



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

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

January 2015 Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

*January Bring a Friend Invitation:
Each member is to bring a friend to this January 27, 2015 meeting.*

Celebrating Advances in LGBTQ Rights! **Barbara Helmick, Chris Riddiough and Patrick Paschall**

Advocates for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer (LGBTQ) rights will outline strategies that led to advances in same sex marriage and share insights on critical steps that remain to ensure further progress. These LGBTQ leaders will share their expertise:

*** **Barbara Helmick** created Women's Resources in the 1970s to raise grassroots support and money for the Equal Rights Amendment. She then built the CLEC Canvass Network that raised \$60 million for progressive organizations. When her home state of Iowa legalized same-gender marriage in 2009, Barbara proposed to her long-time partner and they married! Barbara and her spouse then became spokespeople for the DC movement to legalize same gender marriage and gave testimony to the City Council. Today, Barbara is the field director of Base Builders and develops grassroots programs for progressive organizations.

*** **Chris Riddiough** has been active in the women's movement and the LGBTQ movement since the 1970s, first in Chicago where she was a leader in the Chicago Women's Liberation Union and the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force. She was the first woman president of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club and chair of the Domestic Partner Coalition. She has worked for the National Organization for Women as director of Lesbian Rights and for the Gay and Lesbian Democrats of America. She writes for the Democratic Left blog and is a principal technical training consultant for the SAS Institute.

*** **Patrick Paschall**, Senior Policy Counsel at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, is an advocate for civil rights at the national and local levels. He advocates for policy change in federal administrative agencies and at the White House on issues that impact the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. As a Hyattsville City Council member, he introduced and ultimately helped to pass the first non-discrimination law in Hyattsville in 2013. The Hyattsville Human Rights Act includes transgender-inclusive non-discrimination protections. He works tirelessly to eliminate cultural and structural barriers that marginalized populations face in today's world.

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 27, 2015/ 12 noon sharp to 1:30 PM

Meeting is free and open to the public. Bring a bag lunch. For further details contact: Kathryn Braeman at Katbraeman@gmail.com

Location: Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC (2nd Floor)

Close to Dupont Circle Metro Station (Entrance on New Hampshire Ave. behind "Books a Million")

(Note: we will hold the CWI meetings as scheduled unless the Federal Government calls a snow holiday.)

Next CWI Meeting: Gender Lens Investing & Giving: Using the Power of the Purse
Tuesday February 24, 2015, Noon – Contact: KatBraeman@gmail.com

Dear Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Members,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! May it be a year of good health, happiness and fulfillment of your endeavors.

A new year is always filled with hope. We each make grand new personal resolutions that we truly want to keep. And we make resolutions to work toward making this planet a better place for future generations.

CWI has always focused on giving its members information on the significant issues that are in the forefront, so that we, as individuals, can make intelligent choices of deciding as to which issues we will give our voice and energy. Unfortunately, many of these issues that were of highest priority 40 years ago are still on our agenda to be solved or keep energizing and new concerns and opportunities have emerged as discussed in the summary of our Nov. 25, 2014 meeting on ***Are Religions Helping Increase Gender Equity?***

Many dormant issues that we did not recognize in the past need to be addressed now. Indeed, it is our obligation to not only recognize the issue, but become intelligently informed on the issue, and follow up as an advocate. These issues impact on all ages.

Our informational meetings and the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers provide an opportunity for additional resources and organizational connections. We then can join with others who are advocating on a particular issue and concern. Please see the last page of this newsletter and remember to support our all-volunteer efforts by becoming an individual or organizational CWI member.

We want you to know more about our CWI Board of Directors. This month we are sharing information on our VP for External Affairs **Kellye McIntosh**. Kellye's Organization, the Alliance for Justice, is also the wonderful host for most of our CWI meetings. To learn more about their programs visit www.afj.org



Kellye McIntosh is the Associate Outreach Director at Alliance for Justice (AFJ). Before joining AFJ, Kellye was National Field Director for OWL: The Voice of Midlife and Older Women and United States Student Association (USSA). Kellye has also served as a Program Manager for Children's Defense Fund and Feminist Majority Foundation. She was Deputy Field Director for Senator Carl Levin's (D-MI) successful re-election campaign in '96. (B.A. Michigan State University. M.A. Johns Hopkins University.)

It is our hope for 2015 that the CWI meetings and information lead to

individual actions. Please share with CWI as your advocacy energy proceeds. Happy 2015!

All our best for 2015!

Harriett Stonehill, Co-President and Sue Klein, Co-President

CWI Program Summary – November 25, 2014

Are Religions Helping Increase Gender Equity?

The meeting on this topic was organized by **Carmen Delgado Votaw**, CWI Vice President, Global Affairs and she kicked off the discussion with short introductory remarks.

CWI's November speakers were three representatives of major faith institutions. The **Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope** serves as the Vicar of Washington Episcopal National Cathedral, **Rabbi Hannah Goldstein** has been the Assistant Rabbi at Temple Sinai in DC since August 2013, and **Donna Hakimian** is a representative for Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women, from the Baha'is of the U.S. Each woman spoke about how her religion has influenced gender equality in the past and present.

According to an article published by The Pew Charitable Trust's Forum on Religion and Public Life, "Public Sees Religion's Influence Waning," the number of Americans who do not identify with any religion is at the highest point ever it has ever been. One fifth of the U.S. public and a third of adults under 30 do not affiliate with any religion. However, the 206 religious groups that advocate on Capitol Hill prove that religion is still very much an active part of public life.

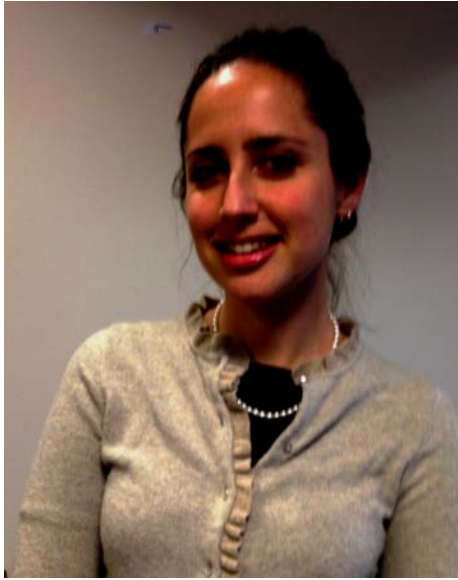
Canon Jan Naylor Cope discussed gender dynamics in the Episcopal Church, as well as its role in increasing gender equity. The Episcopal Church, known more commonly as the Anglican Church in Europe, has branches in 165 countries. The Church has ordained women for that last 40 years (about the same span of time as Judaism) and there are currently 2,071 (37%) ordained women in the Church worldwide. However, 66% of employed clergy in the U.S. Episcopal Church are men and female clergy members make \$1,000-\$7,000 less per year than their male clergy counterparts. There is one female Episcopalian bishop in DC and women make up only 3% of the Church's bishops in the U.S. Worldwide; there is only one female archbishop. There are still some areas in the world, such as remote areas of Africa, that do not ordain Anglican women. Canon Cope recounted one experience in which young girls in an African village she was visiting were surprised and confused to see a female priest. Despite these gender discrepancies that still exist in the Church, the growing number of female clergy members is encouraging and demonstrates that the Episcopal Church is making steps toward gender equity.



Canon Cope then discussed the Episcopalian congregation in the DC district, which only formalized 7 years ago but has recently experienced an uptick in membership, particularly among young adults. Some of the new female members have acted as leaders in the church community, helping to successfully coordinate events such as the Thanksgiving basket drive. Canon Cope noted the need to utilize these types of service opportunities to empower young women leaders. She emphasized that women should not only model leadership behavior, but should also mentor other young women and inspire them to have the self-confidence to step up and take risks. Mentoring is a process that involves grooming future leaders through informal networks and identifying other women who can contribute to the clergy. It is becoming more common and expected; the percentage of women mentored is similar. Canon Cope concluded her thoughts by stating that the Episcopalian church and other religions have made progress, but that everyone has a responsibility to continue to work to make more progress towards achieving equality for women in religion.

Next, **Rabbi Hannah Goldstein** spoke about the changing role of women in Reform Judaism. She opened her remarks by stating that her ordination as a rabbi was the product of many other women's hard work fighting for women to be able to be rabbis and participate more fully in the Jewish faith. She stated that the incorporation of women in religion was part of a larger movement of women being incorporated more into society due to a societal movement toward gender equality. In Reform Judaism, women are empowered in all aspects of

worship and practice, which is not true for all types of Judaism throughout the world. While liberal forms of Judaism tend to change with the times without having to act in accordance with all of Jewish tradition, Orthodox Judaism has not been as open to change, particularly as to increasing the inclusion of women in religion. Orthodox Jews work within a strict legal framework in which they must justify the ordination of women within the Jewish tradition and written documents. Even in Reform Judaism, it was not until 1974, over 100 years after the first Jewish woman was ordained in Germany in 1935, that the second female rabbi was ordained. Rabbi Goldstein noted that although there is still some opposition to the ordination of female rabbis, the movement toward equality for women in Judaism gained a lot of momentum when the religion began ordaining women. For example, her class had more women than men when she graduated. This was quite different when her father became a rabbi.



Next, Rabbi Goldstein detailed a case study of a female rabbi named Mindy Portnoy who serves in Washington, D.C. Rabbi Portnoy is the Rabbi Emeritus at Temple Sinai, which she joined as clergy in 1986. When she was ordained in 1980, there was only one other female rabbi in DC. She has been open about her experience as a pioneer in Judaism since she had no female rabbi mentors to look to as precedent and since she frequently faced questions and confusion when she traveled to new places from people who never met a female rabbi before. Especially in her early years as a rabbi, she shouldered the burden of being seen as representing all female rabbis since the practice of ordaining women in Judaism was still very new. Rabbi Goldstein compared her own experience as a rabbi to that of Rabbi Portnoy stating that she did not feel as though she was seen as representing all female rabbis.

Lastly, Rabbi Goldstein discussed how the social justice component of Judaism has been affected by the increasing presence of female leaders. She noted that, because there are more women in leadership positions

in Jewish organizations, the issues that Jewish organizations are working for have become more influenced by the needs of women. The Jewish Action Center helped write the Civil Rights Act and has done work in the secular political world to enact change for women through a Jewish framework. The “We Believe Campaign” works to stop violence against women and girls and LGBTQ people and to end child marriage. She closed her remarks by expressing her belief that these actions have had ramifications beyond the Jewish world by influencing the movement toward gender equality in all aspects of religious and secular life.

The third and final speaker for the meeting, **Donna Hakimian**, is a representative for gender equality and advancement of women from the Baha’is of the US. She expressed gratitude for the women’s rights movement and described her own experience as a Baha’i. She was born in Iran to a Baha’i family, but her family fled Iran when Donna was two years old because of religious persecution. Women in Iran have endured and continue to endure torture and death for refusing to renounce their Baha’i faith, a topic Donna extensively studied in her graduate research.



Donna then explained the basic tenets and history of the Baha’i faith. The Baha’i faith originated in Iran in the mid-19th century and is the youngest of the world’s independent religions. It differs from some other major world religions in that it has no clergy, but instead locally, nationally, and internationally elected governing bodies. Some of the faith’s primary goals include unification of humanity; collective justice and peace; and the equality of women and men. A belief of the faith is that peace is not possible until the equality of women is universally accepted and becomes a reality because, as Donna quoted the Baha’i Writings, “Women and men have been and will always be equal in the sight of God.”

Donna discussed the stories of the important women in the history of the

Baha'i faith: Tahirih, Doctor Susan Moody, and Mona Mahmudnizhad. Tahirih, born in Persia in 1817, is known for breaking the law by publicly removing her veil in Iran in 1848. She was sentenced to death and strangled by her own veil in August of 1852 for her act of courage and defiance. Her final words were that her death could not "stop the emancipation of women." Her story is one that remains relevant today, as a woman was executed in Iran just last month. Doctor Susan Moody was an early American Baha'i who was born in Chicago in 1951 and became a physician later in life before traveling to Persia to establish some of the first gynecological clinics for women and girls there. She faced much persecution while there and an American soldier who was sent to protect her was killed and later buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Doctor Moody died in Iran while living with an Iranian family. Mona Mahmudnizhad was imprisoned and executed at age 17 for teaching a children's class in Iran. Like Tahirih, she lost her life in the pursuit of gender equality. The stories of these women demonstrate that religion can promote gender equity, but it is very dangerous in many parts of the world for women to pursue equality.

Donna concluded her remarks by stating that the US Baha'is Office of Public Affairs is currently working on a number of projects aimed at increasing gender equality and advancing the status of women. These initiatives include the Interfaith Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, preventing sexual assault, and engaging men and boys as allies and partners in gender equality (the 2nd MenEngage global symposium recently held in Delhi she attended).

The meeting finished with the three speakers answering questions from attendees. Rev. Cope was asked what the Episcopal Church is currently doing to advance social justice for women, and answered that the Church has an advocacy office on the Hill that works for social reform on a variety of issues, including women's rights issues. Donna Hakimian was asked about the current status of Baha'i women in Iran. She explained that Baha'i Iranian women are still under persecution there and that of the 110 Baha'is currently imprisoned in Iran, a little less than half are women. Lastly, Rabbi Goldstein was asked to explain the current state of women in Orthodox Judaism and the rate at which membership is growing in both Orthodox and Reform Judaism. She stated that the changing role of women in religion is still a very male-driven process in Orthodox Judaism, but that more and more women are coming forward to take an active role in empowering women to be a part of the process of change. The Rabbinical Council of America has begun appointing women to the council to discuss conversion on an international and national level. Furthermore, more Jewish women are entering the workforce to support their families while their husbands study to become members of the clergy. With respect to growth rates in the Jewish religion, Rabbi Goldstein noted that a PEW research study that came out last year found that the Orthodox Jewish community is growing rapidly because its members produce so many children, while Reform Judaism is growing more slowly since its members typically have fewer children.

Here are the links for the home organizations of this month's three speakers:

Rev. Canon Jan Cope: <http://www.nationalcathedral.org/>

Rabbi Hannah Goldstein: <http://www.templeinaidc.org/>

Donna Hakimian: <http://publicaffairs.bahai.us/>

The following documents from the Pew Charitable Trust Research Center's Religion & Public Life Project, were distributed to attendees:

Public Sees Religion's Influence Waning:

U.S. Religious Landscape Survey: Religious Affiliations: <http://pewforum.org/2008/02/01/u-s-religious-landscape-survey-religious-affiliation/>

Religious Groups' Official Positions on Abortion

Boorstein, Michelle, "Women, Religion, Submission-Feminism": Washington Post, October 4, 2014, p. B2.

A video of the program is posted in the CWI website, under programs:

<http://www.womensclearinghouse.org/programs/> It is also aired on the *Top of the Morning Show* the following month of the tapings. *Top of the Morning* is on Channel 75 Baltimore City Public Access Television and channel 99 Anne Arundel Public Access Television on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12-2pm. It is also permanently on the HBCTV youtube channel. For copies contact Loretto Gubernatis mcdonagh_davis@msn.com

Coming DC Area Events

In addition to the events below, check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE or FOLLOW us. Members, be sure to share your women's advocacy news and upcoming women's events on CWI's Facebook page as we are always happy to help promote the great and important work you do! CWI member organizations are especially encouraged to send events for future newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org

Tuesday, January 20, 2015, Out of Silence: Abortion Stories from the 1 in 3 Campaign, Reception 5:30, Show 7 PM followed by a panel with Q&A, Studio Theater, 1501 14th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005, sponsored by Advocates for Youth, RSVP <http://www.1in3campaign.org/outofsilence> .

Sunday, January 25, 2015, Maryland Women's Legislative Briefing, 11:30 AM to 6 PM. Universities at Shady Grove Campus, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Building II, Rockville, MD 20850. Register online at <https://wlb2015.eventbrite.com> or contact Sharon Morris, Montgomery County Commission for Women, [\(240\) 777-8302](tel:2407778302).

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 CWI Meeting: (See Newsletter Page 1)

Tuesday, February 24, 2015, Noon to 1:30 PM, CWI Meeting. Gender Lens Investing & Giving: Using the Power of the Purse, the Woman's National Democratic Club, Contact: KatBraeman@gmail.com

Saturday, March 21- Monday March 23, 2015, Feminist Majority Foundation, National Young Feminist Leadership Conference, Double Tree Crystal City hotel, Arlington, VA. For information and registration see: <http://feministcampus.org/conferences/2015-nyflc/>

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

Photos: Sue Klein. Meeting summary, Jennifer Taylor, Alliance for Justice Intern.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2014 – JUNE 2015

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill; VP Membership, Linda Fihelly; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary, D. Anne Martin; VP External Affairs, Kellye McIntosh, VP Legislation, Roberta Stanley, VP Outreach, Kate Campbell Stevenson; VP Global Issues, Carmen Delgado Votaw

DIRECTORS: Kathryn Braeman, Tina Hobson

DIRECTORS EMERITAE: Ruth G. Nadel, Elaine Newman, and Ellen S. Overton

EX OFFICIO: Barbara J. Ratner

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Membership Form

www.womensclearinghouse.org

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

Holly Taggart Joseph, CWI Treasurer
8504 Rosewood Drive
Bethesda MD 20814-1434

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

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

Enclosed is a check for CWI membership for January 2015 – August 2015.

____ 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 a link to your organization to be listed as a supporting member on CWI's website. (Listing subject to CWI approval)
Circle One: ____YES ____NO (If Yes, provide url link.)

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



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February 2015 Newsletter

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues, The Transition Network, and the Woman's National Democratic Club Invite You

Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 11:30 am for Luncheon Meeting at the Woman's National Democratic Club on

The Power of the Purse: Gender Lens Investing and Giving

Think of a gender lens as putting on spectacles to help investors gain new insights and perspectives about women: to highlight inequalities, to uncover new opportunities, and to identify impediments. Women need to close the gap: only 7% of all philanthropic dollars are invested in programs for girls and women.

Featured Speakers



Dr. Lisette Garcia, Director, Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR) Research Institute which she joined in 2012 to develop the organization into a key source on Hispanic inclusion in corporate America.



René Redwood.

René Redwood, CEO of Redwood Enterprise, LLC, one of the nation's foremost diversity experts and advocates, has a record of success as a trainer, senior counsel, an innovator, a mentor, and a master facilitator.

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 11:30 AM (Bar Opens) to 2:00 PM

Location: Woman's National Democratic Club, (Whittemore House) 1526 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036 (Close to Dupont Circle Metro Station)

For more information contact CWI Board member, Kat Braeman at [202/549-3696](tel:2025493696), katbraeman@gmail.com

RSVP https://salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5880/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=424716 or contact pfitzgerald@democraticwoman.org, 202-232-7363. Luncheon is \$20 for members of CWI, TTN, and WNDC and \$30 for non-members. Attendance without lunch is \$10. Contact Holly Joseph joseph.holly@gmail.com for CWI membership.

At the January 27, 2015 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues meeting, we included a celebration of Ellen Overton's 90th birthday with a beautiful cake and a loving tribute to her. This is the toast that was given:

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY ELLEN by Harriett Stonehill, CWI Co-President

*1925 was a special year. So blow your horn!
'Cause that's when baby Ellen was born!
Let's celebrate, and let's have fun,
For Ellen is really special – A most terrific one!*

*With her dear friends and family gathered here,
All knowing and nodding, "She's so great, so dear."
Ellen is always there, giving support and caring,
And of course suggesting we become "more daring."*

*Ellen's always here as we celebrate together
Equal Pay and Voting Rights in good measure
Ellen's on top of every national and global item,
Fighting injustices and joining causes to "Right-em!"*

*So wise Ellen, caring Ellen, we treasure you,
And wish you well in all you do.
Stay strong, stay smart, enjoy and have fun,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU FROM EVERYONE !*

*So raise your glass, and Hip Hip Hooray
To special Ellen on her 90th Birthday!*

We all sang Happy Birthday to Ellen.

CWI offers its members information regarding a multitude of issues. Speaker presentations are followed by good discussion and questions on the topic. Beyond that there is always the opportunity for developing new friendships with like-minded persons. Members often meet outside of the meeting site to further discuss the topic as well as enhance growing friendships. Several CWI members have gone on trips together. Some members have pursued their special interests in theater and taken subscriptions together. Members have participated in advocating issues together. Each of us has helped another member personally when needed.

Our CWI Board Member, Carmen Delgado Votaw, stated in our brochure *"I joined the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues because I realized the importance of bonding with like-minded individuals who are committed to the advancement of women. I stay involved because of its purpose to be on the alert for topics, issues, and solutions to matters affecting women remains evergreen. And I enjoy the company of my cohorts."*

CWI, as an organization, offers the opportunity to learn about issues affecting women locally and globally, and the ability to advocate for the issue remains our mission. Our ability to develop new and interesting life-enhancing friendships remain an unwritten essential part of our mission. Let's keep both parts growing in 2015.



CWI Program Summary – January 27, 2015

Celebrating Advances in LGBTQ Rights!

CWI's January speakers were LGBTQ rights activists with rich personal histories in the equal rights movement beginning at the grassroots level. **Barbara Helmick (center in photo)** is currently the field director for Base Builders, developing grassroots programs for progressive organizations around the country. **Chris Riddiough** (left) writes for the Democratic Left blog and is a principal technical training consultant for the SAS Institute. **Patrick Paschall (right)** is senior policy counsel at the LGBTQ Task Force, formerly the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.



Barbara Helmick was in Chicago in the early 1970's, canvassing for an environmental organization, when she was approached by the National Women's Political Caucus to do door-to-door fundraising for the Equal Rights Amendment. This was a difficult task, as the ERA was seen as highly controversial at the time. Barbara created Women's Resources to continue to raise grassroots support for the ERA, and went on to build the CLEC Canvass Network that raised \$60 million for progressive organizations nationwide.

Barbara became involved with the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club in Washington. In the lesbian community, domestic partnership was seen as a means by which to acquire marital rights and became popular through stories of illness and the ability of partners to act as decision-makers. When Barbara's home state of Iowa legalized same-gender marriage in 2009, she returned with her longtime partner and they were the first same-gender couple to be married in the county. Barbara described the process of getting married with humor; in Iowa, you need to bring someone to the courthouse that will attest to your sanity. Applying for a marriage license was nerve-wracking for Barbara and her partner, who had no idea what kind of reaction they would receive from the newly elected head of the county clerk's

office. To their surprise, they were welcomed with excitement and joy and Barbara, who had previously seen her marriage as a political statement, found herself in the midst of wedding planning. She invited many people with the goal to expose them to a same-gender wedding, and even more people asked to come than she had invited. Looking back, Barbara acknowledged that at first she was skeptical of marriage, stating that she was the kind of feminist who didn't see it as necessary and only wanted the wedding for political reasons. She described the shift that occurred after marrying her spouse; a kind of closeness and acceptance into her family that Barbara didn't think would have happened if they hadn't gotten married.

Barbara's experience demonstrates how the personal and political really do go hand in hand. She concluded that the state of the movement for marriage equality has transformed from demanding that people simply acknowledge the existence of LGBTQ people, to a mere tolerance, to acceptance, and now finally to understanding that same-gender partners deserve and will receive the same rights as opposite-gender people.

Chris Riddiough has been a leader in the women's and LGBTQ movements since the 1970's, when she was involved in the Chicago Women's Liberation Union and the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Chris outlined the progress of the marriage equality movement as well as the hurdles that still need to be overcome for the LGBTQ community to enjoy full equality across the country.

Chris was first introduced to the idea of same-gender marriage in Chicago when two women applied for a marriage license. The media treated this as a joke, and the LGBTQ community, who at the time was focused on a bill in the Chicago city council to protect gay rights, feared that the move would hurt the bill and set back efforts. The feminist community as represented by the National Organization of Women was upset because they were focusing on the ERA, and then the lesbian feminist community became upset that feminists and gay men were attacking lesbians. The situation was further confused by the fact that one of the women was already married to a man.

Chris acknowledged how far the movement has come since then, from the 1980's shift in LGBTQ activism to focus on domestic partner and civil union laws to the legalization of same-gender marriage in Washington, DC in 2010. The recent Supreme Court decision to hear an appeal of a federal court move that struck down marriage equality in Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky is an example of the strides being made in marriage equality today. It is important to remember, though, that this does not mean the end of the equal rights movement. PBS recently ran a story on a gay couple planning their wedding in Colorado, in which a baker refused to supply a cake for the men on the grounds that gay marriage was against his religious beliefs. There are many, even in the LGBTQ community, who believe it is people's right to deny service based on their beliefs. However, if businesses were arguing against serving people based off of race or ethnic affiliation it would be a very different story. This is not an isolated incident; the *Washington Post* reported two women getting married in Oklahoma who faced discrimination similar to the men in Colorado, but with additional personal affronts. One of the women invited a coworker with whom the couple had spent time with before, but he refused to attend the wedding because of his religious beliefs. In this way, the move for marriage equality means confronting personal situations that legislation cannot fix.

Chris married her longtime partner on their 29th anniversary at the urging of their lawyer, who argued that it was the necessary move to protect them later in life. There are similar stories in the media of lesbian and gay couples who have been in relationships for years and decide to marry later in life. Unlike most opposite-gender couples, many same-gender couples do not have children to look after them in senior years. In this way marriage addresses issues of social security and end of life care. In retirement

communities, many older LGBTQ people feel the need to return to the closet since the generation of 65 and up is the least supportive of LGBTQ equality. Chris also spoke of the opposite end of the age spectrum, and the need for LGBTQ youth to continue to receive resources. Lack of parental support, homelessness and suicide persist as significant problems for this group. The recent suicide of transgender teen Leelah Alcorn has reignited a discussion on the significant lack of resources available to the vulnerable transgender youth community.

Chris closed her remarks by reminding us that issues facing the LGBTQ community must be put in a broader political context. With the Supreme Court nearly divided on the DOMA decision and some of the justices expected to leave the court in the next five years, the 2016 election will be pivotal for the future of the LGBTQ community. It is therefore vital to continue to strengthen grassroots activism and remember that changing beliefs and attitudes is as important as changing laws.

Patrick Paschall began with his story of becoming an ally and activist for the LGBTQ community. He grew up in Galveston, Texas, and when Patrick was 10 his uncle came out as gay. The situation forced his family to essentially either stop being conservative and accept his uncle, or to continue being conservative and not accept him. As Patrick's family considered the many rights denied to his uncle, they came to realize that conservative politics was not consistent with loving him. In just a few years Patrick's uncle was able to turn the long-time Republican voting family to consistently Democratic voters. Patrick went on to attend Texas A&M University, which at the time was one of the most conservative institutions in the country. His second month of school, the Young Conservatives of Texas staged a protest on National Coming Out Day. The University's LGBTQ resource center tabled in celebration and Patrick signed up for an ally training. As he walked away from the table he witnessed the conservative protests, where people drove around with blow horns and signs with anti-LGBTQ messages. Patrick confessed never feeling so angry over a political issue; he returned to the LGBTQ resource table and asked to get involved with programs on campus. Patrick spent four years working on LGBTQ campus advocacy and went on to attend Hofstra University School of Law. He was the first non-LGBTQ person to be awarded a spot in the LGBTQ rights fellowship program. He interned for the National Center for Transgender Equality, Lambda Legal, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, whose name was recently changed to the National LGBTQ Task Force to more accurately reflect the organization's work. Patrick now works on federal and local policy affecting the LGBTQ community.

In 2013 Patrick was elected to the city council in his home of Hyattsville, Maryland, where he wrote and assisted in passing the Hyattsville Human Rights Act, the city's first non-discrimination law. Hyattsville was also the first jurisdiction in Prince George's County and the second city in Maryland to have a transgender-inclusive non-discrimination law. Because of this work Patrick testified before the House of Delegates on the Fairness for All Marylanders Act, which passed in 2014 and is the statewide gender-identity non-discrimination law.

Patrick moved on to discuss his work at the National LGBTQ Task Force. The organization recognizes marriage as a vital right and symbol by which many measure equality between the LGBTQ community and non-LGBTQ people. Patrick qualified this statement by reminding the attendees that even in states where same-gender marriage is legal, people are still fired for identifying as LGBTQ; In 32 states one can get fired for being a transgender people. There is no law that bans discrimination based on gender or sexual identity. The only litigation surrounding this subject has been in the realm of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, where provisions have been made to include bans on segregation based on gender identity. The Task Force is focused on equality issues including criminal justice reform, as LGBTQ people, especially those of color, are so often targeted by police. One example is of transgender people, who are often stopped by police on suspicion of prostitution. Police often use condoms as evidence that one

intends to engage in prostitution and arrest people and hold them overnight. This contradicts public health efforts to combat the spread of HIV and other STD's by supplying members of the LGBTQ community with condoms to encourage safe sex. The Task Force also works on reproductive justice because it is so significant for the LGBTQ community. Artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization and other reproductive technologies are necessary for lesbian women to have children. Reproductive justice is also a transgender issue because much of healthcare is sex-segregated and it can be difficult to access care if one is coded as a man or a woman.

Patrick elaborated on religious exemptions, which Chris touched on earlier. The Task Force has been working for years to pass local and federal laws to provide public accommodations protections so that LGBTQ people cannot be denied access to restaurants or hotels or other public places based on gender or sexual identity. Religious exemptions are the latest means by which the conservative right is attempting to hinder the progress of the equal rights movement. The Task Force began the Transgender Civil Rights Project in 2001 to pass local laws exclusively protecting the rights of transgender people. Fifty percent of the U.S. population now lives in a place that is covered by public accommodations protections. Patrick concluded his remarks with the hope that the Supreme Court will rule that state-based marriage bans are a violation of equal rights laws. However, marriage is a cultural issue and the Task Force is concerned that many will think that LGBTQ equality has been "won" because marriage equality has been won. LGBTQ issues will persist in spite of marriage equality in areas such as criminal justice, reproductive justice, and voting rights. 25,000 transgender people were unable to vote in the last election because they did not have identification that accurately reflected their name and identity. Patrick views marriage equality in the context of these issues and also on a personal level; he recently performed his uncle's marriage and was honored to sign the papers on the steps of the Supreme Court.

[The meeting finished with the speakers further discussing issues with attendees.](#) In an interesting turn of events, the Mormon Church held a press conference during this meeting in which it pledged support of LGBTQ anti-discrimination laws, with one exception: the Church would like respect for religious exemptions in return. Patrick comments on this development, noting that the debate will now be on what defines religious rights and to what extent the Mormon Church will seek religious exemptions.

The discussion then turned to global marriage equality. In many parts of Europe, there is not necessarily marriage but countries do provide domestic partnerships that from a legal perspective are identical to marital rights. However the opposition is that using a different title for these rights is stigmatizing. One of the best places for transgender people is Thailand, which has laws protecting transgender rights but not gay, lesbian, or bisexual people. Additionally, Argentina recently passed a national gender identity non-discrimination law. There are many organizations that focus on global LGBTQ rights, but their attention is mainly on countries like Uganda, which have the most severe anti-LGBTQ laws in the world.

Recent and Up-Coming DC Area Events

In addition to the events below, check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter [www.twitter.com/CWInews](https://twitter.com/CWInews) pages! LIKE or FOLLOW us. Members, be sure to share your women's advocacy news and upcoming women's events on CWI's Facebook page as we are always happy to help promote the great and important work you do! CWI member organizations are especially encouraged to send events for future newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org

CWI Vice President for Outreach, Kate Campbell Stevenson, receives Women's Rights Award.

On January 17, 2015 Kate Campbell Stevenson received the Dorothy Lloyd Women's Right's Award from the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) Women's Concerns Committee in recognition for her Women's History Programs and equity work at the 30th Annual Celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King. She thanked her husband, John Stevenson, Linda Shevitz, The Maryland Women's Heritage Center, Dr. Emma Munoz, her colleagues and friends for their inspiration, and support for her *Women: Back to the Future* and *Forging Frontiers* programs. Onward and Upward!

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 10 AM Congressional Briefing: Unlocking Opportunity for African American Girls, SVC East Capitol and Ist St. NE. RSVP to Helen Oh hoh@nwlc.org.

Tuesday, February 24, 2015, Noon to 1:30 PM, CWI Meeting. Gender Lens Investing & Giving: Using the Power of the Purse, the Woman's National Democratic Club, Contact: KatBraeman@gmail.com. See Page 1 of this newsletter.

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 6:30 PM, 2015 Young Women of Achievement Awards, Carnegie Institution for Science, 1530 P St. NW, Washington, DC 20005. Tickets, \$25, \$30 nonmembers:

http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/2741/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=12483

Saturday, March 21- Monday March 23, 2015, Feminist Majority Foundation, National Young Feminist Leadership Conference, Double Tree Crystal City hotel, Arlington, VA. For information and registration see:

<http://feministcampus.org/conferences/2015-nyflc/>

Tuesday, March 31, 2015. CWI meeting on Preserving Women's History: Finding, Enriching , and Using Feminist Archives. Jill Tietjen, President of the National Women's Hall of Fame will discuss her research on identifying women's archives which are scattered among many locations and organizations. Other presenters will discuss your role in sharing women's history artifacts and information.

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

Photos: Kelly McIntosh. Meeting summary, Joanna Ross, Feminist Majority Foundation Intern.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

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1. Bring a check* payable to CWI along with this form to a CWI Meeting or mail to:
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2. Or you may also join online using PayPal by going to the membership section of
www.womensclearinghouse.org

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Enclosed is a check for CWI membership for February 2015 – August 2015.

- ____ Individual (\$25.00)
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____ 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 a link to your organization to be listed as a supporting member on CWI's website. (Listing subject to CWI approval) Circle One: ____ YES
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Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

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

March 2015 Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Invitation to CWI meeting at the Library of Congress on Collecting and Preserving Women's History: Finding, Enriching and Using Archives Tuesday, March 31, 2015

History is empowering. It shapes who we are and provides role models to guide us. Yet, women stand on historical quicksand. With each step we take forward, the step behind us disappears. As one of our historians describes it, "Women have to re-create the wheel with every generation." By all evidence, at least half of our population has lived a life – only to become in large part – invisible. We discussed what already exists in the way of Archives and Collections about Women's History and have organized this Forum at the Library of Congress to learn more. Over the past forty years CWI members have contributed to and studied this history. Now we need to learn about new tools and resources to collect and disseminate this information and even how to keep records of our own work and accomplishments to pass on to future generations.

We are grateful to the staff of the Library of Congress who have agreed to share their vast knowledge and expertise with us as well as opening the doors of the Library for this Forum. Our Library of Congress (LOC) hosts and discussants are **Janice E. Ruth**, Assistant Chief, Manuscript Division; **Kristi Conkle**, Humanities and Social Sciences Division; and **Barbara Orbach Natanson**, Prints and Photographs Division (Invited).

Forum Presenters:

Jill S. Tietjen, CEO, National Women's Hall of Fame, Seneca Falls, NY. Jill Tietjen is an author, speaker and electrical engineer. She is one of the top historians in the country on scientific and technical women as her book "Setting the Record Straight" indicates. She is also the co-author with Charlotte S. Waisman of a best-selling book "Her Story – A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America." Jill also has her own company specializing in expanding opportunities for women and girls in STEM careers and was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in 2010.

Elizabeth "Liz" Maurer, has been the Director of Program for the National Women's History Museum (NWHM) Washington, DC since 2013. The NWHM is a virtual Museum established in 1996 and seeking a physical presence in Washington, DC. Liz has a long and distinguished career as the Director of Re-Living History, Alexandria, VA which provides consulting services for non-profits and educational organizations; Director of Operations for the National Museum of Crime and Punishment, Washington, DC, and Editor-in Chief of the Journal of Museum Education (JME). JME is a peer reviewed, scholarly journal.

Date/Time/Location: Tuesday, March 31, 2015/ 11:15 to 2:00 PM, Library of Congress (LOC).

The Forum on Collecting and Preserving Women's History will be held from 12:15 to 2:00 PM at the LOC, Jefferson Building, Humanities and Sciences Training Room (LJ 139 B) where no food or drink are permitted.

Please also join us at 11:15 AM before the Forum for **lunch** in the LOC Madison Building 6th floor Cafeteria and after the Forum for an optional **tour** of the Civil Rights Exhibition in the Jefferson Building. (Metro stop Capitol South is across the street from the Madison Building, 101 Independence Ave., SE)

RSVPs to the 12:15 PM Forum are required. Seating is limited to 35 with priority for CWI members. RSVP to Forum Facilitator, **Becky Schergens**, schergensb@aol.com or Sue Klein, president@womensclearinghouse.org

**Next CWI Meeting: *Lost in the Fine Print: How Forced Arbitration Impacts Women*
Tuesday April 28, 2015, Noon – Alliance for Justice, Contact: Kellye McIntosh, Kellye@afj.org**

Dear Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Members,

The Clearinghouse on Women's Issues meeting on February 24, 2015 "The Power of the Purse: Gender Lens Investing and Giving" was indeed an exciting, informative meeting. This meeting, jointly sponsored by The Clearinghouse on Women's Issues, The Transition Network, and the Woman's National Democratic Club (WNDC) was held at the WNDC.

As an organization, CWI collaborates with other organizations in many ways. For example it is a member of the National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO) and signs on to a variety of action letters to advance gender equality. It also facilitates collaboration among its presenters who usually come from different organizations with related expertise.

At the February 24 meeting, members from various organizations collaborated as they sat at tables for lunch and networked in an easy friendly atmosphere. Organizations had an opportunity to state their missions and activities. Lively discussions and "cards" were exchanged. Small groups remained talking long after the meeting was officially concluded to lay the ground for future collaborations on various activities including our March 31 CWI meeting on "Preserving Women's History: Finding, Enriching and Using Feminist Archives" which will be held at the Library of Congress.

Collaboration provides the best opportunity for like-minded members from a variety of organizations to come together and network to establish new and future participations.

A local example of a new collaboration, started when Temple Micah, a DC synagogue, had the opportunity to bring a significant training program called "Wise Aging" to their synagogue. It will focus on training people to age with joy, resilience, and understanding. Since the training is costly, collaboration with other local synagogues enables many more to participate and benefit. This collaboration also offers network opportunities for participating individuals who plan to continue to share ideas, resources and practices even after their training. The organizers eventually plan for the program to serve an even larger community.

Collaboration is an opportunity for a variety of organizations to come together and share their resources, missions, and Celebrations such as March as Women's History Month—see our list of coming events! New programs, stronger advocacy, new leadership development and new members are among the benefits that collaboration provides.

CWI is pleased to have collaborated with the WNDC and the Transition Network for their February 24th meeting and looks forward to long term collaborations with a variety of organizations. We invite them to join CWI as a way to share their information and expertise. Collaboration is the way to go!

CWI Board Members and their children earn Kudos as they collaborate on feminist work. CWI Board Member **Kat Braeman's daughter, Elizabeth Kristen** was named a California Attorney of the Year by *California Lawyer Magazine* for her victory in *Ollier v. Sweetwater*, a landmark Title IX high school athletics case. This decision in favor of female athletes, re-enforces the breadth of Title IX's anti-retaliation protections.

CWI **Vice President for Outreach, Kate Campbell Stevenson** received the Dorothy Lloyd Women's Right's Award from the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) Women's Concerns Committee in recognition for her Women's History Programs and equity work. She is also the featured performer at the Women's History Month Open House at Sewall Belmont on March 7, 2015 and will be starring in many other Women's History Month Celebrations!

Finally, it appears that an added value of being a CWI member is longevity. We wish our past presidents, **Ruth Nadel** a happy 101st Birthday, and **Daisy Fields** a happy 100th Birthday! And we recently helped our Emeritus CWI Board members, **Ellen Overton and Elaine Newman**, celebrate their 90th Birthdays!

Harriett Stonehill, Co-President and Sue Klein, Co-President

CWI Program Summary – February 24, 2015

The Power of the Purse: Gender Lens Investing and Giving

CWI's February meeting took place at the Women's National Democratic Club, with members from the Club, The Transition Network, and CWI present. This meeting marked the 40th anniversary of Clearinghouse on Women's Issues.

This month's speakers were **Dr. Lisette Garcia** and **René Redwood**. Dr. Garcia is Director of the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR) Research Institute, and Ms. Redwood is CEO of Redwood Enterprise, LLC. Both come with extensive knowledge and years of experience working on issues surrounding equal opportunity and diversity in the workforce.



Dr. Garcia focused on the representation of women on corporate boards, noting that there has been substantial work done by investing groups and organizations to increase the representation of women and people of color on boards. Research conducted by Institutional Shareholder Services found that gender diversity is on the rise across global markets. Larger companies in the Fortune 10 – Fortune 50 range tend to have greater diversity on their boards. In fact, relationships have been found between diverse boardrooms and company performance, including reduced stock price volatility. Female representation on corporate boards globally has increased considerably over the past several years, and Dr. Garcia stated that for this reason, investors, regulators, and

other market participants are interested in the topic of gender equality and the need for greater diversity.

Dr. Garcia moved on to discuss the difference in representation of women on corporate boards between quota and non-quota markets. The number of women on boards in non-quota markets, such as the U.S., Canada, and the U.K., has increased over the past several years, but the change does not at all compare to countries that impose diversity quotas. The Netherlands, Norway, and France have established gender diversity quotas and have set goals in reaching certain diversity levels.

Within the S&P 500, household and personal products have the smallest proportion of firms but have the greatest representation of women on their boards. Energy has the highest proportion of firms in the S&P 500, but in contrast has the smallest proportion of women on its boards. Interestingly, energy and semiconductor equipment have competed as the worst two companies for gender diversity over the last seven years. These statistics reflect the disproportion of men and women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields.

But, as Dr. Garcia reminded the audience, there is still hope: investors are calling for greater gender diversity on boards in the U.S. With the additional aid of a growing number of pension funds and other activist groups, diversity growth in the S&P 500 increases by 1% every year. If this trend continues, women should make up 25% of boards by the end of the decade.

Dr. Garcia referred to a list of organizations advocating for greater representation of women on boards, provided at the meeting by CWI Director Kathryn Braeman (full list at end of newsletter). Organizations like these are working to increase the rate of gender diversification, but investor coalitions and pension funds can play key roles in change as well. Dr. Garcia concluded her remarks, summarizing the Alliance for Board Diversity's belief that corporate governance works best when boards of publicly traded companies are diverse, and women and

minorities are an important part of this equation. When diversity leads, corporate America succeeds.

Ms. Redwood analyzed the meaning of “The Power of the Purse,” beginning with the word “power.” This is the ability to effect change, to use our collective influence to shape our future. Ms. Redwood used “power” as an acronym to describe the ways in which investing through the gender lens gives us power in changing the composition of corporations, so that more women and people of color are able to hold positions. She reminded the audience that by investing in corporations with women on boards, and more importantly investing in companies that reflect our values, we take the power in to our hands.

According to Ms. Redwood, “purse” as an acronym is about the utility and value we place on our hard earned capital. Ms. Redwood described that within the acronym of “purse” are the many factors to consider when investing. The Parity Portfolio is a gender lens investment strategy created to still meet the needs of high net worth individuals while directing investments to encourage diversity. The US Women’s Chamber of Commerce (USWCC) endorses women candidates that support small business growth and women-owned businesses. Ms. Redwood explained that the USWCC seeks to hold Congress and Federal agencies accountable for meeting and surpassing diversity mandates.

The power of the purse is about the influence and impact of women to determine and define the quality of their lives. Ms. Redwood summarized her remarks, concluding that not only is investing in companies that support gender diversity a financial advantage (because of higher performance), the investors gain power in shaping the company’s priorities. By investing through the gender lens, women and men can systematically break down institutional and societal barriers to diversity in the workforce.

The floor was opened to questions from the audience. An attendee asked the panel if there has been research conducted on the correlation between women on corporate boards and women in senior management positions in the same corporations. Dr. Garcia responded, saying that there is a correlation of women holding high positions in the same company. There is also a correlation in diversity on board committees. Diverse nominating committees tend to influence a diverse board.

Another question was asked about the ways in which women hold themselves back from further climbing the ladder in corporations and holding higher positions of leadership. Ms. Redwood stated that programs such as STEM are vital in opening opportunities for women. Between the ages of nine and thirteen, girls become more receptive to media, which poses as a societal barrier to accessing STEM education.

Key Organizations Focusing on Greater Representation of Women on Boards

I. Catalyst: Dedicated to creating more inclusive workplaces where employees representing every dimension of diversity can thrive. <http://www.catalyst.org/who-we-are>

II. 2020 Women on Boards: Goal to increase the percentage of women on corporate boards in the U.S. to 20% or greater by the year 2020. <http://www.2020wob.com/supporters/affiliates>

III. Thirty Percent Coalition: represents a broad group of leaders and organizations in the business and nonprofit sectors that support gender diversity. <http://www.30percentcoalition.org/>

IV. 30percentclub: launched in the US with a Chairman and CEO-only event hosted by Peter Grauer, Chairman of Bloomberg on April 28, 2014 <http://30percentclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/About30pcClub2.pdf>

V. [Alliance for Board Diversity](http://theabd.org/ABD_Fact_Sheet_Final.pdf) (ABD) is a collaboration of Catalyst, The Executive Leadership Council (ELC), the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR) and Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. (LEAP). Founded in 2004, the alliance focuses on enhancing shareholder value by promoting inclusion of women and minorities on corporate boards. http://theabd.org/ABD_Fact_Sheet_Final.pdf

VI. Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility: Coalition of 16 national Hispanic organizations representing 60 million Hispanics living in the U.S. <http://hacr.org>

VI. Executive Leadership Council: focus areas include 1) increasing the number of global black executives serving in CEO positions; and 2) increasing the number of seats held by black executives on the boards of publicly traded companies <https://www.elcinfo.com/>

VII. Leadership Education of Asian Pacifics (LEAP): national, nonprofit organization, with a mission to achieve full participation and equality for Asian and Pacific Islanders (APIs) through leadership, empowerment, and policy. In order for API communities to realize their full potential and to foster robust participation in this increasingly globalized world, these communities need to begin producing leaders to advocate and speak on their own behalf. <http://www.leap.org/>

IX. ASCEND: Ascend is the largest, non-profit Pan-Asian organization for business professionals. Pan-Asians have cultural origins from more than 32 ethnic groups. Six groups account for more than 95 percent of the Pan-Asians in the U.S.: Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese. <http://www.ascendleadership.org/>

Coming DC Area and Digital Feminist Events

In addition to the events below, check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWInews pages! LIKE or FOLLOW us. Members, be sure to share your women's advocacy news and upcoming women's events on CWI's Facebook page as we are always happy to help promote the great and important work you do! CWI member organizations are especially encouraged to send events for future newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org

Monday, March 9, 2015, 11 AM ET Live Stream Webcast at clintonfoundation.org. Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, Chelsea Clinton, and Melinda Gates will host panels on *The Full Participation Report Not There Yet: A Data Driven Analysis of Gender Equality*. It will focus on the global status of Gender Equality since the 1995 Beijing Conference in honor of International Women's Day.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 7 PM. Pushing Boundaries in Public Radio: The Women of NPR, featuring Michele Norris and Nina Totenberg. University of Maryland, College Park Hoff Theater in Adele H. Stamp Union. Free and open to the public. Contact Craig Slack cslack@umd.edu or thestamp.umd.edu/LCSL; <https://goo.gl/maps/6fNzq>.

Thursday, March 12, 2015, 12 Noon-2 PM. Sex, Lies and Justice: A Discussion on Campus Sexual Assault, Title IX Compliance, and Due Process, sponsored by the American Constitution Society, the American Prospect and the Economic Policy Institute where Lunch will be served. 1333 H Street NW, East Tower, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005. Registration: <https://acslaw.secure.force.com/rsvp?id=a0YG0000007sYGs>

Thursday, March 12, 2015, 5:30-7:00 PM We Were There: A Celebration of Women's History Month, Gompers Room, AFL-CIO, 815 16th St., NW, DC, The Labor Heritage Foundation and co-sponsors. Features Bev Grant and other performers and a reception.

Friday, March 13, 2015, 11:00 AM-4:00 PM, BWCC - WIB (Women in Business) is Hosting a Women's History Program, Free at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, 39 W. Lexington Street, Baltimore. For details visit <http://mdwomensheritagecenter.publishpath.com/Websites/mdwomensheritagecenter/images/WIBFlyers2015-F.pdf>

Monday, March 16, 2015 1:00 to 2:30 ET Online Webinar, "Equity Strategies for K-12 STEM Classrooms: A Focus on Gender, Race and Computer Science" sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Inc. To register go to: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6687208094624597761>.

Thursday, March 19, 2015, Women in Peace and Conflict: Initiating Change-Adapting to Change, Program 6:00 PM, Reception 7:00 PM. Sponsored by National Women's History Museum and The George Washington Univ., Morton Auditorium, 805 21st Street, NW, DC 20052. Tickets for CWI and NWHM Coalition members free. Sign up at: <http://nwhm.ticketleap.com/peace-coalition> or call 703-461-1920.

Saturday, March 21- Monday March 23, 2015, Feminist Majority Foundation, National Young Feminist Leadership Conference, Double Tree Crystal City hotel, Arlington, VA. For information and registration see: <http://feministcampus.org/conferences/2015-nyflc/>

Sunday, March 22, 2015 Conference , Women of Faith Working for Social Justice 12:30 PM sponsored by Maryland NOW and MWHC at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, 39 W. Lexington Street, Baltimore. Cost: \$35 members - \$25 Sliding Scale. For registration and details visit <http://mdwomensheritagecenter.publishpath.com/Websites/mdwomensheritagecenter/images/WIBFlyers2015-F.pdf>

Friday, March 27, 2015 Historic Walking and Bus Tour, 9:30 AM-4:00 PM starting at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, 39 W. Lexington Street, Baltimore. Cost: \$85 includes lunch, bus rides, tour guide and museum admission fees. For registration and details visit <http://mdwomensheritagecenter.publishpath.com/Websites/mdwomensheritagecenter/images/WIBFlyers2015-F.pdf>

Tuesday, March 31, 2015. CWI meeting on Preserving Women's History: Finding, Enriching, and Using Archives at the Library of Congress, 11:15 AM to 2:30 PM. Jill Tietjen, CEO of the National Women's Hall of Fame will discuss her research on identifying women's archives which are scattered among many locations and organizations. Liz Maurer from the National Women's History Museum and other experts will also discuss your role in sharing women's history artifacts and information. In addition to the 12:15 to 2 PM Forum in the Jefferson Building, Attendees are invited to meet informally for lunch in the Library of Congress Madison Building Cafeteria and join a Civil Rights Exhibition tour in the Jefferson Building after the Forum.

Sunday, April 26, 2015, National Women's Hall of Fame Maryland State Fundraiser 4-8 PM Baltimore Museum of Industry, Tickets \$100, Register at www.greatwomen.org

Tuesday, April 28, 2015, Noon. CWI Meeting, *Lost in the Fine Print: How Forced Arbitration Impacts Women*, Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, DC . Contact Kellye McIntosh, kellye@AFJ.org.

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

Photos: Sue Klein. Meeting summary, Joanna Ross, Feminist Majority Foundation Intern.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

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

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____ 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 a link to your organization to be listed as a supporting member on CWI's website. (Listing subject to CWI approval)
Circle One: ____YES ____NO (If Yes, provide url link.)

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April 2015 CWI Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Invitation to Wednesday April 29, 2015 CWI meeting at the Alliance for Justice **Lost in the Fine Print: How Forced Arbitration Impacts Women and their Families**

Forced arbitration is a timely issue. In fact, you can find forced arbitration clauses in the vast majority of consumer products. It's almost impossible to buy a car, new or used, without seeing a forced arbitration clause. More than 90 percent of all nursing homes use forced arbitration clauses which essentially sign away families' rights to sue the facility for negligent caregiving. More than 95 percent of all credit card debts are subject to forced arbitration. Probably somewhere between 30 and 40 percent of all American workers are subject to forced arbitration clauses. They're omnipresent in American society now. Women are uniquely impacted by this issue.

In our democracy, the courts hold out the promise of safeguarding everyone, regardless of wealth and power. But that fundamental promise of equal justice under law is facing a severe threat. Buried in everyday agreements for products like credit cards and car loans, and services like nursing homes and cell phones as well as employment agreements is fine print saying when you are harmed, you can't go before an impartial jury or judge. Instead, these **forced arbitration** clauses send you to a decision-maker picked by the company that wronged you. Not surprisingly, one study found that arbitrators rule for companies over consumers 94 percent of the time. And you're stuck with their decision because there's no appeal. **Forced arbitration undermines laws meant to protect women, veterans, minorities and people with disabilities because they prohibit workers from filing discrimination claims under laws like the Civil Rights Act, the Equal Pay Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.**

Before comments from our featured speakers there will be a screening of the short documentary, ***Lost in the Fine Print***. After the presentations we will have a discussion of how this important civil justice issue impacts women and their families – and how we can fight back.

Featured Speakers:

[Marybeth Williams](#), Associate of Public Policy, The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

[Ellen Taverna](#), Legislative Director, National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA)

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 29, 2015/ Noon to 1:30 (Note change from Tuesday to Wednesday.)

Location: Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC (2nd Floor)

Close to Dupont Circle Metro Station. Entrance on New Hampshire Avenue behind "Books a Million".

Meeting is free and open to the public. Bring a bag lunch. For more details contact: Kellye McIntosh, Kellye@afj.org

Next CWI Meeting: Tuesday May 26, 2015, Noon – Alliance for Justice, Featuring Peggy McIntosh, Wellesley College Leading a Discussion on Feminists' Experiences with White, Male, and other Systems of Privilege

Dear Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Members,

Nation Magazine is celebrating its 150 anniversary. Recently, in an interview, Katrina Vanden Heuvel, editor of *Nation*, stated "Don't look at milestones with awe."

While the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues milestone 40th anniversary is worthy of celebration, we too, cannot look at it with awe. We must look at this date as a time to look to the future. Many of the issues that we addressed and advocated for during these years, still need addressing and advocating for today and previously hidden issues such as forced arbitration, LGBT rights, and decreasing sex segregation have become increasingly important.

We know that many other new important issues will emerge and will need our energies. We will need to gather new, young members to become part of the conversations at our future meetings. We will need to explore new technologies to transmit our messages to wider audiences. At the same time CWI needs to develop a sense of true community among its members. We will also need to extend our collaboration with other organizations.

Here are some photos from our community building lunch in the Library of Congress, Madison Building Cafeteria before attending the March 31 Forum on "Collecting and Preserving Women's History."



FMF interns Shannon Finucane and Lizzy Hibbard near left. Treasurer CWI, Holly Joseph at near end.



CWI VP Legislation Bert Stanley on left and Speaker, Jill Tietjen on right



Harriet Fulbright on left and CWI Board Member Tina Hobson on Right

Future CWI Board Members will need to actively participate in new social and political topics while keeping our focus on providing meetings of relevance and significance to keep our mission strong. We will be having elections for new CWI Board Members at our June 23, 2015 meeting and invite you to let us know if you are interested in joining us as a Board member or in participating in the nominating committee right away.

Harriett Stonehill, Co-President
Sue Klein, Co-President

CWI Program Summary -- March 31, 2015

Collecting and Preserving Women's History: Finding, Enriching and Using Archives



CWI's March Women's History Month Program took place at the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress. We were privileged to welcome CWI members, Library of Congress staffers, representatives of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. and the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

This month's featured speakers were (left side of photo) Jill S. Tietjen, CEO, National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY and Elizabeth (Liz) Maurer, Director of Program for the National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC. Both spoke on the importance of preserving the history of the Women's Movement and how best to share it with diverse audiences for generations to come.

As an electrical engineer, advocate, and author **Jill Tietjen** has a unique perspective on women's history. She shared information on the ten October 3, 2015 inductees in the National Women's Hall of Fame and noted that two were from our DC area. They are Marcia Greenberger, founder and co-president of the National Women's Law Center, and Eleanor Smeal, former President of NOW, leader of the fight for the ERA, and founder and President of the Feminist Majority and Feminist Majority Foundation. (For information on the National Women's Hall of Fame see www.greatwomen.org)

Jill focused her presentation on the challenging aspects of preserving women's history and its accessibility. Jill is coauthor with Charlotte Waisman of ***Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America***, featuring the stories of more than 850 women (from 1587 to 2011) most of whom are unknown to the general public (<http://www.herstoryatimeline.com/>). Jill explained how she obtained information on the women in her book and the challenges of its creation. For example, Florence Beatrice Smith Price was the first female African-American composer to have a symphony performed by an orchestra. Finding and securing the rights to use a photo of her was difficult. Jill located Price's archive at The University of Arkansas and relied heavily on collaborations with reference librarians to obtain her photo, determine ownership, and secure the publication rights. This treasure hunt of tracking down archives and images occurred for a large number of the 850 women in the book and inspired Jill to use technology to make this process easier for others.

A trailblazing advocate for women in STEM, Jill was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. Currently, she is in the process of creating an archive collection of her personal effects. It includes letters, articles, and labeled pictures. Surprisingly, for some CWI attendees, archives generally do not include large items like plaques or awards. Jill encouraged CWI members to thoughtfully compile their own contributions by creating archives of their own and finding an appropriate university or other women's history collection interested in having them. She is spearheading the creation of a database to locate existing archive collections on great women and connect the general public to the general and women-focused databases listed at the end of this summary.

The second speaker **Elizabeth (Liz) Maurer**, Director of Program for the National Women's History Museum discussed the importance of museums and the new ways they are implementing technology to diversify their audiences. In an era where museum visitation has stagnated, traditional attractions like tours and speakers are no longer enough to appeal to young millennial audiences. While exhibits and tours are valuable they often do not offer action-oriented experiences that millennials crave. The addition of sharable components to exhibits that younger people enjoy is a way to diversify an organization and increase general interest.

A shift toward incorporating content that is consumable via social media is an opportunity for museums and organizations to gain exposure. Liz emphasized the importance of visuals as a way to connect. By sharing pieces from their archive or creating new digital images, organizations can gain greater audiences than those that may be able to visit physical institutions. Action capturing photographs, memes and infographics offer a new way to convey messages. Museums also have the ability to include social media components as part of the visit experience for museum patrons. People will share their experiences with their networks across social media. Museums that encourage the use of certain hashtags for Facebook Instagram and Twitter amongst their users may gain visits from people in their networks. A Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) intern also suggested that museums create geofilters¹ for Snapchat so institutions can capitalize on millennial desires for participatory visiting experiences.

Some institutions like the National Women's History Museum and General Federation of Women's Clubs are also using digital exhibits as part of their websites to reach new audiences. The Google Cultural Institute initiative allows museum's collections to be searchable online and potential patrons worldwide to take simulated gallery walks. The integration of social media into patron experience bridges scholarship of history to new generations of passionate people. Over the course of our discussion, we explored some amazing resources that may be of interest to CWI readers. Some are digital exhibits; others are resources that can connect interested people with archives and collections of remarkable women.

Sue Klein, CWI Co-President facilitated a meeting with CWI Vice President Carmen Delgado Votaw, Jill Tietjen, and Becky Schergens, National Advisor to the National Women's History Museum that envisioned this Women's History Month program. Special thanks to Becky Schergens (in photo on right) for serving as Forum moderator, securing cooperation from the Library of Congress staff and designing the program invitation and related activities.



Our wonderful Library of Congress hosts were (right to left in photo) **Janice E. Ruth**, Assistant Chief, Manuscript Division; **Barbara Orbach Natanson**, Head, Reference Section, Prints and Photographs Division and **Kristi Conkle**; Senior Collections Development Analyst, Collection Development Office. They not only led us to the Jefferson Building Forum meeting room via an underground passage from the Madison Building cafeteria, but most importantly they helped us understand more about the services of the Library of Congress and the other important types of databases to use to collect and preserve Women's History.



Helpful Websites:

The Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov>

The National Women's Hall of Fame <http://www.greatwomen.org> with link to

State Halls of Fame [at http://www.greatwomen.org/news-events/other-related-events/](http://www.greatwomen.org/news-events/other-related-events/)

Jill Tietjen's Book <http://www.herstoryatimeline.com/>

Google Cultural Institute <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/home>

Archive Grid <https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/>

General Federation of Women's Clubs <http://www.gfwc.org/what-we-do/whrc/collections/>

OCLC is a network of libraries and databases <https://www.oclc.org/en-US/home.html>

Women on \$20 Bill Campaign <http://www.womenon20s.org/>

National Women's History Museum Site <http://www.nwhm.org>

¹ Customized designs that an institution can make and encourage Snapchat users to incorporate into their photos when visiting certain locations.

Coming DC Area Feminist Events

In addition to the events below, check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us. Members, be sure to share your women's advocacy news and upcoming women's events on CWI's Facebook page as we are always happy to help promote the great and important work you do! CWI member organizations are especially encouraged to send events for future newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org

Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 5:30-7:30 AAUW's (un)happy hour to mark Equal Pay Day. Corner of 16th and L Streets, NW for \$2 beer and \$3 wine. RSVP <http://www.aauw.org/event/2015/04/equal-pay-day-2015-unhappy-hour/>

Monday, April 20, 2015, 5-8 PM DC Town Hall Hearing, African American Policy Forum. Focus is on concerns with DC's Empowering Males of Color Initiative. Location: Howard University. If interested contact Julia.SharpeLevine@aapf.org.

Monday, April 20, 2015 to Thursday April 23. National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, Professional Development Institute, Alexandria, VA. See <https://www.greenmoonsolutions.com/nape2015/> to register.

Wednesday, April 22, 2015. Social Security Works: Why Social Security Isn't Going Broke and How Expanding It Will Help Us All, Nancy J. Altman, Woman's National Democratic Club. 11:30 AM to 2 PM, 1526 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036. Lunch reservations \$30 for non-members. www.democraticwoman.org or 202-232-7363 x 3003.

Sunday, April 26, 2015, National Women's Hall of Fame, Maryland State Fundraiser 4-8 PM, Baltimore Museum of Industry, Tickets \$100, Register at www.greatwomen.org

Wednesday, April 29, 2015, Noon. CWI Meeting, *Lost in the Fine Print: How Forced Arbitration Impacts Women and their Families*, Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, DC. Contact Kellye McIntosh, kellye@AFJ.org.

Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 9 AM-5 PM, Health Care Symposium, Dialog on Diversity, 555 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington DC (American Federation of Teachers) Free and open to the public. To see agenda and register, contact www.dialogondiversity.org.

Tuesday, May 26, 2015, Noon. CWI Meeting, Featuring Peggy McIntosh, Wellesley College, Leading a Discussion on Feminists' Experiences with White, Male, and other Systems of Privilege, Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, DC. Contact Kellye McIntosh, kellye@AFJ.org or Sue Klein president@womensclearinghouse.org

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

Photos: Sue Klein and Anne Martin. Meeting summary, Shannon Finucane with assistance from Lizzy Hibbard, Feminist Majority Foundation Interns.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2014 – JUNE 2015

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DIRECTORS: Kathryn Braeman, Tina Hobson

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EX OFFICIO: Barbara J. Ratner

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Membership Form

www.womensclearinghouse.org

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

Holly Taggart Joseph, CWI Treasurer
8504 Rosewood Drive
Bethesda MD 20814-1434

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

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

Enclosed is a check for CWI membership for April 2015 – August 2015.

____ 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 a link to your organization to be listed as a supporting member on CWI's website. (Listing subject to CWI approval) Circle One:
____ YES ____ NO (If Yes, provide url link.)

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



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

May 2015 CWI Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Invitation to Tuesday, May 26, 2015 CWI meeting at the Alliance for Justice

Sharing Insights on White Privilege and Male Privilege

At our Tuesday, May 26 CWI Meeting, we are honored to have world famous **Dr. Peggy McIntosh**, Senior Associate of the Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA share her insights and lead us in discussing experiences on white, male, female, and other systems of privilege that frequently contribute to inequalities in US society.

Dr. McIntosh is credited with creating the term “white privilege” and her 1988 paper on “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” (and related longer versions) is required reading in many women’s/gender studies classes. It is also widely cited in the press even now as people talk about recent injustices and ways to counteract them as in “Black Lives Matter” and how to teach more privileged members of society to be increasingly aware of ways they can contribute to more equality.

Dr. McIntosh will review how her analysis of male privilege led her to apply a similar analysis to white privilege. She will also describe examples of how white privilege and male privilege have changed since her initial widely used “White Privilege” article in 1988 and some interesting reactions she has received over the years. Then attendees’ will have a chance to describe some of their own circumstances of systemic disadvantage as well as systemic advantage, none of which are reasons for shame, blame, or guilt.

To enhance your experience with this meeting, we encourage you to read or reread “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”. Dr. McIntosh will provide copies to meeting attendees.

Featured Speaker:

Dr. Peggy McIntosh’s career also focused on increasing equality through education. She founded and co-directed the National SEED Project on Inclusive Curriculum (Seeking Educational Equity & Diversity). The SEED Project helps teachers create their own year-long, school-based seminars on making school climates, K-12 curricula, and teaching methods more gender fair and multi-culturally equitable. She also directs the Gender, Race and Inclusive Education Project, which provides workshops on privilege systems, feelings of fraudulence, and diversifying workplaces, curricula and teaching methods. She received her doctoral degree from Harvard University. In addition to Wellesley College, she taught English, American Studies, and Women’s Studies at Harvard, Trinity College in DC, Durham University, UK, and University of Denver. For more on Dr. McIntosh see <http://www.wcwonline.org/Active-Researchers/peggy-mcintosh-phd>.

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 26, 2015/ Noon to 1:30 PM

Location: Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC (2nd Floor)

Close to Dupont Circle Metro Station. Entrance on New Hampshire Avenue behind “Books a Million”.

Meeting is free and open to the public. Bring a bag lunch. For more details contact: Sue Klein, sklein@feminist.org

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 23, 2015, Noon – Alliance for Justice, Featuring CWI 40th Anniversary

Dear Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Members,

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future." President John F. Kennedy stated this in 1963 and it remains the guideline for our CWI programs today.

We acknowledge that the lack of gender equality in government, in the workplace, and in relationships keep all from moving forward. CWI programs' invited speakers bring us the latest information from the various fields that need addressing for gender equality. To improve the lives of women and girls, we must not only acknowledge the issues, state statistics that testify to it, but each of us needs to dedicate our intelligence and energy to be part of a solution.

Do you want to work on an election campaign? On a health issue? On an aging issue? On an education issue? On an employment issue? On a global issue?

We need to join in collaboration with other organizations to use our energy and spirit to be part of the future. Join with an organization that has created initiatives to do concrete work in advocacy and direct support. We need to gather all the resources that are available and not just "talk the talk" but "walk the walk." The challenges we are confronted with are greater now than ever, the stakes are higher. Even the positives that have been achieved are now in jeopardy. We face losing many of the liberties and equalities that have only recently been gained by women and girls.

Emma Watson, in launching her new initiative to fight for gender equality, stated at a UN session, "It's your issue too. Feminism is a theory of political, economic and social equality of the sexes."

It is CWI's mission and platform that we honestly look at the present situation and answer with responsibility and action. John Quincy Adams stated "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." Each CWI member certainly is a leader.

As we plan to celebrate CWI's 40th anniversary at our June 2015 meeting, let's each contribute to it. We will produce a special CWI Celebration Issue. Please remember a particular CWI meeting or event which made a strong impact on you and called you to follow up with an action. What was the topic and who was the speaker? What did you do as a result of hearing this information? Have you continued these actions? Any thoughts will be of interest to all of us. Please send your writings to Harriett Stonehill, Co-President at estone456@aol.com. Let each of us be part of the celebration.

As you can see CWI is a vitally important volunteer organization. If you would like to join our wonderful Board of Directors, please contact Harriett Stonehill or Kate Campbell Stevenson (KCamStev@aol.com) on the nominations committee right away!

Harriett Stonehill, Co-President
Sue Klein, Co-President

CWI Program Summary – April 29, 2015

Lost in the Fine Print: How Forced Arbitration Impacts Women and Their Families



This April 29 CWI meeting was arranged and moderated by our CWI Board Member, **Kelly McIntosh** (center of photo) from the Alliance for Justice. We explored the growing and troubling uses of forced arbitration by corporations and long-term care providers. This is of critical importance for woman and all people interested in justice because it can stop people from obtaining their rights if they receive illegal

treatment. Our wonderful speakers were (on left) **Mary Beth Williams**, Public Policy Associate, The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (Consumer Voice) and (on right) **Ellen Taverna**, Legislative Director, National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA). Both shared their knowledge of forced arbitration and national efforts to expose and stop the practice.

The meeting started with an amazing short documentary video *Lost in the Fine Print* on forced arbitration. It was produced by the Alliance for Justice and illustrated how forced arbitration in a contract clause removes the ability of clients to engage in public court-based litigation to resolve conflicts. Instead, consumers must enter private negotiations (arbitration) with legal intermediaries/arbitrators chosen by the corporations serving the consumer. There is no jury or judge. The records of these arbitrations are never publicized and arbitrators have an incentive to side with corporations to ensure their future employment by them.

This harmful practice is also deceitful because clauses for forced arbitration are hidden in contracts. Most consumers are unaware of what they are and their potential significance. Furthermore, forced arbitration generally eliminates public court proceedings and reduces the ability of oversight agencies to hold businesses accountable for questionable practices even if the consumer should be protected by federal or other laws.

Lost in the Fine Print reveals the prevalence of forced arbitration clauses in consumer contracts and the real life consequences for everyday people. It can be found on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcC3N802Sjk> and on the Alliance for Justice Website www.afj.org which also provides ways to take action against forced arbitration clauses.

Ellen Taverna described the National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA) as a national non-profit organization representing thousands of consumers victimized by fraudulent and abusive corporate practices. NACA works for consumer justice through legislative action to ensure fair business practices of corporations.

Taverna reminded us that when Lilly Ledbetter discovered she had been paid significantly less than her male counterparts for the very same work for twenty years at Goodyear's Alabama plant, she filed a lawsuit and was awarded more than \$3 million by a jury. After the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the decision, ruling that Ledbetter had waited too long to file her case, Congress passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the first bill President Obama signed into law. This important law supplemented other important federal laws passed by Congress to remedy pay discrimination, particularly Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which protects individuals against employment discrimination on the basis of sex,



race, etc. However, if Lilly Ledbetter's employment contract with Goodyear had included a forced arbitration clause, none of us would be speaking her name now, her case never would have been given public attention, and the changes that her case brought about, including groundbreaking new legislation, would never have happened.

Taverna pointed out that funneling consumers into private litigation behind closed doors without a judge or jury is a very serious threat to their rights. Most Americans haven't even heard of this forced arbitration. According to a recent study by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, more than 75 percent of consumers surveyed did not know whether they were subject to an arbitration clause in their consumer financial contracts. Fewer than seven percent of those surveyed that had forced arbitration clauses in their contracts realized that the clauses restricted their ability to sue in court. The widespread use of these clauses in a variety of different contract agreements is very troubling. They can be found in the fine print of contracts of banks, credit card companies, child care providers, nursing homes, cell phone contracts, online entertainment providers, and retailers.

The prevalence of forced arbitration is increasing and it has significant consequences for consumers. Recent Supreme Court rulings that have misinterpreted the Federal Arbitration Act, (enacted in 1925 to regulate voluntary arbitration agreements between commercial parties with equal bargaining power) have allowed the practice to grow.

Individuals are unwilling to enter into arbitration proceedings because the system is rigged against them in a way that could cause a significant fiscal impact. Despite being part of tens of millions of consumer contracts the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau found that only 600 arbitration claims were brought forward each year. They also found that in arbitration rulings 91% end in favor of corporations and only 9% in favor of consumers. Many forced arbitration clauses also mandate the loser pay all costs related to arbitration proceedings. Sadly, consumers are paying for and losing 91% of these arbitration cases annually.

Unfortunately, forced arbitration also serves as barriers to class actions. Ninety percent of forced arbitration clauses have class action bans. Consumers lose the ability to bring certain types of complaints forward because the legal precedent rests on group evidence. Class actions are critical in employment contexts such as sex discrimination cases because patterns of discrimination are often the best way to provide proof of pervasive discrimination. Class actions are critically important, not only for the victims of wrongdoing, but also for deterring more harm to others. Without class actions, industry can ignore the law far more easily, and operate with impunity. Forced arbitration undercuts and destabilizes statutes that have benefitted many women in their fights against discrimination. As employees, investors, small business owners, mothers, students, service members, caregivers and consumers, women are impacted enormously by forced arbitration.

Congressional action is needed now to stop forced arbitration. We ask everyone to strongly urge U.S. Senators and Representatives to honor and preserve women's rights by co-sponsoring and actively supporting the Arbitration Fairness Act, (AFA) introduced today April 29, 2015 in the Senate by Senator Al Franken and in the House by Congressman Hank Johnson. The AFA would eliminate forced arbitration in employment, consumer, civil rights, and anti-trust cases, thus reinstating deep-seated rights created by state and federal laws that are currently at risk of endangerment due to this abusive corporate practice. The AFA would ensure that the decision to arbitrate is truly voluntary. Additionally, we have been urging the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to prohibit forced arbitration in the terms of service of all consumer financial products and services under its jurisdiction. Knowing all this makes it unsurprising that individuals are unwilling to enter into arbitrations when the system is stacked against them. Do not let women's rights be buried in the deceptive, unconscionable act of forced arbitration.



Mary Beth Williams was a House staffer for three years where she focused on senior citizen issues and became aware of the issue of forced arbitration. National Consumer Voice was founded in 1975 because of substandard care in nursing homes and passed a major reform law in 1986. Decades later their work remains critical as long term care is expanding and the organization is diversifying to support new changes in the care industry.

Forced arbitration, long term care and women's issues are all related. Women are a vast majority of long term care consumers and make up 75% of nursing home residents. They also are 89% of direct health care workforce for facilities and home care. Many more serve as both paid and informal caregivers. Forced arbitration is an issue that all women need to be aware of for the health of themselves and their families.

Our civil justice system plays a critical role in protecting those in care but forced arbitration undermines the ability to hold bad providers accountable. State agencies' investigations are limited and poorly guided in their oversight. Civil justice is a critical voice against those failures. It allows for a public record to be created tracking abuses and mismanagement of care facilities. Forced arbitration buried in admission contracts eliminates the ability of residents or home care patients to enter public litigation. Forced arbitration clauses eliminate consumers' ability to fight against poor care or abuse via court processes. Instead, abuses are dealt within forced arbitrations where the odds stack in favor of corporations. Women as consumers of care and caregivers, themselves, need to be aware of forced arbitration to advocate against it.

Contracts for care facilities are a take it or leave it basis that makes it a challenge to find providers who do not include forced arbitration. For service seekers who are aware of clauses getting admitted into care is challenging because 90% of facilities have them. Odds are stacked against consumers because million dollar corporations now own many nursing homes and their takeover of smaller and nonprofit providers is increasing.

What can you do?

It is critical for women and all consumers to learn about forced arbitration. Otherwise we will continue to lose the right for women to use laws to ensure their protections. We need to have a loud voice against these practices. Anyone can reach out to legislators, make them aware of your concerns about forced arbitration, and encourage them to sponsor legislation against it. We encourage you to join the Fair Arbitration Now Coalition and the Consumer Voice Action Network.

For more information about Ellen Taverna's work you can visit the Association of Consumer Advocates <http://www.consumeradvocates.org/issues/forced-arbitration> and the Fair Arbitration Now Coalition Website at <http://www.fairarbitrationnow.org/>

To learn more about Mary Beth Williams' work on forced arbitration and the Consumer Voice visit http://theconsumervoice.org/issues/issue_details/arbitration

Coming DC Area Feminist Events

In addition to the events below, check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us. Members, be sure to share your women's advocacy news and upcoming women's events on CWI's Facebook page as we are always happy to help promote the great and important work you do! CWI member organizations are especially encouraged to send events for future newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org

Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 9 AM-5 PM, Health Care Symposium, Dialogue on Diversity, 555 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington DC (American Federation of Teachers) Free and open to the public. To see agenda and register, contact www.dialogueondiversity.org or email dialog.div@prodigy.net

Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 1:30 PM-5:30 PM, Achieving Gender Equality in our Lifetimes: A Bold Vision for Advancing the Status of Women, Kaiser Family Foundation, 1330 G St. NW, Washington, DC

RSVP <http://statusofwomen2015.eventbrite.com>

Tuesday, May 26, 2015, Noon. CWI Meeting, Featuring Peggy McIntosh on “Sharing Insights on White Privilege and Male Privilege”, Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, DC. Contact Kellye McIntosh, kellye@AFJ.org or Sue Klein president@womensclearinghouse.org

Tuesday, June 23, 2015, Noon CWI’s 40th Anniversary, Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, DC. Contact Kellye McIntosh, kellye@AFJ.org.

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

Photos: Sue Klein. Meeting summary, Shannon Finucane, Intern, Feminist Majority Foundation and presenters, Ellen Taverna and Marybeth Williams.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

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____ Individual 1 year (\$25.00)
____ Individual under 30 years old (\$15.00)
____ Virtual-\$20 (Email newsletter only for members outside Washington, DC area)

____ Organization (\$40/one year or \$100/three years)
____ Additional tax deductible contribution of \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$_____

*If organizational member, indicate if you would like a link to your organization to be listed as a supporting member on CWI's website. (Listing subject to CWI approval) Circle One:
____YES ____NO (If Yes, provide url link.)

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



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

June 2015 CWI Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Invitation to Tuesday, June 23, 2015 CWI Celebration Luncheon Meeting at the Alliance for Justice

The June 23, 2015 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues meeting will be a Celebration of 40 years of commitment and a Re-dedication. And indeed, we will Celebrate ! We invite all members - new members, old members and guests to join us from 12 noon to 2:00 PM at the Alliance For Justice, 10 Dupont Circle.

A great lunch and wonderful desserts will be provided to one and all ! (So don't bring your brown-bag lunch.)

We have invited a very special speaker, activist and friend to share some valuable remarks with us. **Inga Smulkstys, Vice President of Programs and Operations, Alliance for Justice** will share her valuable insights on advancing social justice in the US from a feminist perspective. Prior to joining AFJ, Inga was Vice President at Planned Parenthood.

We ask that each of you recall a CWI meeting that was special for you. A meeting, where the topic encouraged you to action - to support a cause, to join a march, to further research a topic.

We hope that many of you have already responded to our request, "Hear About It ! Act On It! The first memory that CWI received is in this issue. Others that we receive or shared in person at this meeting will be printed in future CWI newsletters.

Let's all make this a special meeting.

Celebration Committee:

Kellye McIntosh, Roberta Stanley, Harriett Stonehill.

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 23, 2015/ Noon to 1:30 PM

Location: Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC (2nd Floor)

Close to Dupont Circle Metro Station. Entrance on New Hampshire Avenue behind "Books a Million".

Meeting is free and open to the public. For more details contact: Harriett Stonehill, Co-President, estone456@aol.com

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 22, 2015, Noon – Alliance for Justice

CWI Program Summary – May 26, 2015

Sharing Insights on White Privilege and Male Privilege



The Clearinghouse on Women's Issues held its May 26, 2015 meeting at the Alliance for Justice. Members and other attendees had the opportunity to listen to **Dr. Peggy McIntosh**, a senior associate of the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She explained how and why she developed her famous papers on "White Privilege and Male Privilege" and helped meeting attendees understand what these constructs mean.

Dr. McIntosh founded the National Seeking Educational Equity & Diversity (SEED) Project on Inclusive Curriculum. Every summer, SEED prepares K-12 and college teachers to facilitate year-long monthly discussions with their colleagues on making education more inclusive and equitable, regardless of gender, race, or any other factor in students' backgrounds.

Dr. McIntosh is especially well-known for her 1988 essay titled "White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming To See Correspondences Through Work in Women's Studies." Several shorter versions and variations of the essay have been published since. The best known is called "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack." Dr. McIntosh discussed her struggle to convince the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women to publish her essay as a working paper. The resistance was caused by the lack of footnotes, and the feeling that the paper was "merely anecdotal." However, the Wellesley Center eventually decided to publish the paper, and Dr. McIntosh noted that her paper became the Center's best seller. She says, "The sample of one is coming into its own, in social science fields."

"White Privilege and Male Privilege" is an autobiographical essay that outlines how Dr. McIntosh came to understand her own privilege as a white woman. While she had experienced unearned disadvantage as a female her entire life, Dr. McIntosh said she was not able to see her unearned advantage until she began to see her whiteness. Dr. McIntosh said that women in the black community helped her understand this identity by noting that white women were oppressive to work with. At first, she said that she resented their statements. Why, she was "nice," wasn't she? She had also been working with women of color; she expected to be thanked for this. However, she eventually realized that niceness has nothing to do with it, and that her white-centered views were oppressive, and based on white privilege. Her desire to be thanked for working with people she had been taught to look down on was deeply racist.

Dr. McIntosh connected this realization to her facilitating a faculty development seminar at Wellesley. This regional seminar focused on how new research on women could be brought into college curricula. She noticed year after year that a question would emerge by the spring: female faculty seminar participants would ask why these materials on women couldn't be introduced to freshman. Male faculty, Dr. McIntosh found, responded by saying that the

materials on women were too “soft,” or “extra.” They did not believe that anything on women belonged in the foundation of a discipline as set in the freshman courses. Dr. McIntosh wondered how these male faculty, who were so nice and even put up with criticism on their campuses for joining a feminist project, could be so insulting without realizing they were. She originally asked herself whether these male faculty were “nice” or “oppressive”; however, she eventually realized that this question was not the correct one to ask. She said, “It’s not either/or. It’s both. But it’s not their fault. Men’s versions of knowledge are what they were taught.”

Dr. McIntosh explained her sudden parallel realization that as a white woman she had knowledge systems and foundations “on her side”. Those who controlled funds were white; those who controlled research, universities and university presses were white. “Knowledge” itself was white. However, she wanted to understand more than this about the circumstantial undeserved advantages she had experienced due to her race. She was determined to pinpoint and list her unearned advantages. Over a three month period she wrote down 46 examples of unearned advantage she had in her life.

Being represented in the media, not having to worry about being followed by store detectives, and simply having blemish cover in “flesh” that match her skin tone were just a few of the many powerful examples she provided. Dr. McIntosh said that many of these examples came to her in the middle of the night, and are written in the order in which they came up. Dr. McIntosh emphasized the fact that her list should not be generalized, and that all individuals have their own experiences of earned and unearned advantage and disadvantage. She believes everyone has some of each.

She then led an interactive exercise with all 38 participants in which each testified to a talking partner about some experience of unearned disadvantage and unearned advantage, or privilege.

“My mental hardware doesn’t like the thought that I don’t deserve everything I have,” McIntosh said. “But a change to the alternative software,” she continued, “made me realize that some of my greatest teachers have been individuals of color.” She said that her initial hardware—how she was conditioned to think—would never have entertained such an idea.

The idea that Dr. McIntosh did not earn all aspects of her success “blew away the myth of meritocracy” for her. She hated the idea of having unearned advantages. She noted that it is impossible to spread knowledge about white privilege when those who are privileged refuse to acknowledge privilege. But simply acknowledging others’ disadvantages, she said, is not enough. Myths of meritocracy, manifest destiny, white racelessness, monoculturalism, and the idea that white individuals have a moral and managerial superiority are five myths that McIntosh said keep racism alive, and keep white privilege in place.

Dr. McIntosh's advice, however, is not to feel guilty. Guilt, Dr. McIntosh said, turns the attention to white individuals all over again. "We need to get over blame, shame, guilt and self-centeredness," she said. "There is a white tendency to get back into control by talking about ourselves." She discouraged this impulse, saying that whites need to learn racial history, and to grieve; need to truly understand, and listen, respect, and learn from those we were taught to look down on.

We can learn to use our white privilege to weaken systems of white privilege. This is true for any form of unearned advantage. As an example of using one's privileges to weaken systems of privilege, McIntosh talked about canvassing her Bethesda neighborhood in the 1960's with white members of a group called "Access to the Suburbs." House by house, the group asked white residents to agree not to move out if a Black family moved into the neighborhood. A Black family moved in and to her knowledge is still there. "We succeeded in preventing white flight. We used our white privilege to weaken the system of white control."



Photo shows meeting attendees Anne Martin, CWI Secretary; Lida Churchville; Peggy McIntosh; and Sue Klein, CWI Co-President; thanking Peggy by taking her to the Kennedy Center.)

Co-President, Harriett Stonehill requested comments on CWI meetings.

The following slightly edited comments by Marissa Ditekowsky, intern for CWI Board Member, Kellye McIntosh, Alliance for Justice were stimulated by Dr. Peggy McIntosh May 26, 2015 CWI presentation.

Women's and other public interest organizations are filled with middle to upper class individuals, who are primarily white. But how often do we just stop to talk to women in working class jobs about their day? Or those women who don't work at all? Or those women who can't find a job? Or those women who can't work due to a disability? We interact with people who look like us, have similar interests, and who have had similar life experiences and backgrounds. It is time for us to reach out, to ask, to listen. It isn't our job to decide what marginalized populations want and need.

As a white, middle-class woman, I am, indeed, a hypocrite for writing this article. Why am I talking? Why is my voice going to be heard? It is because I am privileged. I am privileged to have these connections, and to be able to write this article. My ability to write and have my work published, however, does not make my experiences or feelings any more valid. I hope white, middle to upper class feminists continue to keep this privilege in mind.

In the past, however, I have heard women of color complain about the lack of intersectional considerations and the oppression of white feminists. Like Dr. McIntosh, at first, these individuals are always surprised. But unlike Dr. McIntosh, they brush it off. Feminists are working with women of color, they reason. They are progressive and liberal. Why would they need to change their movement? The reason is not because they aren't nice, but because they just don't understand, and are therefore not focusing on issues in a way that is inclusive.

Our pro-choice rally cry, for example, is "My body, my choice." The view that what a woman does with her body is her choice, no questions asked, is actually an extraordinarily privileged belief and an oversimplification of a number of deeply troubling issues. Abortions are not just about questions of rape, or even questions of a mother's health. Socioeconomic and racial disparities and issues that primarily affect women of color and lower classes come into play with abortion. Why don't we talk about them?

Why don't we talk about the woman who cannot afford to pay hospital bills to deliver her baby, or cover bills for any possible complications? Why don't we talk about the woman who is afraid to seek medical attention during pregnancy because she is afraid of deportation? Why don't we talk about the single mother with three children and a job that would not even give her unpaid maternity leave? Why don't we talk about the woman who is afraid that she will be beaten if her abusive significant other finds out that she is pregnant? This is no longer about "my body, my choice." It is now about circumstances that women face, forcing them to make that difficult and highly emotional decision.

These women do not have a choice. "Pro-choice" is a misnomer for these women. We are privileged to have a choice. We are privileged to not have to think about these issues. But these issues exist. And we do not discuss them because we are not exposed to them. If this idea makes you start to feel guilty, that will not help either. "We need to get over blame, shame, guilt and self-centeredness," Dr. McIntosh said. "There is a white impulse to say 'I'm gonna fix that.'" But it isn't our job to take over and fix it all, she said. This isn't about us.

We need to grieve. We need to listen. We need to understand. We need to make it possible for all women regardless of race, class or education level to join us and become a more integral part of our movement instead of speaking for them. Let's stop talking only to the academics, the advocates, the women who hold political office and the movement leaders about issues that do not directly affect them. Let's talk to the women who are living these experiences. Let's make all women feel that they are a part of something. Let's not alienate our allies.

What makes an issue a women's issue is not that all women--or anyone who identifies as such--experience it. What makes an issue a women's issue is that women experience it because they are women. That is how we are all supposed to relate, and find strength and support in one another.

Marissa.Ditkowsky@AFJ.org

Coming DC Area Feminist Events

In addition to the events below, check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us. Members, be sure to share your women's advocacy news and upcoming women's events on CWI's Facebook page as we are always happy to help promote the great and important work you do! CWI member organizations are especially encouraged to send events for future newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org

Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 6 to 8:30 PM, “Honor Violence in the USA: Another Reason to Ratify CEDAW Now” Hosted by Rep. Donna F. Edwards (D-MD) Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), sponsors of House Resolution 145, to ratify CEDAW, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. RSVP <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/honor-violence-in-the-usa-another-reason-to-ratify-cedaw-now-tickets-17018790661>.

Tuesday, June 16, 2015, Noon to 1:30 PM. US Soccer Foundation and Women’s Policy, Inc., Lunch Briefing on How Sports Can Improve Girls Health, B-338,339 Rayburn House Office Building. RSVP to Claudia@womenspolicy.org or call Women’s Policy, Inc. 202-554-2323.

Thursday, June 18, 2015, 6PM. Reception, Book Signing, and Program. Running from Office: Why Young Americans Are Turned Off to Politics. Jennifer Lawless and Richard Fox, AU Women & Politics Institute, Capitol Visitor Center, Meeting Room. RSVP to My-Lien Le 202-885-2903.

Tuesday, June 23, 2015, Noon. CWI Meeting, CWI’s 40th Anniversary Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, DC. Contact Harriett Stonehill, CWI Co-President estone456@aol.com or Kellye McIntosh, kellye@AFJ.org

The following candidates for the re-election of CWI’s Officers and Board Members for two year terms (July 2015 to June 2017) were submitted by the nominating committee of Harriett Stonehill, Kate Campbell Stevenson, and Becky Schergens. Elections will be held during the June 23, 2015, CWI Annual meeting.

- Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill, Co-Presidents
- Anne Martin, Secretary
- Linda Fihelly, Vice-President Membership July
- Kellye McIntosh, Board member serving as Vice President, External Affairs
- Carmen Delgado Votaw, Board member serving as Vice-President Global Issues

(Other CWI Officers and Board members elected in 2014 will continue their 2 year terms.)

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

*Photos: Sue Klein. Draft Meeting summary, Marissa Ditkowsky, Intern, Alliance for Justice
with revisions by presenter, Peggy McIntosh.*

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2014 – JUNE 2015

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill; VP Membership, Linda Fihelly; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary, D. Anne Martin; VP External Affairs, Kellye McIntosh, VP Legislation, Roberta Stanley, VP Outreach, Kate Campbell Stevenson; VP Global Issues, Carmen Delgado Votaw

DIRECTORS: Kathryn Braeman, Tina Hobson

DIRECTORS EMERITAE: Ruth G. Nadel, Elaine Newman, and Ellen S. Overton

EX OFFICIO: Barbara J. Ratner

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Membership Form

www.womensclearinghouse.org

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

Holly Taggart Joseph, CWI Treasurer
8504 Rosewood Drive
Bethesda MD 20814-1434

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

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

Enclosed is a check for CWI membership for July 2015 – June 2016.

____ Individual (\$25/one year) (\$45/two years), (\$65/three years)
____ Individual under 30 years old (\$15/one year)
____ Virtual-(\$20/one year) (Email newsletter only for members outside Washington, DC area)
____ Organization (\$40/one year or \$100/three years)
____ Additional tax deductible contribution of \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

*If organizational member, indicate if you would like a link to your organization to be listed as a supporting member on CWI's website. (Listing subject to CWI approval) Circle One: ____YES
____NO (If Yes, provide url link.)

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



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

September 2015 CWI Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Invitation to Tuesday, September 22, 2015 CWI Meeting at the Alliance for Justice on Child Care: How to Make it a National Priority

The child care needs of American families have increased sharply as women with children continue to enter the paid workforce in growing numbers. To address this issue, CWI welcomes **Helen Blank**, Director of Leadership and Public Policy at National Women's Law Center. Helen leads the federal Child Care/Early Learning Coalition and Strong Start for Children Campaign and works to improve and expand federal and state early care and education programs.

Our second speaker, **Valerie Young**, Public Policy Analyst, serves on the Advisory Council for the Caring Economy Campaign, as well as other collaborative efforts promoting women's empowerment. She is an advocate for recognition of mothers' contributions to our national welfare and a proponent of economic security and independence for those who care for family members.

Join us to learn more about the importance of bringing Child Care out of the shadows and make it a higher national priority. Understand what we can do to elevate this issue on federal and state agendas. An investment in early childhood education and care demonstrates the connection between strong care policies and economic security for women and families.

Date/Time: Tuesday, September 22, 2015/ Noon to 1:30 PM

Location: Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC (2nd Floor)

Close to Dupont Circle Metro Station. Entrance on New Hampshire Avenue across the street from hotel.

Meeting is free and open to the public.

For more details contact: Kate Campbell Stevenson, CWI VP for Outreach, KCamStev@aol.com

Next CWI Meeting: Tuesday October 27, 2015, Noon "Climate Change: Our Vital Leadership Role" – Alliance for Justice, contact CWI Board Member - TinaHobson@gmail.com.

August 2015

Dear Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Members,

"From generation to generation," as the biblical phrase states, needs to become CWI's torch. CWI needs to encourage the younger generations of women and men feminists to participate actively in CWI. CWI needs to meet the challenge to encourage young members in leadership roles and address contemporary issues.

Although young adults are interested in participating at meetings, they are often unable to do so in the present structure. Young working parents need to go home to their families, attend a course needed for a work benefit, or to network for their growing careers. We need to investigate new ways of reaching out and using new technologies. Do we need to change the meeting time? Location? Do we need to "stream it?" Do we need to Google Group it? We need to understand the new resources to meet these new challenges.

Is our selection of topics meeting a need of people to increase their understanding of the challenges and possibilities of increasing equality on topics where they want to increase their expertise and understanding so they can have a more effective impact?

As we begin CWI's 41st year, we need to encourage new leadership and voices. We need to address timely topics, and continue our advocacy on the ongoing necessary issues. Please contact any of our Board members with your ideas on how we can continue to provide needed information and advocacy to fulfill our mutual goals for a more equitable US and global society!

Shortly after the meeting long time CWI Board Member and CWI 40th Anniversary Committee Member, Kellye McIntosh announced that she would be moving to Prague, Czechoslovakia. She will be a special guest at our CWI meeting November 24, 2015 when she visits the US. Kellye will stay on the CWI Board and continue to help us as she can and the Alliance for Justice will continue to host our meetings. See photo of Kellye and Board member Kate Campbell Stevenson on right.

Cordially,
Co-Presidents Harriett Stonehill and
Sue Klein



CWI 40th Anniversary Celebration Program Summary – June 23, 2015

The Clearinghouse on Women's Issues celebrated its 40th anniversary and renewal at its June 23rd 2015 meeting at the Alliance for Justice in Washington, DC.

Vice President of Programs and Operations at the Alliance for Justice (AFJ) **Inga Smulkstys** was the featured speaker at this meeting. She first thanked the women in the room who fought so diligently for women's rights. "I'm in awe of some of the things that you've done to really allow me to be in the position that I'm at, and so, thank you for that," she said. Smulkstys added that she has had the privilege of working with and for strong women. She said that 40 years ago, she would have been asked about sitting at a typing table, not a conference table.

"We have a lot of generations here," she also noted. "You don't see that in a lot of places." She emphasized how much she could learn from some of the women in generations before her, but also how older generations can learn from younger generations. Smulkstys said that she grew up in a town where Planned Parenthood protests took place regularly on Saturdays when the location performed procedures. When her mother explained to her why all of these people gathered there, she said, "You might want to get involved in politics for that reason, depending upon how you feel about it." Smulkstys, of course, did become involved, and eventually worked at Planned Parenthood, as well as Clean Water Action.

She connected her work at the Alliance for Justice to her past work at Planned Parenthood and Clean Water Action. She noted the AFJ's Bolder Advocacy helps other nonprofits navigate the laws and be better advocates. On the other hand, the AFJ also keeps track of who is sitting on the court benches, which had been important work for cases such as *Roe v. Wade* and cases involving the Clean Water Act. Smulkstys also discussed the significance of Title IX. Smulkstys said she grew up during a time when women were starting to become involved in sports. In contrast, Smulkstys said her previous boss and congresswoman from Indiana said that if she wanted to be competitive, she would have had to take up baton twirling.

Referring to discussions on women's issues, Smulkstys noted a clear change in direction.

Specifically, with abortion issues, she said that previously, "nobody really cared what women



thought about that."--- The conversation has since changed. Inclusion is necessary for future conversation and further guiding the movement. "If you don't have all the voices at the table, you're not going to get the full story. You're not going to get the full picture. You're not going to get the full impact."

After her remarks, Smulkstys was presented with a new sound system for the Alliance for Justice. --- CWI's VP for Outreach, Kate Campbell Stevenson also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Alliance for Justice for their continued support and for hosting CWI meetings in their conference room.

CWI Co-president Harriett Stonehill (Photo on right) wrote the following inspiring toast.

CWI CELEBRATES ITS 40th ANNIVERSARY
Raise your glass and Hip, Hip Horray!
CWI is celebrating its 40th Anniversary today!

40 years ago Clearinghouse on Women's Issues was created
By a smart group of women, who stated,
"We've got to share and let everyone know
Issues of concern to women, so we can grow."
And take our rightful place in all we do
Demand equality, equal pay, and voting rights, too.

Learn about national issues and global items
Fight injustices and join causes to "right" em.
Hear a discussion, a symposium, a talk
Act on it, spread the word, walk the walk
So join CWI, make new friends,
Learn the issues to make amends.

For 40 years each month we've met
And CWI pledges to continue, you bet!
So raise your glass and Hip, Hip, Horray!
CWI is celebrating its 40th Anniversary today!



The meeting host committee of **Harriett Stonehill, Kellye McIntosh, and Roberta Stanley** then led a discussion to commemorate CWI's years of accomplishments and feats. CWI members shared their experiences as women, and discussed how CWI had an impact on their lives.



Bernice "Bunny" Sandler, also known as the "Godmother of Title IX," discussed her experience with discrimination, her advocacy and action to advance gender equality in education.
(Photo on left.)

Tina Hobson described the "days of working together in the dark," without the technology we have today. Newsletters were printed and circulated, faxes could not be sent, there was no email to arrange meetings. She also discussed a different aspect of the past, however, and how women in higher positions would not help her.

Harriet Fulbright, upon submitting her resume for a job at some time in the 1950s, had been told immediately: "I hope you know how to type, because that's what you'll be doing."



Roberta Stanley (Photo on left) recalled a time when only men were on the House committees that were responsible for Title IX. She noted her proudest moment working for the House of Representatives was when powerful individuals in athletics approached the committees about getting rid of Title IX and each of the Congressmen said "NO."

The next several speakers were students and interns, who expressed their gratitude for the women who made it possible to be where they are today. **Sarah Pauly** discussed one particular CWI meeting during which disabilities were discussed in combination with women's issues. She said networking at the meeting helped her to complete a separate project--an investigation regarding major retailers and how they accommodate disabilities.



Donna Hakimian, (Photo on left) who spoke at a November 2014 CWI meeting and works for the Bahai's of the United States, stated "that as a woman who was born in Iran, I found it comforting to find others who shared, embraced, and agreed on the idea that all humans deserve the same basic human rights."

Kellye McIntosh, (Photo on page 2) CWI Board Member and Outreach Director at the Alliance for Justice, said that although the original question presented was about one strong meeting in particular, her involvement in CWI has "not only been about the substance of the meetings, but the members." She also told her story about how she got involved with CWI because she was asked and encouraged. "People get involved in things because you ask them," she said, "and if we continue to do that, we will win."



Janice Koch, past CWI Board Member and speaker on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), later described the additional progress and her work encouraging women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. However, she reminded the attendees that stereotypes, unfortunately, still exist, whether they are in regard to strength or interest in mathematics. (See photo on left where Janice is greeting Kate Campbell Stevenson {back to camera} as Adriana talks to another attendee at June 23, 2015 Celebration.)

Holly Joseph, CWI Treasurer, posed the question of what the stories from today's achievements will be in 40 years. "Our stories have changed," she said. She noted, for example, the debt that current college students are bearing and will continue to bear. She added that CWI must continue to focus on "how we can help other people's' stories."

CWI held elections for the 2015 - 2017 Board positions. See bottom of page 7 of this newsletter for the full list of CWI Board Members and their leadership positions for 2015-17.

This CWI Celebration Meeting concluded with a lovely luncheon. Roses were presented to each attendee. Many thanks to the Committee of **Kellye McIntosh, Roberta Stanley and Harriett Stonehill** and other CWI members. Below is photo of Board Members: **Linda Fihelly, Harriett Stonehill, and Ellie Newman** at the celebration.



Coming DC Area Feminist Events

In addition to the events below, check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us. Members, be sure to share your women's advocacy news and upcoming women's events on CWI's Facebook page as we are always happy to help promote the great and important work you do! CWI member organizations are especially encouraged to send events for future newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org

Wednesday, September 9, 2015 9-10 am. Setting a New Standard for Success in Education. The Carnegie Endowment, 1779 Massachusetts Ave, NW, DC 20036. Eva Moskowitz founder of Success Academy charter schools and Isabel Sawhill of Brookings. RSVP http://connect.brookings.edu/register-to-attend-success-education?utm_campaign=Foreign+Policy&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=21629111&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9vVfJyzwABx2zsc_Q9oP_5MBgqdv96BNhUSoW_uXxJAw_HnWnEizQ5NsQEbJ6JybPXWkkTEJe3-D1uWYChuXqbVhty3w&hsmi=21629111

Monday, September 14, 2015 9:30 am-5pm. The World We Seek: Reigniting the Dialogue on Human Security to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 4th UN World Conference on Women in Beijing. Kenney Auditorium, The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), 1740 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036. Sponsored by SAIS and Women's Learning Partnership. Free light lunch provided but must RSVP www.learningpartnership.org, 301-654-2774.

Monday, September 21, 2015, 12:30-4:30pm , The 2015 Entrepreneurship-Information Technology Conference followed by Dialog on Diversity 25th Anniversary Celebration & Reception until 8 pm. Location: Microsoft Innovation & Policy Center, 901 K Street, NW, DC. Register free at www.dialogueondiversity.org, Tel. 703-631-0650.

Tuesday, September 22, 2015, Noon. CWI Meeting, Child Care: How to make it a National Priority. Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, DC. (See Page 1 Invitation) Contact Kate Campbell Stevenson, CWI Vice President for Outreach, KCamStev@aol.com

Thursday, September 24, 2015 Exhibition opening. 8-18 IS THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT. Etta Maddox, Maryland's first female lawyer, was the founder of the Maryland Suffrage Association and spent her life fighting for women's rights. Some of her memorabilia, including original letters from national suffrage leader Susan B. Anthony, will be displayed in an exhibit on voting rights at the University of Maryland Frances King Carey School of Law that opens on September 24, 2015. The event is open to the public. Registration is required <http://www.law.umaryland.edu/VotingRights924>

Friday, September 25, 2015. Noon to 2PM. Beyond Grants: How Are Foundations Further Championing Causes and Grantees? Alliance for Justice. Location: Public Welfare Foundation 1200 U Street, NW, DC 20009. Lunch provided. RSVP http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6539/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=79057

Tuesday & Wednesday, September 29-30, 2015. Re:gender 2015 Annual Summit, Through a Gender Lens: Precarity*, Sexual Violence & the U.S. South. Atlanta, GA Register: <http://empatsy.wufoo.com/forms/conference-registration-form/>

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015. Induction Ceremony National Women's Hall of Fame, Seneca Falls, NY. www.womenofthehall.org. DC feminist leaders, Eleanor Smeal, FMF and Marcia Greenberger, National Women's Law Center are being inducted. Former CWI Board Member, Bernice Sandler was inducted in the 2013 Ceremony (held every 2 years).

Thursday, October 22, 2015. 6-8pm American Educational Research Association Brown lecture by Teresa McCarty, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC.

Tuesday, October 27, 2015, Noon. CWI Meeting, Climate Change: Our Vital Leadership Role. Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, DC. Contact Tina Hobson, CWI Board Member TinaHobson@gmail.com
*"This initiative explores how systems and societal "norms" governing gender and economics create financial instability for women and gender non-conforming individuals." <http://regender.org/Initiatives/GenderAndPrecarity>

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

Photos: Anne Martin and Janice Koch. Draft Meeting summary, Marissa Ditkowsky, Intern, Alliance for Justice with revisions by co-president, Harriett Stonehill.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

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



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

October 2015 CWI Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Invitation to Tuesday, October 27, 2015 CWI Meeting at the Alliance for Justice on Unique National Strategies That Benefit Women

Our presenter, **Edie Fraser**, CEO of STEMconnector® (focus on science, technology, engineering and math) and the Million Women Mentors® movement (to gain 1 million women and girl mentors by 2019. See www.millionwomenmentors.org). She is also Vice Chairman of DiversifiedSearch.

She will discuss best practices in developing, implementing, and evaluating these and related strategies which involve corporate and association leaders. In doing so, she will highlight how her current projects, are designed to improve the status of women and pay equity.

CWI Board member, **Tina Hobson**, organizer of this meeting, was Edie's first "mentor"/boss in 1965 during Edie's first job with the Peace Corps. Edie later spent 5 years with national poverty programs. Since then Edie worked with, and headed, public affairs and research firms in Washington with major campaigns including anti-smoking, the Panama Treaties, labor law reform, and her team won a Silver Anvil for the US-Japan Campaign for building relations between the two countries. Edie has written a book, *Do Your Giving While You're Living*, and another on women's entrepreneurship. She has worked with more than 250 Fortune companies on women and diversity leadership and with several hundred associations.

She was the first woman to serve as Chair of the World Affairs Council of DC and she was inducted into the Enterprising Women Hall of Fame. Save the date and come join us. You won't want to miss Edie's stories!

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 27, 2015/ Noon to 1:30 PM

Location: Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC (2nd Floor)

Close to Dupont Circle Metro Station. Entrance on New Hampshire Avenue across the street from hotel.

Meeting is free and open to the public.

For more details contact: Tina Hobson, CWI Board Member, TinaHobson@gmail.com

Next CWI Meeting: Tuesday November 24, 2015, Noon – Alliance for Justice.

October 2015

Dear Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Members,

Between the period of self-examination and values that Jews focus on during Yom Kippur, and the Pope's recent value-based talks, especially when addressing Congress, many began to explore the question of whether "faith" has a significant role on how we address our contemporary issues today.

The pilgrims came to these shores to live a value-based life, based on their religious beliefs. The various immigration movements over the years were comprised of people leaving a society where they were unable to live their faith-based values.

In his speech to Congress, the Pope challenged lawmakers to adopt a more open approach to global migration, and to combat climate change. He stated that in the tradition of Moses, to "keep alive their sense of unity by means of just legislation." "Politics is, instead, an expression of our compelling need to live as one, in order to build as one, the greatest common good; that of a community which sacrifices particular interests in order to share, in justice and peace, its goods, its interest, its social life."

Will Congress heed that faith obligation and discontinue its contentious mandates and special interests as recently seen? Will it guide decisions in budget items, cuts in health care issues, education and employment issues, and global issues? Will Congress face its ethical obligation to play its important role in acknowledging "the most serious effect of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity?" Will this Congress strive to address gender equity values related to child care, employment opportunities, and pay equity? When addressing the issues of immigration the Pope stated "Congress must respond in a way which is always humane, just, and fraternal." Will the sense of "faith" lead the US Congress to be guided by the precepts of all faiths?

We as CWI members need to continue to keep informed on these vital issues, and as advocates, continue to inform others to bring about necessary changes for a more just and equitable society. Let us continue to do this important work.

As we think about the future, we also want to note special contributions of two of our CWI activists, Daisy Fields former Board member and long-time CWI newsletter editor who died September 4, 2015 at 100 years old. Daisy is celebrated as the second president of Federally Employed Women (FEW). Here she is with CWI Board Member, Tina Hobson, first Federal Women's Program Director on her left and Allie Latimer, FEW Founding President on her right. (See CWI October and November 2014 newsletters on www.womensclearinghouse.org.)



Current CWI Board member, Carmen Delgado Votaw celebrated her 80th birthday at the end of September. This is a 2013 photo of Carmen (with Sue Klein behind her) pointing to the "closed" sign at the National Women's Rights visitor Center in Seneca Falls, NY when we went to help former CWI Board Member, Bernice Sandler celebrate her 2013 induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame. See pages 5-6 for photos of the 2015 induction Ceremony which included leaders of CWI organizations, Eleanor Smeal, Feminist Majority Foundation and Marcia Greenberger, National Women's Law Center. Thankfully the threatened Oct. 1, 2015 government shutdown was avoided and we were able to visit inside the buildings in this National Park.

Cordially, Harriett Stonehill, Co-President and Sue Klein, Co-President

CWI Program Summary—September 22, 2015

Child Care: How to Make it a National Priority

Featuring Helen Blank and Valerie Young

Kate Campbell Stevenson, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues VP for Outreach and organizer of this program introduced our first presenter, **Helen Blank**, Director of Leadership and Public Policy at the National Women's Law Center <http://www.nwlc.org/profile/helen-blank>. Blank also leads the federal Child Care/Early Learning Coalition and Strong Start for Children Campaign. (In photo, Kate is on left, Helen is on right.)



In her presentation, Blank focused on the need to make child care and prekindergarten (pre-k) a national priority once again. She gave a timeline of the progress that child care has made since she started working in that area. However, there are also many continuing national child care challenges. In recent years, child care needs of American families have increased sharply with more parents at work and school, but not enough has been done to address this issue. During her 24 years with the Children's Defense Fund, Blank recalled spearheading a variety of legislative efforts to improve child care nationally. Between 1987 and 1990 child care was a national priority. Blank said, "It [child care] was one of Congress's hottest issues, it was very bipartisan...it was in every newspaper of the country for three years." The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) was enacted in 1990 and before that, there was an entitlement for child care mothers receiving welfare and for those transitioning off welfare.

In 1971 Congress passed the Comprehensive Child Development Act. Blank pointed out that this bill, which created strong federal standards, would have been a great accomplishment, but it was not enacted and an opportunity to lay down a framework for child care at that time was lost. The 1996 welfare bill consolidated all the child care programs into the CCDBG. This federal child care legislation provided increased funds for child care programs. Although it helped, it has not met all the child care needs. For example, Blank noted that middle income families are getting help for preschool in some states, but most do not, and they face high child care costs. Only one in six children eligible for federal child care assistance receives it. Child care policies also need to consider low income mothers who work nontraditional hours. These mothers not only need child care assistance, but may need to use informal child care during nights and weekends when they work. Support for informal child care may become more challenging with new requirements in the CCDBG reauthorization enacted last year.

"There's about \$6 billion of state funds in pre-k and the efforts to increase support for pre-k have been bipartisan." Blank noted that policy makers may turn to pre-k as opposed to expanding support for families with infants and toddlers. The growth of pre-k is a positive step, but may have inadvertently decreased the supply of child care providers for infants and toddlers.

Additionally, child care workers who are mostly women are paid poor wages. Blank also discussed funding problems. Despite laws to reform public support for child care, federal funding has been declining and last year saw the lowest number of children (1.4 million) enrolled in child care programs since 1997.

Child care is still a major challenge; however, in the midst of all these challenges, Blank argues that there is something hopeful happening within the society. Articles on child care affordability and high costs are increasing and with the 2016 presidential campaigns the issue is hard to ignore. How do we address these issues? How do we change the system for the better? Blank thinks it's time to push the agenda by creating more conversation about it, asking the 2016 presidential candidates what their thoughts and actions are and raising awareness of the needs of both low-income and middle income families. This issue affects the nation's economic, political, and social state; however current action towards child care does not effectively demonstrate how important accessible, affordable, and high quality non-sexist child care relates to the overall success of our nation. "Women need to talk about it more, the issue could be a higher priority item for

women's groups" argued Blank. She added, "It is high on the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) agenda. It helps mothers go to work, it helps children get a stronger start, and it's essential." For information on Child Care and Early Learning from the NWLC see: <http://www.nwlc.org/our-issues/child-care-%2526-early-learning>.

Our second presenter, **Valerie Young** is a Public Policy Analyst, who serves on the Advisory Council for the Caring Economy Campaign led by Riane Eisler. Young is also involved in other women's empowerment programs. She spoke about the importance of not categorizing child care as a poverty issue or a women's issue, but as an economic issue. "If we're going to try to make more of a priority about this topic we need to talk about them in a different way," she declared.



Young stated, "With GDP you just know how much an economy is producing. You don't know if it's being distributed properly. You don't know if it's giving people what they need to grow and develop themselves into becoming the most that they can be or what the economy needs them to be."

Her view is that child care equals prosperity. By giving children the necessary care, attention, and education, they will prosper as individuals and, therefore, allow our country to prosper. Young believes this is the most effective approach to seeing child care reform results in a country like the United States where child preservation is not a priority. She mentioned that by "using Social Wealth Economic Indicators, [we can see that] the United States, the world's only remaining superpower, and the home of the largest economy invests less, actually invests the least, into early childhood education than any other industrialized country and much less than OECD nations do. When it comes to things like preschool enrollment from ages three to five, [only]



57 percent of U.S. children [are enrolled]. When it comes to Sweden--94 percent, New Zealand--91 percent, Denmark--90 percent. In the years zero to five before children in school in OECD countries on average these children have three years of preschool education before they get there. In the U.S. they have 1.7 years of education before they get to formal schooling."

Like Bank, Young pointed out inequities and sex discrimination in compensating the mainly female child care workers. "Another thing to look at is the amount of money preschool caregivers--teachers really--[are receiving]...they need to be better compensated with more training. If you put one dollar on early childhood education, you get out between seven and ten dollars. There are very few things that have that kind of guaranteed high return on investment. So investing in early childhood is basically a no-brainer *no-brainer*, why wouldn't you do that? It drives down the need for public assistance, which benefits the economy immensely." Young argues that the largest issue is with no paid family leave. She stated "we don't have this notion that the welfare of children has anything to do with business or society at large. We continue to approach it as an individual problem or a family problem."

"I want you to think of a Caring Economy like a pie and it's not only about child care. The Caring Economy has to do with the role of care in making the economy go. We think about care as...tender, emotionally generous...it's unskilled largely. We think of babysitting as unskilled non-productive labor. We think of childbearing as not productive because it doesn't result in the exchange of money. And so we're dogged by all of those associations. But according to the Caring Economy concept, what does care do? Well it makes people. Good care makes people better. This is called human capacity development."

"We think of care as outside of the economy, well that's completely fallacious. Without care, nobody would get up in the morning and nobody would go to work and nobody would go to school. There would be no people, the economy would come to a screeching halt." "The infrastructure of care uses the paradigm of economics to explain where it fits into the system, why it is an issue of vital concern for everybody. Child care policy is economic policy because if we don't have high quality human capital coming up through the ranks,

then the quality of human life and the standard of living falls for all of us.” “Child Care policy is budget policy because if you invest in zero to three and zero to five, you decrease the cost of incarceration, you increase the educational attainment, you increase the income of that person, and you push back the age of first birth.”

Her final remarks consisted of suggestions on what we can do in order to legitimize this issue. She mentioned that electing the right people into office who will advocate for child care reform will help, in addition to becoming more aware of how interconnected everything is. “If everyone is so concerned about the economy, then why are we so steadfastly not making the connections between early childhood education and care and economic policy?” You can’t have a successful GDP without prepping your children for success. As Young put it: “We don’t live on an island; we actually live all together.” Young drew from caringeconomy.org as a resource for the data she presented. For future questions you can email Young at vanneyoung@msn.com or follow her blog [Your \(Wo\)Man in Washington](http://Your(Wo)ManinWashington.com).

Lindsey Reichlin (reichlin@iwpr.org) from the Institute for Women’s Policy Research briefed us on the need for supporting the reauthorization of the Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPIS) program to support low income college students raising dependent children. The Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues signed on to a letter written by the Student Parent Policy Working Group in support of Congresswoman Katherine Clark’s (MA-5) bill to reauthorize the CCAMPIS program. Child care support is needed by approximately one-quarter or 4.8 million of US undergraduate college students.

Professor and advocate **Dave Anderson** <http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/scholar-profile/886> also spoke at the end of the meeting about his book *Leveraging: A Political, Economic, and Societal Framework*, which discusses “the concept of leverage: resource leverage, bargaining leverage, and investment leverage across all societal sectors.” He argued that it is important to have leverage in all aspects of life, but being overleveraged is not a way of living and working mothers are overleveraged. Anderson believes that by changing the language, you can change politicians’ views on the importance of child care and other family-friendly public policies. He says, “Politicians like to talk about leverage--family policy is pushed to the side and when it is discussed, it’s not given a lot of attention and the language that’s used to discuss it is totally different from the language used to discuss the *big* issues--we need to change the language.” Dave Anderson is running for Congress in Maryland’s 8th District. For more information, you can visit his website <http://andersonforcongress.com>.

CWI Officers and Members Attended the Oct. 3, 2015 Induction of National Women’s Hall of Fame Members in Seneca Falls, NY.



Left photo at induction ceremony (left to right) shows Janet Hughes, Katherine Spillar (Ms. Exec Editor), Lilly Ledbetter (former inductee), Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Eleanor Smeal, Pres. Feminist Majority Foundation (new inductee) and NOW Pres. Terry O’Neill.



Photo at right shows CWI representatives Lida Churchville, Sue Klein, and Anne Martin. The background building is the soon to be restored Seneca Falls Knitting Mills, the new home of the National Women’s Hall of Fame.



This photo is of Loreto Gubernatis, Mc Donagh Davis Associates, Jill Tietjen, CEO National Women's Hall of Fame, Dr. JoAnne Martin, *National Great Blacks in Wax Museum* in front of some of the wax statues of former inductees which were displayed at the 2015 induction ceremony. McDonagh Davis Associates is proud to sponsor **MARDI GRAS** from 12-4 PM on October 25, 2015. It is a Fund Raiser for *The National Women's Hall of Fame* and *The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum* 1601 E. North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21213. Tickets **can be purchased at** womenofthehall.org .

Coming DC Area Feminist Events

In addition to the events below, check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us. Members, be sure to share your women's advocacy news and upcoming women's events. We are happy to help promote the important work you do! CWI member organizations are especially encouraged to send events for future newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org.

Wednesday, October 14, 2015. Greenpeace People's Climate March, 4:30-6PM, One Franklin Square, Washington, DC 20005. RSVP <https://greenwire.greenpeace.org/usa/en/node/44455>.

Thursday, October 22, 2015. 6-8 pm American Educational Research Association Brown lecture by Teresa McCarty, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC.

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Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015, 5-7 PM. A Tribute to Barbara R. Arnwine benefiting the Transformative Justice Coalition, The Sphinx Club Almas Shriner, 1513 K St. NW, Washington, DC, for more information email Tribute@TJCoalition.org .

Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015, Feminist Majority: Women Money Power Summit, National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW 13th Floor, Washington, DC. 10AM to 4PM, www.feministmajority.org or call 703-522-2214 for sponsorships and tickets. Featuring Women's Hall of Fame 2015 inductee and Congresswomen Barbara Lee and Louise Slaughter among others!

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Photos: Anne Martin and Sue Klein. Draft Meeting summary, Sharon Mutwiwa and Katie Kamins, Interns, Feminist Majority Foundation with revisions by CWI Vice President Kate Campbell Stevenson

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