



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

January 2017 CWI Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

**Invitation to Tuesday, January 24, 2017 Noon-1:30 PM Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)
Meeting at the Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 2nd Floor**

Why We March

Are you planning to march on **Saturday, January 21? The Women's March** will be the subject of CWI's first meeting of 2017. We will have the opportunity to share information about this historic event at our January 24 meeting – just three days later – a retrospective of sorts! Here is some basic information you will need if you decide to march.

The certainty about it is that you will not be alone. With the organization of the March having started as a grassroots effort just after the election, there will be tens if not hundreds of thousands of attendees coming to Washington, DC, as well as many others going to "sister" marches all around the country. There are so many details as well as late-breaking news that you should be sure to keep apprised of developments by checking the website:

<https://www.womensmarch.com/>.

Unquestionably it will be an historic event, to be compared with the first Women's March in 1913 for which the single purpose was to seek the vote for women – not to be achieved for seven more years. There were floats and pageantry, and Inez Milholland astride a white horse. And like that march, this year's march is planned in conjunction with the inauguration of a new president. A difference is that President Wilson was sworn in the day after the March in 1913, while President-elect Donald Trump will have been sworn in the day before.

The organizers of the January 21 Women's March say that it is not an anti-Trump protest. It is rather a "stand on social justice and human rights issues ranging from race, ethnicity, gender, religion, immigration and healthcare." Feminist leaders Gloria Steinem and Harry Belafonte are honorary co-chairs of the event.

What do you think – and hope – will be the impact of this Women's March on January 21? This will be the focus of our presentation and discussion at the January 24 CWI meeting. We hope you will join us.

Presenters:

Tina Hobson, a former CWI Board Member, will offer a few observations from her personal experience in joining her late husband, Julius W. Hobson (member of the DC School Board and City Council) in nearly every Vietnam protest in DC, and in those related to civil rights, including the ERA. Then a government employee, she was jailed for participation in one protest at the Capitol.

Jennifer Rand is a local organizer of this March, stemming from her activism in the past presidential campaign. A former civil litigation attorney, she is currently a freelance legal researcher/writer, a small business owner, political activist, cancer survivor, and non-fiction writer. A wife and parent of a teenage son and daughter, she blogs (her website is listed below, last) about an array of topics pertaining to women's issues, politics, and parenting with a feminist mindset.

The Women's March Website	https://www.womensmarch.com/
March with Feminist Majority Foundation in DC, LA, SF	http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/1269/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=7334
The Guardian's Women's March Guide	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/dec/27/womens-march-on-washington-dc-guide?CMP=share_btn_link
The Women's March Facebook page	https://www.facebook.com/Womens-March-on-Washington-1338822066131069/
Twitter	https://twitter.com/womensmarch
Instagram	http://www.instagram.com/womensmarch
Jennifer Rand's blog	http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/jenniferrand1920-698
Jennifer Rand's website	http://www.thefemomist.com

Members are encouraged to bring guests, at no charge, to this and all CWI meetings. Attendees may bring their own lunch to eat during the meeting. **The next CWI meeting: Tuesday, 2/28/17, same time and location as above.** The 11 Dupont Circle entrance is on New Hampshire Ave., across from the Dupont Plaza Hotel. Metro stop: Dupont; south exit.

Dear CWI Members,

It's 2017 and we, as members of CWI, have our broad progressive mission and much advice from our recent CWI meetings (as summarized in our 2016 newsletters) to guide our actions. Based on the November 2016 election results, we will need to be stronger, demonstrate more perseverance and determination, and not only advocate on our issues of concern, but join with others in our actions.

In 2017 we will need to focus on broad societal issues, such as climate change, immigration, judgeships, and election reform while we continue to focus on holding the line and advancing feminist outcomes that have been gained through hard work and advocacy.

We will need to make sure that important gains are preserved and not diminished via federal or local restrictions. For example, we need to protect Roe v Wade, gender equality in marriage rights, Title IX protections against sex discrimination in education, and non-discrimination protections in health care and medical insurance. Instead we need to continue to make progress such as making high quality education and health services available to all. These and other issues must still be fought for to maintain their ongoing existence in federal, state and local laws.

We must continue our work as an organization and as individuals to advocate for those who are most vulnerable and to be certain those persons are protected under law. Let us, CWI Members, begin a conversation and use our energy, our intelligence and our focus, to make sure 2017 is a significant year in keeping and working for our mission.

Many thanks to our CWI Treasurer, **Holly Joseph** (also Co-President of Montgomery Co. NOW) and past CWI Board member, **Tina Hobson** for organizing our exciting January 24 CWI Meeting to discuss the implications of the Women's March on Washington (and in other cities) on our feminist actions to maintain and build on our progress!

We also urge you to join the *Ms.* Community and read the *Ms.* Fall 2016 special election issue, **Never Go Back** and the Winter 2016 *Ms.* Issue on **Drawing the Red Line: Not Going Back**. The articles on "Not Going Back" by Feminist Majority Foundation leaders Gaylynn Burroughs and on "Beyond the Gender Gap—Growing the Feminist Factor" by Eleanor Smeal are especially important in informing our future actions! **To join the *Ms.* Community visit www.ms magazine.com or call 703-522-2214.** We will also bring some copies to the Jan. 24 CWI meeting.



We also thank Feminist Majority Foundation intern, Bailey Hovland, for writing the initial summaries of the past three CWI meetings in this as well as the October and November 2016 CWI newsletters. She is on the left posing with a poster of the *Ms.* cover featuring the election of Barack Obama. We were hoping that our Fall and Winter 2016 issues of *Ms.* would have been able to feature a victorious Hillary Clinton on the cover!

We look forward to encouraging all progressives and feminists to work together to Make 2017 and the years to come Happy New Years.

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



CWI Program Summary-November 29th, 2016 on What to Expect During Transition?

How Can We Preserve Support for Feminist Goals?

Our speakers, **Jeanette Lim** (on right) and **Emily Martin** (on left), helped us look ahead for feminist opportunities to “never go back” and continue advancing feminist goals during the presidential transition process. Our feminist agendas will be challenging to uphold due to the expected electoral college rejection of Hillary Clinton, the winner of the popular vote by over 2.6 million votes. Secretary Clinton is the first party-nominated female presidential candidate. Thus, our presenters were hoping to talk about a transition with a president-elect who was a strong supporter of feminist priorities. However, it appears that President-elect Trump and his new administration will not have high-level feminist advocates.

The presenters and follow-up focused on identifying the emerging Trump-Pence plans as they might help or impede our feminist goals. Some of the Q&As also discussed possibilities for establishing Hillary as the next president because of extensive hacking of the Democrats and potential fraud in the programming of voting machines in some states. Information was also shared on Russian infiltration in favor of the Republicans in some illegal actions during the presidential campaigns. The presenters focused on transition strategies like influencing appointments, governmental reorganizations, and prioritizing issues and goals for both Trump’s administration and Congress. Jeanette shared her experiences during previous transitions and described key differences in how transition periods were handled by different outgoing and incoming administrations.

Sue Klein, CWI Co-President, introduced the first featured speaker, attorney **Jeanette Lim**, whom Sue knew when they both worked in the Education Department. Jeanette is the Clearinghouse’s Vice-President for Legal Affairs. She recently retired as a Senior Executive Service Civil Servant in the US Department of Education after 36 years. During her time in the Education Department (ED), Jeanette directed the office in charge of legal policies in the Office for Civil Rights. In two presidential transitions, she served as the ED Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. Jeanette also served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Planning in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education in ED. She litigated desegregation and gender discrimination cases, including sexual harassment and higher education admission cases, and represented the US in obtaining admission for women in the Citadel of South Carolina. She was a Special Assistant to the President of West Chester State University of Pennsylvania in 1978-9 and taught chemistry and math at college and high school levels. Her Juris Doctor is from Temple University Law School (Philadelphia), her Masters Degree in Medical Genetics is from the University of Wisconsin Medical School (Madison), and her Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry is from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). She is also the daughter of Chinese immigrants.

Jeanette began addressing the importance of talking about the transition so that we could identify opportunities to save current advancements and “protect against erosion of the rights of women and minorities.” The opportunities we have right now, before President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration, are in supporting agency continuing career employees and current efforts to stabilize gains through promulgating regulations and policy, burrowing-in of political staff, and identifying the political jobs listed in the “Plum Book” (The United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions, less formally known as a Presidential Transition Directory). During the transition there will be opportunities to affect appointments through the nomination and confirmation processes.



Jeanette went on to describe her 36 years in the federal government. She worked through nine different Presidential transitions, five of which were elections with changes in leadership and four were reelections of the incumbent President. For 23 of those years, she held Senior Executive Service positions and served in transitions as Interim Assistant Secretary in the Office for Civil Rights in ED.

She emphasized how this 2016-17 transition period is incredibly important by describing her early work for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) Office of the General Counsel. In 1979, Jeanette was on a team of four female attorneys assigned to develop an intercollegiate athletics policy to investigate pending Title IX athletics complaints filed with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). In December of 1979, OCR published the Title IX Intercollegiate Athletics Policy. In May of 1980, the Departments of Education (ED) and Health & Human Services (HHS) were created from the HEW. In November, Ronald Reagan won the presidential election.

During 1980, just before Reagan's inauguration and after ED's creation, the Office for Civil Rights was set on applying the 1979 Intercollegiate Athletics policy and issuing their findings to create a foundation to establish precedent and stabilize new policy. The Universities of Michigan, Hawaii, Kansas, Syracuse, and Akron were among the colleges that had longstanding complaints of sex discrimination in athletic programs which needed to be investigated. Jeanette met her husband, a former college basketball player, during her work in investigation teams formed with the OCR regional offices. He and his colleagues' perspectives were beneficial due to the women's lack of knowledge and experience in athletics (there were no women's NCAA teams back then). The OCR investigative teams worked overtime, including holidays, to finish investigations and issue letters of findings. From their work, "the rest is Title IX history." The Title IX Intercollegiate Athletic Policy was established under Judge Shirley Hufstедler, the first Secretary of Education who was appointed for a short tenure by President Jimmy Carter.

Many assumed that a Hillary victory would continue a majority of the practices from Obama's administration. The Trump victory presents feminists with a different story. There are 1,600 Presidential appointments for Trump to make, and 1,200 of these appointments need Senate confirmation. Of the 1,200, there are the Secretaries of 15 Cabinet agencies, deputy secretaries, undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, and general counsels, which is over 350 positions. Large numbers of Supreme Court, Appellate and District Court Justices will also be appointed with unknown but lasting effects on society.

The appointments in 1980-1981 by Ronald Reagan during the transition from Jimmy Carter have similarities to the current Trump appointments. For the first time in modern political history, Ronald Reagan appointed leaders of agencies who were hostile to the work of their agencies. For example, James Watt, appointed as Secretary of Interior, made it clear that his goal was to remove government oversight on the use of protected natural resources. Oil and fossil fuel industry leaders have been nominated by President-elect Trump including Rex Tillerson to be Secretary of State, Scott Pruitt for the EPA, Rick Perry for the Energy Department and Ryan Zinke for Interior. These nominees are expected to lead a major assault on current agency policies and regulations. The announcements of these nominations of agency heads, give us a chance to show our Senators reasons to vote not to confirm nominees who are hostile to the agencies' missions.

Careful vetting of these nominees' backgrounds can unveil information that could disqualify them or weaken their attacks on agency purposes. For example, Ronald Reagan appointed Terrel Bell to be Secretary of ED with the goal of eliminating the new Department. However, teachers, their unions, and other education associations made known their support for the ED with influential individuals and saved the Department. President-elect Trump has nominated Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education. She is a Republican billionaire and school voucher supporter. With her husband, she donated \$50 million to Grove City College, known for refusing to allow its students to receive federal financial aid to avoid complying with Title IX. Following in the

footsteps of the Reagan era, we can also have a say in who serves as the head of government agencies and Supreme Court justices, thereby influencing what they are able to do.

The meeting shifted to **Emily Martin**, the Vice President for Workplace Justice and General Counsel, National Women's Law Center (NWLC). Prior to joining NWLC, Emily was Deputy Director of the Women's Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) where she spearheaded litigation, policy, and public education initiatives to advance women's rights to fair treatment at work, at school, and in housing. In her introduction, Sue said she first met Emily in her ACLU position and worked with her in fighting sex discrimination related to sex-segregated public education. Before working at ACLU, Emily served as a law clerk in both the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and in the Eastern District of Virginia. She also served as a Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship recipient at the NWLC and as Vice President and President of the Fair Housing Justice Center in New York City. Emily is from Virginia and graduated from the University of Virginia and Yale Law School. She has two young children and lives on Capitol Hill.



Emily noted that when first asked to participate in this CWI meeting, she and her team assumed it would be a transition from Obama to Hillary Clinton instead of Donald Trump. She had been working with other women's organizations to develop a women's community transition letter on advancing women's issues. This is still being done, but the women's community letter will be shorter. It will focus on key principles and policy commitments essential for women. In addition to writing to the Trump Administration, the letter will be publicly available.

Women's groups are also using this transition time to work with the Obama Administration and get final decisions on progressive actions "out the door". In developing the women's community letter, there is an emphasis on finding ways to work towards common goals as well as issues we need to watch out for. Feminists are looking for places in which Trump could be an asset to their goals based on certain messages from his campaign. For example, during his campaign, Donald Trump expressed some interest in increasing the minimum wage, improving and increasing infrastructure investment for transportation, health, and education, and in increasing the government's ability to raise up the impoverished.

Emily and her team are hoping to leverage the populist positioning of a Trump administration to highlight policies that address working class people. They plan on using Trump's concern about the economic needs of "working people" by giving him some initiatives to push progress forward. Trump, mainly due to his daughter Ivanka, has shown interest in affordable child care, paid maternity leave, and a need to close the wage gap. Although their initial plans unfortunately leave out same-sex couples, affordable childcare, paid maternity leave, and closing the wage gap are all within the progressive mindset. Progressives should draw on these positives and work with the new administration to focus on funding childcare for lower income families and find how and where we are able to make positive cases.

In addition to these few potential positives of the Trump administration, Emily and her colleagues are also gearing up to pick fights and draw contrasts, using all their tools to maintain and push progress forward. Through grassroots outreach, public education, and mobilization, victories are possible in challenging political climates. They want to ensure that the energy and passion of progressives will manifest itself in organized, outspoken citizens who will continue to fight for American rights. Although Republicans will be in power in the Executive and Legislative branches, their leads in Congress are narrow. Therefore influencing a few Republicans through public outcry to stop policies that are detrimental to women should be possible.

There are many ways our government can be influenced especially “not to go back.” For example, we can ensure high costs if Trump attempts to roll back progressive policies. During his campaign, Trump outwardly expressed and explicitly outlined on his website that he wanted to repeal Obamacare. However, Trump has already said that he would like to keep certain aspects of the Affordable Care Act while deleting some of its structural features, which differs greatly from his claims on the campaign trail. For example, he has said that he would like to keep the prohibition against insurers denying healthcare due to preexisting conditions and the ability for parents to cover children up to age 26 on their health insurance policies. We also hope that the provisions prohibiting sex discrimination which are especially critical in health insurance policies are maintained.

Frankly, Emily said, the past seven years has revealed numerous obstructive techniques to limit Obama’s presidential power. Many of those techniques can be used by progressives as well. It takes time and energy from politicians and supporters to delegitimize opposition or try and power through it, and that can be useful to stop attacks on feminist goals. If we are strategic and continue to evaluate what work needs to be done, we can stop destructive legislation and protect women and the communities we care about, like LGBTQ+ persons and people of color.

Trump’s win has mobilized and energized progressives who are eager to organize and speak out. By being vigilant, identifying threats, and creating reports on important work that is or is not being done, we can identify likely positive or negative targets in the Trump administration and keep our government in check. Right now, our job is to be watching. So long as we can continue to monitor conservative actions and hold them accountable to the law, we can further progressive and feminist agendas.

Coming 2017 DC Area Feminist Events

In 2017 we will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list and also share the extensive Montgomery County NOW Chapter Feminist Calendar. Please share your upcoming feminist events to post in 2017 CWI newsletters. We are especially happy to help promote the important work of CWI member organizations.

Send information to president@womensclearinghouse.org.

Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWInews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us.

Monday, January 9, 2017, 11 AM. Speech by AFT President, Randi Weingarten on Reigniting the Education Wars. The National Press Club . To RSVP <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/youre-invited-realizing-the-promise-of-essa-to-educate-the-whole-child-or-reigniting-the-education-wars?source=email&>

Saturday, January 21, 2017 Women’s March on Washington, Gather at 3rd and Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC at 10 AM. <https://www.womensmarch.com/> See Page 1.

Monday, January 23, 2017 10 AM to 1PM Equal Rights Amendment Briefing/Lobby Day. 325 Russell Senate Office Building, 2 Constitution Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002. Sign-up: www.femfederation.org , contact Andrea Miller andrea@peopledemandingaction.org.

Tuesday, January 24, 2017 CWI Meeting. Why We March. Noon to 1:30pm, Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 2nd Floor, NW, Washington, DC (See p.1).

Sunday, January 29, 2017. Montgomery County Commission for Women, Legislative Briefing. 11:30 am-6pm. The Universities at Shady Grove, Bldg II, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, MD. Register: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/efw/WLB

Sunday, January 29-Saturday February 4. Suffragist Vigil 2017, The White House, Supreme Court and Capitol Hill. To register visit SuffragistVigil2017 .

Wednesday, February, 1, 2017. Women and Girls Sports Day. Contact Sarah Axelson for scheduling of Hill briefing, saxelson@womensSportsFoundation.org

Tuesday, February 28, CWI Meeting. Noon Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC

Saturday- Monday, March 25-27, 2017 Feminist Campus 12th Annual National Young Feminist Leadership Conference. Sponsored by the Feminist Majority Foundation, Crystal City, Arlington, VA . For information visit feministcampus.org .

Monday- Thursday April 24-27, 2017 National Summit for Educational Equity, National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, www.napequity.org.

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

Photos: Anne Martin, Sue Klein, Christina Freitas, and Judy Gee. Meeting summary, Bailey Hovland Intern, Feminist Majority Foundation.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Membership Form

www.womensclearinghouse.org

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

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

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

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Enclosed is a check for CWI July 1-June 30 (Please fill in the appropriate years.)

- ____ 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)

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

February 2017 CWI Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

**Invitation to Tuesday, February 28, 2017 Noon-1:30 PM Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)
Meeting at the Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 2nd Floor**

Affordable Care Act (ACA) 101 for Feminists

The Affordable Care Act was the biggest leap forward for women's health in a generation. You've likely heard about many of these benefits. You may know, for example, that the law prohibits insurance companies from charging women more than men or denying women coverage based on pre-existing conditions. Pre-ACA, healthy, *non-smoking* women were often charged more than *smoking* men for the exact same policies, and small businesses employing women faced much higher premiums than identical businesses employing men. Meanwhile, everything from pregnancy to domestic violence could be used as an excuse to deny women health insurance altogether.

You may know that the law requires plans to cover essential health services—such as maternity, newborn, and mental health care—instead of requiring women to buy separate (and costly!) add-on coverage or that insurance plans must cover preventive health services ranging from mammograms and Pap tests to osteoporosis screenings to contraception, all without co-pay.

You may *not* know about some of the more subtle ways the ACA empowers women. Women live in poverty at higher rates than men do and are much less likely than men to have employer-provided insurance in their own names. They're also much more likely to serve as family caretakers. That means even women with insurance are at greater risk than men of losing it following changes in their relationship status or in the family coverage offered by their spouse's employer. For these women, the ACA's subsidies to help purchase private insurance and its expansion of Medicaid provide not only health benefits but also much greater financial independence and stability. Similarly, the ACA closes the prescription drug "donut hole" for seniors on Medicare, saving women millions of dollars in prescription drug costs. Women not only live longer than men on average, but they enter their senior years with far less financial security.

Join us to learn more about *what the ACA is*, how it works, what it does for women, and what's at stake if it were to go away. We'll also talk about Republicans' repeal strategy and replacement plans, why we think we can win this fight, and what feminists can do to fight back.

Presenters will also discuss some of the historical context and most current threats to women in proposed changes to ACA and related federal laws. For example, ACA incorporates Title IX type prohibitions against sex discrimination. Maintaining this prohibition should also counteract previous opposition to ERA by the health insurance industry which fought ERA so they could profit from sex differential insurance premiums.

Presenters:

Sarah Christopherson, Policy Advocacy Director, National Women's Health Network (www.nwhn.org). Before joining the NWHN Sarah worked as the Washington Director to Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (D-MA) from 2010 to 2015 on ACA, Medicaid, Medicare, reproductive health and justice and more. She has BS degrees in Political Science and History from Arizona State University and a MS in Foreign Policy from George Washington University.

Oliver Kim, Principal, Mousetrap Consulting and former Sr. Advisor to Senator Debbie Stabenow and the Senate Aging Committee. He has a BA from Indiana Univ., JD from the Univ. of Minnesota, and a LLM from Georgetown Univ.

Members are encouraged to bring guests, at no charge, to this and all CWI meetings. Attendees may bring their own lunch to eat during the meeting.

The next CWI meeting: Tuesday, 3/28/17, same time and location as above. The 11 Dupont Circle entrance is on New Hampshire Ave., across from the Dupont Plaza Hotel. Metro stop: Dupont; south exit.

Dear CWI Members,

A Call to Action! In this historic moment, post Women's March held on January 21, 2017, and possibly the largest march in US history, is a time for us to realize that all rights that we have worked for are in danger of being eliminated. These rights, which have been gained by relentlessly working and organizing and demanding, cannot be lost at this time. These demonstrations occurred in more than 600 US locations and across the world. From the march there is a Call to Action.

We, members of CWI, know how to make change. We know how to make the impossible an actuality. We know how to move from advocacy to action. We are now called on to do so with greater purpose, greater diligence, and greater determination.

A recent poll indicated that more than 40% of Democratic Party women are ready to become involved and take action in political causes. More outraged citizens are now making donations to organizations and calling and emailing their members of Congress on issues as they arise. Issues of women's equality, reproductive rights, gender rights, minimum wage, immigration reform, affordable health care, and war and peace are issues of deep concern.

There will be mid-term elections in 2018. There is work to be done. We need to involve the young female population, marginalized populations, and all those who have not felt a previous need for engagement. The Women's March will only be considered "an event," not the initiation of a significant movement with strong impact, unless it leads to real political organizing and action.

The organizing groups will consist of varied approaches. Many who feel deep compassion, deep commitment, and great energy will wish to work on a particular issue. We will need to be united in sustained efforts by many organizations and functioning groups.

There are groups ready to help us in our efforts. The Indivisible Team has assembled an on-line primer on how to lobby congress. Emily's List holds training workshops on how to support female candidates.

We as members of CWI stand ready to commit to sign-on letters, attend meetings, lend our support on individual issues. We also are focusing on helping all who are interested in learning more about how to protect us all from losing our hard won feminist gains and on ways to continue to advance them even under the Trump Administration! Thus, our February 28, 2017 meeting will focus on understanding the Affordable Care Act and if and how the replacement proposals will impact gender equality. Educating all on changes in the impact on gender equality is a basic first step in protecting our rights. The time is now. We are here. We will be heard. We will answer the Call to action!

Photo at right is of Harriett Stonehill holding her CWI card to show that the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues joined the Women's March on Washington, January 21, 2017 as folks stood in line to get into the Metro on Connecticut Ave, NW.

For Equality,

Harriett Stonehill, Co-President

Sue Klein, Co-President





CWI Program Summary – January 24th, 2017 on Why We March



January's Program Speakers, **Tina Hobson** and **Jennifer Rand**, led a conversation regarding the Women's March on Washington that occurred just a few days prior to the program. The March drew hundreds of thousands to Washington, D.C. in an attempt to make their voices and concerns heard to the newly inaugurated administration. Women and all others gathered across not only the United States, but also across the world to speak their mind and show their solidarity. The subject of the CWI Program this month was to examine not only why we march, but what impact the march can have for the future of this country and its citizens. The speakers and follow-up question and answer portion focused both on the events that occurred leading up to and the day of the march (Saturday, January 21, 2017) as well as what can be done now to continue the momentum generated by the March.



Holly Joseph, CWI Treasurer, introduced both speakers and led the program. The first speaker was Tina Hobson, former CWI Board Member and veteran protester. Tina attended nearly every protest against the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C., as well as many related to civil rights. She went into detail regarding a sit-in on the step of the Capitol where she was eventually arrested and had to be bailed out by her late husband, Julius Hobson (a member of the DC School Board and City Council) who was sick at the time and showed up in his pajamas.

Tina Hobson spoke about her own experience marching on January 21st. These days she lives in a retirement community in Thomas Circle. Residents of the community are overwhelmingly progressive, but are varied in age and ability. As such, Tina (with HONK sign) and her close friend Harriet Fulbright (former Executive Director of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, and current President of the Harriet Fulbright Center) (in red coat) put together their own mini-protest in Thomas Circle Park. Geared towards their neighbors who would be unable to attend the full-size march, the "Elder Power" protest was open to anyone who wanted to join, regardless of age or ability. The residents went out in half hour shifts from 11:00am - 2:30pm, ensuring that there were always six to eight people present. Hundreds of supporters passed through the small but mighty protest, many on their way to the larger march. Even more supporters came in the form of cars passing by, many of whom honked enthusiastically at Tina's "Honk if you support health care for all!" sign. Later that same day Caitlin Gibson from the Washington Post published a blog about the Elder Power protest. Her blog can be found here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/2017/live-updates/politics/womens-march-on-washingtonelder-power-seniors-who-couldnt-march-hold-own-mini-protest/?utm_term=.5d6fc15c7f71

The protest, however, was not as easy to organize as it may seem. Tina outlined the details of attempts by their community management office to shut down the protest – including placing a notice under the doors of all residents and calling Tina into their office – or as she put it into "the principal's office". The management was against the protest because they feared for the safety of their residents, especially considering the recent violence near the area (during the January 20, 2017 Trump inauguration),



supposedly in the name of anti-Trump protestors. Tina put it bluntly when she said “this is more important”. Determined to be heard, Tina drafted an email with the help of her son (a lawyer) which she then distributed to all residents on her own. The email was simple, detailing the peacefulness of the majority of the protests that had occurred, and stressing the importance of getting their voices out there. In the end Tina and Harriet agreed that their Elder Power protest was just as successful as the larger march. They added their voices to those on the mall demanding fair treatment and human rights from the new administration.

Tina and Harriet’s story prompted a brief discussion on the kinds of protests that were happening regarding the new administration. It was noted that a majority of anti-Trump protests are purposefully non-violent, and that much the violence that has been perpetrated has been caused by pro-Trump groups (including, notably, the Black Block) in the name of anti-Trump demonstrators in order to delegitimize the peaceful protests. Someone else noted the strategy of peaceful protestors to surround those who could become violent and slowly walk them away from the situation in order to deescalate the situation and prevent violence from occurring. On the note of peaceful protests, Holly then introduced the second speaker for the day’s meeting, Jennifer Rand.

Jennifer Rand was a local Maryland organizer of the Women’s March on Washington, as well as a freelance legal researcher/writer, a small business owner, political activist, cancer survivor, and non-fiction writer. She blogs about many pertinent issues, including but not limited to, women’s issues and politics. Jennifer began by giving a background on her life and experiences. Jennifer was raised in a liberal household, and attended Quaker school, where she was taught early on that everyone should have equality. As she put it, life took over quickly and her political activism took a back burner. She admitted to being apathetic about women’s issues and taking for granted the rights she did have. However, during the George W. Bush days, she said, her progressivism started to amp up. She was eventually invited to blog for Huffington Post, where her first article, about the different tropes she had seen in the media about Hillary Clinton, generated 1200 likes. Jennifer has been writing and blogging ever since, using her birth name (as opposed to her married name) in an effort to avoid any violence that could come from extremists with opposing views. (Check out her website: <http://www.thefemomist.com>)



The discussion then shifted to the Women’s March on Washington. Jennifer spoke about being drawn to it because of the trend she had noticed among millennials for claiming that we no longer need feminism. She then also dove into the topic of intersectionality, and how feminism has changed over the years. We have reached a point where we need to make feminism work for us as a society today, and that means being inclusive. The March began with white women but once it was off the ground there was a concerted effort to make the organizing group more diverse and intersectional, appealing to the experiences of all women who wished to attend the event. Additionally, the organizers sought to make the March more pro-women and pro-equality focused than inherently anti-Trump. Instead of slandering Mr. Trump, they wanted to focus on the issues and the change that marchers could make. Jennifer was part of the organizing team out of Maryland, which she said was unique because it was less about organizing a state delegation to attend the March and more about hosting it alongside the D.C. and Virginia organizers. Jennifer and her colleagues created comfort kits and walked around the rally and March with supplies for marchers, such as hand warmers and blankets which thankfully were not in big demand because of the mild Washington weather on January 21.

From there the discussion shifted as CWI members directed questions to the speakers as well as the general body of the meeting. When asked about how to effectively use social media, Jennifer responded simply by advising shameless self-promotion to increase your following. A large discussion followed on how best to take

action post-March, to keep the momentum going nationally. Those who chose to speak stressed the importance of fighting the battle on many fronts – if we each pick the issues we are passionate about and take action on them, the range that we can cover expands a great deal. In this same grain, Jennifer informed the group about the newest campaign from the Women’s March national committee, which urges marchers to take ten concrete actions in the first hundred days of the new administration. More details can be found at their website: WomensMarch.com.

Following the same topic of organizing, Sue Klein answered questions on how the Feminist Alert System (deployed by the Feminist Majority Foundation at the March) will operate. Signatures and contact info for the Feminist Alert System were collected by volunteers at the Women’s March and continue to be collected at any possible time. The goal of the System is to send out tailored alerts for your zip code, allowing anyone who is interested to be the most effective in creating change within their communities as well as on a larger scale. This conversation triggered more discussion on how to effectively oppose the actions that the new administration is taking. Several topics were brought up, including:

- Contact your senators - call 202-225-3121 or 202-224-3121 to contact your senators to vote against nominees or policies as needed to preserve our democracy and values.
- SwingLeft.org – is a website where you enter your zip code and it will provide you with the closest swing district near you so you know where to help volunteer and where to work on campaigns.
- April 29th – the march for climate jobs and justice
- Complacency – Jennifer mentioned that she felt complacency was the single biggest factor in the 2016 election. Hopefully we’ve learned our lesson, but we must continue to work on targeting the communities that aren’t on the internet or entirely plugged into media sources – older demographics mostly. Jennifer also recommended increased use of social media to organize and amplify political activism with a special emphasis on urging progressives to hang out on twitter to ensure that our voices, not just the male Trump supporters, are heard.

Overall this meeting resulted in a very well-rounded discussion on not only the success of the March, but on maintaining the momentum that was generated through the March. The new administration is not holding back and neither, it seems, should we.

Photos from January 21st Women’s March on Washington



Danielle Smith and Eleanor Smeal, Feminist Majority Foundation



4th & Independence Ave., National Museum of the American Indian



Holly Joseph's Granddaughter



Sue Klein and Friends in Front of National Gallery of Art East



Sisters on the Mall



A Creative Grandma, Independence Ave, SW



Jumbo Trans During Rally Showing Michael Moore , 4th & Independence Ave



In Front of Dept. of Education where Sec. of Education Betsy DeVos said schools should be allowed guns to protect students from potential grizzly bears.



Top: In Front of Trump Hotel on Pennsylvania Ave, NW, DC

Below RT: Jeanette Lim, husband & friend in front of Capitol



Coming 2017 DC Area Feminist Events and Free Webinars

In 2017 we will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list and also share the extensive Montgomery County NOW Chapter Feminist Calendar. Please share your upcoming feminist events to post in 2017 CWI newsletters. We are especially happy to help promote the important work of CWI member organizations. Send information to president@womensclearinghouse.org.

Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWInews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us.

We urge everyone to see a wonderful production of "Roe" at Arena Stage through Feb. 19, 2017.

www.arenastage.org/shows-tickets/the-season/productions/roe/

Monday, February 13, 5PM Maryland NOW Lobby Day in Annapolis. Meet in Office of Senator Roger Manno, James

Senate Building, Room 102 11 Bladen St. Annapolis, MD 21401 RSVP to Sandy Bell, MD NOW Action VP, actionvpmdnow@aol.com

Thursday, February 16, 10 AM EST. Free Webinar “Progress on Sustainable Development Goal 4 -inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning” UNESCO. Register:

https://unescoevents.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=unescoevents&service=6&rnd=0.7267758088650629&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Funescoevents.webex.com%2Fec3100%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Dlandingfrommail%26%26%26EMK%3D4832534b000000020e6d95fc44560e8242ade066ee2042dd1f025a8e809e7923568aee1af9609247%26siteurl%3Dunescoevents%26confViewID%3D1759003356%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAALI4bgQ0wYVHZBiX4EJad-J0679dwSzOIVTPQWA9Nrdug2%26email%3Dsklein%2540feminist.org

Tuesday, February 21, 6 PM. Equity Salon with former Treasurer of the US, Rosie Rios, Belmont-Paul National Monument. [REGISTER HERE](#) \$15.

Thursday, February 23, 2 PM EST. Free Webinar “Moving Toward Equity: Bold Strategies for Building the Educator Workforce Our Children Need Now” MAEC and the Center for Education Equity. Register:

https://wested.webex.com/mw3000/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=wested&service=6&rnd=0.3680319050238713&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwested.webex.com%2Fec3000%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26%26%26EMK%3D4832534b000000002d69590ae08d626673334d2735fd3eda7d46c3c9134f30fec8b7c925aad4dc0fd%26siteurl%3Dwested%26confViewID%3D2861698902%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAALfJPMW0vVHRnMTFdKGVdgF-YtILQICM1WwNcabZXvVNw2%26

Tuesday, February 28, CWI Meeting. ACA 101 Noon Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC (See page 1)

Saturday- Monday, March 25-27, 2017 Feminist Campus 12th Annual National Young Feminist Leadership Conference. Sponsored by the Feminist Majority Foundation, Crystal City, Arlington, VA . For information visit feministcampus.org .

Saturday March 25, 11:30-2:30 PM 2017 National Women’s History Project Women’s History Month Honoree Award Luncheon, The Hamilton, 600 14th St, NW, Washington, DC 20005, Tickets \$100. www.nwhp.org.

Sunday March 26, 12:30-5 PM “Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Deeds” Maryland NOW and Maryland Women’s Heritage Center, 39 West Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201. \$37 marylandnow.org/events/2017-womens-history/

Monday- Thursday April 24-27, 2017 National Summit for Educational Equity, National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, www.napequity.org.

June 30-July 2, 2017. National NOW Conference “Forward Feminism” Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, FL. For more information: now.org/about/2017-conference/

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

Photos: Sue Klein and Christina Freitas. Meeting summary, Lila Scher, Intern, Feminist Majority Foundation.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2015 – JUNE 2017

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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*) _____
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CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ CELL _____
EMAIL _____
WEBSITE _____

Enclosed is a check for CWI July 1-June 30 (Please fill in the appropriate years.)

- ____ 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)

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

March 2017 CWI Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

**Invitation to Tuesday, March 28, 2017 Noon-1:30 PM Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)
Meeting at the Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 2nd Floor**

What Do We Know About Federal Women's Issue Offices Under President Trump?

After the election of Barack Obama and Joe Biden in 2008, feminists from the National Council of Women's Organizations worked together to develop advice for the new Administration on how it should build on and enhance women's issue offices in the federal government. In doing so, Dr. Heidi Hartmann led the effort to identify existing and recent offices which focused on women and their issues. In addition to enhancing many of these offices, and even creating new offices such as the Office of the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues under Sec. of State Hillary Clinton, the Obama Administration created the White House Council on Women and Girls to help maximize and coordinate federal work on women's issues. Some aspects of this Council were based on the Interagency Council on Women established in the Clinton Administration. Tina Tchen, Executive Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls, described their plans the November 2009 CWI meeting.

See https://womensclearinghouse.org/files/4113/9027/2129/CWI_2010_Full_Year.pdf

The Clearinghouse on Women's Issues, (many of whose members have worked in, or with, federal offices) wants to make sure that this progress is sustained. CWI members were expecting even more attention and support for federal women's offices and activities under a Hillary Clinton Administration. For example, we were excited about the Gender Equity Education Act of 2016 which would have created a gender equity office in the US Department of Education to increase the full implementation of Title IX to end sex discrimination in education.

Although some in the Trump Administration have proclaimed their support of women, there have already been attacks on reproductive rights and gender identity as well as plans for drastic cuts to many federal agencies. It is important for feminists to work together to know about and protect federal support for women's rights and to ensure that attention to issues that benefit them will be sustained. **Dr. Heidi Hartmann** will lead this meeting by providing an overview of the 2009 IWPR report "A Selection of US Government Actions to Advance Women". She will suggest strategies for feminist advocates to preserve these gains related to federal women's issue offices and policies in the current political environment. For our first case study **Latifa Lyles**, former Women's Bureau Director, will help us understand the accomplishments and challenges of this oldest and best-known federal women's issue office.

Presenters:

Heidi Hartmann, Ph.D., President and CEO, Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR). Dr. Hartmann is an economist with a BA from Swarthmore College and a Philosophy and Ph.D degree from Yale University. She founded IWPR in 1987 to conduct women-centered policy research and received a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship award for her work on women and economics in 1994. In addition to her IWPR responsibilities, she is a Research Professor at The George Washington University and Editor of the Journal of Women, Politics & Policy. Before founding IWPR, she taught at Rutgers University and the New School for Social Research and worked at the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Latifa Lyles, served as Director of the Women's Bureau under the Obama Administration 2012-17, as VP for membership of NOW, managed membership at Public Justice, and in 1998 was a public policy associate for the Older Women's League. Latifa grew up in the Bronx and enjoys sports, helping others and advocating for equal rights. She and her husband have a young daughter and son.

Members are encouraged to bring guests, at no charge, to this and all CWI meetings. Attendees may bring their own lunch to eat during the meeting.

The next CWI meeting: Tuesday, 4/25/17, same time and location as above. The 11 Dupont Circle entrance is on New Hampshire Ave., across from the Dupont Plaza Hotel. Metro stop: Dupont; south exit.

Dear CWI Members,

We started our February 28, 2017 CWI meeting with a commemoration of our dear friend and colleague, **Carmen Delgado Votaw**. Carmen was an esteemed and active member and Board Member of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI). At the time of her death, she had completed her second term as Vice-President-Global Issues. Her acute sensitivity and knowledge on issues concerning education, immigration, minorities, women, children, and families, brought CWI the most well-informed speakers to the monthly meetings. For example, Carmen organized a fascinating Nov. 25, 2014 CWI meeting on "Are Religions Helping Increase Gender Equity?" We learned from Reverend Cannon Jan Naylor Cope, Vicar of Washington Episcopal National Cathedral, Rabbi Hanna Goldstein, and Donna Hakimian from the Baha'is. Carmen's warmth, kindness and generosity of spirit contributed to enrolling members to follow up the meetings with a needed "Call to Action."



In his thoughtful obituary, her son Michael A. Votaw, wrote the following:

"... My mother devoted her life to service- advocating and championing for women's rights, civil rights, and social justice locally and globally. She served as chief of staff for a U.S. Congressman and was the advocacy chief of the Girls Scouts of USA, United Way, and the Alliance for Children and Families, and also served in the Jimmy Carter administration. She was always active in her local community, her church, and the Democratic Party in Montgomery County, Maryland and nationally.

From humble beginnings growing up in Yabucoa, a rural sugar cane town in southeastern Puerto Rico, she travelled to 70 countries in her 82 years of life, attended all of the major global women's rights conferences- China, Houston, Kenya, Beijing- and is recognized in the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, the National Women's History Project Lifetime Achievement, and as a recipient of the Hispanic Heritage Award for Education. She championed Title IX and got to see her grandchildren benefit immensely from it as athletes and scholars. She was an early champion and Board Member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute and one of the founders of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women."

"... I will remember her near perfect attendance at the many basketball, soccer, and softball games and school performances of my children- Alexandra, Anna, and Michael- (and I mean probably more than 300 games and 50+ performances over the years!!!). How she made time for all that I do not know; perhaps she was enjoying the fruits of her labor to establish equal opportunities for boys and girls."

Carmen Delgado Votaw was a person of deep integrity, outstanding knowledge, strongly committed to providing new opportunities for boys and girls. We shall truly miss her. We have more information on Carmen's contributions and honors on our CWI past leaders web page:

<https://womensclearinghouse.org//index.php?cid=155> A memorial in Carmen's honor will be held at the National Cathedral on March 24, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.

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

CWI Program Summary – February 28th, 2017 on the “Affordable Care Act (ACA) 101 for Feminists”

February’s CWI Program focused on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and how “repeal and replace” efforts could affect women around the country. Program speakers **Sarah Christopherson** schristopherson@nwhn.org and **Oliver Kim** oliver@mousetrapdc.com provided both an overview of the ACA itself and how it works, as well as information regarding the legislative attempts to repeal the Act and possibly pass a replacement.

CWI Co-President Sue Klein introduced the first speaker, **Sarah Christopherson**. Sarah is the Policy Advocacy Director at the National Women’s Health Network (www.nwhn.org). Before joining the NWHN she worked as the Washington Director to Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (D-MA) from 2010 to 2015 on ACA, Medicaid, Medicare, reproductive health and justice and more. She has BS degrees in Political Science and History from Arizona State University and a MS in Foreign Policy from George Washington University.

Sarah had prepared a presentation she calls “ACA 101” which she has presented at a wide variety of similar meetings. In setting the background she has pointed out that the Affordable Care Act was the biggest leap forward for women's health in a generation. There was substantial Congressional discussion of many versions of the ACA before it was passed and signed by Pres. Obama in 2010. ACA prohibits insurance companies from charging women more than men or denying women coverage based on pre-existing conditions. Pre-ACA, healthy, *non-smoking* women were often charged more than *smoking* men for the exact same policies, and small businesses employing women faced much higher premiums than identical businesses employing men. Additionally, everything from pregnancy to domestic violence could have been used as an excuse to deny women health insurance altogether. It was also common for women to be required to purchase costly add-on maternity insurance.



She likes to explain the ACA as a two-track system. The first track is designed to make insurance better for everyone, including people who get their insurance through their employer, as a majority of Americans do. The improvements include, but are not limited to, eliminations of annual and lifetime caps on benefits and prohibitions of discrimination based on sex (which the Obama Administration extended through regulation to include protections for gender identity), preexisting condition, and more. It is worth noting that the term ‘preexisting conditions’ covers a wide range. Things such as asthma, acne, ear infections, and even sex and gender identities can qualify as preexisting conditions. Before ACA, recipients of health insurance were often discriminated against for minor preexisting conditions such as seasonal allergies or even for a family history of breast cancer. Even those with employer-provided insurance could be forced to wait a year or more for coverage of their condition; under the ACA, wait times are capped at 90 days. Other improvements as listed in Sarah’s slides are:

- Crack down on canceling policies when people get sick
- Cap on out-of-pocket expenses
- Require plans to cover basic essential health care benefits—e.g. such as prescriptions, mental health care, ER services, and maternity care, and more---or, for large employer plans, meet a “minimum value” standard to ensure good coverage
- Make preventive care (e.g. checkups, vaccination, contraception, cancer screening, etc.) free from copays or additional costs
- Require plans to cover dependent children up to age 26
- Require plans to spend at least 80% of premiums on health care (85% for large group plans) and no more than 20% (15%) on administrative costs like executives’ salaries

The second track is intended to help those without employer-sponsored insurance gain coverage. Original Medicaid is limited to individuals who were both poor and also pregnant or disabled or a child, etc. The ACA expanded Medicaid to individuals who were just poor—opening it up to all very low-income Americans who don't qualify for original Medicaid. While the ACA made the Medicaid expansion mandatory, the Supreme Court ruled in 2012 that it should be optional for states.

As of March 2017, 31 states and DC have expanded Medicaid through the ACA while 19 states have not. Among those that have expanded are 16 states headed by Republican governors. Many of these GOP governors are now fighting efforts in Congress by their party to repeal the expansion. The plan released by congressional Republicans on March 6 would not only effectively end the Medicaid expansion after 2019, it would also cap and cut *original* Medicaid in order to use the savings from low-income health care to pay for tax cuts for high-income households. (The top 400 wealthiest households in America would receive an average \$7 million tax cut under the GOP bill.) With their federal support gutted by the Republican bill, states would be forced to drop benefits or cut people from the program.

As part of the second track, the ACA also sought to help low- and moderate-income households purchase private insurance in the individual market. One set of subsidies helps individuals pay their monthly premiums. Under the ACA, these subsidies vary based on a person's income, age, and how expensive insurance is where she lives. In contrast, the plan released in March by Republican leadership in Congress would only vary based on age. A 60-year-old woman making minimum wage receives (on average) \$10,000 from the ACA to pay her premiums—and more if she lives in an area with high insurance costs. Under the Republican plan, she would only receive \$4,000, no matter where she lives or how expensive premiums are in her area. The ACA could be improved by making subsidies available to more middle-income households who right now make too much to get financial help but not enough to truly afford their premiums.

Meanwhile, another set of subsidies under the ACA keeps copays and deductibles low. In 2014, the House GOP sued to block these subsidies in order to sabotage the ACA. Additionally, each area's insurance market has a "Travelocity-style" website to make comparison shopping between plans easier.

In defending ACA, feminists should remember that women live in poverty at higher rates than men do and are much less likely than men to have employer-provided insurance in their own names. That means even women with insurance are at greater risk than men of losing it following changes in their relationship status or in the family coverage offered by their spouse's employer. Women are also much more likely to serve as family caretakers, working hard but without income. For these women, the ACA's subsidies to help purchase private insurance and its expansion of Medicaid provide not only health benefits but also much greater financial independence and stability. Similarly, the ACA closes the prescription drug "donut hole" for seniors on Medicare, saving women millions of dollars in prescription drug costs. Women not only live longer than men on average, but they enter their senior years with far less financial security.



After this overview, Sarah turned the presentation over to Oliver Kim. Oliver is currently the Principal at Mousetrap Consulting and the former Senior Advisor to Senator Debbie Stabenow and Deputy Staff Director of the Senate Aging Committee. He has a BA from Indiana University, JD from the University of Minnesota, and an LLM from Georgetown University.

Oliver began by listing a few of the Republican for replacing the ACA. He mentioned the Empowering Patients First Act (proposed by HHS Secretary Tom Price when he was in Congress), the Better Way Proposal (Speaker Ryan), the Obamacare Replacement Act (Senator Rand Paul), the Patient Freedom Act (Senators Cassidy and Collins). Republican lawmakers are seeking to get rid of all the 'unpopular' items from the ACA – as Oliver put it, who wouldn't want to not have any downsides to a Bill? At the same time, they have to figure out how they plan to pay for an ACA replacement in a fiscally responsible manner without increasing the deficit or government spending. The Republican leadership is also struggling with how to balance the 31 states that have expanded Medicaid under ACA with the 19 that have not. Additionally, they are attempting a radical restructuring of Medicaid,

in a manner similar to the former welfare program. There is a great deal of debate regarding the role of the federal government in that restructuring process.

From there, Oliver spoke on the discussion happening within the majority regarding what essential health benefits are necessary in the ACA, such as if there should be a federal standard, a state standard, or if it should be up to the individual insurance providers. Such changes could impact whether insurers will be required to cover services such as maternity benefits as well as preventative health care for women, including contraception coverage, without a co-pay.

Oliver ended his piece of the presentation by discussing the parliamentary tool known as “reconciliation.” The process of reconciliation in the Senate allows for consideration of a budget bill with debate limited to twenty hours, and without the threat of a filibuster. In order for the Senate to be able to consider a bill through this special reconciliation process, the bill must have a financial impact on the federal government. The Senate make-up is 52-48 in favor of the Republicans, meaning the majority can lose two yea votes and still pass a replacement with the deciding vote being cast by Vice President Mike Pence. Oliver also mentioned a document leaked that offered a reconciliation plan, under the leadership of Paul Ryan.

Following Oliver’s portion of the presentation, the floor was opened up for questions from those in attendance. The first question was in regard to lobbying efforts, and where feminist lobbyists should focus their efforts considering the vast amount of legislation being proposed that directly affects women. Sarah responded with a simple top-line message: Don’t repeal the ACA until you can guarantee that whatever comes next will cover the same number of people and will have the same protections. Oliver noted that Congress has to abide by the economic score developed by the Congressional Budget Office – meaning that there is no getting around the numbers.

The next question was in regards to protests – will mass demonstrations make any difference? The answer was an easy yes. Offices of elected officials were overrun by phone calls during cabinet confirmation hearings, and many Republicans have skipped having Town Halls in their districts over a concern of mass demonstrations against their policies. Additionally, midterm elections are coming up and representatives could face political backlash from their constituents if they don’t respond to what the people are saying via protest.

Coming 2017 DC Area Feminist Events and Free Webinars

In 2017 we will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list and also share the extensive Montgomery County NOW Chapter Feminist Calendar. Please share your upcoming feminist events to post in 2017 CWI newsletters. We are especially happy to help promote the important work of CWI member organizations. Send information to president@womensclearinghouse.org.

Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us.

Thursday, March 16, 5:30-8:30 PM 2017 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and Women of Tomorrow Ceremony, Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen Street Conference Center East Annapolis, Maryland 21411. Free but must register. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-maryland-womens-hall-of-fame-and-women-of-tomorrow-ceremony-tickets-31133975559>.

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 Noon to 1 PM EST Webinar Realizing Community Colleges’ Potential and ensuring a Path to the Middle Class, sponsored by the Urban Institute. Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8101044823410955009>

Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 1-3 PM EST. Webinar by NCADV “Navigating the Ever-Changing Waters of Immigration: Challenges and Solutions for Working with Survivors Without Legal Status”
Register: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/ccordovi%40aft.org/15ab37a6d4c481a1>

Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 10:30-noon. Women's Bureau Panel Discussion Exploring Challenges and Opportunities for Women and Girls in STEM, US DOL 200 Constitution Ave, NW, DC. RSVP <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/event-rescheduled-in-celebration-of-womens-history-month-the-womens-bureau-presents-bias-barriers-tickets-32931282352>
Or Livestreamed at www.dol.gov/live

Thursday, March 23, 2017. 10 AM-4PM Dialogue on Diversity, Women's Lot: Progress vs. Tradition, Reeves Center, 2000 14th St. NW. Register: <http://www.dialogueondiversity.org/register>

Thursday, March 23, 2017. 9:30 AM-1PM "Sexual violence and child pregnancy in Latin America and the Caribbean: A regional overview" Hall of the Americas, OAS Headquarters, 17th St. and Constitution Ave, NW. Register: Free https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sexual-violence-and-child-pregnancy-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-a-regional-overview-tickets-32327670934?utm_source=Organizaciones+de+mujeres+dentro+de+USA&utm_campaign=11aa308ff2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_03_16&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6190de4aec-11aa308ff2-132157905 or view livestream.

Friday, March 24, 2017. Memorial for Carmen Delgado Votaw, 10 AM, National Cathedral (See newsletter p 2)

Saturday- Monday, March 25-27, 2017 Feminist Campus 12th Annual National Young Feminist Leadership Conference. Sponsored by the Feminist Majority Foundation, Crystal City, Arlington, VA . For information visit feministcampus.org .

Saturday March 25, 11:30-2:30 PM 2017 National Women's History Project Women's History Month Honoree Award Luncheon, The Hamilton, 600 14th St, NW, Washington, DC 20005, Tickets \$100. www.nwhp.org.

Sunday March 26, 12:30-5 PM "Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Deeds" Maryland NOW and Maryland Women's Heritage Center, 39 West Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201. \$37
marylandnow.org/events/2017-womens-history/

Tuesday, March 28, Noon CWI Meeting. See p. 1.

Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 – 8 PM at Loft Georgetown African Voices Fundraiser sponsored by Memunatu Magazine, Inc. RSVP <https://africanvoicesfundraiser.splashthat.com/>

Tuesday, April 4, 2017. Equal Pay Day. Wear Red Montgomery Co NOW Millers Rockville Ale House, 1471 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. RSVP. Write info@mcmdnow.org

Monday- Thursday April 24-27, 2017 National Summit for Educational Equity, National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, www.napequity.org.

June 30-July 2, 2017. National NOW Conference "Forward Feminism" Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, FL. For more information: now.org/about/2017-conference/

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

Photos: Sue Klein and Christina Freitas. Meeting summary, Lila Scher, Intern, Feminist Majority Foundation.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2015 – JUNE 2017

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

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

Holly Taggart Joseph, CWI Treasurer
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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 (\$25/one year) (\$45/two years), (\$65/three years)
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____ 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)

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

April 2017 CWI Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Invitation to Tuesday, April 25, 2017 Noon-1:30 PM Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)

Meeting at the Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 2nd Floor

Women in the Media: Progress and Challenges

In the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) continuing focus on the equality status of women in the workforce, we will have the opportunity to hear the voices of women active in the various media, including newspapers, digital organizations, and broadcast TV. Each Presenter will be asked to discuss two aspects of progress. 1. Increases in women's representation and roles in aspects of the media industry where they have worked and 2. How they and their colleagues have used their influence to increase public understanding of women's issues in ways that advance gender equality in society. For background see [The Status of Women in the US Media 2017](#) from the Women's Media Center.

Presenters:

Jodi Enda is the Assistant Managing Editor for Special Projects at CNN Politics. Last year, she edited CNN's book, *Unprecedented: The Election That Changed Everything*. Previously, she covered the White House, Congress, presidential campaigns and national issues as a Washington correspondent for the Philadelphia Inquirer and Knight Ridder Newspapers. She has won numerous awards for investigative reporting, deadline writing, White House and media coverage, as well as the prestigious RFK Journalism Award. Enda is a former president of Journalism & Women Symposium and a former member of the White House Correspondents' Association Board of Directors. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois and a native of Peoria, IL.

Paula Wolfson began her career as a child doing TV commercials in Pittsburgh. Since then, she has traveled the globe as a reporter for the Voice of America — broadcasting from Washington to the world. Her VOA assignments included covering six presidential campaigns and three presidents — with time off from politics to cover the Olympic games. She left VOA in 2010 to try her hand in commercial broadcasting. Paula became the first health beat reporter at WTOP where she was named best local specialty reporter by the Associated Press....and won a Murrow award from the Radio Television News Directors Association. Paula is a graduate of Penn State and the American University Master's Program in Public Affairs journalism.

Bonnie Erbe' is the founder and host of the only women-owned non-profit news and documentary show on national TV, "To the Contrary" which airs on PBS stations <http://www.pbs.org/to-the-contrary/>. "To the Contrary" has been covering issues affecting women and diverse, inclusive communities for 25 years. Erbe' was a columnist for Scripps Howard Newspapers, has written for PoliticsDaily.com, USNews.com, and worked for NBC Radio. She is the recipient of many awards from groups such as the Women's Media Center, American Women in Radio and TV and the National Women's Political Caucus. She graduated from Barnard College and Columbia University (with a M.S. in Journalism) and received a JD from Georgetown University Law Center.

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 Noon-1:30 PM

Location: CWI Meeting is held at the Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 2nd Floor. The 11 Dupont Circle entrance is on New Hampshire Ave., across from the Dupont Plaza Hotel. Metro stop: Dupont; south exit.

CWI meetings are free and open to the public. Bring your own lunch.

Next CWI meeting: Tuesday, 5/23/17, same time and location as above.

Dear CWI Members,

The mission of a news organization is to record accurately the course of events, including patterns of deception and of duplicity to provide the truth. This was the position that Cicero set forth in his book *On Duties*. This definition remains true today. In this age of "post truth," we find the present administration views journalists and media as "enemy of the people." It is our obligation as citizens to be especially alert as to how the media is viewed to keep our democratic form of government. We cannot ensure that this form of government will continue to serve all its citizens unless its journalists and media are free to express their opinions and to seek the truths.

It is of great significance that the April 25, 2017 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues organized by CWI Co-President, **Harriett Stonehill** welcome **Jodi Enda**, **Paula Wolfson** and **Bonnie Erbe**, women working in the media to share important insights on this issue.

Recently Michael Novak wrote: "...In combination, capitalism, democracy and pluralism are more protective of the rights, opportunities and conscience of ordinary (all citizens) than any known alternative..."

This concept, which is the bedrock of the United States must be protected, defended and encouraged. It affects how our economy, military, health systems, education and global interactions are conducted. The responsibilities for fostering this platform, include ensuring that those persons who are charged with these responsibilities, by election or appointment, carry out their responsibilities to the citizens. It is their obligation.

What has occurred in the recent presidential election should act as a wake-up call. No longer can anyone be an "armchair liberal." Each of us needs to protest injustices by calling our local representatives to make our voices heard. We need to work on local and state elections. There are several occurring soon. Budget items in the arts, global warming, drug testing, will be diminished or eliminated unless we make our voices heard. Join a phone campaign. Donate to an organization that is on the forefront of action.

The mission of a citizen is to have a commitment to "human moral equality." We must deliver this message to the young people of today. It is critical that we educate them on how to become an involved citizen. We must not let them become lethargic, and accept the status quo. We must get young people involved and have their voices heard now so they are ready to accept their responsibility in the future to keep our ideals intact and our democracy alive. We must start now. They must also be active and well informed users of high credibility media information.

We must provide leadership in taking advantage of the work of our high quality feminist journalists and encourage others to seek out and share important stories that often get lost. For example right after Equal Pay Day, *The Feminist Newswire* <http://feminist.org/blog/index.php/2017/04/07/trump-repeals-fair-pay-order/> reported that "President Donald Trump revoked an incredibly important executive order – the 2014 Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces order." This order had a **wage transparency clause** that required companies with federal contracts to share information on employee compensation so that they could learn if they were being treated fairly. It also **banned forced arbitration clauses** that have been used to silence victims of harassment and discrimination by not allowing them to go to court. CWI learned about problems with forced arbitration in our April 29, 2015 meeting on *Lost in the Fine Print: How Forced Arbitration Impacts Women and their Families* from our hosts, the Alliance for Justice. See this meeting summary in https://womensclearinghouse.org/files/5714/7429/2830/CWI_2015_Full_Year.pdf

In addition to summarizing its meetings in the CWI newsletters, we have a fantastic award winning Board member **Loretto Gubernatis** who has been providing her professional videographer services to CWI for the past several years. Our CWI Programs page <https://womensclearinghouse.org/programs/> has links to some of the CWI meetings that were taped and posted to YouTube. Thanks also to our volunteer web chief, **Sherry Klein**.

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

CWI Program Summary March 28th, 2017

What do We Know About the Federal Women's Issue Office Under President Trump?

This CWI program discussed actions the Federal Government has taken in the past decades to support its women focused offices especially as these offices help collect and report on women's needs and experiences.

The meeting invitation noted "*After the election of Barack Obama in 2008, feminists from the National Council of Women's Organizations provided advice to the new Administration on how it should build on, and enhance, women's issue offices in the federal government. In addition to enhancing many of these offices, and creating new offices such as the Office of the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the Obama Administration created the White House Council on Women and Girls, an interagency council, to maximize and coordinate federal work on women's issues. Tina Tchen, Executive Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls, described their [plans](#) at the November 2009 CWI meeting.*

The CWI (many of whose members have worked in, or with, federal offices) wants to make sure that this progress is sustained. CWI members were expecting even more attention and support for federal women's offices and activities under a Hillary Clinton Administration. For example, the Gender Equity Education Act of 2016 would have created a gender equity office in the US Department of Education to ensure the full implementation of Title IX. Although some in the Trump Administration have proclaimed their support of women, there have already been attacks on reproductive rights and gender identity as well as plans for drastic cuts to many federal agencies. It is important for feminists to work together to protect federal support for women's rights and to ensure that policies that benefit women are sustained.

The insightful March 28 presentations by [Heidi Hartmann](#) and [Latifa Lyles](#) were followed by a lively discussion from many of the very distinguished meeting attendees such as Kim Gandy, former President of NOW and current leader of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, Bonnie Erbe', host of the PBS "To the Contrary," as well as former Women's Bureau staff members, Harriett Harper and Jane Walstedt.

[Dr. Heidi Hartmann](#) is an economist who earned her doctorate at Yale University and was recognized as a



MacArthur Genius Fellow in 1994 for her work on women and economics. She is the founder and President of the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR). Heidi provided an overview of the 2009 IWPR Report "[A Selection of US Government Actions to Advance Women](#)" (<https://iwpr.org/publications/selection-us-government-actions-advance-women/>). She highlighted the historical context for the government work as well as views on work that should be preserved and continued. She emphasized the importance of monitoring the progress of women and noted that even today while the Federal government collects a great deal of data on our population, it does not publish annual or bi-annual reports on the status of women. IWPR, as a result, has been picking up the slack by publishing regular data based reports, and has encouraged several Presidential administrations to start producing similar reports.

Heidi noted that the Commissions on the Status of Women (established by federal, state and local levels of government), have played important roles in reporting on, and making recommendations to advance women. The first President's Commission on the Status of Women was started by President Kennedy. It recommended paid maternity leave and asked to abolish the right of the heads of Federal agencies to hire workers based on sex. This, along with a lawsuit filed by NOW, led to the gradual shift by newspapers to stop segregating the classified employment ads by sex. The federal government also facilitated state and local Commissions on Women. Heidi highlighted the strength of Interagency Council on Women under the Clinton administration, and some of the activities of the White House Council on Women and Girls during the Obama Administration such as the 2016 United State of Women Conference. However, unlike some other countries, the US has never had a cabinet level Department solely focused on women and family issues and has not had a federally mandated record keeping to track of women's progress, as well as of the attainment of gender equality in both the private and public sectors.

The 2009 report covered the formation of women's focused office in federal agencies such as:

- 1920: establishment of the Women's Bureau In recognition of the role women played in World War One
- 1951: The Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Service (DACAITS)
- 1964: The passing of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act which prohibits sex and other types of discrimination in employment
- 1973: Women in Development office under the US Agency for International Development
- 1993:
 - Office of Research on Women's Health under the National Institute of Health
 - Office of Women's Health under the Food and Drug Administration
 - Center for Women and Veterans under the US Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Special Assistant for Gender Equity under the US Department of Education
- 2002: Office on Violence Against Women under the US Department of Justice

Notably, Heidi also brought up the fact that there is no annual required report by any of the above mentioned offices on the status of women. This is most notable because many other Federal offices are required to issue annual reports on the status of their work, such as the food stamp program.

Following Heidi was [Latifa Lyles](#), who served as Director of the Women's Bureau from 2012 to 2017, after serving as Deputy Director since 2009. Previously she served as Vice President for Membership at NOW. Before the meeting CWI shared this [article](#) about current threats to the Women's Bureau. The article pointed out that although it is a small agency with a staff of 50 people and an \$11.7 million annual budget, it is essential to equal pay. Here is a [link](#) to Labor Secretary nominee Acosta's response to Senator Murray's question about the Women's Bureau during his March 22, 2017 confirmation hearing. It is at about 2 hours and 4 minutes in the C-SPAN video tape.

[Latifa Lyles](#) began by stressing the importance, as mentioned by Heidi, of consistent data collection. Though limited, the data that we do currently possess and will hopefully continue to collect is extremely important. It is that data, and the reports that are generated from it, that the Women's Bureau and others use to advocate for women's needs in the workplace. She noted that it is also critically important to report on comparisons between women and men and that in a past Administration this comparison was not allowed.



With the new Trump administration and the rapid steps they have been taking (and attempting to take) via Executive Orders and legislation, the Women's Bureau has been preparing for the possible devolution of the office. During this process, staff prepared a large resource document with data and various reports including the work that the Bureau has done. This document was uploaded to the Women's Bureau website and made downloadable in anticipation of its possible removal. That E-library can **still** be downloaded here:

<https://www.dol.gov/wb/resources/>. Additionally available on the Women's Bureau website

<https://www.dol.gov/wb> is an online portal for working women, which has federal resources for women in the workforce. The Women's Bureau is additionally working on the re-released "*A Women's Employment Rights Guide*" as an e-book. It has three sections, Pre-Employment, During Employment, and Post-Employment. This guide had not been updated or reproduced since the 1990s.

Q&As

The **first question** asked if the Trump administration had abolished the women's office at the White House. While there has been no announcement of such an abolishment, there also have been no staff hiring's to lead or work in said office, so the assumption is that the office has ceased to exist. Relatedly, at a Center for American Progress (CAP) meeting on March 20, 2017 where Valerie Jarrett and Tina Tchen, the former Chair and Executive Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls were lead speakers, Dr. Sue Klein, CWI co-president asked Tina Tchen if the Council had records on federal women's issue offices and programs. She said they did have some reports on this mainly in their [WEB archives](#) and in other web information on Council priorities especially related to the two summits on women that they organized.

Next someone asked about the possibility of data loss. If the Trump administration closes and/or ceases to fund any of the women's offices within the Federal government, what will we lose and what can we recover? The answer provided by our speakers indicated that yes, of course we would lose some data. However, this is exactly why the Women's Bureau has taken steps to make data downloadable, and why organizations such as IWPR and ICRW exist to collect data and issue reports outside of the purview of the government.

Then an attendee inquired if the Women's Bureau website and its data are still intact at the moment. Latifa said generally, yes, and that most of the excellent career civil servants remain. She also explained that before the Trump inauguration, staff were asked to remove things that might be controversial or likely to be removed by incoming appointees. For example, we found that Latifa was no longer listed as director, but her brief resume was included in the web section describing past Women's Bureau Directors.

Finally, someone also asked– "Is it better to keep some resources and services quiet and avoid drawing attention to them or to make them very publicly known? The general response was it depends on the issue, but that some things could be done quietly such as making arrangements to put a new book on the history of the Women's Bureau in the Library of Congress.

Coming 2017 DC Area Feminist Events and Free Webinars

In 2017 we will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list and also share the extensive Montgomery County NOW Chapter Feminist Calendar. Please share your upcoming feminist events to post in 2017 CWI newsletters. We are especially happy to help promote the important work of CWI member organizations. Send information to president@womensclearinghouse.org. Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us.

Friday, April 21, 2017, Livestream panel discussion on the ERA. 7:45 PM ET featuring Gloria Steinem, Patricia Arquette, Betty Dukes, Representative Carolyn Maloney and Carol Jenkins with an opportunity to ask your questions in real time on Twitter. [RSVP](#) Link to livestream: <https://livestream.com/roosevelthouse/equal-means-equal-panel>
Contact us at grovefellows@eracoalition.org

Monday- Thursday April 24-27, 2017 National Summit for Educational Equity, National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, www.napequity.org.

Tuesday, April 25, 2017, Noon CWI Meeting. See p. 1.

Wednesday, April 26, 2017, Webinar “Addressing Religious Liberties Within Public Education” 2 PM-3:30 PM EDT presented by the Center for Education Equity. [Register](#)

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 “How to End School Pushout for Girls” 2:30-4:30 pm. Busboy & Poets, 14th St. NW, DC RSVP to Anna Chu ACHu@nwlc.org

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 View first two episodes of “The Handmaid’s Tale” 7PM Darnestown, MD. [Rsvp](#)

Thursday, April 27, 2017 2:-3:30 PM “YWCA Stand Against Racism: Women of Color Leading Change”. House Visitors Center, Room 201 A&B. [Register](#):

Tuesday, May 23, 2017, 9:30 AM – 4PM Health Care Symposium, Dialog on Diversity. [Register](#)

Tuesday, May 23, 2017, Noon CWI Meeting.

June 30-July 2, 2017. National NOW Conference “Forward Feminism” Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, FL. For more information: now.org/about/2017-conference/

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

Photos: Anne Martin. Meeting summary, Lila Scher, Intern, Feminist Majority Foundation.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

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____ Virtual-(\$20/one year) (Email newsletter only for members outside Washington, DC area)
____ Organization (\$40/one year or \$100/three years)
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TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

May 2017 CWI Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Invitation to the next meeting of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, Noon-1:30 PM at the Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 2nd Floor; entrance on New Hampshire Ave., NW. (Nearest Metro Stop: Dupont Circle, south exit)

The Impact of the Current Supreme Court on Women's Legal Rights

With the recent addition of conservative jurist Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, there is concern about how the Court will affect the rights of women and families. As part of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) continuing focus on the equal status of women, this program examines likely issues that will impact women's legal rights so we can support strategies to protect and advance them. With Justice Gorsuch now on the Supreme Court, and potential Trump appointments to the Supreme Court and other Federal Courts, it is especially important to know what cases related to reproductive rights, sex discrimination, violence and other relevant issues are likely to be addressed by the Supreme Court. Please join us in learning from the presentations of our two legal practitioners.

Presenters: This meeting has been organized and will be moderated by Jeanette Lim, Esq., CWI's Vice-President for Legal Affairs. The presenters are **Daniel Goldberg**, Alliance For Justice, and **Rachel Easter**, National Women's Law Center.

Daniel L. Goldberg currently serves as Legal Director at the Alliance For Justice. Prior to joining AFJ, Goldberg served as Chief of Staff of the Department of Justice Office of Legislative Affairs. Before joining the Justice Department, in August 2013, Goldberg spent six years as senior counsel to Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee, which Senator Harkin chaired. Goldberg also worked for three years as a litigation associate at the law firm of Davis Polk & Wardwell. He received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and J.D. from Harvard Law School, where he served on the Law Review. After law school, he was a law clerk to the Honorable Terence T. Evans of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Goldberg will present views from an **AFJ OpED** ["Everyone Says Neil Gorsuch Would Be 'Just Like Scalia,' And for Women, That's The Problem"](#) written shortly after Justice Gorsuch's appointment to the Supreme Court.

Rachel Easter joined the National Women's Law Center in 2014 as a Women's Law and Public Policy Fellow and now serves as counsel for the Reproductive Rights and Health team. Easter has a B.A. in history and anthropology from the University of Virginia and a J.D. from Stanford Law School, where she was a member of the International Human Rights Clinic, an Executive Member of Law Students for Reproductive Justice, and served on the Executive Board for the *Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties*. During law school, Easter interned for the National Women's Law Center, the Center for Reproductive Rights, and the ASPCA.

CWI meetings are free and open to the public. You may bring your own lunch to eat during the meeting.

Next CWI Annual Meeting: Tuesday, 6/27/17, same time and location as above.

Dear Current and Future CWI Members,

For the past few CWI meetings we have been exploring various issues regarding women's rights that are now in jeopardy or where more progress is needed as in our April meeting on "Women in the Media" which is summarized in this newsletter. These rights affecting our health and social interactions have been gained through the hard efforts of activists. We must increase and strengthen our individual and group actions without delay. We must start today to affect the 2018 US elections. We must elect and send new members to Congress who will fight to protect women's health issues, abortion rights, pay equity, educational opportunities, and much more.

In the April 2017 issue of the *Women's Health Magazine*, an article delineated a road map to assist in making sure our feminist voices are heard. The following steps have been adapted and sometimes expanded from this article.

1. Select one or two issues that you feel strongly about when you communicate with candidates and legislators. Become well informed on these issues and make sure your comments are based on up-to-date information.

2. Take it to Capital Hill (or your state and local elected officials). Members of Congress should always be willing to listen to their constituents and indeed to all voters. In addition to participating in the multiple e-mail petitions from various groups, be sure to telephone and leave a clear message for your member of Congress. Use Congress.gov to find individual information. When you are on the phone, make a "single issue" request, not a long list of issues. Keep your phone call short: tell them where you are from, and "I am asking her/him to support equal pay regulations. I am concerned because of x, y, z. Her/his decision is important to me as a worker, mother, etc. I would like to support her/him in her future elections." Finally, ask the staffer who receives your call to document your position and share the results. Use crucial votes, OP Eds, sit-ins and other strategies to get attention.

3. Attend local Town-Hall meetings where congressional members are often present. Get your question asked, either by you, or by a friend. Get the message out to a local reporter or send messages on Twitter.

4. Hit the streets. Marches matter (as seen recently by the women's marches nation-wide and world-wide). Marches often become movements. They were significant in getting the women's right to vote in 1920, passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The issues today are very important. It is significant to keep what we have gained and make progress. You are the important player to make this happen. Enlist your friends. Start today. Start now.

Election participation is also critically important in your own organizations.

Volunteer to serve and learn about the qualifications of the candidates and cast your votes. If you need an external group to help with your organization's elections (ranging from national groups to local condos), know that the League of Women Voters may help.

CWI's next election is June 27, 2017. We request nominations for our new Board and Officer positions. CWI members, please contact Nominations Committee members Connie Cordovilla and Sue Klein if you would like to serve as a member of this Committee or as a new CWI Board member as soon as possible since. We should send the slate to CWI members 15 days before the CWI June 27 Annual Election Meeting. Organizational and individual CWI members are encouraged to come and vote at this June meeting and to also participate in the plans below.

Initial plans for increased collaboration among DC area organizations concerned with women's issues will be discussed at the June 27, 2017 CWI potluck lunch meeting. We will also focus on how CWI can work with other DC area organizations to provide collaborative leadership on some of the previous communications functions of the National Council of Women's Organizations. Initial thoughts are that CWI would help re-establish an email list of organizations and individuals to share information on upcoming feminist meetings and opportunities to support each other as we work on preserving and continuing feminist advances. A second contribution would be co-hosting CWI's noon meetings on critical topics where we all need to be more informed so we can be more effective advocates. The information from the meetings can also be shared widely via email, YouTube, public access TV and other social media. We will discuss many ways you and your organization can participate in this June 27 meeting, and most importantly, in continuing future feminist collaborative work in the DC area.

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

CWI Program Summary, April 25, 2017

Women in the Media: Progress and Challenges

The three presenters are long time experts in various media, including newspapers, digital organizations, and broadcast TV. Each Presenter discussed: 1. Increases in women's representation and roles in aspects of the media industry where they have worked and 2. How they and their colleagues have used their influence to increase public understanding of women's issues in ways that advance gender equality in society. For background see [The Status of Women in the US Media 2017](#) from the Women's Media Center.

Jodi Enda was the first presenter because she mainly worked in print media and "print came first". Jodi is the Assistant Managing Editor for Special Projects at CNN Politics. Last year, she edited CNN's book, *Unprecedented: The Election That Changed Everything*. Previously, she covered the White House, Congress, presidential campaigns and national issues as a Washington correspondent for the Philadelphia Inquirer and Knight Ridder Newspapers. She has won numerous awards for investigative reporting, deadline writing, White House and media coverage, as well as the prestigious RFK Journalism Award. Enda is a former president of Journalism & Women Symposium and a former member of the White House Correspondents' Association Board of Directors. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois and a native of Peoria, IL.

Jodi introduced herself and spoke about her background, distinguishing that despite working for CNN, she still considers herself a print journalist because she writes magazine-length political articles for the website. Jodi worked at the Philadelphia **Inquirer** for most of her career covering a vast variety of areas, such as the White House, presidential elections, Congress, and state government and politics. In addition, she was also President of the Journalism & Women's Symposium (JAWS), the largest women's news organization in the country that fights for the empowerment of women in journalism and in the news.



Following this introduction, Jodi began addressing the many biases that women have faced and continue to face in journalism, starting with the story of Betsy Wade, who was fired in 1953 from the New York Herald Tribune because she was pregnant. Jodi commended the women who came before her – Betsy, Eileen Shanahan, Lynn Povich, to name a few – whose bravery allowed her to have the career she has today, a career where she was able to decline going to Afghanistan right after giving birth, and still keep her job. However, the fight is far from over, Jodi emphasized, and went on to describe her struggles with sexism in the workplace, where she constantly had to convince bosses, coworkers, and subjects alike that she was a "real" journalist writing about "serious" issues; where she experienced flirtations and sexual harassment in the office.

Jodi continued on to highlight that gender equality in 2017 is "true more in theory than in practice," citing statistics that displayed this gap in the journalism field. Women comprised 37.1% of newsroom employees in 2015, a negligible step up from the 36.9% women working in newsrooms in 1999. Numbers are similarly static in regard to specific jobs, with female editors being the only category with even a small increase: 35.3% of women hold editing jobs today, compared to 33.8% in 1999.

While it is true that fewer people in general are working in newsrooms today – 32,874 in 2015 in comparison to 56,4000 in 2000 – that a handful of large papers have women editors and that online media outlets are hiring more women, women still need to play a bigger role in the newsroom, Jodi argued. "[Women] write about issues that our male counterparts often overlook," she said. Women provide a different perspective on all issues, but especially issues that involve women, because they tend to view them in a different light, one that

tends to be more intersectional. “We can’t cover the entire world if our journalists don’t come from all walks of life, from every minority and from every gender,” Jodi ended her speech with.

Before the discussion moved along to Paula, Jodi gave the room a briefing on the work that JAWS does, highlighting that in addition to mentoring women, battling against discrimination, and awarding scholarships, the organization provides a unique opportunity for female journalists to network in a field that does not favor women.

Paula Wolfson was the second speaker. She began her media career as a child doing TV commercials in Pittsburgh. Since then, she has traveled the globe as a reporter for the Voice of America — broadcasting from Washington to the world. Her VOA assignments included covering six presidential campaigns and three presidents — with time off from politics to cover the Olympic games. She left VOA in 2010 to try her hand in commercial broadcasting. Paula became the first health beat reporter at WTOP where she was named best local specialty reporter by the Associated Press....and won a Murrow award from the Radio Television News Directors Association. Paula is a graduate of Penn State and the American University Master’s Program in Public Affairs journalism.



In her remarks, Paula discussed a fascinating insight she gained when covering the International Conference on Women in Nairobi. She was surprised to see women gathering under a tree to discuss important issues rather than meeting in the more comfortable inside meeting rooms. She learned that they did this because in Africa only men were allowed to meet and talk under trees. She also noted that broadcasting used to be an all-boys club. For example, she was one of two women in the entire broadcasting program at Penn State.

She noted that female reporters are fighting for air time. Only 25% of the stories that actually make it to air are reported by women. ABC has the worst record — only 12% are women. CBS/NBC is at 35%. PBS is at 45% women on the air. Most of on-air reporters are men and men tend to hire other men. Only 1/3 of all TV news directors are women. Even radio is still a boys club. Only ¼ of the radio hosts are women.

On the positive side there is now less tolerance of sexual harassment in news workplaces. However, the dismissal of Bill O’Reilly and others at Fox News is also connected to the withdrawal of advertisers—based on public displeasure with the continued revelations of this sexual harassment. Paula also concluded that TV news is no longer the home of just the young and the blonde. There is more diversity and women are staying on longer.

Bonnie Erbe’ was the last presenter. She is the founder and host of the only women-owned non-profit news and documentary show on national TV, “*To the Contrary*” which airs on PBS stations <http://www.pbs.org/to-the-contrary/>. “*To the Contrary*” has been covering issues affecting women and diverse, inclusive communities for 25 years. Erbe’ was a columnist for Scripps Howard Newspapers, has written for PoliticsDaily.com, US-News.com, and worked for NBC Radio. She is the recipient of many awards from groups such as the Women’s Media Center, American Women in Radio and TV and the National Women’s Political Caucus. She graduated from Barnard College and Columbia University (with a M.S. in Journalism) and received a JD from Georgetown University Law Center.

Bonnie began by disclaiming that she would not be providing facts and figures, but instead would be speaking “anecdotally and off the cuff” about her own experiences. She first brought up that she launched her PBS show “*To the Contrary*” in 1992, the “year of the woman in American politics” as well as the year that women



fought to allow Anita Hill to testify at Justice Clarence Thomas's hearing. This was also around the same time, she noted, that Jesse Helms, a Republican from North Carolina and Head of the Foreign Relations Committee at the time, cut off funding for many of the women's conferences that existed in several countries in Africa at the time. This was a horrible loss for communities in the developing world, Bonnie argued, because it deprived them of the ability to gain access to information about family planning and reproductive health. One example Bonnie provided that was a grant given to Morocco from the Packard Foundation was highly debated, with conservatives arguing that the money was going towards abortion

when it was really allotted for women's reproductive rights in an effort to procure more doctors that could provide basic pediatric care for Moroccan women.

Bonnie then changed gears to point out that the huge constituency of women today who claim that women and men are equal and do not need to fight for their rights. For example, KellyAnne Conway, (who was a frequent guest on "To the Contrary") represents a new trend of visibility for Republican women in the media. They were not featured in the public eye even in the 1990s the way they do today. The media discussion of issues is also different. Bonnie asked, "Why are we now fighting over birth control?" At first, the Republican right was only going after abortion, following the 1973 landmark *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision that legalized the practice nationwide. Now, they are after birth control, which goes to show how far right the right has shifted. Bonnie then brought up the current scandal of Bill O'Reilly, stating that she considered it a mental illness that allowed him to act the way he did towards women. "It's a sickness," she stated, that she thinks women will continue to have to deal with, but will hopefully have an easier time fighting with the help of the media. Bonnie stated in closing, "The younger generation needs to be the one fighting now, because so much of what women before you have fought for and won is at risk."

The presenters then addressed a wide range of questions ranging from the Chinese wanting to trademark the name Ivanka to continuing types of discrimination against women in the media related to balancing jobs and family life to ways to dress and avoid age discrimination.

To many this was the most surprising question and answer. Cari Stein, producer of "To the Contrary" asked the Feminist Majority Foundation interns (both young women in their early 20s) "Where do you get your news?" The women responded in a consensus that neither of them watched the news on television, but rather obtained the majority of it from either online sources or podcasts. Both were iPhone users and mentioned that they utilize the News app, which sends news alerts of major headlines from online sources to your phone with a preview, making staying up to date as easy as checking the time. When asked, the women listed some of their go-to websites, which included The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, Vox, Vice, Slate, Al Jazeera, The Huffington Post, CNN, and The Atlantic, to name a few. NPR was named as a big radio and podcast source, as well as the new "Pod Save America", hosted by President Obama's former aides.

Coming 2017 DC Area Feminist Events and Webinars

In 2017 we will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list and also share the extensive Montgomery County NOW Chapter Feminist Calendar. Please share your upcoming feminist events to post in 2017 CWI newsletters. We are especially happy to help promote the important work of CWI member organizations. Send information to president@womensclearinghouse.org.

Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us.

Tuesday, May 23, 2017, 9:30 AM – 4PM. Health Care Symposium, Dialog on Diversity. Register

Tuesday, May 23, 2017, Noon CWI Meeting. The Impact of the Current Supreme Court on Women's Legal Rights (See Page 1)

Tuesday, May 23, 6:45-9 PM. Stand Up! Uniting to Respond to Hate Speech & Violence
Silver Spring Civic Center, Silver Spring, MD, [FOR MORE INFO](#)

Friday, May 26, 2017, 7PM MCNOW Watch Party the Handmaid's Tale (episodes 5 and 6) Home of MCNOW member, Gaithersburg, MD. [TO FIND OUT MORE AND TO RSVP](#)

Wednesday, May 31, 3-4:30 PM Webinar: But How Do We "Do" Racial Justice?
Hosted by National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women. [FOR MORE INFO](#)

Wednesday, June 7, 2017. 8:30AM-5:30PM. From Persistence to Power: Facts, Truth, & Equity for Women.
Barbara Jordan Conference Center, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Washington, DC. Together, the Institute for Women's Policy Research, the Women's Research & Resource Center at Spelman College, and the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College, are convening leading researchers, advocates, practitioners, and policy makers for meaningful discussion. For more information visit <https://iwpr.org/get-involved/events/20882/>

Wednesday, June 7, 8PM Film, Heather Booth Changing the World. Avalon Theater, 5612 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, DC with discussion by film director Lilly Rivlin and Heather Booth. Tickets and info: heather-booththefilm.com/index.html.

Monday, June 19, 2017 6:30 PM A Report from Congress with US Congressman Jamie Raskin, Woman's Democratic Club Dinner Bethesda Marriott (Pooks Hill), Bethesda, MD [FOR MORE INFO](#)

Tuesday, June 27, Noon. CWI potluck annual meeting to discuss how DC area feminists can foster greater collaboration and mutual support by reinstating some of the important communication and collaboration functions that were lost when the National Council of Women's Organizations was unable to continue. (See page 2 of this newsletter for more information.)

June 30-July 2, 2017. National NOW Conference "Forward Feminism" Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, FL. For more information: now.org/about/2017-conference/

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

Photos: Madeline Stefani. Meeting summary, Madeline Stefani, Intern, Feminist Majority Foundation.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2015 – JUNE 2017

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill; VP Membership, Linda Fihelly; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Co-Secretary, D. Anne Martin; Co-Secretary & VP Legislation, Roberta Stanley; VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis, Directors: Connie Cordovilla, Jeanette Lim

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

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

Enclosed is a check for CWI July 1-June 30 (Please fill in the appropriate years.)

____ 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)

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 2017 CWI Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Invitation to the Annual June Meeting of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) on Tuesday, June 27, 2017, Noon-1:30 PM at the Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 2nd Floor; entrance on New Hampshire Ave., NW. (Nearest Metro Stop: Dupont Circle, south exit)

Increasing Collaboration Among Members of Feminist Organizations

With all the direct and indirect attacks on supporting programs and activities that benefit and empower women and families and protect equal rights, it is more important than ever to do everything we can to facilitate collaboration among concerned feminists. **Initial plans for increased collaboration among DC area organizations concerned with women's issues will be discussed at this June 27, 2017 meeting.** Organizational representatives will be invited to address questions, but all attendees are encouraged to contribute ideas on how to make the expanded voluntary sharing and dissemination work to everyone's advantage.

The Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Board has agreed to provide leadership in this effort to increase collaboration because it is congruent with our mission, and it is needed especially at this time when feminists are facing similar challenges. It is also needed since the closing of the National Council of Women's Organizations which had been providing some of these collaboration and dissemination services. However, CWI is an entirely voluntary organization and we realize that to make this expanded vision a reality, other organizations and individuals must contribute in a variety of ways.

CWI has established a framework and history of collaborative work on a wide variety of women's issues with a focus on groups concerned with specific topics as well as various populations. CWI meetings have focused on both substantive and legislative issues as well as procedural issues to increase organizational effectiveness such as the selection of non-profit 501 (c) (3) or (c) (4) tax status, or both. Many of our DC area feminist groups have appropriately developed coalitions of national and regional organizations in various specialty areas such as women's health, STEM, women's educational equity, women in development, women's history, justice, women in media, women in the arts, women employees in labor union, government and many professions and special populations such as African Americans, Latinas, Asian Americans, LBGTO, individuals with disabilities and individuals from countries with unique needs such as Afghanistan. But we know feminist issues are intersectional and that we need to learn more about each other's specialties so we can be better informed and work more consistently and powerfully together.

In addition to having a variety of organizations responsible for the monthly CWI meetings, benefits of this collaboration for all participating organizations include creating email lists of interested organizations and individuals for proactive sharing of information on meeting announcements, sign-on letters, petitions, marches and rallies, and even helpful reports, and webinars to support feminist issues. We also look forward to sharing event postings perhaps in the email format used by Montgomery County NOW and we plan to create web information with links to participating organizations. The organizations will also help by additional sharing of information to their constituents via email, YouTube, public access TV, and other social media. We will discuss many ways you and your organization can participate in CWI at our June 27 meeting, and most importantly, how we can collaborate to further feminist goals in the DC area and nationally.

Come join us at noon potluck lunch meeting on June 27 to discuss how to accomplish these goals and how you or your organization can help. Please RSVP to Sue Klein sklein@feminist.org if you plan to come so we can plan the refreshments and let us know if you will be your organization's representative. CWI meetings are free and open to the public.

Next CWI Annual Meeting: Tuesday, 9/26/17, same time and location as above.

Dear Current and Future CWI Members,

As CWI approaches the June 27, 2017 annual meeting, we reflect on the issues we have addressed and the significant issues that we anticipate exploring in the 2017 - 2018 CWI year. Several of the past meetings have included these topics: Why We March?, Affordable Care Act (ACA), What to Expect During Transition?, How Can We Preserve Support For Feminist Goals?, Women in the Media: Progress and Challenges, and Impact of the Current Supreme Court on Women's Legal Rights.

It has been a year when our united voices have been heard through our legislative support in Congress and by individual and group support in participating in local and national marches and advocacy.

In March, 2017, CWI was saddened by the death of Carmen Delgado Votaw, our long-term esteemed Board Member, who was serving as VP Global Issues. Her lifetime actions, her commitment to causes and her welcoming and encouraging personality will be remembered by all. We also extend our condolences to our treasurer, Holly Joseph, for the loss of her mother.

CWI will hold the 2017 - 2019 election of Officers and Board Members at our June 27, 2017 meeting. Our current Board Officers will continue to fill, or if elected, they will renew their 2-year terms. For example, **if re-elected, Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill** will extend their 2015-17 term to continue as CWI Co-presidents in 2017-2019. Holly Taggart Joseph will continue her 2016-18 term as our wonderful Treasurer. Roberta Stanley will continue her 2016-18 term as Secretary. **If re-elected, Linda Fihelly** will extend her 2015-17 term as Vice-President—Membership to 2017-19.

Three members of the CWI Board of Directors will be continuing their 2016-18 terms. They are Connie Cordovilla, Jeanette Lim (Esbrook) and Loretto Gubernatis. **If re-elected, D. Anne Martin** will continue to serve as a Director for 2017-19. **Sherry Klein** who has been CWI's web master was nominated and if elected, has agreed to serve on the CWI board for 2017-19. She brings to CWI her expertise in software testing, interest in cybersecurity. She has been an active member of 40 Plus DC and the Association of Information Technology Professionals DC Chapter. To learn more about current CWI Board Members and Officers visit the CWI leadership page <https://womensclearinghouse.org/leadership/>.

We also look forward to your ideas on "Increasing Collaboration Among Members of Feminist Organizations" at our June 27, 2017 meeting. Now is a great time to renew individual and organizational membership in CWI to support our new efforts to contribute to the feminist efforts in the DC region and beyond! (See last page of this newsletter.)

The CWI Board wishes you a pleasant summer. May it be a time for reflection, renewal and increased determination to continue our mission of providing information significant to equality with a special focus on women's rights.

Cordially,

**Harriett Stonehill, Co-President
CWI**

**Sue Klein, Co-President CWI and
the 2016-17 CWI Board.**

Photo of CWI 2016-2017 Board Members at the 8-23-16 Board Meeting



Left to right. Holly Joseph, Linda Fihelly, Anne Martin, Ellen Overton-Seated, Sue Klein, Harriett Stonehill, Loretto Gubernatis, Jeanette Lim. (Missing Roberta Stanley, Connie Cordovilla and Elaine Newman.) Photo by Perry Klein |

CWI Program Summary, May 23, 2017

The Impact of the Current Supreme Court on Women's Legal Rights

Dan Goldberg discussed Alliance for Justice's article about why Gorsuch being the next Scalia is bad for women, entitled "Everyone Says Neil Gorsuch Would Be 'Just Like Scalia,' and for Women, That's the Problem." This article was written shortly after Justice Gorsuch's appointment to the Supreme Court. It describes Justice Scalia's record on women's rights and other related cases, drawing on Neil Gorsuch's record as a Tenth Circuit judge to show that the two have similar judicial philosophies that favor taking rights from women and other historically disadvantaged groups.



After discussing the article, Dan talked about the fight against Justice Gorsuch's confirmation and the Alliance for Justice's role in that fight. He said that many people told progressive groups to hold their fire because Gorsuch wouldn't actually change the composition of the Court. However, the Alliance did not find that argument compelling and fought against the confirmation of Neil Gorsuch as a Justice because he was so extreme. Having more of the same from the Supreme Court was still not a good option. The Roberts Court has been one of the most conservative Supreme Courts in decades and Justices Gorsuch is even more conservative than many members of that Court. He is more conservative on many issues than Justice Scalia and may even be to the right of Justice Thomas. The progressive community also

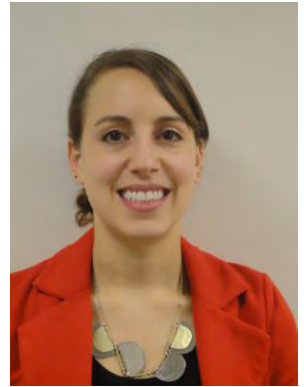
knew this seat was stolen to prevent the balance of power from shifting and didn't want it to go even farther right.

One example of this is the case of Grace Hwang. She was a professor who had worked in academia for decades and had worked at Kansas State University for years before being diagnosed with cancer. She took a six-month medical leave to receive treatment and was ready to come back when her cancer was in remission. At that time, a flu outbreak occurred on campus and her doctor told Professor Hwang that returning to work could be dangerous for her health. She offered to teach courses online, prepare materials for another lecturer, or otherwise work from home in order to avoid being on campus in the midst of the outbreak. Instead of working with her to determine how she could maintain her health and her job, the university fired her. In *Hwang v. Kansas State University*, she sued under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act, alleging that the university failed to accommodate her medical needs.

The case reached the Tenth Circuit, where then-Judge Gorsuch wrote an opinion siding with Kansas State University. He said that asking for more than six months of leave was *per se* unreasonable, despite the ADA requiring case-specific analysis of the facts. He stated that the accommodation Professor Hwang had requested was unreasonable and therefore her firing was not illegal, even though she contended that other professors were allowed more time off in other cases. Rather than allow a jury to examine the facts and make a decision about the reasonableness of the accommodation (as many circuits allow in these cases), Gorsuch did not allow the case to get to a jury. In his *Hwang* opinion and many others, he shows a distinct lack of empathy for people who are not like himself. Other cases that demonstrate this include the ubiquitous frozen trucker case and several cases where students with disabilities were denied their rights under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act.

There are also other nominees that the Alliance is concerned about, even if they aren't nominees for the Supreme Court (and some were on the short list of potential Supreme Court nominees). These nominees include John K. Bush (a nominee to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals from Kentucky), who has written a blog post comparing *Roe v. Wade* to *Dred Scott*, and Amy Coney-Barrett (a nominee to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals from Indiana), who has said that restrictions on war and the death penalty – unlike restrictions on abortion and euthanasia – are not absolute under Catholic teachings. The Alliance for Justice believes that these judges should only make the Senate more concerned about the type of people that President Trump is nominating to the federal bench. This is especially true in light of the fact that Donald Trump has basically outsourced the job of choosing judicial nominees to the right-wing Federalist Society and the Heritage Foundation.

Rachel Easter discussed the perspective of the National Women's Law Center, especially focusing on cases concerning reproductive rights at the Supreme Court. For years, anti-choice activists have used the courts to restrict the rights of women to obtain an abortion or contraception. However, Rachel sees some reasons to be hopeful that this strategy will become less effective because of a recent Supreme Court decision, *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*.



This was a case challenging a Texas anti-abortion law that, among other things, required doctors providing abortions to have admitting privileges and for abortion clinics to meet the requirements of an ambulatory surgery center. The decision was a 5-3 decision that clarified the undue burden standard from *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which some more conservative circuits have been using to stretch the law to allow an increased number of restrictions on abortion providers. The undue burden standard now requires laws to have a proper purpose and actual evidence supporting that purpose, rather than bare assertions from the legislature. The case also strongly re-affirmed *Roe*, rather than re-litigating the issue; unlike *Casey*, the case didn't question whether abortion should be a right, it strongly asserted that abortion is a right. And because it was 5-3, it would have had the same result even if Justice Scalia had still been alive or Justice Gorsuch had been on the Court.

However, we have several reasons to be concerned about Gorsuch as a Justice, in addition to those that Dan presented. In *Planned Parenthood v. Utah*, he was willing to accept any reason that the governor of Utah gave for de-funding Planned Parenthood, saying that it was not up to the judicial branch to question the actions of an elected official. This was a unilateral decision made by the governor for political reasons, which then-Judge Gorsuch supported enough to call for the case to be reheard. This does not bode well for his perspective on reproductive rights or on the limits of executive power. He also wrote a book about death with dignity laws, which was anti-*Roe* and also strongly against bodily autonomy. In the book, he said that key portions of the *Casey* decision that reaffirmed *Roe* were dicta, making it appear that *Roe* is not a strong Supreme Court precedent.

So there are reasons to panic, but also reasons to have hope about *Roe* remaining the law of the land. The *Whole Woman's Health* decision was very clearly re-asserting and strengthening the right to an abortion. But Gorsuch's confirmation and other decisions are problematic for people who support reproductive rights. For instance, he was on the panel that decided the *Hobby Lobby* case before it reached the Supreme Court. Judge Gorsuch was in the majority on this case, which went even further than Supreme Court did in its decision. The decision actually said that gender equality and women's health were not compelling government interests, and the decision he joined did not mention the women who wanted access to birth control at all. Religious refusals have exploded post-*Hobby Lobby*, and have also branched out to other areas, such as anti-discrimination laws protecting LGBTQ people. In *Little Sisters of the Poor*, Judge Gorsuch said that this case had little to do with reproductive health and everything to do with religious liberty. It is clear from these cases that he will not only side with anti-choice activists, but does not understand the reality of women's lives.

The presenters then addressed questions on topics such as the blue slip rule's role in the judicial nominations process, what Trump's views on constitutional interpretation are, and why men want to get rid of birth control. One central question for all of the attendees was what citizens can do to prevent extreme judges from getting on the bench and to resist the Trump administration in general.

There were many suggestions to answer each of those questions, starting of course with calling your Senator to voice your opinion. You should make sure that you're heard in you Senator's office, by any means possible. CWI has an advocacy checklist to help people who want to be better advocates. Other ways to protect women's rights in lobbying states to incorporate protective laws at the state level (such as codifying the birth control benefit or Title IX guidance), keeping a close eye on agencies and being vocal when you notice something problematic, and registering voters everywhere and advocating for voting rights in the states.

We also discussed the attack on administrative agencies and regulations. Justice Gorsuch is supportive of bringing back the non-delegation doctrine, which was used to strike down a lot of New Deal legislation. There are also bills such as the Regulatory Accountability Act making their way through Congress, which would make it very difficult for administrative agencies to regulate anything. People can also pay attention to government data and websites. Some of the guidance

and information has been changing on websites and people cannot do anything about it if they don't know. If a person notices that a website may have changed or they need to access information that is no longer available, they can check websites against the saved version via the internet archive (Wayback Machine), which allows people to access versions of a website as they existed at an earlier date.

Coming 2017 DC Area Feminist Events and Webinars

In 2017 we will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list and also share the extensive Montgomery County NOW Chapter Feminist Calendar. Please share your upcoming feminist events to post in 2017 CWI newsletters. We are especially happy to help promote the important work of CWI member organizations. Send information to president@womensclearinghouse.org.

Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us.

Monday, June 19, 2017 6:30 PM A Report from Congress with US Congressman Jamie Raskin, Woman's Democratic Club Dinner Bethesda Marriott (Pooks Hill), Bethesda, MD [FOR MORE INFO](#)

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 9:30-10:30 AM "45 Years of Title IX: The Progress We've Made and the Fights Ahead." Rayburn House Office Building, room 2044, sponsored by the National Women's Law Center, (NWLC) RSVP by 6-19 to fpowell@nwlc.org

Thursday, June 22, 1:30-2:30. National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE) Title IX at 45 Report Briefing, Russell Senate Office Building, Room 385 RSVP guerrierio@aauw.org

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

Photos: D. Anne Martin. Meeting summary, Jillian Edmunds, National Women's Law Center.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

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PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE (if organization*) _____
ADDRESS _____
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____ 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)

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 2017 CWI Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

Invitation to the Sept. 26, 2017 Meeting of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)
Noon-1:30 PM at the Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 2nd Floor; entrance on New Hampshire Ave., NW.
(Nearest Metro Stop: Dupont Circle, south exit)

Why Supporters of Gender Equality Should Stop Deliberate Sex Segregation in Publicly Supported Education?

Do you ever get into discussions with colleagues about the value of single-sex education? If so, do you wish you had more evidence to question using public resources to support any of these types of segregation?

This CWI meeting is intended to help you understand and take action to end deliberate public school sex segregation and to decrease more subtle and perhaps less deliberate types of education segregation based on race, economics or other characteristics.

Jeanette Lim Esbrook, CWI VP, Legal Affairs and former Civil Rights Attorney in the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education, will start with a discussion of the integration of women into the U.S. Military Academies and the public military colleges. She will share her litigation experience while working at the U.S. Department of Justice on ending sex discrimination in the Citadel, which was an all-male military college in South Carolina. She will help us understand how this case was related to the 1996 Supreme Court decision written by Ruth Bader Ginsburg which ended similar sex discrimination in the Virginia Military Institute. She will also discuss how the Supreme Court VMI decision has mitigated some of the increased sex segregation in public coed schools with sex segregated classes and in single-sex public K-12 schools. Additionally, insights from implementation plans to address sexual harassment and violence in coed military institutions will be discussed in the context of today's review of OCR Title IX guidance.

Sue Klein, Co-President of CWI and Education Equity Director at the Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) will discuss the need for gender equity advocates to use Title IX, and the U.S. and state constitutions and policies to end deliberate sex segregation which also appears to increase intersectional segregation, stereotyping and discrimination related to race and socio-economic status. Title IX has two important tools that can help end illegal sex discrimination, two sets of 2014 Office for Civil Rights (OCR) guidance. One is to help Title IX Coordinators with the full implementation of all aspects of Title IX. The other is guidance on evidence needed to justify sex-segregated classes in coed public schools. Klein will highlight legal, educational and economic concerns and discuss some recent trends that provide hope that we can work deliberately to stop existing public school sex segregation and even learn from this experience about how to end other types of harmful education discrimination and manage diverse students in fair and equitable ways. For more information on problems with sex segregation in public education visit www.feminist.org/education/sexsegregation.asp

Monica Hopkins-Maxwell, Exec. Director, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of the District of Columbia who will inform us of current and planned public school sex segregation in Washington, DC and what we can do to stop this unjustifiable sex discrimination.

Next CWI Meeting: Tuesday, 10/24/17, same time and location as above.

Dear Current and Future CWI Members,

Below is a photo of the CWI Board elected at our June 27, 2017 meeting as they take a break during the July 31, 2017 CWI Board Meeting. Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill were re-elected to continue as CWI Co-Presidents for 2017-19 and Linda Fihelly will continue to serve as Vice President – Membership for 2017-19. Anne Martin was re-elected as Board Member for 2017-19. Sherry Klein, who is CWI's web master, was elected as a Board member for 2017-19. All others will continue to serve the second year of their 2016-2018 Board and Officer terms. The photo of the Board below is by Perry Klein.



Seated: Harriett Stonehill, Anne Martin. **Standing Left to Right front row:** Connie Cordovilla, Jeanette Lim Esbrook, Sue Klein. **Back Row:** Holly Joseph, Linda Fihelly, Sherry Klein, Roberta Stanley. **Absent:** Loretto Gubernatis.

(Note, the photo of the 2016 CWI Board on page 2 of the June 2017 CWI newsletter includes both Loretto Gubernatis and Ellen Overton.)

To learn more about CWI Board Members and Officers including Ellen Overton, visit the CWI leadership page <https://womensclearinghouse.org/leadership/>.



CWI is sad to share the news of the passing of our former two-term president and long-time Board member, **Ellen Stern Overton** at 92 on August 21, 2017. Her son, Roger is inviting her CWI friends and colleagues to a celebration of her life on Sunday, Sept. 17 at 11 AM at the Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, DC. Ellen was a unique person with many particular skills and attributes that she brought and shared with the CWI Organization. Ellen, with her wisdom, her education, her background and experiences, always made sure that the issues included an international element. We, as an organization, benefited from her past experiences, including her attendances at each of the International Women's Conferences: Mexico City in 1975, Houston in 1977, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985, Beijing in 1995, and several more at the United Nations in New York. Ellen set the tone for CWI members to learn the issues, unite with other organizations and act on them in some capacity, both as an individual, or with an organization. We loved to hear her stories and also remember celebrating her 90th birthday with her.

Ellen Overton has left us wanting more of what she offered all of us, but that is not to be. She did leave us a legacy to go forth and continue the work of our mission. We will miss her. You can learn more about Ellen's fascinating life and examples of her feminist actions and leadership in this obituary <https://www.devolfuneralhome.com/Funerals-and-Obituaries-in-Washington-DC/Ellen-Stern-Overton> as well as in her bio on the above CWI Leadership page.

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

CWI Program Summary, June 27, 2017

Increasing Collaboration Among Members of Feminist Organizations

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) members and guests introduced themselves and their organizations. Meeting attendees included interns from the National Organization for Women, representatives from the Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF), the Association for Women in Science, Maryland Business and Professional Women, Public Access television, the National Conference of Puerto Rican women, the Bahai's of the U.S. National Council, the National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, the National Women's Health Network, the American Association of University Women, To the Contrary, the American Psychological Association, the FMF Afghan Women's Project, and other CWI members.

After self-introductions and sharing the pot-luck lunch, CWI Board member Jeanette Lim Esbrook led the annual CWI election. There was one new Board member nomination – Sherry Klein who has been serving as CWI web master. All other board members retained their positions. The slate of candidates for two-year terms was unanimously confirmed. See page 2 of this newsletter for a photo and details.

Sue Klein, CWI Co-President, introduced the topic of discussion – CWI's potential role in facilitating collaboration among feminist groups so we can enhance the effectiveness of our joint fight for social justice. Sue said that CWI wanted to especially address the communication needs of groups in the D.C. area, especially since the end of the National Council on Women's Organizations (NCWO) which had provided helpful communication/collaboration services, has ended operation and because working together is especially critical at this time. However, she emphasized that the CWI did not want to take on the NCWO's more costly ventures, such as hiring paid staff, developing overall consensus position statements, and organizing Congressional meetings. Rather, the CWI hopes to build on already-established specialized networks and coalitions such as for women's health, education, global issues, science, ERA, employment, and more. This increased communications would be especially beneficial for smaller feminist groups or organizations who do not focus all their attention on feminist issues.

CWI is a logical organization to facilitate this communication, not only because of its name, still viable since it was created in 1974, but because it focuses on multiple issues and has highlighted the work of many feminist organizations over its 43 years. CWI's Board Members, Connie Cordovilla from the American Federation of Teachers and Sue Klein from FMF have extensive email lists of individuals interested in promoting equity. CWI's VP for Media, Loretto Gubernatis, provides leadership on using videography and public access TV to help organizations extend their communications. CWI's other Board Members have been leaders in many feminist organizations.

The current plan is for CWI to maintain its focus on voluntary contributions and low cost organizational and individual membership while growing its board and membership. Sue emphasized that the CWI wants its procedures to be "win-win" for all participants. For example, some of our strategies would include sharing organizational sign-on letters and publicizing each other's meetings and reports.

She then introduced FMF interns Una Corbett (on left) and Aly Crain who presented their draft list of over 100 organizations related to women's rights and advocacy mainly in the D.C. area. They grouped the organizations on the list according to focus field – for example, reproductive rights, African American women's advocacy, or education equity. They explained that they compiled the list by starting with FMF's list of women's organizations concerned with education equity and adding more using other databases. When possible, they have included a relevant contact along with their email and phone number so CWI can include these people in coordinating feminist actions. Aly and Una emphasized that they want the list to be an ongoing effort, and continuously incorporate contacts held by other people. They also mentioned some areas for improvement with the list – the list is lacking information on groups for women of color and groups for LGBTQ+ women. They passed around the list and blank lists so attendees could correct contacts and add their own.



Led by CWI Board member, Anne Martin, the attendees then discussed the different ways in which the CWI could help facilitate communication and collaboration between different feminist organizations. One attendee mentioned that it would be helpful if the CWI could help get the word out about different programs and initiatives run by member organizations, and members discussed the possibility of doing this in their monthly newsletter, in a resource book, or online. Members emphasized that it was important for this information to be current and immediate.

Another attendee said that CWI should focus on facilitating alliances and collaboration between organizations that work on similar issues, especially issues that all women have in common, regardless of age, ethnicity, employment status, etc. This prompted a discussion of the need for more diversity in the CWI board and membership, and the feminist conversation in general, especially given current national discussions of racism and xenophobia. One attendee said that CWI needs a strategic recruitment process to reach out to women of color and to encourage them to take on leadership roles in the organizations.

Negar Abay from the Bahai's of the U.S. National Council said that the CWI should try to build on its already-existing strengths. The CWI is not yet using communication methods and spaces that young people are using, so they should try to shift to more current information dissemination methods, like podcasts, blogs, and social media like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat. One attendee floated the idea of creating an advisory board that includes people of color and younger people to consult about which speakers to invite to CWI meetings, since current discussion topics are not always relevant to young people and women of color. Other members discussed the possibility for CWI to have outreach on public broadcast television. One attendee raised the idea of a mentorship program where older organizations could help new organizations navigate logistical challenges and other activities.

A video of this meeting produced by CWI Board member and Vice President-Media Relations, Loretto Gubernatis will be available on our CWI website soon.

Coming 2017 DC Area Feminist Events and Webinars

In 2017 we will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list. Please share your upcoming feminist events to post in 2017 CWI newsletters. We are especially happy to help promote the important work of CWI member organizations. Send information to president@womensclearinghouse.org. Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWInews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us.

Saturday, September 16, 2017, 11 AM, Why College is More Expensive for Women, AAUW Maryland, Montgomery College – Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville, MD 20850, Science Center (SC), Room 152, RSVP [online form](#) Key speaker, Dr. Catherine Hill former AAUW research director.

Sunday, September 17, 2017 11 AM Celebration of the Life of Ellen S. Overton, Woman's National Democratic Club (WNDC). (See page 2.) RSVP to WNDC Tel. 202-232-7363.

Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 2 PM to 3:30 PM (ET). Webinar: Ensuring a Safe and Inclusive School Environment for LGBTQ Students. Center for Education Equity. Here is the link to [Register](#).

Friday, September 22, 2017, 9AM to 1 PM, Women in Leadership Forum, SmartBrief Corporate Offices. 555 11th St NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20004. Register: <http://info.smartbrief.com/LeadershipForum/2017>

Wednesday, September 27, 2017, Noon to 1:30, Income Volatility: The Roller Coaster Ride Complicating Tax Policy, Social Safety Nets, and Daily Life, Urban Institute, [Register](#)

Sunday, October 1, 4:30-7PM, Racial Justice NOW, Montgomery Co. NOW, Executive Office Building Auditorium, 101 Monroe St., Rockville, MD 20850 [To purchase tickets](#) at \$10. Link [To visit Facebook page](#)

Thursday, October 12, 5:30-9 PM film, "I am Jane Doe" about trafficking of middle school girls, Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Ave. \$50 includes hors d'oeuvres. Call 202-232-7363.

Tuesday, October 24, Noon. CWI noon meeting, Alliance for Justice (See Page 1.)

Thursday, November 2, 2017, 6 PM Celebration of Barry W. Lynn's Retirement and Commemorating Americans United's 70th Anniversary. National Geographic Society Building (1600 M Street, NW. [Tickets and Sponsorship](#). <https://www.celebrateau.org/sponsorships/>

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

Photos: Perry Klein & Sue Klein. Meeting summary, Una Corbett & Aly Crain, FMF Interns

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2017 – JUNE 2019

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill; VP Membership, Linda Fihelly; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary & VP Legislation, Roberta Stanley; VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis, VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim, Directors: Connie Cordovilla, Sherry Klein, Anne Martin

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 of Individual or Organization _____
For Organizations also Provide Name and email of PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ CELL _____
EMAIL _____
WEBSITE _____

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

____ **Individual** ____ \$25 for one year ____ \$45 for two years ____ \$65 for three years

____ Individual under 30 years old (\$15/one year)

____ Virtual (\$20/one year) (Email newsletter only for members outside Washington, DC area)

____ **Organization** (\$40/one year or \$100/three years)

____ 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)

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 2017 Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

**Invitation to the October 24, 2017 Meeting of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)
Noon-1:30 PM at the Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 2nd Floor; entrance on New
Hampshire Ave., NW. (Nearest Metro Stop: Dupont Circle, south exit)**

Turning Anger into Change: 15 Ways to Stop a Bigot

The resurgence of white-supremacy and aggression is no accident. Trump marketed a violent, bigoted, bullying tough-guy image as if it were patriotic and "manly" to be a racist, sexist jackass. He reinforced the right-wing media blowhards and internet trolls who pander to racism and toxic masculinity, and rode into office on a wave of belligerent white-supremacy.

Our communities pay the price. We're now facing not only KKK / neo-Nazi marches, but local violence from bigots who feel entitled to abuse immigrants, people of color, Muslims, Jews, gays, and minorities of all kinds. Kids are seeing more bullying in school, and hate crimes are increasing.

It takes no courage to be a bigot. The heroes are the folks who step up to protect their neighbors. Human rights depend on effective action.

This CWI meeting will look at what to do and how to do it. There are tactics that work – practical everyday ways (a) to intervene and interrupt aggressive bigots with principled nonviolent action, and (b) to make our communities safer for the people being targeted. "We're not helpless," Marty Langelan says. "Intervention skills are powerful. Do something that works."

Marty Langelan is called "the godmother of direct intervention." She's an economist, martial artist, and expert in civil disobedience and nonviolent action. Marty is the past president of the DC Rape Crisis Center and the National Woman's Party (founded by suffragist Alice Paul). She's taught more than a quarter of a million people how to take effective action. Her intervention toolkits, bystander tactics, and community and workplace strategies are used around the world.

In addition to her work with governments, corporations, and international organizations, she's been empowering activists for decades, providing violence-intervention and direct-action skills for the anti-rape movement, clinic defenders, ERA advocates, and domestic-violence programs, as well as peace marches, anti-Klan protests, economic-justice picket lines, immigrants, disability-rights advocates, LGBTQ groups, environmental activists, and many others. Marty is the author of *Back Off: How to Confront and Stop Sexual Harassment*. Her article, "Stop a Bigot," is in the current issue of *Ms.* magazine (Fall 2017).

CWI meetings are free and open to the public. Bring lunch.

Dear Current and Future CWI Members,

ODE TO CELEBRATE RUTH NADEL

(1914 - 2017)

*By her long-time friend and Co-President of CWI,
Harriett Stonehill*



*Ruth Nadel, a founding member of CWI, stated
When CWI was first created*

*"We've got to share and let everyone know
Issues of concern to women, so we can all 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.*

*Ruth said "Join and make friends,
Learn the issues to make amends."*

*Ruth's Rolodex was a National Treasure,
Need a speaker? Add an advocate for good
measure.*

*To honor Ruth Nadel, CWI will continue to strive,
And work to keep her legacy strong and alive.*

**CWI welcomes donations in Ruth's name. See
membership form on the last page.**

The following obituary is from Ruth's son, Roger Nadel. Similar information about Ruth is on <https://womensclearinghouse.org/leadership/>

***Ruth Nadel, pioneer for working women,
paid and unpaid, dies at 103***

Ruth Nadel, a second-wave feminist who championed workplace equity, co-founded the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara, and engineered our nation's earliest employer supported child care options for working families at the Department of Labor, has died at 103. The cause was complications from a brain tumor, said her sons, who were with her at her home in Northridge, Calif., when she passed on September 25, 2017.

A pioneer who promoted the social capital of paid and unpaid work among women, Ms. Nadel entered the workforce at age 55, beginning a 21-year career as a policy advocate at the Department of Labor's Women's Bureau through the power of a resume built on two decades of community engagement and organizing. As a homemaker raising four sons during the second quartile of her life, she participated in local politics; a favorite family story dates back to the late 1940s when her preschool-aged son was known to play dress up by slinging a purse on his arm and declaring, "I'm a mommy, and I'm going to a meeting." In the second half of her life, she would go on to forge farsighted and enduring child care and eldercare solutions, motivated by a sense of justice and idealism for a new generation of working women in the 1960s and 1970s and whose causes she supported in the decades since.

Born in 1914, six years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote, Ruth Rosoff was an early feminist surrounded by men—a hard-working father who owned a midtown Manhattan restaurant, two brothers, and later a devoted husband of 55 years and four sons. She was raised in New York City, graduated from Hunter College High School, and joined the first class to admit women at the City University of New York's Baruch College. After earning a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in education, she became a teacher as her young husband, Aaron "Harry" Nadel, earned his doctoral

degree in psychology.

Following the birth of their first son in World War II, Ms. Nadel's husband joined the Navy and she the ranks of housewives to raise her family. When he returned from service, they moved to various cities as her husband's career progressed, settling in Santa Barbara in 1957, where she became active in school politics and education initiatives. Her involvement spurred her to cofound a scholarship foundation for Santa Barbara students unable to afford higher education: To launch the volunteer-led organization, she and a School Board member made pitches to neighbors, urging contributions with a theme of "Let's see what we can dream" and seeding the nascent charity with nine "book award" grants for \$100 in its first year. Ms. Nadel became the first president of the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara, where she served from 1962 to 1965. Today the Foundation, the nation's largest community-based scholarship program and still entirely privately funded, just crossed the \$100 million mark, having benefitted 47,000 Santa Barbara County students in its 55-year history.

Fresh from her three-year term at the helm of the Scholarship Foundation, Ms. Nadel ran for and won a seat on the Santa Barbara County School Board. In 1967, a week after her youngest son finished high school (where, as a School Board member, she handed out diplomas), she launched the second half of her life and moved to Washington, DC, to join her husband who was doing psychological research in the private sector.

So began a half century of immersion into Washington, DC, society and politics, where she thrived on the buzz and influence of making public policy happen. Ms. Nadel took the initiative to catalyze her unpaid work experience on her resume and was hired at the U.S. Labor Department's Women's Bureau to specialize in dependent care and rights for working families, where she designed and developed the first on-site, employer-supported child care center and related child care options, which she would later extend into eldercare options in the 1980s.

When she retired from paid work, as she called it, in 1989, Ms. Nadel continued to serve *pro bono* for

various women's and eldercare organizations well into her nineties, maintaining a full schedule of service as co-chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations Global Women's Issues Task Force, the Woman's National Democratic Club Board of Governors, Iona Citizens Advisory Council, the Older Women's League, the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues, the League of Women Voters, and the American Association of University Women. She was also appointed as a Commissioner for the DC Commission on Aging, a post she held until she left Washington, DC, for California at the age of 100.

Throughout her careers, paid and unpaid, Ms. Nadel joyfully mentored countless people, mostly women, at all stages of life and all levels of influence. Among her many sayings was a favorite, in which she affirmed, "I'm not proud; I'm grateful." As it turns out, the gratitude was disproportionately held by those whom she counseled, guided, and warmed with her wisdom, kindness, and generosity of spirit.

Her family, who called her Dolly, describes a woman who tirelessly pushed professional expectations, norms, and barriers, whose persistence well into her 104th year was wholly consistent with a life fiercely led on her own terms, with a resolve others could only marvel at, surpassing milestones most will never reach with breezy indifference as she aimed, undeterred, for the next justice- and equity-related challenge. Her will to engage with the world doggedly prevailed until her final days, as she rebuffed the hindrances of aging in pursuit of time well spent in laughter and conversation. Ms. Nadel credited her longevity to two desserts a day; her family adds to that list several qualities in the extreme—outsized extraversion, undeterred focus, exceeding cheerfulness, unrelenting curiosity, and inspiring optimism—which kept her at the center of attention and the hub of activity among those who loved her and to an ever-widening circle even into her last days.

Ms. Nadel was predeceased by her husband, Harry, and her oldest son, Ethan Nadel; she is survived by sons John Nadel of Los Angeles, Gordon Nadel and his wife Patty of Jasper, Ore., and Roger Nadel and his wife Debbie of Oxnard, Calif., as well as nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

CWI Program Summary, September 26, 2017

Why Supporters of Gender Equality Should Stop Deliberate Sex Segregation in Publicly Supported Education?

The following are primarily adaptations from the presenters' notes.

The Legal History of Women's Access to Military Educational Institutions and the Impact of U.S. V. Virginia on Single Sex Education by Jeanette Lim Esbrook, CWI Vice President, who was on the Department of Justice Team working on the Citadel's compliance with the court orders.



The United States Military Academies, are [federal academies](#) for the undergraduate education and training of [commissioned officers](#) for the [United States Armed Forces](#).

There are five U.S. service academies:

- West Point, New York, founded in 1802
- [Naval Academy](#), Annapolis, Maryland, founded in 1845
- [Coast Guard Academy](#), New London, Connecticut, founded in 1876
- [Merchant Marine Academy](#), Kings Point, New York, founded in 1943
- [Air Force Academy](#), Colorado Springs, Colorado, founded in 1954

Public Law 94-106 requiring the admission of women to the U.S. Service Academies was passed after divisive argument within Congress, resistance from the Department of Defense and legal action initiated by women to challenge their exclusion. It was signed by President Gerald Ford in 1975. And in 1976, more than 300 women enrolled at the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Male prejudice against women at the academies proved to be their biggest obstacle. The schools reconfigured barracks, dormitories and locker space and adapted some physical education requirements. In 1980, the first women graduated from the five U.S. Service Academies. Women today are included in all aspects of the military but issues of integration including sexual harassment and violence continue today.

There are also six United States Senior Military Colleges: Norwich University -Norwich Connecticut Corps of Cadets; [Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets](#); The Citadel, Military College of South Carolina; [University of North Georgia Virginia Military Institute](#); and [Virginia Tech](#), [Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets](#)

The Citadel and Virginia Military Institute. With the integration of women in the U.S. Service Academies, questions were raised about whether women ought to be admitted to the Virginia Military Institute and The Citadel. These were public educational institutions funded with federal and state tax monies. In 1985 VMI named an ad hoc committee to evaluate the men-only admissions policy of VMI and by implication of The Citadel. The 4-member all male committee visited and reviewed integration of women into the U.S. Service Academies. They interviewed women enrolled, officials and faculty of the Academies and determined that the integration of women into the U.S. Service Academies was successful. The committee concluded that this successful access to the Academies was sufficient to meet the demand among women and the interest in the military colleges would be so low as to produce only a token number of female matriculants. Further, the report concluded that the lack of a critical mass of women would severely limit their success and would be unfair to them. They concluded that VMI should continue to adhere to its mission as an all-male institution.

So it remained for individual women to assert the right for women to attend state and federally funded public military education institutions. In 1989 after a complaint, whose name has never been revealed, was filed with the DOJ by an aspiring VMI female applicant the VMI litigation began in the federal district court in Roanoke, VA. Justice attorney Judith Keith represented the U.S. and the young woman who sought admission to VMI. The issue of admitting women became involved in a political struggle between the VMI Board of Visitors (against the admission of women) and the political leadership in Virginia (some of whom supported admitting women). The VMI Board prevailed and after six years of political jockeying over the issue, the case came before the Supreme Court in 1995 October Term and was decided in June 1996.

The Citadel litigation took a different route. Shannon Faulkner, of Powdersville, S.C., was 18 when she applied in 1993. She deleted all references to her gender from the application and was accepted. When admissions officials learned that she was a woman, the acceptance was withdrawn. After being denied admission to The Citadel on the basis of sex, Shannon Faulkner filed suit in March 1993, alleging a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The United States intervened as plaintiff in June, 1993. After a contentious lawsuit Shannon Faulkner was admitted in August 1995 by Court Order of Judge C. Weston Houck to the day military Cadet Corps portion of The Citadel. She resigned after a week, citing emotional and psychological abuse and physical exhaustion. The male cadets who had been openly hostile to her throughout turned out and celebrated on the campus when she left. Two decades later in a 2012 interview with the local Charlotte Post and Courier newspaper, Faulkner stated that what precipitated her leaving so abruptly was a threat to kill her parents by a person present when she entered. Nancy Millette became the plaintiff in the litigation to open The Citadel to women. When the Supreme Court accepted certiorari on the ongoing VMI case for review for the October 1995 term, Judge Houck placed the Citadel lawsuit on hold, pending the Supreme Court's ruling.

Both Virginia and South Carolina asserted that while the adversative method used to produce citizen soldiers was not inherently unsuitable for women but somehow was not obtainable in the coeducational context of VMI or The Citadel. Both states sought to establish so-called "separate, but equal" educational "parallel programs" for women: Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (VWIL), located at Mary Baldwin College, a private liberal arts school for women (which [reports](#) being the Nation's only all-female cadet corps). The South Carolina Institute of Leadership for Women (SCIL) was South Carolina's response. Neither The VWIL or the SCIL offer women an educational opportunity equal to that at VMI or The Citadel. The curricula were different and at these newly formed institutions there was no established network of influence that was a hallmark for graduates of both VMI and The Citadel. With graduation, entry to the political and economic power structure in Virginia and South Carolina respectively were obtainable. This was not the case for graduates from the newly formed VWIL or SCIL.

On the day of the Supreme Court's decision in *United States v. Virginia*, 518 U.S. 515 (1996) requiring VMI to admit women, our USDOJ team was in Charleston be-

fore Judge Houck to begin the Citadel trial. The Judge determined that he should follow the newly released VMI decision rather than continue with the trial. He asked The Citadel to begin accepting female applicants and to develop an Assimilation Plan to integrate women into the Corp of Cadets. Pursuant to the Judge's direction the Board of Visitors of The Citadel voted to eliminate the gender requirement from its admission policy and to begin accepting qualified women into The Citadel for the 1996-97 school year. The Citadel, while opening admissions to women dragged their feet over the summer and failed to move on developing a plan for assimilating women cadets. After waiting through three months of inactivity the Justice Department filed a motion for an Assimilation Plan from The Citadel. In late August 1996 when 2 women cadets were set on fire as part a hazing episode all hell broke loose and The Citadel leadership began to develop plans to safely assimilate women into the Cadet Corp. Hazing was "a tradition" during the first year at The Citadel, the KNOB year.

Cadets live in spartan barracks where surveillance is constant and privacy nonexistent; they wear uniforms, eat together in the mess hall, and regularly participate in drills. First year students are exposed to an extreme form of the adversative model especially through hazing from upper classmen. Tormenting and punishing is meant to bond new cadets to their fellow sufferers when they have completed the 7-month experience to their former tormentors. The belief was that the first year was a year to break down the cadets in order to build them up in Citadel tradition. For the newly admitted women this period of hazing was like they were open targets especially absent any plan to ensure their safety. Following extensive discovery and negotiations over provisions of The Citadel's plan, the parties agreed to an assimilation plan that enumerated 52 specific steps The Citadel would take, titled "Revised Plan for Assimilation of Female Cadets" (the "Revised Plan"). On May 23, 1997, the Court entered a Consent Order, approving the Revised Plan. On May 28, 1998, the Court approved and entered a supplemental agreement regarding The Citadel's obligations to report on its progress in implementing the Revised Plan. This supplemental agreement was entitled "Consent Order as to Reporting Requirements" (the "Reporting Requirements Order"). The brave women who endured that first year were not under any assimilation plan. Four including the two who were set on fire left: Nancy Mace, Jeannie Mentavlos, Kim Messer, and Petra Lovenskia all succeeded in staying.

Lim Esbrook described one of her early concerns in reviewing the Citadel's assimilation plan. She said they planned to give a "Sweetheart Ring" (similar to rings given to wives and girlfriends) to the female graduates rather than the normal prestigious Citadel graduation ring. At first the legal team and the judge let that part of the plan stand because they were dealing with highly important issues such as hazing and harassment, but at the end, the judge reflected on Jeanette's passionate request to require that equal prestigious rings be available for female graduates and he emphasized this symbolic aspect of equality in his final ruling!

The related VMI Supreme Court Decision: *United States v. Virginia*, 518 U.S. at 547, June 1996 contains important Constitutional guidance. Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) wrote the opinion of the Court issued in June 1996. Concurring in the opinion were Justices Stevens, O'Connor, Kennedy, Souter, and Breyer. Rehnquist filed an opinion concurring in part, Scalia dissented, and Thomas took no part in the case. RBG wrote that generalizations about what is appropriate for most women, no longer justify denying opportunity for all women. Rights inhere to the individual not to the group of which she is a part whether or not generalizations about the group are correct. Judge Antonin Scalia dissented by stating the Court was reading its own values into the equal protection clause. Scalia relied on his "original intent" belief holding the Court should be bound by the fact that women were not considered equal when the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified in 1868. However, the actions of the U.S. elected representatives such as the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1972 Education Amendments (Title IX), and other legislation, indicated that equality had become a firm part of the American ideology and the people wished to give that meaning to the Constitution.

The holding of *United States v. Virginia* (VMI) is that Parties who seek to defend gender-based government action such as single sex education must demonstrate an "exceedingly persuasive justification" for that action. To meet the burden of justification, a State must show "that the challenged classification serves important governmental objectives and that the discriminatory means employed are substantially related to the achievement of those objectives. The justification must not rely on over broad generalizations about the different needs, talents, capacities, or preferences of males and females. In the case of VMI, the justification for excluding all women from "citizen soldier" training for which some are qualified, does not rank as "exceedingly persuasive" and denies equal protection to women re-

quired by the 14th amendment of the US Constitution. The opinion recognized that the VMI education may serve well Virginia sons, but it makes no provision whatever for her daughters. (This is a question for the all-male schools under consideration in D.C.)

Why Supporters of Gender Equality Should Stop Deliberate Sex Segregation in Publicly Supported Education by Sue Klein, who has been researching single sex public education for the last decade for the Feminist Majority Foundation and is also the co-president of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues. (See www.feminist.org/education/sexsegregation.asp)



Klein said she assumed that many feminists were probably confused about the value and appropriateness of deliberate sex segregation in publicly supported education. She also assumed that few were familiar with numbers of US K-12 schools with deliberate sex separation. She then reported that based on FMF research we estimate over

1000 K-12 public schools with deliberate sex separated education. She said FMF found 794 K-12 coed public schools with single-sex academic classes like math, science, and English and 131 single sex public schools based primarily on the responses to the 2013-14 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). She then asked attendees to guess if there were more of these single sex schools for girls or boys. The group guessed more were for boys, but she informed them that we found 73 for girls and 58 for boys. She also noted that a high proportion of African American and Hispanic students were in these schools with sex segregation.

Klein then discussed legal, educational and financial reasons for ending deliberate sex-segregated public education and noted that the legal justifications for coeducational military education are especially important for K-12 public education. In fact, the VMI Supreme Court decision by Justice Ginsberg reported by Lim Esbrook is the most used guidance for the stringent justifications needed for single-sex public education.

Legal objections point out that exclusionary sex discrimination generally violates Title IX, the U.S. Constitution, and some state Constitutions or statutes, as well as specific laws that protect against race and sex segregation and discrimination related to sexual orientation and gender identity. The helpful 2014 Office for Civil Rights

guidance, [Questions and Answers on Title IX and Single-Sex Elementary and Secondary Classes and Extracurricular Activities](#) describes how schools with single-sex programs and activities should comply with a variety of equity standards to prohibit sex discrimination under Title IX, the U.S. Constitution, and other federal civil rights laws. It is reinforced by the [2015 OCR guidance on the roles of Title IX Coordinators](#) and the OCR [Title IX Resource Guide](#).

Educational objections are very congruent with the legal objections. There is no high quality credible evidence that sex-segregated education improves the educational achievement of girls or boys. Instead, there is growing evidence that deliberate sex segregation is detrimental to students' achievement and self-esteem. And it often increases sex-stereotypes that limit learning and proper acknowledgement of abilities and achievement as shown in the recent "Hidden Figures" movie. Similarly, there is no evidence that sex segregation of minority students is better than comparable coeducation. In fact, there is no evidence that girls and boys (as a group) learn differently, need to be taught differently, or need to be educated in separate classes because of sex related brain differences or learning styles. Similarly, there is no evidence that separating girls and boys decreases distractions and harassment from the other sex. In fact, sex segregation may increase some undesired behavior including fighting and homophobia. Finally, students in sex-segregated classes do not have better educational outcomes than comparable students in equitably resourced co-educational classes. See the [Pseudoscience of Single-Sex Schooling](#) article.

Economic concerns should also be addressed when considering any sex separation that has overcome the legal and educational objections. Sex separated education is more expensive in money and staff time than similar gender equitable coeducation. Deliberate sex separation requires additional administrative procedures to oversee equitable treatment; duplicate services, facilities and staff; specialized teacher training; increased evaluation requirements and often legal services to help with the approval or defense of the discriminatory exclusion of students based solely on their sex or gender identity.

In closing Klein noted that there are some trends and strategies that bode well for replacing sex-segregated public education with gender equitable coeducation.

- In the past decade there have been steady decreases in sex-segregated private education and in voluntary clubs associated with education

institutions that exclude participants based on their sex, sexual orientation or gender-identity.

- Strategies that have helped end some illegal sex segregated education approaches include: legal objections especially by ACLU, changes in educational leadership, and well-informed Title IX Coordinators and others who increase awareness of legal, educational, and economic reasons to avoid sex-segregation in K-12 public schools and who work with others to stop it especially at state, school district, and school levels.

The final lively presentation by Monica Hopkins-Maxwell, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of DC. focused on fighting the establishment of all-boys publicly supported K-12 schools in Washington, DC. Before heading up the DC ACLU Office, Hopkins-Maxwell was the Executive director of the ACLU in Idaho where ACLU has been successful in ending a coed public school program that separated the girls and boys for most of their academic classes because it was not legally justifiable under Title IX and the U.S. Constitution.



Hopkins-Maxwell explained that ACLU was a proponent of helping to overcome racial disparities, but the answer is not sex segregation. DC was active in implementing the Obama Initiative Empowering Males of Color (EMOC). In 2015, DC Mayor Bowser and the Office

of the Chancellor of DC Public Schools, started a \$20 million initiative to implement EMOC. A key component was the establishment of an all-male public college prep high school. ACLU and other organizations such as the Feminist Majority Foundation and the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education and some members of the City Council objected because these programs discriminated against girls and women of color who suffer from many of the same problems as boys of color. These shared problems include poverty, a highly racially segregated school system, over-policing, racial bias, a high incidence of family violence and trauma as well as unique obstacles such as gender based violence, teen pregnancy and family obligations that undermine academic progress. (See ACLU's May 2016

report "[Leaving Girls Behind: An Analysis of Washington D.C.'s 'Empowering Males of Color' Initiative.](#)")

The arguments show that these male only programs should not be justified based on legal or educational evidence. For example, DC's own statistics show that girls of color do as poorly academically compared with white girls as the boys of color do when compared with white boys.

The DCPS all-boys high school now called the Ron Brown College Prep. Academy is in its second academic year and little is known about the DC promises to provide equal services to girls of color. While all boys are allowed to attend this high school, it appears that no white boys have chosen to attend. ACLU asked if girls and/or LGBTQ students who want to attend the Ron Brown school would be able to do so, but has no consistent answer. ACLU believes it may be necessary to have some students apply to attend the Ron Brown school to test this sex discrimination as was done in the VMI and Citadel cases.

ACLU recently learned that North Star, has provisional approval as a new DC Public Charter school. If it passes legal and other reviews by the DC Charter

School Board, it would open in 2018 as an all-boys middle school to feed into the Ron Brown all-boys high school.

ACLU is concerned with addressing the real community needs. From discussions to date, it appears that the residents of DC Wards 7&8 want high quality coed public schools and parity throughout the city. Hopkins-Maxwell also pointed out that DC needs to give more attention to fair discipline and reminded the meeting attendees that more girls are being pushed out of charter schools and that the *Washington Post* recently reported on numerous charter school students who are on "not admit" lists, but who aren't expelled. This makes the student a truant, but the school gets to keep the money allocated for the student.

She concluded that all of us need to be more aware of what is going on in our public schools and stop sex discrimination and illegal sex separation as separate is not equal. We need to be active and attend DC Council and Charter School Board meetings to influence important equity decisions on school budgets and policies.

Coming 2017 DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

In 2017 we will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list. Please share your upcoming feminist events to post in 2017 CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org. Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us.

CWI received notice about "The Divine Order" directed by Petra Volpe which tells the little-known story of how women in Switzerland didn't get the right to vote until 1971. Here is a link to the film's trailer and theatrical

site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMArK-cowTs> <https://zeitgeistfilms.com/film/thedivineorder>

Friday-Sunday October 27-29, 2017, Women's Convention, sponsored by the Women's March, Cobo Center, Detroit, Michigan See more [here](#).

Thursday Nov. 2, 2017. Celebrate 25 years with MAEC, 6-9 pm Free, American University, [RSVP HERE](#)

Monday-Tuesday, November 6-7, 2017. The National Women's Conference, Houston, TX, 40th Anniversary of 1977 Houston Women's Conference. Free and open to the public. Details: <http://uh.edu/class/77womensconf>

And you can register here: <https://www.1977women.eventbrite.com>

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017 Women, Money Power 2017 Summit/30th Anniversary Luncheon, 9AM-2:30 PM, National Press Club, Washington, DC sponsored by Feminist Majority Foundation, [Registration](#) .

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

Photos: Sherry Klein Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2017 – JUNE 2019

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Membership Form

www.womensclearinghouse.org

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

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

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

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

____ **Individual** ____ \$25 for one year ____ \$45 for two years ____ \$65 for three years

____ Individual under 30 years old (\$15/one year)

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____ **Organization** (\$40/one year or \$100/three years)

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

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



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

November 2017 Newsletter

www.womensclearinghouse.org

See Video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5_m2ttSJNw

**Invitation to the November 28, 2017 Meeting of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)
Noon-1:30 PM at The Residences at Thomas Circle, 1330 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washing-
ton, DC 20005 (Nearest Metro Stop: McPherson Square, 14th and I Street NW Exit)**

#METOO on the Job and in School: Then and Now

The topic of this CWI luncheon meeting is the recent deluge of revelations about sexual harassment and assault. Whether it is powerful movie producers, network executives or elected officials, the use of sexual force, threat or innuendo against those in vulnerable positions is abhorrent as well as illegal! Hear from those who deal with the issues of assault and harassment in the framework of domestic violence and help with the steps we need to bring this epidemic under control and eradicate it.

Presenters:

[Pat Reuss](#), the "Godmother" of the Violence against Women Act (VAWA), will talk about what feminist activists from grade school age to octogenarians can do to call out the perpetrators and stop this abuse. Pat has been an activist leader on **women's** issues ranging from ERA and Title IX to reproductive justice for 45 years.

[Karma Cottman](https://www.dccadv.org/), Executive Director of the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (<https://www.dccadv.org/>) for the past seven years. DCCADV helps to unify local efforts of 12 DC domestic violence agencies. It offers support and services for today and education, advocacy and leadership to shape a violence-free future for families in DC.

In addition to learning about the types and incidences of this behavior, we want a broad discussion about legislative, social and educational steps to prevent it. The residents at Thomas Circle are invited to join us for lunch and the discussion about early knowledge of sexual harassment and assault as well as ideas for remedies.

We also hope to gain more insight into the question about whether this harassment has increased or if it now is just more openly and judicially recognized as illegal sex discrimination?

Note Special Location Above: The Residences at Thomas Circle for Nov. 28, 2018 CWI Meeting.
CWI meetings are free and open to the public. Bring your lunch or reserve a salmon luncheon for \$15 by emailing TinaHobson@gmail.com or leaving her a telephone message at 202-347-7980 by 11-27. Following the lunch meeting we will have a tour of their proposed green roof.

Next CWI Meeting, Jan. 23, 2018, Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle

Dear Current and Future CWI Members,

Recently we have been reading that the quality of “Community” is essential to our well-being and our ability to be active and effective. In a recent Gallup poll, rating both “livable cities” and “individual well-being” the attributes of “community, social and purpose” rated most essential (the other two attributes were financial and physical). CWI, as an organization, can add to our mission statement of providing education on issues and advocacy, by also providing the above stated attributes. Feminist communities showed some of their power in electing candidates supporting their issues in the November 7, 2017 elections.

Our CWI membership, our Community, unites by coming together and learning more about issues such as: equality for women, ending sex segregated public education, empowering girls and women in STEM and many other types of leadership both domestically and globally. This is accomplished by paying attention to increasing interaction among communities and to the intersection of women’s issues among communities facing discrimination such as seniors, people of color, immigrants, individuals with disabilities, and many more.

Understanding the feminist issues from a variety of perspectives helps us guide our activism in multiple local, state and national communities to advocate for legislation and positive change for all.

Recognizing the importance of joining communities, former CWI Board member Tina Hobson, a leader of the DC Thomas Circle residential community invited CWI to hold its Nov. 28, 2017 meeting with her senior community. We accepted her invitation and chose the topic of sexual harassment and assault. We are interested in learning about how this topic was hidden when these seniors were younger and the implications for greater progress in fighting it today.

The photo on the right shows activists from the Residences at Thomas Circle during their January 2017 Women’s March demonstration. Tina is in the photo on right in white with the “Honk for Health Care for All” sign and CWI member Harriet Fulbright is in red. For information on Tina’s contributions see the [leadership page](#) on www.womensclearinghouse.org.



We as an organization are presently enlarging our CWI community to increase collaboration among members of feminist organizations as discussed in our June 27, 2017 CWI meeting. (See June and September 2017 CWI newsletters on www.womensclearinghouse.org).

Other critically important feminist communities are created and strengthened by the media. The establishment of **Ms. Magazine** 45 years ago, created a national community which continues to empower feminists to raise their voices and be heard and in today’s world to resist and persist. This “community” focus enables women and men everywhere including small towns, to join in a larger feminist community. These local communities work to increase voting rights, maintain Roe vs Wade protections and focus on other aspects of injustices faced by girls and women and their allies. CWI congratulate **Ms. Magazine** and wishes them well in continuing their work. We urge you to join both the Ms. and CWI communities. To learn more about CWI visit www.womensclearinghouse.org and view a short video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xl4DCacBNAQ>. The CWI Membership form is on last page of this newsletter. To join the Ms. Community visit www.ms magazine.com.

CWI continues to provide opportunities to come together as feminist communities and effective citizens. We come together as progressive communities to meet our individual and collective needs for a more purposeful and social life. Please join us!

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

Turning Anger into Change: 15 Ways to Stop a Bigot

Provided by Presenter, Marty Langelan in photo below

Neo-Nazi violence in Charlottesville, swastikas and KKK nooses in public places, bigots screaming abuse at our neighbors in the grocery store – this is toxic. Since when do we put up with Nazi brown-shirt behavior in America?

The unfettered irrational rage against immigrants, Muslims, Jews, people of color, women and gays is dangerous. When a right-wing extremist starts spouting off, bystander intervention is the fastest, most effective antidote. Nonviolent intervention works. But what we do – and how we do it – matters.

There are only two ways to stop a neo-Nazi from ramming a car into a crowd of people: (a) set up traffic-control barriers around the perimeter; or (b) find and defuse him before he gets behind the wheel. If you're doing peace-keeping at a large protest action, try to focus not on the loudest antagonists but on the guys who seem most frustrated, because those are the ones we need to interrupt. Most of the time, we're dealing with individual bigots or a small group of harassers. There are many specific intervention techniques that work in one-on-one and small-group situations, without escalating.



So don't just get upset – do something that works. Here's a tested toolkit of successful intervention options, for the next time a bigot with an attitude starts to go off on someone:

★ **Take the behavior seriously.** If you're a bystander, **report** these ugly public episodes fast. Record them on your phone. Call the store manager or police. Every business and public transit system should be training its staff to handle racist/sexist incidents. If you believe the aggressor may be violent or unpredictable (e.g., on drugs), this is the approach to use – call for help fast, from a safe distance.

★ **Do the unexpected.** With routine, everyday bigots, you can often **break it up** by asking the abuser something completely unrelated, out of the blue. Interrupt urgently: "Wait, stop, do you know where the subway station is?" Or politely: "Wait, stop, I need your help, can you give me a hand here?" This is not just a diversion. It's a role-transformation tactic, to make the aggressor switch gears and take a different path. There is a positive, deeply human instinct to be helpful in response to an unexpected direct request.

★ **To intervene physically, focus on the person being targeted.** Say, "You're welcome to be here." Stand beside the victims and physically shield them as you talk with them quietly, lowering the tension with your presence. If it feels like the situation may become dangerous, say, "Come with me, I can help," and escort the victims to safety.

★ **If you decide to confront the aggressor,** you're going to need to **use some psychological judo.** When a racist is spoiling for a fight, don't give the bully what he wants. Leave at least three feet of space, face the antagonist, and make eye contact. Name the behavior. Calmly say out loud what the bigot is doing, in plain, factual terms: "You're making some pretty rough comments about your neighbors here." Just describing the behavior out loud can put a damper on it.

Then change the trajectory. De-escalate – it confuses the heck out of the aggressor. Use relaxed, open body language and a quiet, concerned, almost bored tone of voice. Slide in under the tension level and tell the bully, “Whoa, that’s enough. No one here is doing anything to harm you.”

In the same calm tone, set a short, clear boundary: “Stop harassing her. No one likes to hear that kind of stuff.” You’re resetting the decency standard. Repeat as necessary. Or use a low-key interruption tactic like a time-out or a stop sign. Put your hands in a time-out T, as you say, “Time out. We’re not going down that road.” For the stop sign, put your palm up, facing out, close to your shoulder. Say, “Pump the brakes.” Keep your own behavior calm and actually respectful as you block the bigot with a positive, principled statement: “You know, this is about respect. We treat people with courtesy here.” It’s amazing how fast that can work.

It takes only a minute or so to tone down a yeller, if you lower your own volume as you keep talking. Think of it as verbally walking down the stairs; start below the antagonist’s volume, and then keep on stepping it down, getting quieter and quieter. It makes the yeller quiet down to hear what you’re saying.

★ **If you get into a discussion, be strategic.** Don’t feed any emotional energy to the aggressor. No insults, no big lectures, no cursing, hostility, or sarcasm – and don’t wave your finger in the bigot’s face. Yelling will only escalate the situation. You’re right to feel angry about white supremacy, but you have a dead-serious job to do here: to protect the victim. This is not about winning an argument. Venting is not an option – you need to shut this incident down.

Instead of responding to the bigot’s agenda, handle the situation on your own terms – interrupt the antagonist’s behavior. *There is a systematic structure to what works. It’s nonviolent verbal aikido. We don’t escalate, we don’t ignore abuse, and we don’t ask bigots pretty-please to be nice. We just step in with some calm, serious intervention and make it impossible for them to continue.*

You’re trying to reduce the violence on the planet, not add to it, so stick to your nonviolent toolkit. Flatten out the tension by countering sweeping bigoted stereotypes with simple one-line examples, in that same almost-bored voice. “My sister-in-law is from Mexico. She’s terrific.” Or: “The best boss I ever had was a Black woman.” “My brother is gay – he’s such a good guy.” “I’ve got a transgender cousin in the military.” Diversity is normal and valuable.

You can spotlight the behavior: Put the bully’s actions in the past tense and calmly ask, “Can you explain why you decided to do that?” Watch the rationalizations fizzle out when you don’t react (neither argue nor agree). No matter what the bigot says, just say, “Hmm,” and repeat the question: “But what made you think it was okay to do that?” Watch the aggressor run out of steam. The stupider the behavior, the more impossible it is to explain.

You can interview the bigot. Explain that community groups are doing research on this (which is true), then ask a series of neutral behavioral and background questions. Write down the bully’s answers. You’ve just flipped the power dynamics. Instead of an aggressive racist inflicting an ugly barrage on the victim, you now have a confused interviewee talking about himself.

There are many ways to interrupt a bigot. You can make it historical: “These folks have been helping to build this country for 500 years.” Or use a little sociology. Ask the racist: “Where’s your family from?” Ask, “What kinds of off-base, insulting assumptions do people make about you?” (You may actually get an interesting answer.) If you’re religious, you can even discuss scripture: Hebrews 13:2 and many other verses.

Facts won’t usually change a bigot’s mind, but you can toss in a few to change the harasser’s direction. Ask questions: You can say that corporate owners and investors closed down the factories and coal mines – it wasn’t our Black, Latino, Jewish, gay, or Muslim neighbors who did that, was it? Or ask the racist about the FBI data: Immigrants have lower crime rates than native-born U.S. citizens. Doesn’t that mean that they make our neighborhoods safer?

Keep using that quiet, matter-of-fact tone of voice. If the harasser starts verbally abusing you, be smart – don't take the bait. Your goal was to interrupt the situation, and you've already succeeded. You've disrupted the racist's agenda; that's why he or she is flailing around, trying to save face. So don't respond to any personal venom; this is not about you. There's nothing to gain in getting defensive. Don't give the antagonist any traction. Just sidestep the drama and calmly repeat the moral boundary: "Well, we don't diss our neighbors here. It's not okay." Quiet repetition is powerful. For the harasser, it's deflating – like running into a wall.

Keep intervening until the victims are safely on their way, the aggressor backs off, or the authorities arrive on the scene. You have the power to change the outcome. Racial violence is traumatic. Saying nothing is a passive, fear-driven response. It's understandable, but it's worse than useless. Bigots take our silence as approval. That's harmful to the people being targeted – and morally damaging to us as well. Acting powerless in the face of abuse feels lousy.

So do something productive. Use the element of surprise: Stop the bigot with nonviolent action. We're not helpless – we can do this. We have moral agency and principled, practical ways to interrupt and intervene. Clear, consistent nonviolent intervention has a cumulative effect. It repeatedly derails the aggressors, reducing the risk of escalation; and at a deeper level, it de-normalizes white supremacy, with focused, ethical, positive community action. We have more power than we think. And what's at stake here is not just simple human decency. You're defending human rights. You may save a neighbor's life.

You can take some **community-building steps** as well:

★ Offer to accompany at-risk neighbors to the store or the bus stop. Be an ally across racial, ethnic, gender, and religious lines, for people who don't look like you. (That always surprises the bullies.) And break the family silence – use a little strategic nonviolent intervention to make your bigoted uncle back off.

★ Talk to your friends and co-workers about how to intervene – teach them a few techniques. Interrupt racist, sexist, and other bigoted comments at work. Interrupt the ridiculous sexual harassers who hassle women in public places (street harassment is so tiresome). Organize friends and neighbors to help report and clean up bigoted graffiti. Post rainbow flags or welcoming community signs to set a neighborhood tone.

★ Talk to the children around you. Ask them what they would do if a bully were picking on a friend; listen to what they say. Then role-play some easy intervention skills. Notice and actively praise your children when they're being kind and inclusive with other kids.

The rise of far-right aggression is no accident. Trump's belligerent posturing was the key to his campaign. He joined the right-wing media blowhards and internet trolls who pander to racism and toxic masculinity, and he rode into office on white-supremacy – inflaming a sense of angry, self-righteous grievance among whites, slashing his opponents with vicious personal contempt, and marketing a bigoted, bullying tough-guy persona as if it were patriotic and "manly" to be a racist, sexist jackass. (A deep psycho-sexual hostility to women runs all the way through right-wing aggression; it's all about white manhood.) When politicians shred the boundaries, our communities pay the price. There's a straight line from the strutting, posturing Bully-in-Chief to the KKK and neo-Nazi thugs.

It takes no courage to be a brown-shirt. The heroes are the folks who step up to protect their neighbors.

Marty Langelan, past president of the DC Rape Crisis Center, is called "the godmother of direct intervention." An economist and long-time human rights activist, she is an expert on nonviolence, harassment, and assault, a self-defense instructor, and the author of *Back Off: How to Confront and Stop Sexual Harassment and Harassers*.

NOTE: Versions of this article were published on the *Ms. Blog* on 8/14/2017, in the *Ms. Weekly Digest* on 8/18/2017, and in the Fall 2017 issue of *Ms. Magazine*.

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Coming 2017 DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

In 2017 we will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list. Please share your upcoming feminist events to post in 2017 CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org. Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWInews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us.

Wednesday, November 15, 6 – 7:00 pm EST. Webinar *If You Really Care About Environmental Justice, You Should Care About Reproductive Justice*, National Women's Law Center **FOR MORE INFO**

Thursday, November 16, 2-3:30 PM EST. Bad Behavior or Implicit Bias: What's driving school push-out for girls, nationally and locally? New America Foundation, 740 15th St NW #900, Washington, DC 20005. [Register](#) for in person or by streaming video.

Thursday, November 16, 7:30 PM EST. Conversation on better laws to keep guns away from domestic abusers. Includes two panels of survivors (including Mildred Muhammad, estranged ex-wife of the notorious DC Sniper), Maryland elected officials (including 3 legislators and the MoCo Sheriff), and public policy experts. Organized by Jennifer Rand. Temple Sinai, [3100 Military Rd., NW, Washington, D.C.](#) [RSVP](#)

Saturday, November 18, 9:30 am-3:30 pm EST. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) Fall Agenda Conference: Mobilizing the Power of Maryland Women in a Time of Uncertainty. Howard Community College, Columbia, MD **FOR MORE INFO**

Sunday, December 3, 2017, 4 – 6:40 pm, Panel on Reproductive Rights, Montgomery County NOW, featuring Toni Van Pelt, NOW, Chelsea Yarbrough, NARAL, & Sara Love, ACLU. Montgomery County Council Office Building Auditorium, [100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850](#). To RSVP and purchase a \$10 ticket, [click here](#).

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017, 9AM-2:30 PM. Women, Money Power 2017 Summit/30th Anniversary Luncheon, National Press Club, Washington, DC sponsored by Feminist Majority Foundation, [Registration](#).

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017, 11AM-2:30 PM. Holiday Fair & Children's Gift Collection. Dialogue on Diversity. Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20004, [Register](#)

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

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2017 – JUNE 2019

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Membership Form

www.womensclearinghouse.org

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

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

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

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

____ **Individual** ____ \$25 for one year ____ \$45 for two years ____ \$65 for three years

____ Individual under 30 years old (\$15/one year)

____ Virtual (\$20/one year) (Email newsletter only for members outside Washington, DC area)

____ **Organization*** ____ \$40/one year or ____ \$100/three years

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*If organizational member, indicate if you would like a link to your organization on the CWI's website.

____ NO ____ YES If Yes, provide url _____ (Listings subject to CWI approval)

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