



April, 2023 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Newsletter  
<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

**Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday April 25, 2023 (12:00-1:30 PM)**

**“Fighting Attacks on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion”  
Co-sponsored with the African American Policy Forum**

**[Registration Link](#)**

CWI is delighted to co-sponsor this Zoom meeting with the African American Policy Forum (AAPF). AAPF is taking a leading role in providing in depth information on why the revisions to the Advanced Placement African American Studies Course are detrimental and why this and other anti-woke attacks on education equity need to be stopped. Sumi Cho, will introduce a shortened 30 minute version of a March AAPF briefing video featuring **Kimberlé Crenshaw**, Co-Founder & Executive Director, AAPF and colleagues on “When Racial Reckoning and Anti-Wokeness Collide: What’s Left Out of AP Black Studies and Why Everyone Should Care.” Professor Crenshaw is known for her development of “intersectionality” and critical race theory (CRT), important concepts originally included in the AP African American Studies pilot course.

Longtime law professor **Sumi Cho** is now AAPF Director of Strategic Initiatives. Sumi will also invite all to participate in the Freedom to Learn National Day of Action on May 3, 2023, and the remaining planning activities. The purpose of the Freedom to Learn National Day of Action on May 3 is to defend the truth and protect the freedom to learn. Now is the time to build a broad network of people to strengthen our democracy and our values of equity, inclusion, and social justice. Through collective actions across the country, we will resist restrictions on the freedom to learn, fight the right’s “anti-woke” disinformation campaigns, and demonstrate majoritarian support for equity in our schools, campuses, and workplaces. We will make it plain that giving in to the demands of “anti-woke” forces is not an option for institutions and politicians who represent us. We cannot protect the bedrock institutions of a democracy—the right to vote, freedom of speech, and access to the truth—by appeasing organized and legislated lies as the College Board has done. You can register for actions and resources at [www.freedomtolearn.net](http://www.freedomtolearn.net), and even join as a partner organization on this [co-sponsoring Partner form](#)! Register for the Thur. 7:30-9 PM planning meetings on April 20 and 27 at [bit.ly/F2L\\_ROAD20503](https://bit.ly/F2L_ROAD20503).

After viewing the video, **Kristin Penner**, AAPF Senior Research Analyst, will share a presentation of her work visually mapping the networks behind right-wing campaigns such as those against affirmative action, CRT, voting rights, and equity rights. She will provide examples of how feminist and intersectional issues such as affirmative action, reproductive rights, sexuality education and the work of Women Scholars are also being attacked. Kristin is a co-founder of the Coalition for a Diverse Harvard, which is an amicus supporting affirmative action in the Students For Fair Admissions v. Harvard case awaiting a SCOTUS decision now. Kristin will also review how the May 3 National Day of Action events can focus on combating these attacks on feminist education such as dismantling Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Offices in postsecondary institutions which often house Title IX Coordinators, killing women’s/gender and ethnic studies programs, and even taking over entire liberal arts colleges like New College in Sarasota, FL.

In addition to registering to attend this April 25 CWI noon Zoom meeting at this **[Registration Link](#)**, we urge you to sign this [OPEN LETTER ON FIGHTING “ANTI-WOKE” CENSORSHIP OF INTERSECTIONALITY AND BLACK FEMINISM](#).

## Upcoming Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Board Elections

During our June 20, 2023 meeting we will have a short Business meeting to elect CWI Board members/officers. We invite CWI members to let us know if you would be interested in joining our Board and will announce candidates in the CWI May Newsletter. The volunteer positions are for 2 year terms and are great ways to learn about and advance gender equity. This June we will be electing the Presidents and Secretary as well as new Board Members. We hope that some of our new board members can represent some of the CWI member organizations and that some will have expertise in feminist health and in global issues. Please contact CWI Co-Presidents (Sue Klein [sklein@feminist.org](mailto:sklein@feminist.org) or Connie Cordovilla [CordyNOVA@gmail.com](mailto:CordyNOVA@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the board or have suggestions of others who would be great additions.

Expectations for Board Members include:

1. Attend our monthly CWI noon Zoom meetings if possible. (They are Sept.-Nov. and Jan-June, usually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tue of the Month.)
2. Claim a particular realm of expertise. At the moment we need gender experts with a focus on International, medical/health, diversity, governance, politics, arts, economics and labor/workforce issues.
3. Take charge of a meeting in your area of expertise as selected by the Board. This involves inviting presenters and helping to write the meeting invitation and summary and arrange other follow-up including that the speakers are given a 1-year gratis organizational/individual membership to CWI.
4. Agree to attend three Board meetings a year- 120-150 minutes in length --to discuss CWI meeting topics, membership growth, policy decisions and annual election cycles. Generally, these meetings are held in August, November and March or April. One of these meetings is typically an in-person lunch meeting and the others are on Zoom.
5. Advise the CWI President/s on supporting or not supporting sign-on letters on various women's related issues.

### Summary of the March 21, 2023 CWI meeting on "Updates on DC Women's History Museums and Sites to Visit in the DC Area" by Sheila Wickouski

The Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Noon Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, celebrated Women's History month. This meeting, "Updates on DC Women's History Museums and Sites to Visit in the DC Area," continued the discussion begun at the March 2021 CWI meeting with a focus on two national women's history museums, the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum (SAWHM) and the National Women's History Museum (NWHM) and on historic homes and public buildings in the Washington DC area which are key in women's history.

The April 2021 CWI newsletter with video of this 2021 CWI meeting is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6G1ilj6GPs>. The video of the March 21, 2023 meeting is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUSPwKV-ndA>.

In the 2021 CWI meeting, Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney and Wendy Pangburn, Executive Director of the American Museum of Women's History Congressional Commission described Congressional actions since 2014 to create SAWHM. These actions culminated in passing H.R.1980 in the 116th Congress which was included in the bipartisan and bicameral omnibus spending package which became law Dec. 27, 2020.

Since then, the Smithsonian has named a 25-member advisory council and has identified two optimal sites for the museum to be located, which are currently pending congressional approval. Ahead of the construction of the brick-and-mortar museum. The museum already provides access via an online presence with research platforms and in-person events to help research, disseminate and amplify the history of American women.



Assistant Secretary Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer for the Smithsonian **Julissa Marengo** explained how the Smithsonian is coordinating the development of two new museums, SWAHM and the National Museum of the American Latino.

In her presentation, Marengo emphasized that the museum is a “living and breathing museum” now even if the museum building is not built, presenting the museum beyond DC. She discussed how it is alive with digital media, programming, educational efforts and events. In addition, the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative which was dedicated to increasing representation of women in all Smithsonian museums is becoming a part of the new museum. She discussed the two potential sites for the museum on the

National Mall near the Tidal Basin and the next steps —and challenges in working for Congressional approval of the final site.

Marengo also shared statistics on surveys that 75% or 9 out of 10 Americans want the museum. noting that fathers have indicated they want to take not just their daughters but their sons.

A key point in Marengo’s discussion was the role of the newly appointed director, Nancy Yao, effective June 5, 2023. (Lisa Sasaki, director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, has served as interim director of the museum since March 2021.) The following information is from the SI website [womenshistory.si.edu](https://womenshistory.si.edu) and is included not only because it cites Yao’s qualifications for the position but also because it illustrates the complex and diverse functions involved as a director of a major museum.

*As founding director, Yao will oversee the conception and development of a 21st-century museum, including sourcing a national collection, curating permanent and current exhibitions, and creating educational resources accessible virtually before the physical museum is built in Washington, D.C. The museum currently has a staff of 14 and a federal budget of \$2 million; the museum has raised over \$55 million.*

*Yao brings more than 25 years of experience managing organizations and mission-driven projects to the role. She has served as the president of the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) in New York City. As president, Yao led a successful sustainability and conservation effort following a five-alarm fire in the museum’s research space salvaging over 98% of MOCA’s collection—the largest collection of Chinese American artifacts and objects in the country.*

*Yao led the team to initiate “MOCA on the Road,” a program to expand the museum’s collection efforts nationally. The program traveled to over 10 U.S. cities to collect objects, build partnerships and share resources and exhibitions. Through partnerships with foundations; local, state and federal agencies; and gifts from individual donors, MOCA raised over \$60 million to secure a permanent home for the museum in New York City. The new MOCA is designed by artist and architect Maya Lin in partnership with Ralph Appelbaum Associates. Under Yao’s leadership, MOCA obtained national recognition in 2020 when it was named one of 20 of “America’s Cultural Treasures.”*

*Yao brings a wide range of leadership experiences from both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. She is a lecturer on governance of not-for-profit organizations at Yale University’s David Geffen School of Drama. She serves as the board secretary of the Tessitura Network, a not-for-profit organization that provides technology for over 800 global arts and culture organizations, and sits on the McGraw-Hill equity advisory board. Yao served as the chair of the Women and Girls’ Fund in New Haven and also served as the co-chair of Yale University’s 150th anniversary of women at Yale; unfortunately, that event was cancelled due to COVID-19. Yao has led project-driven work and led teams at MOCA, Yale-China Association, Council on Foreign Relations, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Center for Financial Research and Analysis. She was an associate producer at CNN International early in her career. More information is available at [womenshistory.si.edu](https://womenshistory.si.edu)*



**Jennifer Herrera** is Vice President of External Affairs of the National Women’s History Museum (NWHM). Incorporated in 1996, NWHM <https://www.womenshistory.org/> is privately funded and mostly virtual. In the 2021 CWI meeting, NWHM discussed how they supported federal legislation for a women’s history museum. As its major goal has been to establish a Women’s History Museum on the Mall, NWHM contributed significant and instrumental funding to the Congressional Commission. Herrera expanded on that with a discussion about the difference in mission and relationship of the SAWHM which is to advance the understanding of women’s contributions throughout U.S. history that have influenced the making of Americas shared experiences. NWHM focuses on women’s experiences and contributions then and now.

As an example of the NWHM role, Herrera presented some key facts —the ratio of 3 men to 1 woman represented in history books. She also pointed out that 5 million women are reached on NWHM’s web site. In 30 years of existence, NWHM continues the innovative mission of storytelling that is still rooted in scholarship. Discussing NWHM’s vision in the next five years, Herrera cited a major goal of more exhibition sites and to build coalitions to exhibitions with other partners like women in Baltimore for sports exhibits. NWHM also continues as a valuable resource for educators.

A museum without walls” —NWHM is the largest of its type with global access. It is now expanding its role to focus on local history in cities in America. NWHM’s new free exhibition, “We Who Believe in Freedom: Black Feminist DC” opened at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St NW, Washington, DC, March 30. Some of the Black Feminist highlighted in the exhibition are here: <https://www.womenshistory.org/sites/default/files/document/2023-01/BFDC.pdf>. NWHM also helps with \*New US quarter coins feature women - <https://www.womenshistory.org/search?...>



**Holly T. Joseph**, CWI’s treasurer and a long time feminist activist concluded with the following:.  
For Women’s History Month, CWI is taking this annual opportunity to study major institutions as well as smaller sites of interest as a means to pursue this exciting subject. There are many we know – starting with the Capitol and Alice Paul’s DC residence - and many we don’t know. I hope you’ll find abundant opportunities for reflection on the topic of women in history – at a point in history that we hope is the end of the historic pandemic. No one can argue that there aren’t many places in Washington to view from the perspective of women’s history. In fact, many lists of sites pertinent to the focus of women’s history have been developed, as well as tour companies to guide participants in this pursuit. I’ll begin by giving you a few suggestions of my own favorite sites as well as two other lists at the end.

I think an enthusiastic women’s history buff might well start at what is now called the Belmont-Paul House Women’s Equality National Monument, <https://www.nps.gov/bepa/index.htm> so renamed by a proclamation of President Obama in 2015, which at 144 Constitution Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002, is right next door to the Hart Senate Office Building. However, a warning: it is now closed until next year for a massive renovation. The home, the oldest remaining in the Capitol Hill area, has historical significance that predates its being the center of women’s activism as the headquarters of the National Women’s Party, founded by Alice Paul, and where she lived and organized until 1972, the year in which the Equal Rights Amendment was finally passed out of Congress and sent to the states for ratification. [It was here that, by Ellie Smeal’s account, a group of women went to that house to celebrate that vote with Alice Paul, only to find her not in a celebratory mood. Her belief was that there was nothing to celebrate because with the deadline imposed by ERA opponents, the ERA would never pass. She never lived to see otherwise. Will we? View [www.eracoalition.org](http://www.eracoalition.org) for actions on implementing ERA which as the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment has already been passed by the required 38 states as the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

After a short walk to the Capitol, you can see many tributes to women, commingled with many more to men! According to an article in the most recent Women's History (the March 2023 edition of the National Women's History Alliance's magazine), there are currently 266 sculptures in the Capitol but no more than 5% are of women. However, that percentage may increase with the replacement of sculptures of men who have fallen into disfavor. An example is that the sculpture of Gen. Robert E. Lee which is being replaced as one of Virginia's two state sculpture selections by that of Barbara Johns, the high school civil rights activist whose contributions led to school desegregation. You may see eleven other women in Statuary Hall: Mary McLeod Bethune (FL), Amelia Earhart (KS), Mother Joseph (WA), Hellen Keller (AL), Esther Hobart Morris (WY), Jeannette Rankin (MT), Dr. Florence Sabin (CO), Sakakawea (ND), Maria Sanford (MN), Frances E. Willard (IL), and Sarah Winnemucca (NV).

Last, but hardly least, is that there is so much unacknowledged and unrecognized women's history. I can't find a list to which one seeking women's history nuggets around town might refer. So perhaps we should start one! Among them would be the Lincoln Memorial as being the site of Marian Anderson's vocal presentation - after she had been denied that privilege at DAR Constitution Hall, and after intervention by the stellar First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Or seeing an inclusion of Sally Hemmings at the Jefferson Memorial (the site of my own marriage, I will throw in!) as the mother of some of the named celebrant's children. And, as just one more of countless others: Dolly Madison's valiant effort in packing up White House valuables for removal before enemy invaders could destroy them. I'm sure that this list is never-ending but hasn't been chronicled to my knowledge - or sufficiently, in my opinion. And so it is for us to do - a call worthy of honoring Alice Paul for her efforts, one of which is still left to finish... Happy Women's History Month to all!

Other suggested information on tours and sites:

\*Women's History Tour of Washington, D.C. sites (Walking tour) Tour comprised of 19 DC sites in 2017.

<https://www.theclio.com/tour/386> by Pamela Curtin, a historian from PA, Don't be put off by the date.

\***111 Places in Women's History in Washington, DC that You Must Not Miss** by Kaitlin Calogera and Rebecca Grawl, updated in 2022. <https://www.111places.com/111-places-in-womens-history-in-washingtondc>

Also <https://now.org/blog/a-feminist-read-111-places-in-womens-history-that-you-must-not-miss/>

### **Events of Interest to Feminists (Times are Eastern) Most events are virtual.**

Thanks to Montgomery Co. NOW for sharing information on many of the events.

**Tue. April 18, 3PM Virtual See Jane Salon: "From Real to Reel: Representation and Inclusion in Film and Television in British Produced Columbia"** Geena Davis Institute. [LEARN MORE](#)

**Thur. April 20, 10-11:30 AM Critical Conversations: Contesting Gender and Sexuality Through Decolonial Perspectives.. Virtual.** World [Register Now](#).

**Thur. April 20, 6-7 PM, NWHM Presents! Women's Reflections on the Pandemic with Alexandra Delano and Daniela Alatorre as they share a short film and poetry.** National Women's History Museum. [Register Here](#)  
Free and Virtual.

**Thur. April 20, 7:30-9 PM Freedom to Learn Planning Meeting on Road to May 3.** African American Policy Forum featuring Randi Weingarten and AFT with a focus on teachers. **Register at [bit.ly/F2L\\_ROAD20503](https://bit.ly/F2L_ROAD20503).**

**Tues. April 25, 6:30-7:30 PM. How to be a Citizen Researcher.** Maryland Women's Heritage Center.  
Virtual. [REGISTER IN ADVANCE](#)

**Wed. April 26, 1:30-3PMn State Policy Solutions for Student Parent Success Webinar and Virtual Conversation.** Hosted by Institute for Women's Policy Research and the Aspen Institute [Register Here](#).

**Wed. April 26, 7-8:30 PM. MC BPW ANNUAL MEETING & UPDATE ON MARYLAND LEGISLATION**  
Virtual Montgomery County Business and Professional Women ; [SEND EMAIL REQUEST FOR ZOOM LINK](#)

Thurs. April 27, 7 PM. NOW Feminist State of the Union: Special Guest Hillary Rodham Clinton in conversation with NOW President Christian F. Nunes and other Special Guests. Virtual. [RSVP is required to attend.](#)

Thur. April 27, 7:30-9 PM Freedom to Learn Planning Meeting on Road to May 3. African American Policy Forum. Register at [bit.ly/F2L\\_ROAD20503](https://bit.ly/F2L_ROAD20503)

Sun. April 30, 3-4PM. Women's History Book club: Lifting as We Climb. Discuss *Black Women's Battle for the* ,

Thur. May 4, 6-7 PM. Virtual Workshop for Educators: C3 Framework for Social Studies and Historical Empathy. National Women's History Museum, [Register here.](#)

Sat. May 6, 9AM-3:30 PM. BPW/MD ANNUAL CONFERENCE: EMERGING STRONGER AND SMARTER features Beth Ann Dorman on "*Bring on the Mess: Your Mental Health and Taking Care of You*" and other topics. Virtual Business and Professional Women of MD. **FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER (COMING SOON)**

Mon. May 15. Public Comments Due on Title IX Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Sex-Related Eligibility Criteria for Male and Female Athletic teams.

FR Document: [2023-07601](#)

Citation: 88 FR 22860

[PDF](#) Pages 22860-22891 (32 pages)

[Permalink](#)

Tue. June 20, Noon-1:30. Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Zoom Meeting include board elections.

June 30-July 2, National NOW Conference, Arlington, VA You can register for the 2023 NOW National Conference. This year we are meeting in Arlington, VA from June 30-July 2, 2023 at the Doubletree by Hilton Crystal City. [Register Here](#)

*CWI's newsletter is endowed in loving memory of our previous longtime editor, Roslyn Kaiser*

*Newsletter edited by Sue Klein*

#### **CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2022 – JUNE 2024**

**OFFICERS:** Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla who is also VP Membership; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary, Sheila Wickowski; VP Public Relations, Loretto Gubernatis; VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Technology, Sherry Klein; VP Organizational Management, Anne Martin; VP Diversity, Alotta Taylor; VP Health Equity, Amy L. Hinojosa, Director, Linda Fihelly; Ex Officio: Co-President, Harriett Stonehill.

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<https://womensclearinghouse.org>



# Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues Membership Form

<https://womensclearinghouse.org/>

The CWI membership year is: **July 1-June 30**. Multi-year and Gift memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in beginning and end years (e.g. 2023-2026 for a 3-yr membership). Members will receive CWI newsletters and meeting announcements as well as other feminist news and event notifications. Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: H/W \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

OR

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

ORGANIZATION NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization website address (URL): \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME & EMAIL of Org. Rep.: 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME & EMAIL of Org. Rep.: 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Years Covered: 202\_ - 202\_ (Check your Membership Type)

	Individual	Organization	Young Adult (< 30 yrs. old)	Virtual (outside DC area)
One-year	\$25	\$40	\$15/yr.	\$20/yr.
Two-year	\$45	\$70	Gift Membership (insert information in individual or organization membership)	
Three-year	\$65	\$100		

Membership Dues Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tax deductible donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL ENCLOSED = \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Payment \_\_\_\_\_

- Mail form & check to Connie Cordovilla, Membership Chair, CWI, 7439 Patterson Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043-1332; or
- Pay through PayPal, by selecting the desired membership option on our website’s membership page <https://womensclearinghouse.org/membership/> & please send this form by mail to the above address or email it to [MembershipChair@womensclearinghouse.org](mailto:MembershipChair@womensclearinghouse.org); or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)