



March 2024 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Newsletter (CWI)  
<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

## Celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues, Ms. Magazine and Other Feminist Organizations

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

**Zoom Meeting Registration Link (12:30-1:30 pm)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZcscuusqTMuHNEp2K7Sy4bVHIYHW7T8k7IS>

Confirm attendance by 3-24 for limited In-Person Meeting. (Noon-1:30 pm) Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle NW, #500, Washington, DC. with this link: [https://womensclearinghouse.org/event/march2024-celebrating\\_50th\\_anniversaries\\_of\\_cwi\\_msmagazine\\_and\\_other\\_feminist\\_organizations/](https://womensclearinghouse.org/event/march2024-celebrating_50th_anniversaries_of_cwi_msmagazine_and_other_feminist_organizations/)

For Women's History Month of 2024, the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) is delighted to celebrate its own history and that of other feminist organizations also celebrating 50 year anniversaries. The first 30 minutes of the informal in person March 26 CWI meeting will be at our pre Covid meeting location, The Alliance for Justice, (address above) for attendees to enjoy a light lunch. It will be followed by our hybrid (in person and virtual) meeting at 12:30 pm for our many friends across the country.

During the hybrid meeting (starting at 12:30 pm on zoom link above), we will hear from our long time Vice President, **Anne Martin** about CWI's first 30 years described in [Women Networking: Three Decades of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues \(pdf\)](#) as well as more in-depth highlights of our meetings during the most recent 20 years. CWI works as an educator and catalyst for feminist action in areas ranging from the arts to fighting sex discrimination and promoting women's empowerment in all areas of our lives domestically and globally. In doing so our CWI meetings feature the expertise of other feminist and progressive organizations. The meetings provide opportunities for all participants to gain knowledge and insight which will not only further our democratic feminist goals but allow us to honor and work with each other in achieving these goals.

Next we will hear from **Eleanor Smeal** and **Katherine Spillar** about [50 Years of Ms.](#) Eleanor Smeal is publisher of [Ms. Magazine](#) and President of the Feminist Majority and the Feminist Majority Foundation. Katherine Spillar is the Executive Editor of Ms. and Executive Director of the Feminist Majority Foundation. They will discuss how feminist organizations and Ms. Magazine have advanced and documented progress for gender equality as well as many attacks on our goals such as we are enduring now with the oral arguments (3-26-24) at the Supreme Court to defend the widespread availability of Mifepristone for non-surgical abortions and other reproductive health care.

We have also noted that there are other 50 year celebrations. For example, March 8, 2024 was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of [International Women's Day](#). The [Women's Sports Foundation](#) founded by Billie Jean King is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as is [MANA, a National Latina Organization](#), [the Society for the Psychology of Women \(Division 35 of the American Psychological Association\)](#), the [Equal Rights Advocates](#), and [the Women's Department in the American Federation of Government Employees](#). Let us know what other Feminist organizations are celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries and we will report this in our April CWI newsletter.

**Next CWI meeting April 23, 2024. Why Feminists Should Fear Christian Nationalism?**

## Summary Feb. 27, 2024 CWI Meeting: Rethinking Women’s Political Power: Recognizing and Overcoming Challenges to Incumbents, Candidates, Voters and Election Officers

[Video of Meeting: Feb 2024-Rethinking Women’s Political Power: Recognizing and Overcoming Challenges to Incumbents, Candidates, Voters and Election Officers](#) with [Dr. Kelly Dittmar](#) and [Dr. Maya Kornberg](#). This meeting was moderated by [Jan Erickson](#), Government Relations Director, National Organization for Women, NOW and Co-President CWI and [Connie Cordovilla](#), Fairfax County Election Officer and Vice President CWI.



**Maya Kornberg**, of the Brennan Center for Justice shared a recent report's findings about local and State officeholders' exposure to in person and online abuse towards them because of holding these positions. The results show that the majority of state and local officials surveyed face hostility, with women and people of color reporting higher levels of violence than their white male colleagues. Nearly half those women surveyed/interviewed for the report said they would not re-run for office for fear of further abuse towards them or their families. Similarly, nearly half stated they tend to stay away from some policy issues due to similar threats. This increased violence towards politicians includes Republicans, some of whom believe the threats come from extremists in their party. The number one report recommendation to help officeholders feel safer is to have them speak up against abuse to each other.



**Dr. Kelly Dittmar**, of Rutgers Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, spoke of a Dec 2023 report she authored that explores gender disparities in women's political power. Kelly authored the recently released report “Rethinking Women’s Political Power.” The Report <https://rethinkingpower.rutgers.edu/> examines at the state and local level (1) women’s navigation of the political ecosystem; (2) perceptions about women’s political power and progress, (3) an assessment of the support infrastructure for women in politics in the state (including its service of women across party and racial/ethnic lines); (4) views on the strength and influence of political parties in the state; (5) perceptions on where and with whom political power lies in the state; and (6) insights into opportunities for increasing women’s political power. The report was based on 192 interviews across 5 states with current and former officials and other political adjacent people. A link to the microsite interactively illustrates the report, with many written quotes from interviewees, and some audio: <https://rethinkingpower.rutgers.edu/>

- [PDF version of Kornberg’s presentation](#)
- [PDF version of Dittmar’s presentation](#)

### Resources From the Presenters on Fighting the Intimidation of Voters and Election Officers:

1. Brennan Center Reports on Intimidation of Office Holders, Election Workers and Voters  
Intimidation of Voters and Election Workers Resource Guide- <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voter-intimidation-and-election-worker-intimidation-resource-guide>
2. Another Barrier to Latino Representation: Intimidation of Election Officials—  
<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/another-barrier-latino-representation-intimidation-election-officials>
3. Intimidation of State and Local Officeholders <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/intimidation-state-and-local-officeholders>
4. American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Know Your Rights: Voter Intimidation [https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field\\_pdf\\_file/kyr-voterintimidation-v03.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_pdf_file/kyr-voterintimidation-v03.pdf)

5. Georgetown Law School, Fact Sheet: Protecting Against Voter Intimidation <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/icap/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2020/10/Voter-Intimidation-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
6. Advancement Project, What to Do if You Experience Intimidation at the Polls <https://advancementproject.org/what-to-do-if-you-experience-intimidation-at-the-polls/>
7. United States Election Assistance Commission, Security Resources for Election Officials <https://www.eac.gov/election-officials/election-official-security>
8. Brookings Institution, One Way to Protect Female Election Officials from Harassment <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/one-way-to-protect-female-election-officials-from-harassment/>

## Director Named for Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum.

CWI has had several meetings on the Women’s museums in the DC Area. The Congressionally approved Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum’s new Director is Elizabeth C. Babcock and she is to start June 3, 2024 but a site has not yet been selected. Babcock has over 20 years of museum leadership experience and is a cultural anthropologist and educator.

**The 2024 Induction Ceremony for the National Women’s Hall of Fame is [now available for viewing on YouTube!](#)** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ky-5nt-4qxc&t=1s>) Two of the March 5, 2024 inductees, Peggy McIntosh and Kimberle Crenshaw, have been featured at CWI meetings. We think you will enjoy and be inspired by this well done ceremony celebrating 10 inductees.

## Invitation to Major Feminist Conference in DC area March 23-25, 2024

The Feminist Majority Foundation's National Young Feminist Leadership Conference is returning to DC after 4 years! The 2024 NYFLC brings together student activists to build collective power and share strategies of resistance, grow knowledge about critical domestic and global feminist issues, learn hands-on grassroots organizing tactics, and mobilize for political gain. NYFLC is a chance to recognize that we are a part of something big, a community of activists working for justice all around the country. It's the perfect place to learn about current political issues, hear from inspirational leaders, and meet fellow feminist students! Find more information and register at <https://feministcampus.org/conference/> Please encourage high school and college feminists to attend but all feminists are welcome!

## Arts and Culture Opportunities

Smithsonian American Art Museum presents *Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas* (to June 2, 2024)

The Baltimore Museum of Art exhibit *Work: Women Printmakers of the WPA*, (to June 30, 2024).

*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 2023– JUNE 2025

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[CWI Membership form-pdf fillable](#) also on CWI website at <https://womensclearinghouse.org/membership/>