree that, "*the amount of money a woman has or doesn't have, should not prohibit her from*

*having comprehensive healthcare coverage.”* By highlighting our shared values of fair treatment, health and safety, and freedom from political interference, advocates have been more successful in organizing and connecting with communities.

Currently, there is exciting momentum to restore insurance coverage for abortion through the "All Above All" campaign. "All Above All" presents a bold, brave, united vision for ensuring that all women can make their own decisions about abortion, regardless of their income or zip code. This diverse coalition includes the National Network of Abortion Funds, the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, Choice USA, National Abortion Federation, National Council of Jewish Women, National Women's Health Network, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, and others and has hosted a variety of grassroots educational and outreach activities. In November, the campaign is bringing 125 leaders from across the country to Washington, DC to educate policymakers about the harms of the Hyde amendment. For more information about the "All Above All" campaign visit, [www.AllAboveAll.org](http://www.AllAboveAll.org).



**Amy Friedrich-Karnik** began her presentation with an overview of legislation recently signed in to law in Texas which:

- **BANS abortion at 20 weeks**, with limited exceptions only if a woman's life or long-term health is at risk or there is a medically futile pregnancy.
- **REQUIRES clinics to meet structural standards** beyond what is necessary to ensure patient safety. (TRAP - Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers)
- **REQUIRES that abortion providers have admitting privileges at local hospitals**, a medically unnecessary requirement that forces providers to apply for privileges at hospitals to which they will rarely admit a patient.
- **REQUIRES a woman to visit a clinic for both doses of medication abortion**, an outdated protocol that has been surpassed by one that is just as effective and requires fewer visits to the provider.

- **BANS the use of telemedicine to provide medication abortion**, reducing access to affordable and safe nonsurgical abortion services.
- **REQUIRES providers who perform medication abortion procedures to be licensed physicians**, despite recommendations from the World Health Organization that other highly qualified health care providers can safely provide medication abortion.

In addition, existing law in Texas:

- **REQUIRES that a woman receive state-directed counseling** that includes information designed to discourage her from having an abortion and **then wait 24 hours** before the procedure is provided, thereby necessitating two separate trips.
- **REQUIRES that a woman undergo an ultrasound 24 hours before obtaining an abortion**, even when medically unnecessary; the provider must show and describe the image to the woman, whether or not she wants to receive this information.

The Center for Reproductive Rights, Planned Parenthood and ACLU are preparing a lawsuit representing more than a dozen Texas health care providers and their patients (Planned Parenthood v. Abbot) challenging several provisions of the law. This is not an uncommon situation. There are increasing new regulations on abortions and requirements on abortion providers in states across the US in recent years such as Wisconsin and Ohio.

- 13 states require the clinician providing a **medication abortion** be physically present during the procedure, thereby prohibiting the use of telemedicine to prescribe medication for abortion.
- **State-Mandated Counseling:** 35 states require that women receive counseling before an abortion is performed. Seventeen states mandate that women be given counseling before an abortion that includes information on at least one of the following: the purported link between abortion and breast cancer (5 states), the supposed ability of a fetus to feel pain (12 states) or long-term mental health consequences for the woman (8 states). Five states require that the woman be told that personhood begins at conception.
- **Waiting Periods:** 26 states require a woman seeking an abortion to wait a specified period of time, usually 24 hours, between when she receives counseling and the procedure is performed. Nine of these states have laws that effectively require the

woman to make two separate trips to the clinic to obtain the procedure.

- **Mandatory Ultrasounds:** 3 states mandate that an abortion provider perform an ultrasound on each woman seeking an abortion and require the provider to show and describe the image.
- **Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers:** 28 states have laws or policies that regulate abortion providers and go beyond what is necessary to ensure patients' safety; all apply to clinics that perform surgical abortion. Twenty-six states require facilities where abortion services are provided to meet standards intended for ambulatory surgical centers. Fifteen states place unnecessary requirements on clinicians that perform abortions such as admitting privileges.
- Many of these provisions disproportionately impact women of color, low-income women and women in rural or other medically underserved areas. They also effect women who may not live near a big hospital but rely on a small clinic for their health care or on telemedicine to get the medication they need, including medication abortion.
- 4 in 10 women getting an abortion live below the poverty line.
- Four states – Mississippi, North Dakota, South Dakota and Arkansas each only have one remaining clinic providing surgical abortion in the entire state.

The Center for Reproductive Rights is involved in litigation to push back against attacks on women's reproductive rights. CRR currently has **16 active non-amicus cases currently pending (counting Texas) in 11 different states**. They include (but aren't limited to) challenges to (i) abortion bans; (ii) admitting privileges requirements; (iii) medication abortion restrictions; (iv) coercive ultrasound laws; and (v) restrictions on access to emergency contraception. These include:

- CRR has a case in Kansas challenging a law that expands the biased counseling requirement, eliminates medical emergency exceptions for abortions and imposes numerous tax penalties on abortion providers and patients.
- CRR has won a permanent injunction in Arizona against a law that bans abortions at 20 weeks. The state has petitioned the Supreme Court to hear the case.
- CRR has a suit in North Dakota against a law that bans abortions as early as six weeks.

Over a year ago CRR launched a **"Draw the Line"**

**campaign.** It involves both a public education campaign and advocacy on the Hill. The message is that women's access to their constitutionally protected right to abortion should not depend on the state in which they live. Too many women have seen their reproductive rights chipped away, year after year, putting their health and safety at risk. This campaign says "Enough is Enough!" It's time to "Draw the Line". People present at the meeting signed on to the Bill of Reproductive Rights. For more information on the campaign, visit [www.DrawTheLine.org](http://www.DrawTheLine.org). Nancy Northup, President of Center for Reproductive Rights met with Members of Congress to draw attention to these issues and to ask for a federal fix. Congress needs to step in and protect women's rights.

**Michelle Schwartz** spoke about the fundamental



role of the courts in shaping women's reproductive rights. She noted the current ideological divisions on the Supreme Court regarding issues such as abortion and contraceptive access tend to leave Justice Anthony Kennedy as

the swing vote. She also introduced a number of cases that are working their way up through the lower courts and a few cases that have already been granted cert by the Supreme Court, which depending on the decisions could profoundly impact women's reproductive rights.

The Court has granted review in the case, *McCullen v. Coakley*, which originated in Massachusetts and challenges the precedent set in *Hill v. Colorado (2000)* which allows for a buffer zone to surround an abortion clinic. The case is about more than just the establishment of a buffer zone. The case sheds light on one of the many ways women's access to abortion can be impeded. The outlook for this decision is ominous as Justice Kennedy penned a scathing dissent in *Hill* asserting that "*Casey {Planned Parenthood v Casey (1992)}* protected the state's interest in preserving fetal life" and "abortion is a moral decision that should be left to public debate." This case remains one to watch since Justice Kennedy doesn't typically like to overrule precedent, but this case and its distinctions

from *Hill* would easily allow him to do so. This case is also further complicated because groups that traditionally support access to abortion, like the ACLU and AFL-CIO, also support free speech with regards to public protests.

*Cline v. Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice* addresses regulation of medication abortions. The Supreme Court reviewed the case but sent it back to the Oklahoma Supreme Court to clarify the exact restrictions that were in place. (If the Court agreed to hear the case it would have been the first time the Court looked at medication abortions.) [Update: On October 31, the Oklahoma Supreme Court provided clarification on the 2011 state abortion law. Soon after, the Supreme Court dismissed this case as “improvidently granted” This will leave in place the lower court decision allowing doctors to continue to administer medical abortions free of restrictions.]

Access to contraceptives is a key component of reproductive freedom. However, with the passage of the Affordable Care Act and the requirement that employers provide contraceptive coverage, some private, for-profit corporations are objecting to the measure on religious grounds. The cases being

considered for review, including the Department of Justice's appeal of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling in a case filed by retail chain *Hobby Lobby*. This case focuses on the question of whether a for-profit company can exercise religious rights. In particular, the decision in *Hobby Lobby* that was in favor of the objecting corporations is likely to reach the Supreme Court as both parties have sought cert.

The speaker urged everyone to take a critical look at who is being nominated for lower federal judgeships, particularly the nominees to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. These judges will likely continue to play a key role in the fight for reproductive freedom. Nina Pillard, a nominee to the DC Circuit has been criticized by right-wing media and Republican senators for her writings on abortion, sex education, and contraception. Pillard has also been attacked because she, like Ruth Bader Ginsburg, believes that in addition to privacy based abortion rights, there is a compelling equal protection argument.

## Coming Events

Note: CWI member organizations are especially encouraged to send us events for future newsletters.

**Sunday, January 26, 2014 Women's Legislative Briefing** Montgomery County Commission for Women. Universities at Shady Grove. Check <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/> for details, co-sponsorship and registration.

**Tuesday, January 28, 2014. Noon to 1:30 CWI Meeting** featuring Sheila Tobias on Women and STEM: The Professional Science Masters –changing lives and careers. Alliance for Justice 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 11 Dupont Circle, NW.

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

*Photos: D. Anne Martin, Sue Klein, Carmen Delgado Votaw. Newsletter organized by Sue Klein*

### CWI Board of Directors, July 2013 – June 2014

**OFFICERS:** Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill; VP Program, Carolyn A. Cook; Co-VPs Membership, Kathryn Braeman and Linda Fihelly; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary, D. Anne Martin

**DIRECTORS:** Kellye McIntosh, Janice Koch, Elaine Newman, Carmen Delgado Votaw

**DIRECTORS EMERITAE:** Ruth G. Nadel and Ellen Overton **EX OFFICIO:** Barbara J. Ratner



## Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Membership Form

---

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

CWI  
c/o Holly Taggart Joseph (Treasurer)  
8504 Rosewood Drive  
Bethesda MD 20814

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE (if organization\*) \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
WEBSITE \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for CWI membership for September 2013 – June 2014.

\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$25.00)  
\_\_\_\_ Individual under 30 years old (\$15.00)  
\_\_\_\_ Organization (\$40/one year or \$100/three years)  
\_\_\_\_ Virtual-\$20 (Email newsletter only for members outside Washington, DC area)  
\_\_\_\_ Additional tax deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$\_\_\_\_\_

\*If organizational member indicate if you would like your organization to be listed as a supporting member on CWI's website along with a link to the website. (Listing subject to CWI approval)

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

[www.womensclearinghouse.org](http://www.womensclearinghouse.org)