



January 2023 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

CWI Meeting Invitation January 24, 2023 noon -1:30 PM on zoom.

Identifying and Protecting U.S. Reproductive Rights After the Supreme Court's Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Decision

Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtduihqTwoH9OFy3CXpKFeSS1hFQJc0DYQ>

Feminists need to understand the many ways federal and state governments can continue to protect rights to reproductive health care despite the Supreme Court overruling of Roe v. Wade longstanding constitutional protections for abortion rights. Our presenters will highlight many of the existing protections especially those at the federal level that are the focus of the Biden-Harris interagency Task Force on Reproductive Healthcare Access and Pres. Biden's Executive order 14076 on "Securing Access to Reproductive and Other Healthcare Services". They will highlight ways states are, or should be, implementing provisions to provide additional protections and also how reproductive justice organizations are working to educate and push for these provisions to provide easily accessible reproduction related health care. The Executive Director of Virginia Planned Parenthood will describe how they are identifying and protecting reproductive rights as well as advocating new approaches.

We have not been successful in finding a federal presenter from the interagency Task Force on Reproductive Healthcare Access co-chaired by Xavier Becerra, Sec. of HHS and Jennifer Klein, Director, White House Gender Policy Council or the Department of Justice Reproductive Rights Task Force. However, the White House is planning to have a near future meeting so [Click here to sign-up for the White House women's community newsletter](#). These federal resources are also helpful.

- <https://reproductiverights.gov/>
- [FACT SHEET: President Biden to Sign Executive Order Protecting Access to Reproductive Health Care Services](#)
- [FACT SHEET: President Biden Issues Executive Order at the First Meeting of the Task Force on Reproductive Healthcare Access](#)

Presenters:

Shaina Goodman, JD, Director for Reproductive Health and Rights, National Partnership for Women & Families. She received her JD, master's in social work and bachelor's degree in women & gender studies from Washington University in St. Louis and has a Maryland law license. She will report on many of the federal activities and plans to protect abortion rights and access. She will start by providing general principles on where federal laws and policies overpower those of state and local governments.

Jamie Lockhart, (she/her) serves as the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia, a statewide advocacy organization whose mission is to preserve and broaden access to reproductive health care through legislation, public education, electoral activity and litigation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Previously, Jamie served as the National Director of Mission: Readiness, was recruited for campaigns in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including President Obama's 2012 re-election, and served as a Legislative Assistant and Director of E-Communications for Congresswoman Diana DeGette. Jamie graduated magna cum laude from James Madison University and obtained a Master in Public Administration degree from the Harvard Kennedy School. She is a certified group fitness instructor, triathlete and mom to a toddler. Jamie will describe the current status and future possibilities for abortion rights in VA.

Summary of CWI Zoom Meeting on Oct. 25, 2022, on “Having a Say in the Federal and State Policies: Strategies to Elect Feminists” By Sheila Wickouski and Connie Cordovilla

The CWI Zoom meeting on Oct. 25, 2022, stressed the importance of the election process and on what efforts are needed to ensure that diverse populations turn out to solidify the recognition of feminism as an essential tenet in a safe democracy.

The importance of getting feminists to vote in the upcoming election is key to support the issues that have arisen both long term (the Right to Vote, ERA, Pay Equity, Advancement of Women in Managerial Positions) and more recently, the right to control her own health decisions with the 2022 dismissal of the Roe v Wade verdict of 1973. The current climate of rescission and back tracking has feminists recognizing the significant threat of the November 8th mid-term election to their basic Human/women’s rights. A recording of this discussion is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDPLpFwnVnU>.



Connie Cordovilla, Co-president CWI and VA NOW/VA NOW PAC Treasurer with 20 years’ experience as an election officer in Fairfax County, spoke from her experience in working on women’s and LGBTQIA issues and on several presidential campaigns. Connie laid out the qualification and process of registering to vote, noting differences can exist between various states and people should check with their local offices of elections. Identification used to match the voter with the registration was discussed as well as the safeguards to the vote that make American voting systems some of the safest and most honest in the world. The use of and acceptance of provisional ballots that ensures each person at the polls gets the right to cast their ballot were discussed at length. She pointed out the role that feminists can play through all the steps of the voting process to ensure representation of all viewpoints. Particularly important are the steps of door-knocking, getting people committed to vote, working as poll workers to provide information to those who are at the polls, working as an election officer (though it is a 16-hour day opportunity) by checking in voters, handing them ballots, showing them how to cast their ballot and giving them the all-important “I voted” sticker.



Katherine (Kobby) Hoffman, Executive Vice President of VA NOW, Inc., discussed strategies for reaching young feminist voters such as the actions of VA NOW and the Feminist Majority in working with college students to get out the vote. She is currently directing two projects on VA College campuses to turn out the vote on November 8. She had a dedicated team of assistants on each campus that have undertaken such tasks as poster around campus and dormitories to make sure students know they can register and vote in the state where they are attending college, holding tabling events in main campus areas where students can pick up information on NOW feminist priorities, locations of the polls and information on issues of importance to feminists. Some of the more playful ideas put into action were having Puppies to the Poll with dogs for petting during tabling, providing cookies with messages to go vote on them and Pumpkins to the Polls for those who came for information before or on October 31. Ensuring a way to the polls which are off campus was done by hiring a trolley to take students round trip. Cameos of students stressing the reasons that the vote is important for every election will be produced and used in social media posts



Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, President and CEO Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (<https://www.apaics.org>), is a nationally recognized civil rights leader with 25 years of expertise in political campaigns, training and fundraising. She shared her wisdom on effective strategies to support the implementation of progressive and feminist political goals particularly among the varied Asian Pacific American Populations. Her presentation was based on the data from the APAIVote recent survey, [2022 Asian American Voter Survey](#). Madalene cautioned the attendees that just as Hispanic voters are not a monolithic group, so too Asian American Pacific Islanders are composed of many different cultural groups and hence the data collected is split among seven major groupings. In the past two decades, Asian Americans have also become one of the fastest growing racial or ethnic groups in the United States. Yet less than half have been contacted by either of the major parties. Asian American respondents ranked health care (88%), jobs and the economy (86%), crime (85%), education (82%), gun control (73%) and the environment (75%) as “extremely important” or “very important” issues for deciding their votes in November.

Lisa Sales, President of the Virginia Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) discussed the newly launched “Virginia Law Audit Project” which is rooting out sexist and misogynistic references in the Virginia constitution and codified law to be replaced with non-gendered alternatives. The project will develop recommendations and propose model language to members of the General Assembly to modernize Virginia codes. In addition, she outlined the key feminist issues that the National Organization for Women has identified as feminist building blocks: Reproductive Rights and Justice; Constitutional Equality/the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); Ending Violence Against Women; Racial Justice; LGBTQIA + Rights; and Economic Justice. She pointed out these cover areas of concern to the voters polled for this election.

Karen Humphrey of National Women’s Political Caucus (NWPC) in California brought up other techniques to gain attention such as grass roots texting, phone banking and door to door campaigning.

The next CWI noon zoom meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2023. At that that time those winning election on November 8 will be assuming office and we will begin to see what happens next with the laws of our country that will affect our lives and our rights as women.

RESOURCES

On 10/6/2022 [Msmagazine.com](https://msmagazine.com) published “A Feminist Guide to the 2022 Midterms” which provides a general review of the challenges and strategies of many election issues. See https://msmagazine.com/2022/10/06/2022-midterms-how-to-vote/?omhide=true&utm_medium=email&utm_source=everyaction&emci=21f2455f-8546-ed11-b495-002248258d38&emdi=88c845fa-0947-ed11-b495-002248258d38&ceid=404269

ERA Elect Equality: Candidate Designation Program and Voter Tool -Newly launched [Equal Voice/Equal Vote Campaign](#) video and [Social Media Toolkit](#) –
Abi Ranganathan and Velu Ochoa Campaign Update

Updates from Congress (House and Senate)

- S.J. Res 1: Update on Senate and Visits [Here is a link to the social media kit](#) More Actions: [Call, email and tweet Leader Schumer](#):
- House Resolution 891 - [Co-Sponsors](#) and Use the letter to ask your [Representative to Sign-on](#). [Target List here](#).

- White House - [Urge President Biden to instruct the U.S. Archivist to publish the ERA](#)

L.A. Blade: Race to the midterms: Black leaders on race and the LGBTQ vote

- <https://www.losangelesblade.com/2022/10/23/race-to-the-midterms-kirby-and-jones-on-race-hope-voting/>

National Black Justice Coalition: This YouTube reel was just released October 25 focused on the Black LGBTQ+/SGL vote: https://youtube.com/shorts/JympQY_9EbA?feature=share

Change Research and Higher Heights Leadership Fund - Black Women Vote Survey *Black Women are Motivated to Vote, Desire More Representation & Change on Many Issues of*

Concern <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V7W94yTzCWh5Ksrhm6c05SOsImQSGnf2LeITlpDgVDY/edit>

Ms Magazine, Feminist Majority and Lake Research Partners: Poll results from a survey of likely voters ages 18 to 29 in battleground states, <https://msmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Ms.-FMF-poll-youth-survey.pdf>

Ms Magazine, Feminist Majority and Lake Research Partners: Poll results on the voter gender gap from a survey of likely voters in battleground states, <https://msmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Ms.-FMF-poll-gender-gap.pdf>

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. Jan. 17, 6 PM Reproductive Justice or Bust! Virtual. Abortion Access Front **TO REGISTER**

Tue. Jan. 17 6:30-8 PM virtual. Brave Hearted: the omen of the American West, Smithsonian Associates

FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER

Wed. Jan 18 12 PM. [Brave Girls Virtual Storytime: Dear Mr. Dickens](#) virtual from the National Women's History Museum. Nancy Churnin reads her picture book. [Register here](#)

Wed. Jan. 18, 7-8 PM. MCMDNOW Chapter Monthly Meet-UP and Consciousness Raising Zoom "How can we work together for change?" ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83256412567>

Meeting ID: 832 5641 2567 Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/894233531729887>

Sun. Jan. 22, 12-2PM Bigger than Roe: National Day of Action Womens March. RSVP For DC <https://www.dc-now.org/events-1/womens-march-bigger-than-roe> **FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER**

Mon. Jan. 23, 7 PM Montgomery Public Schools: Probability or Pipe Dream, League of Women Voters

FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER

Tue. Jan 24. Noon-1:30. Identifying and Protecting US Reproductive Rights After the Supreme Court's Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization Decision, Zoom Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Meeting. Register. See Newsletter P. 1

Tue. Jan. 24. 3-4 PM. The ERA Factor: Reproductive Rights, Justice and Health. ERA Coalition and the Fund for Women's Equality. Virtual Town Hall, **FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER**

Wed. Jan. 25. 12 PM, [Brave Girls Virtual Storytime: Bringing in the New Year. Virtual.](#) National Women's History Museum, [Register here.](#)

Wed. Jan.25 7-8PM. Maryland Suffragists on the National Votes for Women Trail. Virtual, Cost \$15

Register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/484879777467>

Thur. Jan. 26, 6 PM Webinar: The Impact of STEM Role Models and Mentors. National Girls Collaborative Project [Register](#)

Sunday, Jan. 29, 12:30-5 PM. Maryland Women's Legislative Briefing. Cost \$23 Early Bird, \$30 after Jan. 27. Montgomery County Commission for Women. **FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER**

Fri. Feb. 3, 12:30-2:30 PM. Fiona Hill on Vladimir Putin and His War in Ukraine. Women's Democratic Club of Montgomery County. **FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER**

Sun. Feb. 12, 3PM. Virtual [Sundays@Home: In Conversation with Professor Wanda A. Hendricks, Author of *The Life of Madie Hall Xuma*](#) National Woman's History Museum, [Register here.](#)

Sun. Feb. 12, 5-6:30 PM, DCNOW meeting, Teatism, 400 8th ST, NW, DC followed by book club reading "the Pain Gap" by Anushay Hossain. RSVP [here](#)

Tue, Feb. 21, 12 PM. Girls in STEM: A (Data-based) Tale of Confidence & Satisfaction. Webinar National Girls Collaborative. [Register:](#)

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

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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.

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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; or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)



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

(Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, February 28, 2023 (12:00-1:30 PM))

“The Effect of COVID-19 on Women's Employment and Their Work Life Balance”

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

[Registration Link](#)

Gender equality in women's employment was dealt a blow by COVID-19. While female participation in the labor force picked up after the pandemic's worst phase in 2020, it still remains under threat from risks that, if left unaddressed, could wash away the progress made in gender equality in the past decade. (Deloitte Insight, January 2022)

This meeting addressing COVID's impact on women's employment will be hosted by CWI's, **Dr. Alotta Taylor, Jeanette Lim Esbrook, Esq. and Ms. Sherry Klein.**

COVID-19's economic impact resulting in the widening gender disparity in the labor market has been a major worry. However, (Deloitte Insight, January 2022) stated with the pickup in economic activity since the second half of 2020 and a significant increase in the scale and pace of vaccinations around the world in 2021, female employment has recovered some of the lost ground. Yet this recovery isn't without risks. Moreover, in countries where women have traditionally lagged far behind men, returning to the job market after losing out in 2020 may prove harder for mothers who took up extensive childcare responsibilities during the pandemic. And as government aid fizzles out in many parts of the world, single parents will find it even more difficult to keep up with childcare and other household expenses. COVID also increased the viability of virtual work, but little is known about its positive or negative impact on women.

This meeting will be informed by the following speakers who will present information on the impact of COVID-19 on women's employment and how return to work can be furthered by attention to policies such as increases in child-care options, virtual work options, and paid family leave.

Julie Vogtman (she/her), Director of Job Quality & Senior Counsel for the National Women's Law Center (NWLC). Vogtman will provide an overview of 3 years of COVID including a survey she made about a year ago at the 2-yr. mark. The topics of impact on women and employment include: Caregiving, finances, economic impact, policy solutions including family paid leave.

At NWLC, Julie engages in research, policy analysis and advocacy, and public education to advance federal and state policies that benefit both women in low-paid jobs and their families, including higher wages, fair work scheduling practices, and childcare assistance. She has written extensively about women and the economy and the factors contributing to racial and gender pay disparities, including as a co-author of NWLC's March 2022 report, *Resilient But Not Recovered: After Two Years of the COVID-19 Crisis, Women Are Still Struggling*. Julie Vogtman was quoted February 12, 2023 in a Washington Post article on women returning to work, “We are certainly seeing some very positive signs in the economy, but there are still disparities, both in and who is back to work and who is getting the best jobs,” referring to challenges such as paid sick leave and more affordable child care, that affect women of color and those with lower levels of education and income.

Prior to joining NWLC in 2010, Julie was an associate with Covington & Burling LLP in Washington, DC. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, where she served as an editor for the Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law & Policy, and holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Furman University.

Allison Wolf will discuss the impact of balancing working as a professional remotely with family and childcare responsibilities. As the Web Program Manager for NASA's Space Operations and Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorates, Ms. Wolff is responsible for managing application development projects and operates as an advisor for Enterprise-level application governance and policy boards. She is a pragmatic innovator and works diligently to foster a culture of collaboration, diversity, and empowerment. Ms. Wolff implemented numerous successful initiatives at NASA including the Enterprise Platform approach for the Office of the Chief Information Officer, a data-driven business architecture for the Center of Excellence for Collaborative Innovation and NASA IT Labs which was awarded FedScoop's Federal IT Program of the Year and recognized as a finalist for the ACT-IAC Excellence.gov award for Enterprise Efficiency. Ms. Wolff was named a Computerworld Innovation Laureate, a NextGov Bold Award Finalist for Tech Innovation and was selected as a FedScoop 50 Most Inspiring Up & Comer in 2020. While NASA is her passion, her first love is her family. She approaches each day striving to make the world a better place for her three daughters and hopes to be an exemplary leader in promoting work-life balance with a personal emphasis on physical and emotional wellness. She will share insights on NASA's current and planned policies on virtual work and its impact on women.

Sarah J. Glynn, Senior Advisor, Women's Bureau, US Department of Labor, co-authored a report issued by the DOL on the impact of COVID19 on women's employment, visible here: [Bearing the Cost](#). We hope she will be able to report on current and future federal policies on virtual versus in person work and its impact on women.

We will include these in chat during meeting or possibly on Program page of Clearinghouse website as related resources on the topic:

- <https://www.brookings.edu/essay/why-has-covid-19-been-especially-harmful-for-working-women/>
- <https://www.oxfam.org/en/5-ways-women-and-girls-have-been-hardest-hit-covid-19>
- <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/women-work-and-family-during-covid-19-findings-from-the-kff-womens-health-survey/>
- <https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/counter/pdf/10.1186/s12889-022-13422-3.pdf>
- https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w26947/w26947.pdf
- <https://leanin.org/women-in-the-workplace>

Summary Of January 24th, 2023, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Zoom meeting on "Identifying and Protecting U.S. Reproductive Rights After the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* Decision" by Jan Erickson and her NOW intern, Genevieve Thompson.

This CWI noon virtual meeting provided an overview of important government actions regarding reproductive rights over the last seven months since the Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Additionally, there was an update about actions in Virginia concerning efforts to curtail access to abortion by state leadership. The meeting was organized and emceed by CWI Co-President, Sue Klein. Connie Cordovilla, the other co-president, helped arrange the meeting where we had also hoped to have speakers from the federal Interagency Task Force on Reproductive Healthcare Access and the Department of Justice Reproductive Rights Task Force. A recording of the meeting is available and can be accessed on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/rVwBwZbJhk8>

Shaina Goodman on Federal Actions to Protect Reproductive Rights



Shaina Goodman, JD, Director for Reproductive Health and Rights, National Partnership for Women & Families. She received her juris doctor degree, master's in social work, a bachelor's degree in women & gender studies from Washington University in St. Louis and has a Maryland law license. She is also the mother of two toddlers.

Goodman provided an overview of the abortion access landscape, referring to a map of abortion access in the states at [Interactive Map: US Abortion Policies and Access After Roe | Guttmacher Institute](#), (Note: The information indicates that 24 states have varying degrees of restrictions, 12 of those have total or near total bans with legal challenges in five of them, plus six states where abortion is unavailable. The remaining states have total or near-total abortion bans blocked by the courts, but legal challenges are pending, while others face uncertain futures with elected officials determined to ban abortion. Only 16 states and the District of Columbia currently protect abortion access.) Goodman stressed that the situation has made it very difficult for patients to know where they can get care, in most cases it will be in a distant state. Many patients will have to confront the challenges and expense of traveling and a hotel stay, getting time off from their job and arranging for childcare. Most women who seek abortions have children.

In addition, we see that in situations where a miscarriage has occurred or a serious medical complication has arisen, getting appropriate medical attention has often been delayed by the need for medical providers to consult legal counsel before care can be provided. Often it is up to legal teams or hospitals' legal counsel to decide whether or when a woman can receive care, resulting in some cases sending women with miscarriages home to wait until they experience sepsis to get what will be life-saving care. Providers hands are tied in such cases; these restrictions on abortion do not allow physicians to provide the kind of medical care that they have pledged to do. Restrictions have also risked health complications for persons with autoimmune disease who are not pregnant but have difficulty accessing their prescribed medication – the same that is used to end a pregnancy or complete a miscarriage.

In addition, for those states which continue to provide abortion care, they are overburdened with numerous patients travelling from other states to obtain care. Clinics have difficulty providing care for patients from their own states – in addition to the influx of out-of-state patients. Goodman commented, “The situation is even worse than all of us imagined.”

With regard to federal initiatives adopted to assure access to abortion care, Goodman began the discussion looking at the higher-level initiatives. A very important one was the establishment of the **Biden-Harris Interagency Task Force on Reproductive Health Care Access**. The task force pulled cabinet level members to strategize for actions and initiatives that could be taken to protect and enhance access. In addition, Vice President Kamala Harris and other agency officials have held about a dozen roundtable discussions, providing platforms for advocates, physicians and leaders in the field. The Administration has also created a website to provide comprehensive and accurate information for the public, including listing resources in states which provide no access to abortion care. This can be found at, reproductiverights.gov.

In July, 2022 President Biden issued **Executive Order 14076 on “Securing Access to Reproductive and Other Healthcare Services.”** The Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), requires hospitals to provide medical care to any persons showing up at a hospital in a medical emergency. The EO makes it clear that EMTALA pertains to reproductive health care services. Goodman added that the Department of Justice has recently won a lawsuit against the State of Idaho concerning a violation of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act.

Additionally, the Affordable Care Act’s Section 1557 prohibits discrimination on basis of sex in health care and there is a **new proposed rule that would clarify the inclusion of reproductive healthcare within that definition**. If finalized, it would be one of the most impactful actions that the government has taken to shore up access to reproductive health care, Goodman emphasized. Enforcing any failure to provide abortion care as sex discrimination could be a landmark change. She added that this might also be litigated, and we need to watch out for that.

Under Medicaid, a state and federal partnership, the federal government has invited states to submit **Section 1115 waiver requests to change or expand access to care** for persons traveling from restrictive states to help them obtain care. There is also an effort by HHS for its **Office of Refugee Resettlement** to require that unaccompanied immigrant minors who are pregnant be located in states that offer abortion access protections.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has taken significant steps lately. The FDA is an Independent authority within HHS. Two really wonderful actions have been taken, Goodman said. The first is an action that makes it clear that **Plan B contraceptive is NOT an abortifacient**. In other words, Plan B is clearly a contraceptive, delaying or stopping the release of an egg from the ovary. Packaging for Plan B or generic versions have been changed to reflect scientific evidence on the exact action of the contraceptive. Advocates hope that, as a result of this action, anti-choice lawmakers will have more difficulty in prohibiting the use of this effective contraceptive.

The second wonderful action is that recently the **FDA has changed guidelines for Risk Evaluation and Management Strategies (REMS) pertaining to medication abortion.** The FDA lifted the in-person requirement for obtaining and filling prescriptions. Now your doctor can write a prescription and you can have your prescription filled by any method, including through telehealth. This change will take a while to get implemented, however. Under the REMS change, a program has been created in which **brick-and mortar-pharmacies and mail order entities can dispense medication abortion, in person or by mail.** CVS and Walgreens have announced that they intend to become certified to do this.

Other initiatives:

- The **Office of Personnel Management** clarified for federal employees and federal contractors that paid sick days can be used to travel for abortion care.
- The **Federal Trade Commission** is committed to enforcing the law against the illegal use of sensitive data. This may help ensure the safety of patient data regarding, ‘LPM’—last menstrual period and travel information from an employer or a state.
- The **Veterans Administration** announced that abortion care in some limited circumstances for veterans will be allowed.
- The **Department of Education** Issued guidance based on Title IX which clarified that this civil rights act’s prohibition against sex discrimination also covers pregnancy discrimination.
- The **Department of Defense** announced that travel and allowances for servicemembers and dependents would be provided to obtain abortion care when reproductive health care services are not available locally.
- The **Department of Justice** recently issued an opinion that **U.S. Postal Service** can deliver packages that contain medication abortion pills. The 1873 Comstock Act which barred the use of the U.S. Postal Service to send contraceptives, abortifacients, and other items is not a bar.

What’s next? Goodman noted that with state legislative sessions starting up, a lot of activity is expected in both red and blue states. She predicted that extremes will be moving further apart with fewer states in the middle. At the same time, there are initiatives in Congress. One of first actions by the House of Representatives was to pass a “Born Alive” act which doesn’t address a real problem – it is a messaging scare tactic from anti-abortion legislators. There is also the federal 15-week abortion ban that Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) has said he would promote. This is not likely to pass Congress and President Biden has promised to veto it. Other issues that could be addressed include pro-choice data privacy, strengthening HIPAA protections, getting rid of the Hyde Amendment, and the Administration continues to call on Congress to codify *Roe*. Recently, a South Carolina court ruled that the state abortion ban violated a state constitution provision guaranteeing privacy. We may also see litigation between the states. For instance, there is a disagreement between California and Texas over their respective state laws related to reproductive rights. This is brand new territory, Goodman said.

PS. Since the January meeting reproductive rights activists are facing another major threat to medical abortions. A judicial ruling may limit the use of FDA approved and very effective and safe mifepristone which is used in over 50% of all abortions and for other medical treatments. Let’s hope the Federal government will be able to stop this and other related threats.

MORE INFORMATION:

- <https://reproductiverights.gov/>
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- [FACT SHEET: President Biden Issues Executive Order at the First Meeting of the Task Force on Reproductive Healthcare Access](#)

[Click here to sign-up for the White House women's community newsletter](#)

Jamie Lockhart on the Status of Virginia State Legislation Pertaining to Reproductive Rights



Jamie Lockhart, (she/her) serves as the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia, a statewide advocacy organization whose mission is to preserve and broaden access to reproductive health care through legislation, public education, electoral activity and litigation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Previously, Jamie served as the National Director of Mission: Readiness and was recruited for campaigns in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including President Obama's 2012 re-election, and served as a Legislative Assistant and Director of E-Communications for Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO). Jamie graduated *magna cum laude* from James Madison University and obtained a master's in public administration degree from the Harvard Kennedy School. She is a certified group fitness instructor, triathlete and mom to a toddler.

Lockhart summarized the landscape of state legislation impacting reproductive rights. As of January, eighteen states have banned access to abortion. Bans have eliminated abortion in 13 states: AL, AR, ID, KY, LA, MO, MS, OK, SD, TN, TX, WI, WV. Bans have eliminated abortions after the earliest stages of pregnancy in 1 state: GA. Bans on abortion between 15-20 weeks are in effect in 4 states: AZ, FL, NC, UT. Other states have abortion bans not currently in effect as they're being challenged in state courts. Lockhart reviewed the barrage of trigger laws and political maneuvers by abortion opponents which resulted in the unraveling of access after the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*.

Lockhart described the political situation in Virginia which is in contrast to the previous state administration and legislature that were headed by supporters of reproductive rights. In 2020 and 2021 the legislature passed the Reproductive Health Protection Act in 2020, removing several restrictions on abortion. During those two years, they also expanded birth control access, repealed health insurance restrictions, and protected health care access for the transgender community. It is critical to remain vigilant throughout this session, Lockhart warned. Currently, the VA House of Delegates and top executive offices are controlled by opponents of reproductive rights; support of reproductive rights may hang by a single vote in the state Senate. Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) has the power to sign, amend and veto bills, while Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears (R) is opposed to abortion rights and even stated her support for an anti-abortion ban similar to the extreme Texas six-week ban during her campaign. The Virginia

Senate has 40 senators, consisting of 22 Democrats and 18 Republicans. Unfortunately, the vote to defeat harmful abortion legislation could be as close as one vote. So far in the Virginia session of 2023, a bill to reinstate biased counseling before an abortion and a so-called 'Born Alive' bill have been passed in the House of Delegates.

Lockhart said that Planned Parenthood has announced their 2023 priorities in Virginia to support the **constitutional amendment to protect reproductive freedom** HJ519 + SJ255 as well as the **Contraceptive Equity Act** HB2089+SB1112. She urged that activists continue to oppose any bills that put politicians between patients and their private medical decisions, such as Gov. Youngkin's 15-Week Abortion Ban, HB 2278+ SB 1385, the so-called "born alive" bill and finally, oppose all anti-Transgender legislation.

Preview YouTube video CWI Jan2023-"Identify & Protect U.S. Reproductive Rights After Supreme Court's Dobbs v. Jackson WHO"



Reproductive Rights Articles by Sue Klein's Favorite Feminist Journalist, Dr. Carrie N. Baker

[Grassroots Progress to Hold Anti-Abortion Crisis Pregnancy Centers Accountable](#), Ms., February 7, 2023.
[U.S. Senators Urge FDA Update to Mifepristone Label for Miscarriage Use: 'Patients Should Have Access to the Most Effective Medication Available'](#), Ms., February 3, 2023.

[Anti-Abortion Groups Try to Intimidate Pharmacies Planning to Dispense Abortion Pills](#), Ms., January 31, 2023.

[New York State Assembly Considers Groundbreaking Equal Rights Amendment](#), Ms., January 19, 2023.

[New York Shield Law Would Protect Clinicians Mailing Abortion Pills to Patients in Red States](#), Ms., January 19, 2023.

[Plan B Does Not Cause Abortion, Says FDA](#), Ms., January 12, 2023.

[The Postal Service Can Deliver Abortion Pills by Mail—Even in States Banning Abortion](#), Ms., January 9, 2023.

[FDA Allows Pharmacies to Sell Abortion Pills—But Requires Unnecessary and Burdensome Certification Process](#), Ms., January 6, 2023.

Here's a scholarly piece:

[“History and Politics of the Abortion Pill in the United States and the Rise of Telemedicine Abortion During the COVID-19,”](#) *Journal of Health Politics, Law and Policy* (2023).

And a webinar!

[Everything You Need to Know About Abortion Pills](#), Ms., January 23, 2023.

Carrie N. Baker, J.D., Ph.D., Sylvia Dlugasch Bauman Professor
Program for the Study of Women and Gender, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063
Contributing editor for [Ms. Magazine](#), Columnist for [The Daily Hampshire Gazette](#)
Website: carriebakerphd.com/

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, Feb. 21, 12 PM. Girls in STEM: A (Data-based) Tale of Confidence & Satisfaction. Webinar National Girls Collaborative. Register:

Tue, Feb 21, 4-5 PM. Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence 35th Annual Memorial Service For More Info and to Register <https://www.mnadv.org/2023-memorial-service/eeVirtual> Workshop for E

Wed. Feb. 22, noon to 12:45 PM. Virtual Brave Girls Virtual Storytime: Dancing Hands. National Women's History Museum. **Event Registration**

Wed. Feb 22, 7-8PM Welcome to Generation Ratify [TO FIND OUT MORE AND TO SIGN UP](#)

Thur. Feb. 23, 6-7 PM. Virtual Workshop for Educators, Session 1: Media Literacy & Media as Political Objects. National Women's History Museum. **Event Registration**

Mon. Feb 27 7-8:30 PM. How Dis/ Misinformation Targets Non-English Speakers, Especially in Election Season. League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. [TO FIND OUT MORE AND TO SIGN UP](#)

Tue. Feb 28. Noon, Zoom. Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (See Page 1&2 of newsletter for details.)

Tue. Feb 28, 6:30-7 PM. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and You. Maryland Women's Heritage Center [FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)

Thur. March 2, 6-7 PM. Virtual Workshop for Educators, Session 2: Media Literacy and Women's Magazines. National Women's History Museum. Event Registration
<https://events.womenshistory.org/events/educator-workshop-session1-media-literacy-499/>

Fri. March 3, 6:30-9:30 PM Artists for ERA Reception, AAUW of Maryland. Exhibit Dates Feb 27-Mar. 5, Baltimore County Arts Guild Clubhouse, 10 St. timothy Lane, Catonsville, MD [FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)

Sun. March 5, 3-4PM. At the Threshold of Liberty: Black Women in 19th Century DC with Professor Tamika Y. Nunley. National Women's History Museum. Event Registration
<https://events.womenshistory.org/events/sundayshome-at-the-threshold-of-liberty-242/>

Wed. March 8. International Women's Day. Check for Many Women's Events

Tue. March 21, noon-1:30 PM Updates on DC Women's History Museums and sites to visit in DC area. Clearinghouse on Women's Issues. Visit <https://womensclearinghouse.org>.

June 30-July 2, 2023 National NOW Conference, Arlington, VA

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 Wickouski; 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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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.

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

ORGANIZATION NAME _____
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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; or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)



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

Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday March 21, 2023 (12:00-1:30 PM)

“Updates on DC Women's History Museums and Sites to Visit in the DC Area”

Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

[Registration Link](#)

March is Women's History Month and Washington, DC is fortunate to host two National Women's History Museums and a variety of sites related to women. In our CWI March 2021 meeting we heard about and discussed the two museums. See the [April 2021 CWI newsletter](#) for a summary of this meeting. A video of this 2021 CWI meeting is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6G1ij6GPs>.

In 2021 **Julissa Marengo**, Assistant Secretary Communications and External Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer for the Smithsonian, shared an early-stage update for the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum. We are delighted that she is now rejoining us to give an update on progress to date. **Jennifer Herrera**, Vice President of External Affairs, National Women's History Museum (NWHM), helped arrange for the then director and the Board Chair of the virtual NWHM to describe their activities. Jennifer Herrera will join us on 3-21-23 to share information on their opening of an in-person exhibit at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington DC at the end of this March. Finally, **Holly T. Joseph**, CWI's Treasurer and long-time feminist activist will share her research on women's historical sites to visit in the DC area.

Update on Plans for the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum (womenshistory.si.edu), by **Julissa Marengo.** 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 a Smithsonian American Women's History Museum. 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. Julissa described the ongoing Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative and the appointment of Lisa Sasaki as the Museum's interim director. Julissa will give an update on the site selection process. Her presentation will be followed by questions from the meeting participants since she needs to leave early. Lisa Sasaki the interim Museum director is unable to join us since she has been scheduled for another meeting in Detroit.

Update on the National Women's History Museum (womenshistory.org) and its New DC In-person Exhibit and Future Plans, by **Jennifer Herrera.**

NWHM was incorporated in 1996. It is privately funded and mostly virtual. In the 2021 CWI meeting, they shared how they supported federal legislation for a women's history museum and even contributed significant and instrumental funding to the Congressional Commission. They also discussed remodeling their extensive website and plans to host physical exhibits. Jennifer Herrera will discuss the Museum's next chapter and how they plan to bring women's history to communities across the country. Further, Jennifer will share information and extend an invitation to visit NWHM's new exhibition, "We Who Believe in Freedom: Black Feminist DC" at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, opening on March 30, 2023. The Library is located at 901 G St NW, near the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Gallery Place – Chinatown Metro. Finally, Jennifer will discuss other news about the Museum and share information on upcoming events and resources.

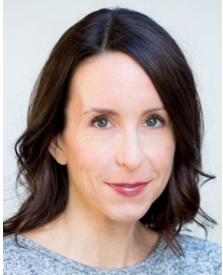
Women's History Sites to Visit in the DC Area, by **Holly T. Joseph.**

For Women's History Month, CWI is studying institutions and smaller sites to pursue this exciting subject. There are many we know – starting with the Capitol and Alice Paul's DC residence, now named the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, and perhaps some we don't know. Holly hopes you'll find abundant opportunities for visits in her presentation and for reflection on the topic of women in history – at a point in history that we hope is the end of the historic pandemic.

Summary of the February 28, 2023 CWI meeting on "The Effect of COVID-19 on Women's Employment and Their Work Life Balance"

The CWI convened its February meeting addressing COVID's impact on women's employment, hosted by CWI's, Dr. Alotta Taylor, Jeanette Lim Esbrook, Esq. and Ms. Sherry Klein. The meeting was informed by the following three speakers who presented information on the impact of COVID-19 on women's employment and how return to work required additional attention to policies, such as increases in child-care options, virtual work options, and paid family leave. A YouTube video of the meeting is here:

<https://youtu.be/RrMzKVeQML0>



Julie Vogtman (she/her), Director of Job Quality & Senior Counsel for the National Women's Law Center (NWLC). Vogtman provided an overview of the impact of 3 years of COVID, including a survey she made about a year ago at the 2-yr. mark. Ms. Vogtman discussed the impact on women and employment in the areas of caregiving, finances, economic impact, and suggested policy solutions including family paid leave. Presentation slides shown are here: <https://buff.ly/3kJD77i>.



Allison Wolff (she/her) discussed the impact of balancing working remotely as a professional with family and childcare responsibilities. As the Web Program Manager for NASA's Space Operations and Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorates, Ms. Wolff is responsible for managing application development projects. She shared insights on NASA's current and planned policies on virtual work and its impact on women. As a senior professional in the federal government, and as COVID persisted, she found the strain of having 2 small children at home in addition to several high-profile agency-level projects took its toll. While Ms. Wolff prided herself on her capacity to take on a lot and execute quickly, she shared her personal story of drowning in work with no end in sight and "burnout". COVID was impacting her life on every front. She determined an appropriate path forward and ultimately decided the best thing for her and the family was to take a step back. She stressed so often we preach balance and wellness, but culturally there is much work to do to fully realize what balance looks like for each of us. If women are true to themselves and their values, there will be less burnout and more balance in the future for women.



Sarah Jane (SJ) Glynn, (she/her) Senior Advisor, Women's Bureau, US Department of Labor, presented information from a report she co-authored. It was issued by the DOL on the impact of COVID19 on women's employment: [Bearing the Cost](https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/BearingTheCostReportFactSheet.pdf) (<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/BearingTheCostReportFactSheet.pdf>). She reported on current and future federal policies on virtual versus in person work and its impact on women. She also shared information on advance policies that help support employment and economic security for women and caregivers, including paid family and medical leave, paid sick days, workplace flexibility, and pay equity.

In summary, women shouldered a disproportionate share of the COVID burden, particularly low income, and minority women. While there has been some recovery in the labor market, there is still a long way to go for women to reach pre-pandemic employment highs. For the women who were able to keep their jobs, many will have to continue to balance competing priorities including family and child-care responsibilities.

Editor's Note: Census Bureau related information

Recorded Webinar: The Disproportionate Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women in the Workforce <https://www.census.gov/data/academy/webinars/2023/impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-women-in-the-workforce.html>

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.

Sun. March 12, 3-4PM. Sundays@Home: The History of Black Feminism -Virtual, National Women's History Museum. Dr. Alison Parker, Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, and Dr. Anastasia Curwood. [Register here](#).

Tue. March 14, Noon. Holding Court: Lady Justice with Dahlia Lithwick, Alliance for Justice. [Twitter users can set a reminder to attend here](#).

Tue. March 14. Equal Pay Day. Women full time workers earn 84 cents for every dollar a man makes.

Wed. March 15, 7-8:30PM Montgomery County BPW and Montgomery County NOW, Virtual. Celebrate Rosie the Riveters by Raya Kenney and 5 living Rosies. RSVP <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84470474642>
Meeting ID: 844 7047 4642

Thur. March 16, 1-2 PM. Building Economies that Work for Women: Opportunities Through the 2023 G7, G20, and APEC Summits. Center for Global Development. Register <https://link.cgdev.org/l/683263/2023-03-01/2j8r55>

Tue. March 21, noon-1:30 PM. Updates on DC Women's History Museums and sites to visit in DC area. Clearinghouse on Women's Issues. See Page 1. Visit womensclearinghouse.org

Thur. March 23, 5:30-7 PM. Race, History, and Rock Creek: Women Who've Made a Difference in Rock Creek. Virtual
FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER

Thur. March 23, 2-3:30 PM. Civil rights Act of 1964. Online. The Leadership Conference. Contact hall@civilrights.org.

Fri. March 24. ERA Symposium hosted by Alice Paul Institute & New Jersey State Bar Assoc. Learn more and Register: [Forward Together, Backward Never! The History and Future of the ERA](#).

Wed. March 29 2PM. Webinar: Women's History Month, Everyday Superwomen: The Lessons and Best Practices of Women Leaders in Politics, Education and Philanthropy. Hunt Institute. [Register](#).

Thur. March 30. 5-8PM. Opening Night "We Who Believe in Freedom: Black Feminist DC" Exhibit in the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G ST, NW, Washington, DC 20001 (Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro). Free, but [registration is recommended](#).

Fri. March 31, 7-11PM. Women Making History Awards Gala, Sponsored by the National Women's History Museum. Guests will enjoy cocktails, a formal seated dinner, live entertainment, and more. [Click here](#) to learn more and purchase tickets.

Thur. April 13, 2-3:30 PM. Title IX Education Programs, 1557 Healthcare. The Leadership Conference. Contact hall@civilrights.org.

June 30-July 2, National NOW Conference, Arlington, VA You can register for the 2023 NOW **National Conference for \$19.73!** Take advantage of this special member only rate from February 17 to March 3, 2023. 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

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

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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; or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)



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, 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.

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 or Connie Cordovilla 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 4th 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 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



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 for actions on implementing ERA which as the 28th Amendment has already been passed by the required 38 states as the 28th 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.**

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

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

<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; or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)



May, 2023 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Newsletter

<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tue. May 23, 2023 ET 12-1:30 PM

“The Importance of the Separation of Church and State for Feminists”

Co-sponsored with Americans United for the Separation of Church and State

[Registration Link](#)

CWI is delighted to co-sponsor this Zoom meeting with Americans United for the Separation of Church and State (AU.org). Feminists are keenly aware that religious extremists and their politician allies are trying to force everyone else to live by their beliefs and to use religion as a license to harm others. This threatens our freedom to live as ourselves, which widens inequality in our communities and country. Women have long been a target and therefore understand the consequences of when the lines between religion and government are blurred. The fundamental right to be treated equally under the law depends upon the separation of church and state.

Three staff members from AU will inform us about AU and its work, particularly as it relates to feminist issues. They are **Maggie Garrett**, Vice President for Public Policy. Maggie is a legal and policy expert who has been working on church-state separation issues for more than 20 years. Much of her work focuses on ensuring that public funds are used for public schools, and she leads AU's work to protect the Johnson Amendment, a tax code provision that ensures that tax-exempt nonprofits, including religious organizations, do not endorse or oppose political candidates. Before joining AU she worked with the ACLU of Georgia and Alabama. She graduated from Hamilton College and the George Washington University Law School. **Dena Sher**, Associate Vice President for Public Policy, is an attorney with nearly 20 years' experience working on religion and law. She focuses on blocking efforts to misuse religion to undermine people's rights. Previously, she served as AU's state legislative counsel, and started with AU as an Equal Justice Works fellow. Dena also worked for the ACLU, lobbying on federal policy on religious freedom. She graduated from Georgetown University and the George Washington University Law School. AU, with Maggie and Dena's leadership, chairs the Coalition Against Religious Discrimination, co-chairs the National Coalition for Public Education, and heads up the coalition working to support the Do No Harm Act. The final AU presenter, **Catherine Feuille**, Madison Legal Fellow, graduated from Dartmouth College and Yale Law School, where she participated in the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic. She also has a Master's in Public Health from Columbia University and has experience working in health care delivery.

Maggie, Dena, and Catherine will provide an overview of the constitutional principles and laws that guarantee religious freedom but have unfortunately been misused to cause harm. Their presentation will include a discussion about the repercussions of when the separation of church and state is not upheld:

- People, especially women, face discrimination.
- People can't access healthcare. For example, AU and NWLC have challenged Missouri's abortion ban because it violates the state constitutional provision requiring church-state separation.
- Social services that people and families need are jeopardized.
- Public education is undermined, funding is being drained for private school vouchers, public charter schools may soon be able to discriminate, and religion is being imposed on students who are in public schools.

Remember to register to attend this May 23 CWI/AU noon zoom meeting at this [Registration Link](#).

[The next CWI noon Zoom meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2023](#)

CLEARINGHOUSE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES (CWI) BOARD ELECTIONS

CWI BOARD MEMBER TERMS ARE 2 YEARS. The following CWI board members' terms end June 30, 2023 but they have agreed to stand for election at the June 20, 2023 CWI meeting to continue to serve as CWI Board Members for July 1, 2023- June 30, 2025.

Specifically, if re-elected, Co-President Sue Klein has agreed to continue to serve as Co-President. Connie Cordovilla has agreed to continue as VP Membership. D. Anne Martin will continue as VP Organizational Management. Sherry Klein will continue as VP Technology. Alotta Taylor will continue as VP Diversity. Sheila Wickouski will resume a 2 year board member term along with two new Board members: Jan Erickson from NOW who will also serve as CWI Co-President and Denise Hyater Lindenmuth from the National Women's Health Network (NWHN), who will serve as VP for Women's Health.

Additionally, the following CWI Board Members will continue the second year of their terms: Holly Taggart Joseph as Treasurer, Jeanette Lim Esbrook, VP Legal Affairs, and Loretto Gubernatis, VP Public Relations.

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 4th 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 April 25, 2023 CWI and AAPF Meeting on "Fighting Attacks on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" (Thanks to Kristin Penner for this summary.)

A short video of this exciting meeting is available [here](#). The meeting started with the re-screening of the African American Policy Forum (AAPF.org) [video](#) of **When Racial Reckoning and Anti-wokeness Collide: What's Left Out Of AP Black Studies and Why Everyone Should Care**. In this video AAPF noted that it has been an intense time for all of us in education, including parents, students, and all supporters of the freedom to learn, but we appreciate those joining us for this urgent conversation about the recent attacks on the new AP African American Studies course. We hope that the video of the panel with **Janai Nelson** (President of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund), **Cheryl Harris** (Professor of Civil Liberties at UCLA), and **Robin D.G. Kelley** (Professor of American History at UCLA), moderated by **Kimberlé Crenshaw** (Co-Founder and Executive Director of AAPF) helps to bring context to these latest educational assaults. This panel began with a deep dive into the reasons why key concepts such as structural racism, intersectionality, Black feminism, queer theory, Black Lives Matter, reparations, and the New Jim Crow have been either erased altogether or made optional in AP African American studies. The conversation unfolded with panelists discussing the impacts of this as a broader assault on social justice efforts led by Black people through the tactic of erasing history and attacking vital conceptual frameworks that provide the literacy that informs our ability to understand the contours of our life in order to sustain efforts to transform them.

After the video of the panel discussion, **Kristin Penner** (AAPF Senior Research Analyst) presented some of her research mapping how these attacks are part of a larger picture: *"Branches of the Same Vine: Right-wing networks Behind Attacks on DEI, Critical Race Theory, Affirmative Action, Reproductive Rights and LGBTQ+ Rights."*



AAPF's Director of Strategic Initiatives, **Sumi Cho**, then shared information about the need to mount an organized resistance to these growing attacks on Black scholars, Black Studies, public education, and multiracial democracy. She previewed the exciting May 3rd Freedom to Learn National Day of Action. This effort resulted in 150 activations from New York City to Washington D.C. and Baltimore, MD, from California to Florida, Texas, and beyond. Together, thousands of participants lifted their voices to hold the College Board and its enablers accountable for their blatant censorship of central authors, concepts, and topics from the AP African American Studies course, as well as related atrocities such as banning books and passing legislation which would eliminate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Offices and equity courses. If you would like to get involved in the fight for the Freedom to Learn, it's not too late. Register [here](#) to join us **Thursday, May 18th at 7:30 pm ET** where we will reconvene for a celebratory **May 3rd Recap and Next Steps** meeting. We will gather to acknowledge the hard work and achievements of our growing national movement and our next steps to keep up the pressure on extremists and their enablers. The Freedom to Learn does not stop after the National Day of Action! May 3rd is just the start of the work we will continue to do with the Freedom to Learn Network. If you have not already, join over 6,600 signatories and sign the [open letter](#) to the College Board. Additionally, we have launched the report, **"When Racial Reckoning and "Anti Wokeness" Collide"** that you can download and read [here](#).

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

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

Tue. May 16 2-3pm Virtual What Your Clients Should Expect from Their Employer When They Are Expecting: Midwives and Doulas, Women's Bureau [Register here](#)

Tue. May 16 5:30-7 pm. Hybrid. Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) Woman's National Democratic Club [FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)

Wed. May 17, 2:30-3:30 pm virtual . Equity in the Workplace: Military Spouses - Creating Workforce Opportunities in the Midst of Duty. Women's Bureau. [Register here](#)

Thur. May 18, 7:30 pm. Virtual "May 3 Recap and Next Steps," African American Policy Forum. Register [here](#)

Tue. May 23, Noon Zoom CWI Meeting. "The Importance of the Separation of Church and State for Feminists" CWI (See P 1 for details) [Registration Link](#)

Thur. June 15, 6:-7 PM NWHM Presents ! The Continued Legacy of Title IX. Conversation with Eileen Tamura and Sherry Boschert. National Women's History Museum. [Register](#)

Sat. June 17 and Sun June 18 and Fri June 23. View Washington's feminist history from a LGBTQ+ perspective on a walking tour that highlights stories of defiance, resistance, and triumph. Smithsonian [FOR MORE INFO AND THE REGISTER](#)

Tue. June 20, Noon to 1:30 pm. CWI election meeting and discussion with some women's organizations. [Registration Link](#)

Tue. June 20, 1:30-5 pm. Hybrid Event iOme College Challenge Forum. New Perspectives: An Intergenerational Discussion on Retirement Solutions. WISER Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement. [REGISTER](#)

Tue. June 20, 6:45 pm Virtual Lecture. Gender Sexuality, and the Fairy Tale. Folklorists Sara Cleto and Brittany Warman uncover some surprisingly unconventional old fairy tales and discuss how modern writers' LGBTQ+ twists on tradition can be wonderfully disruptive to our expectations of stories that begin with "Once upon a time." Smithsonian [FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)

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 at the Doubletree by Hilton Crystal City. [Register Here](#)

Sun. July 30 , 3-4pm Virtual. Women's History Book Club: The Secret History of Home Economics. National Women's History Museum. [Register](#)

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>



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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; or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)



Zoom Meeting [Registration Link](#) for Tues. June 20th Noon-1:30 PM EDT

“When Will Women’s Voices Be Heard? When Will the Equal Rights Amendment Be Implemented?”

While Europe’s eye is fix’d on mighty things,
The fate of Empires and the fall of Kings;
While quacks of State must each produce his plan,
And even children lisp the Rights of Man;
Amid this mighty fuss just let me mention,
The Rights of Woman merit some attention.

- Robert Burns, from the Rights of Woman, 1792

Holly Joseph, CWI Treasurer, will introduce this urgent and most fundamental subject of “the Rights of Woman” in our own country – these United States – in our own times. This is a discussion of women’s voices being heard, with the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) being the prime focus.

Alice Paul (1/11/1885-7/9/1977) has been a preeminent champion of women’s rights in the United States. After having secured the right for women to vote through her tireless work and personal sacrifice to effect the ratification of the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920, she then turned her attention toward achieving ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in her belief that the vote alone would not be adequate for women to be full participants in American society. It has been modified since her original version but is now the following twenty-four words in the first Section:

Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex.

Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

After the ratification of the 19th (Suffrage) Amendment, Alice Paul’s efforts to get another Amendment to expand rights for women – this one establishing an expression of women’s equality enshrined in our Constitution---has not been as successful. In fact, Alice Paul did not live to see the Equal Rights Amendment included in our Constitution. A question for us to consider is whether we will all live so long to see it realized.

Over the years, many have tried to keep the ERA from passage on the grounds that it was unnecessary or even that it would be harmful. Yet polling has suggested wider societal support for the measure than is reflected in Congressional support, the last expression of that being the failure to get Senate approval on April 27, 2023, for the removal of ERA deadline. (The vote of 51-47 was not enough to overcome the filibuster despite a majority of Senators’ approval.)

Eleanor Smeal, President of the Feminist Majority Foundation, Feminist Majority, Publisher of Ms. Magazine and early President of the National Organization for Woman, will enrich the presentation with her vast knowledge of women’s programs as well as knowing Alice Paul and leading the fight for ERA for decades. **Nicole Vorrasi Bates, Esq.**, Founding Member and Executive Director of Shattering Glass, (www.shatteringglass.org) will share her perspective on the ongoing efforts to get the ERA into the Constitution. We ask that all of us reflect on when we were struck with the realization that girls/women were not equal with boys/men. For us feminists, the question is the following: “What are we going to do about it?” Achieving the enactment of the Equal Rights Amendment -- to establish gender equality in our country’s governing document – will unquestionably strengthen our democracy.

Remember to register to attend this June 20 CWI noon zoom meeting at this [Registration Link](#)

June 20, 2023 Slate for CLEARINGHOUSE ON WOMEN’S ISSUES (CWI) BOARD ELECTIONS

CWI BOARD MEMBER TERMS ARE 2 YEARS. The following CWI board members’ terms end June 30, 2023 but they have agreed to stand for election at the June 20, 2023 CWI meeting to continue to serve as CWI Board Members for July 1, 2023- June 30, 2025.

Specifically, if re-elected, Co-President Sue Klein has agreed to continue to serve as Co-President. Connie Cordovilla has agreed to continue as VP Membership. D. Anne Martin will continue as VP Organizational Management. Sherry Klein will continue as VP Technology. Alotta Taylor will continue as VP Diversity. Sheila Wickouski will resume a 2 year board member term along with two new Board members: Jan Erickson from NOW who will also serve as CWI Co-President and Denise Hyater Lindenmuth from the National Women’s Health Network (NWHN), who will serve as VP for Women’s Health.

Additionally, the following CWI Board Members will continue the second year of their terms: Holly Taggart Joseph as Treasurer, Jeanette Lim Esbrook, VP Legal Affairs, and Loretto Gubernatis, VP Public Relations.

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 4th 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 May 23, 2023, Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues Meeting on “The Importance of the Separation of Church and State for Feminists” Cohosted by Americans United for the Separation of Church and State

AU presenters discussed four issues that demonstrate why church-state separation is important for feminists—healthcare, social services, employment discrimination, and public education. A video recording of the meeting is available on this link <https://youtu.be/77lj5sCospl>.

Maggie Garrett kicked off the discussion by providing an overview of religion law.

If church and state aren’t separate, all of our rights—especially women’s rights—are threatened. While many religions—and perhaps even the majority of religious people in this country—support women’s equality, there is a strong, powerful voice of conservative, white Christian Nationalists who don’t. And they want the government to pass laws that reflect their regressive beliefs.

At its core, the separation of church and state is about equality. It ensures that all people—whether religious or not—are treated the same. And this allows all of us to live as ourselves and believe as we choose.



The First Amendment to the Constitution has two clauses that deal with religion.

The Establishment Clause says that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.” This guarantees the separation of church and state and keeps the government from **advancing, privileging, or disparaging religion—or non-religion**. In short, it’s designed to ensure that the government and religion maintain a healthy distance from each other.

The Free Exercise Clause says that the government “may not prohibit the free exercise” of religion. In 1990, the Supreme Court, in a case called *Employment Division v. Smith*, changed the protections provided under the Free Exercise Clause. After *Smith*, the government may enact **neutral and generally applicable** laws even if they burden religion, but can’t target religious practice for worse treatment—unless it has a compelling interest to do so.

Smith lessened Free exercise protections. A broad coalition, including organizations representing many faiths and denominations, legal experts, and many people from many faiths and denominations, and civil liberties advocates on both the right and left were concerned that this case would deny important religious freedom protections to people who practiced minority faiths. In response, the coalition worked to pass the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), which was intended to restore the constitutional test that had existed before *Smith*.

But now RFRA is being frequently misused to harm other people. For example, it is being manipulated to allow discrimination against LGBTQ people and religious minorities, to deny people healthcare, and to allow taxpayer-funded foster care agencies to place religious litmus tests on potential parents and volunteers.

The panel addressed four major categories of church-state separation issues of particular interest to feminists: **healthcare, social services, employment, and education.**

HEALTHCARE

Dena Sher began the discussion about the use of religion to discriminate in healthcare with a look at *Hobby Lobby*.

Hobby Lobby is a for-profit corporation that runs a national chain of craft stores that employs tens of thousands of people. It sued the government because it claimed that because of the religious beliefs of the corporation’s owners, the corporation could not provide its employees with health insurance that covers all the FDA-approved forms of contraception as required by the Affordable Care Act and RFRA permits the corporation to deny its employees this insurance coverage.



In 2014 the Supreme Court ruled on Hobby Lobby’s case. In an unprecedented ruling, the Court, for the first time, used RFRA to grant a for-profit corporation a religious exemption, allowing Hobby Lobby’s owners to impose their religious beliefs on its company’s employees. The Supreme Court also changed the way RFRA works and as a result, it’s out of balance.

For example, RFRA should only come into play when there is a substantial burden on religious exercise. After Hobby Lobby, courts don’t really examine whether a burden that someone might claim really meets the test—courts too often just take people and companies at their word. Also, RFRA should not be used to grant exemptions that cause harm to others. The Supreme Court in Hobby Lobby paid lip service to this idea, but at the same time, didn’t acknowledge that stripping people of insurance coverage for contraception would cause them harm and undermine their access.

And *Hobby Lobby* was not an anomaly. There is a case in Texas where a court said a for-profit employer has a RFRA right not to cover PrEP, an HIV prevention medication, for its employees. And a nurse who works at a Veterans Administration hospital in Texas and has already been given an accommodation not to provide abortion care is trying to use RFRA to stop the facility from providing abortions at all.

Following *Hobby Lobby*, we began to think about how to restore RFRA. The result of this work is the Do No Harm Act, which was recently reintroduced in Congress by Reps. Bobby Scott, Steve Cohen, Jamie Raskin, and Mary Gay Scanlon and Sen. Cory Booker.

The Do No Harm Act amends the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) and restores it to its original intent. The bill will preserve RFRA’s power to protect religious freedom while clarifying that it may not be used to harm others, such as permitting discrimination or denying access to healthcare. **RFRA should never be used to exempt anyone from laws that protect other people’s basic civil rights.**

Under the Do No Harm Act, people could still use RFRA to protect religious exercise. For example, it still could be used to permit Sikhs and Muslims to wear beards or other articles of their faith while serving in the military. **But RFRA could not be used to bypass federal laws in ways that harm other people.**

Catherine Feuille continued the discussion about healthcare but talked about abortion in the post-*Dobbs* world.

When the Supreme Court overturned *Roe* in *Dobbs* in June 2022, states immediately began putting bans on abortion in place. In response, reproductive-rights advocates filed cases in state courts using a variety of approaches to restore the right to abortion.

Americans United, along with National Women’s Law Center, filed one of these state court challenges in Missouri. Our case is the only one that challenges an abortion ban based on the state constitution’s version of the Establishment Clause. Our argument is that, in enacting these abortion restrictions, the Missouri legislature enshrined in law a particular, narrow, Christian belief about when life begins and is forcing everyone to abide by that belief—making the abortion bans and restrictions an unconstitutional establishment of religion. Missouri has more robust protections for church-state separation in its constitution than the federal Establishment Clause does.



We brought the case on behalf of fourteen clergy members representing seven different denominations because the Missouri legislature is imposing a religious belief about abortion that is very different from their own. Indeed, the legislators were very clear about what they were doing. They wrote into the abortion ban statute that “Almighty God is the author of life.” And when they were debating the various bills, they made overtly religious statements in support.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Catherine explained that discrimination by foster care agencies is a big issue in social services. State governments contract with private foster care agencies, which are often religious, to help match prospective parents with children in the foster care system.

But some foster care agencies might refuse to work with same-sex parents, unmarried parents, parents of the “wrong” religion, etc. This kind of discrimination has highly gendered implications. For example, single women make up almost 25% of adoptive parents, compared to single men, which make up only 3.2%—discrimination against unmarried parents falls disproportionately on women. And same-sex couples are seven times more likely to raise adopted and foster children than straight couples and at the same time, nearly 20% of foster youth are LGBTQ—and they benefit from affirming parents.

Americans United is challenging discrimination by taxpayer-funded foster care agencies in several cases. In *Maddonna v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*, we represent Aimee Maddonna, a Catholic mother of three who wanted to volunteer with children in foster care as a path to foster and adopt a child. A taxpayer-funded agency in South Carolina, Miracle Hill, turned her away because they only allow fellow evangelical Protestants to work with foster children. They require volunteers and foster parents to sign their evangelical Protestant Statement of Faith and to

attend one of their approved churches. Miracle Hill has turned away 25-30 other families, including other Catholic families, Jewish families, and same-sex couples.

Instead of denouncing this discrimination, the administrations of President Donald Trump and South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster doubled down, sanctioning the government-funded religious discrimination. In January 2019, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services used RFRA to issue a blanket waiver allowing all government-funded foster care agencies in South Carolina to reject parents and volunteers who don't share their religious beliefs without being penalized by the federal government; McMaster issued a similar order in March 2018.

The lawsuit seeks to stop the state and federal government from authorizing and encouraging religious discrimination with taxpayer dollars. At its heart, the case is about two of our country's most sacred principles: defending religious freedom for all and protecting vulnerable children. It is a violation of the Establishment Clause to permit taxpayer-funded agencies to discriminate against prospective foster parents and volunteers based on their religion. And no child should be denied an opportunity for a loving, stable home when one is available to them.

We have two similar cases. In *Rutan-Ram v. Tennessee Department of Social Services*, we represent the Rutan-Rams, a Jewish couple that were turned away from a Methodist foster care agency that required foster parents to sign a statement of faith. And in *Marouf v. Becerra*, we represent a same-sex couple who live in Fort Worth and want to provide a home for an unaccompanied refugee child but were turned away because they didn't "mirror the Holy Family."

Dena continued the discussion of the misuse of religion to discriminate in social services.

The government funds many critical services that people, especially women and families, need in their daily lives—such as food banks, homeless or domestic violence shelters, job training centers, and elder care providers. And the government has long partnered with faith-based organizations to do so. The faith-based providers always followed the same rules as secular providers—for example, the faith-based organizations couldn't include religious activities in the services it provides.

During the George W. Bush administration, the federal agencies that distribute millions, if not billions, of dollars annually to fund social services implemented a series of regulations that were intended to blur the line separating church and state. So, it became easier to pressure people seeking services, who are often vulnerable, to participate in religious programming.

The Obama administration updated the regulations and put in important protections for people who use social services. For example, they could ask for an alternative provider if they felt uncomfortable with a religious provider. Unfortunately, the Trump administration stripped those protections and even suggested that faith-based providers can cite religion to ignore program requirements on who the program serves or what services can be provided. The Trump rules made it harder for people to get the services they need, and undermined the effectiveness of vital government-funded social service programs.

The Biden administration has proposed undoing many of the Trump changes and restoring many safeguards. The proposed regulations take important steps towards re-centering people in need, restoring their religious freedom protections, and ensuring they can access critical services. These proposed regulations will help ensure that people who use social services will not be pressured to participate in religious activities or be required to meet a religious litmus test in exchange for the help they need.

EMPLOYMENT

Catherine led off the discussion about discrimination in the workplace by discussing the ministerial exception.

The ministerial exception is a doctrine made up by judges in response to the wave of employment protections that came with the passage of laws like Title VII, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The ministerial exception is a carveout in employment discrimination law that says if an employee serves a vital religious function (like a priest), religious employers must be able to hire and fire them at their sole discretion because the religious groups need to be free to choose their own faith leaders. **When properly and narrowly applied, the ministerial exception upholds the separation of church and state by keeping government out of core religious decisions.** But religious conservatives have been trying to expand this doctrine in two frightening ways—in who counts as a minister and what kinds of legal claims are barred.

If religious extremists get their way, the ministerial exception would apply to every employee of every religious organization—from the church pastor down to the janitor. Sometimes the employers do this by slipping a clause into an employment contract labeling them as ministers, even if their job has no religion functions at all. And it's not just churches, but **religiously affiliated schools, hospitals, nonprofits, summer camps, and so on. This would threaten employment protections for more than 2 million workers.**

If this doctrine were expanded as broadly as some are pushing for, it would mean that **any one of those 2 million employees could be fired for literally any reason—for getting pregnant, for being diagnosed with breast cancer, for being a woman who was vocal about gender discrimination in the workplace.** Those are all real examples of ministerial exception cases, where the courts said “Tough luck. Even though those actions violate federal employment protections, your employer gets an exception.”

As for legal claims, it used to be that the ministerial exception would just prevent plaintiffs from prevailing on hiring discrimination and wrongful termination claims—but it's been expanding into new types of claims apart from hiring/firing, including workplace harassment claims; wage and hour regulations, which disproportionately affect women; contract disputes; and even defamation.

Many cases, including some where AU represents workers who were wrongfully terminated, are working their way through the courts.

Dena explained that discrimination in employment isn't limited to religious employers. Other kinds of employers, including for-profit corporations, want to be able use religion to discriminate against their employees and applicants. In 2020 in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, the Supreme Court affirmed that Title VII's bar on sex discrimination includes sexual orientation and gender identity. At the same time, however, the opinion noted that employers might be able to use RFRA to get out of Title VII's requirements. Since then, **at least one federal court has ruled that for-profit businesses can use RFRA to discriminate against LGBTQ employees and applicants—in violation of Title VII. We expect more of these cases to come.**

EDUCATION

Maggie talked about several issues involving public charter schools.

Charter schools are understood to be public schools; they must abide by the Constitution and by nondiscrimination laws. In 2022 in *Carson v. Makin*, the Supreme Court held that if the state funds secular private schools it must fund religious private schools that teach religion. Following this decision, there is a strong push to declare that charter schools are private schools. The result would be that charter schools could discriminate and teach religion—and still get taxpayer funding. The implications are quite serious.

For example, a North Carolina **charter school imposes a dress code that requires girls to wear skirts** “to preserve chivalry” which the school explained means that a woman is “regarded as a fragile vessel that men are supposed to take care of and honor.” The ACLU challenged this dress code on behalf of three female students, asserting that prohibiting girls from wearing pants or shorts violates both Title IX, which prohibits discrimination based on sex in federally funded educational activities, and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, which limits discrimination by state and local governmental entities. In *Peltier v. Charter Day School*, the ACLU prevailed on both questions before a full panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. This should be a simple case, but the school asserts that it is essentially a

private school and hence not obligated to comply with any of the requirements of the U.S. Constitution and has appealed that question to the Supreme Court, which is currently deciding whether to hear it next term. If North Carolina charter schools are not state actors, then it is likely that churches and other religious entities will seek to establish publicly funded charter schools in North Carolina and argue that *Carson v Makin* obligates the state to authorize them.

And in Oklahoma, a Catholic school has applied to be a virtual charter school. The application says that it will **“operate the school as a Catholic School.”** The school will be a “place of evangelization” that “participates in the evangelizing mission of the Church.” **It will teach religion to all its students.**

The school is also trying to dodge nondiscrimination laws that apply to public charter schools. If it becomes a charter school, the school says it will adhere to federal laws and statutes, but “only to the extent the teachings of the Catholic Church allow” and that “are not inconsistent with the faith or moral teaching of the catholic Church.”

Oklahoma is a test case and on June 5, 2023, a state board approved the Catholic charter school. Following this decision, we should anticipate additional efforts to fund the teaching of religion and discrimination in charter schools across the country.

QUESTIONS

Q: How can we change course on this and ensure our elected officials support the separation of church and state?

A: Americans United is a 501(c)(3), so we cannot endorse or oppose candidates for office. But we are launching a national campaign focused on building a recommitment to the separation of church and state.

The fundamental right to be treated equally under the law depends upon the separation of church and state. This foundational American principle ensures we all can live as ourselves and believe as we choose. When religious extremists and their lawmaker allies try to force everyone else to live by their beliefs and to use religion as a license to harm others, they threaten our freedom to live as ourselves, which widens inequality in our communities and country. Our nation promises everyone the freedom to believe as they want, but our laws cannot allow anyone to use their religious beliefs to harm others. Separation of church and state frees us to come together as equals and build a stronger democracy.

Q: Can you talk a little about the recently released Department of Education guidance on prayer and religious expression in public schools?

A: The Biden administration updated the guidance, which was first issued in 1996 and had been changed in 2003 and 2020. The newly updated guidance centers the religious freedom of public-school students and reaffirms, public schools must be open and inclusive for students of every religion and none.

Perhaps most importantly, the guidance emphasizes that public school employees, including teachers and coaches, may not coerce students to pray. Nothing about the Supreme Court’s 2022 decision in *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District* that involved a public high school football coach praying after games changes the fact that the Constitution prohibits public schools from sponsoring prayer. This line has always been clear: Public school employees and officials cannot take advantage of their power and position to impose their personal religion on a captive audience of schoolchildren.

Q: Can you talk about religious schools that accept vouchers in the DC private school voucher program?

A: The DC private school voucher program is the only federally funded voucher program in the country. Like all other voucher programs, though, it predominantly funds religious schools and even though the voucher should not fund discrimination, we have found a lot of statements of faith on these schools’ websites.

Although promoted as “school choice,” private school vouchers do not provide real choice to students and parents. The “choice” in voucher programs actually lies with the private schools, which may turn students away for a variety of reasons often including disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, religion, academic achievement, and economic status.

In contrast, public schools are open to all. Public schools educate nearly 90% of our country's students and are a cornerstone of our communities. Private school voucher programs undermine our nation's public schools by diverting desperately needed resources away from the public school system to fund the education of a few, select students in private, often religious, schools.

Private school vouchers fail to improve students' academic achievement. Indeed, they often cause students to perform worse than their peers who aren't in the voucher program: recent studies of the Louisiana, Indiana, Ohio, and Washington, DC, programs show that voucher students experienced significant declines in their academic performance. The impact of accepting a voucher on academic achievement in these programs is on par with or worse than the learning loss caused by Hurricane Katrina and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Private school voucher programs have a sordid history. Rooted in attempts to evade desegregation orders in the wake of *Brown v. Board of Education*, they still fund discrimination today. Despite receiving public funds, voucher schools do not abide by the same civil rights laws as public schools. Students who attend private schools with vouchers are also stripped of protections for their civil rights and liberties. Students with disabilities are especially underserved by vouchers. Voucher schools do not provide the same quantity and quality of services available to students with disabilities in public schools and even deny students with disabilities admission or subject them to inappropriate or excessive suspensions or expulsions.

In addition, voucher programs often lack even the most basic accountability standards and oversight requirements to ensure that taxpayer money is not being wasted.

Q: How do we fight the rewriting of history and manufactured controversies like Critical Race Theory (CRT)?

A: There is so much happening that it can be overwhelming to think about how to fight back. This is an issue that seems to be unfolding at the state and local level. It's possible to make change at the local level, like with school boards. Also keep in mind an interesting stat: most people get their news from local sources, like their local paper. Thus, engagement with local reporters and letters to the editor are really important ways to reach members of your community.

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

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

Tues June 13, 3 pm.-4:30 pm. Women in Sports Careers. Women's Bureau. Virtual. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Wed. June 14. 5pm. A Student Leader Forum on Affirmative Action: What's Next. Virtual. Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and many others. [Register](#) Now

Wed. June 14. 6:30 pm Celebration of Juneteenth: Reynauld Smith's History of the Holiday. Virtual. Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club [FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)

Thur. June 15, 6:-7 PM NWHM Presents! The Continued Legacy of Title IX. Conversation with Eileen Tamura and Sherry Boschert. National Women's History Museum. [Register](#)

Thur. June 15; 8 pm Virtual Welcome Call Training. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America: [FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)

Sat. June 17 and Sun June 18 and Fri June 23. View Washington's feminist history from a LGBTQ+ perspective on a walking tour that highlights stories of defiance, resistance, and triumph. Smithsonian [FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)

Tues. June 20, Noon to 1:30 pm. CWI election meeting and discussion of strategies to ensure ERA is in the Constitution as the 28th Amendment and will be fully implemented. [Registration Link](#)

Tues. June 20, 1:30-5 pm. Hybrid Event iOme College Challenge Forum. New Perspectives: An Intergenerational Discussion on Retirement Solutions. WISER Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement. [REGISTER](#)

Tues. June 20, 6:30-8:30 pm WDC Biennial Meeting & Officer Election Congressman Jamie Raskin & Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller Glen Echo Park Bumper Car Pavilion & Reception. Montgomery Co. Women's Democratic Club.

Tues. June 20, 6:45 pm Virtual Lecture. Gender Sexuality, and the Fairy Tale. Folklorists Sara Cleto and Brittany Warman uncover some surprisingly unconventional old fairy tales and discuss how modern writers' LGBTQ+ twists on tradition can be wonderfully disruptive to our expectations of stories that begin with "Once upon a time." Smithsonian [FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)

Sat. June 24, Women's March, Washington DC and other locations to establish National Day of Action.

Wed. June 28. 4-5:15 pm. The Gender Wage Gap and Occupational Segregation: Tackling the Undervaluation of Human Services Work and Care Work. IWPR and Equal Pay Today

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

Fri July 21-Sat. July 22. ERA Centennial Convention, Seneca Falls, NY [For more information and to register](#)
If you live in Maryland, DC or Virginia and would like info about transportation and/or housing for this trip, contact info@mcmdnow.org and we'll connect you with those planning group packages.

Sun. July 30, 3-4pm Virtual. Women's History Book Club: The Secret History of Home Economics. National Women's History Museum. [Register](#)

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. 2022-2025 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; or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)



[Zoom Meeting Registration Link](#) for Tues. Sept. 26th Noon-1:30 PM

“Equal Rights Amendment Centennial Convention: A Multigenerational Push in Seneca Falls”

Generation Ratify, a youth led group, focusing on getting the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) into the US Constitution arranged the 100 year celebration of the first introduction of the ERA at the ERA Centennial Convention in Seneca Falls, NY on Fri July 21-Sat. July 22, 2023. They invited others who had been working decades to get ERA ratified and into the Constitution. ERA has now been ratified by ¾ of the states as required and is the 28th Amendment to the Constitution, but like many other Amendments is facing opposition to its full enshrinement in the Constitution. The Centennial Convention aimed to help accomplish this goal.

The Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) had three Board members attend the Convention and will use this meeting to report on how it was organized, implemented and its accomplishments. The CWI Board Members who took the ERA bus to Seneca Falls were Connie Cordovilla, Vice President, Membership, Holly Joseph, Treasurer and Loretta Gubernatis Vice-President for Media Outreach who made videos of much of this event.

Connie Cordovilla will Emcee and introduce this meeting. Others, such as **Claudia Nachega**, Deputy Executive Director, Generation Ratify, **Lisa Sales**, Pres. of Va NOW, and **Zakiya Thomas**, CEO of the ERA Coalition will explain the role of their organization and if possible show some key excerpts of speakers from the videos by Loretto Gubernatis. **Holly Joseph** will describe how this convention builds on our June 20th CWI meeting on “When Will Women's Voices Be Heard?” Here is the meeting link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=EyYqfL8FpC4 . **Loretto Gubernatis** will discuss the value of working with the younger generation.

Lisa Sales organized a bus from Washington, DC to and from Seneca Falls, NY. In addition to carrying about 40 attendees, she arranged for the bus to be wrapped in ERA symbols to publicize this important event. She also helped organize the kickoff rally from the US Capitol which she will explain and show some of the speeches by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Co Chair of the Congressional ERA Caucus and others. Lisa will also comment on the multi racial and intergeneration interaction of participants.

Claudia Nachega, Deputy Executive Director, Generation Ratify will provide a background on its formation and. success and the impetus for the Centennial Convention. She will also discuss the importance of the younger generation's participation and plans for the future.

Zakiya Thomas. President and CEO of the ERA Coalition /Fund for Women's Equality, will describe how the Coalition was one of the many supporters of the Convention and discuss future plans for full recognition of the ERA and how the ERA Coalition operates including it's participation in the 8/26 60th Anniversary March on Washington and President Biden's latest statement supporting ERA.

Holly Joseph and **Loretto Gubernatis** will conclude with key information on what is needed to get Congressional support for approval and implementation of the ERA by pointing out that it is not unusual for an Amendment to the Constitution to have opposition even after it is ratified by the required number of states and the great value in working intergenerationally.

Remember to register to attend this Sept 26 CWI noon Zoom meeting at this [Registration Link](#).

The Oct. 24 CWI Meeting will be on Women's Health Issues.

Summary and Commentary on June 20, 2023 CWI Meeting on “When Will Women’s Voices Be Heard? When Will the Equal Rights Amendment Be Implemented?” by Holly Joseph and Nicole Vorrasi Bates.

Here is the meeting recording link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EyYqfL8FpC4>.



Holly Joseph started the program by stating that the initial idea for this program was to analyze why women voices haven’t been heard, but the most prominent example of that has become in the passage of the **Equal Rights Amendment** which is the quest for women’s equality to be added to the Constitution. ERA states:

Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex.

Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

The movement for women’s rights was organized and advanced at the 1848 Convention at Seneca Falls. While we are focusing on Alice Paul as a powerhouse in the Equal Rights Amendment movement, she wasn’t at the 1848 Convention as she wasn’t born until 1885. She was born to two Quakers, William Paul and Tacie Parry whose father, Judge William Parry, was one of the founders of Swarthmore College. Tacie might have been one of the first women graduates of the college had she not dropped out of the college, there being no provision for married women to attend Swarthmore. While Alice did attend Swarthmore, graduating in 1905 – at 20 – she then went to England to further her studies. There she joined what was called a militant movement for women’s suffrage. She worked with another American, Lucy Burns, as well as Crystal Pankhurst, a leading British advocate. She returned to her native United States bringing with her work for suffrage where she pursued suffrage both alone and with other advocates. She was again called a young militant in leading the National Woman’s Party. Suffrage finally passed as the 18th Amendment, and on August 18, 1920, it was ratified. The following November, eight million women voted. In addition to heading the National Woman’s Party, she turned her attention to starting a worldwide women’s party in Geneva just before World War I began. The World Woman’s Party provided sanctuary to many women during the war. Alice tried most diligently to focus on keeping suffrage separate from the war just as she tried against great odds to keep the ERA separate from the war in Vietnam.

The ERA passed in Congress in 1972 and was sent to the states, thirty-eight of them needed for ratification, but with an imposed seven-year deadline. Seven years was extended three more years under the Carter Administration, the last step of getting women’s equality established in the Constitution. Alice died in 1977 without seeing the ERA ratified. Noteworthy is the fact that Canada, France, Ireland, Spain, and Sweden all have statements of gender equality in their constitutions. Senator Ben Cardin, D/MD, a sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment legislation, said the following, “How our nation treats women is a barometer of success. Equality for women is long overdue.” While Alice Paul said “ordinary equality is not complicated”, it actually is complicated, as there are numerous approaches and countless impediments to achieving it.



Eleanor (Ellie) Smeal, early NOW president and co-founder and current President of the Feminist Majority, and Feminist Majority Foundation actually met Alice Paul and recounted her first-hand experience and efforts. Ellie began by saying that she met Alice Paul at the National NOW silent vigil at the steps at the U.S. Senate, right before the vote on the ERA. After the vigil, some of the group was to go to the Sewall-Belmont House (now the Belmont-Paul House) where Alice Paul lived and was to host a group of ERA activists from Pittsburgh to eat after the vigil and to stay overnight. Ellie had reservations about bothering the host when the vigil went really late. Nonetheless, the group was welcomed and generously treated to breakfast and housing.

Alice Paul – and those in the National Woman’s Party - also promised supporters a party when the ERA passed in Congress, which it did on March 22, 1972. Attendees didn’t see Alice Paul, so Phyllis Weathersby searched the house to

find her upstairs crying. Phyllis hoped it was for joy and brought others to join. But Alice's tears were instead out of remorse – on several grounds: she feared that the deadline would prevent the ERA's timely ratification. As it turns out, she was right. Alice left Washington to go to a facility in New Jersey soon. Several ERA supporters visited her. At her death in 1977, the ERA was ratified in 35 states – three short of the required 38.

ERA had been suppressed by the Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, Emanuel Celler, D/NY. (Martha Griffiths, D/MI, circumvented him by getting a discharge petition to get a favorable vote.) Elizabeth Holtzman, D/NY, defeated Celler and authored the deadline extension which President Carter signed in 1978. She pointed out the polling that reflected ERA support then. Favorable poll results are much higher now – up to 80%. Ellie proffered that Congress at that time was an old men's club with women and people of color mostly excluded. She said that a majority now believes that the ERA has already been ratified, having met the requirement of support of 3/4 of the states (38) and 2/3 of Congress. Since the timeline was in the preamble rather than in what the states voted on, time limits are not binding.

Where we are currently: Ellie explained that from the beginning of our country, the President was given no role in the amendment process – a conscious effort by the Framers of the Constitution to avert a dictatorship. The House voted to remove the deadline, but the Senate never has. In the first time since 1982, there are two strong ERA resolutions in Congress. Carefully drafted by scholars, they assert that the ERA is ratified and valid – and has taken effect. Rep. Ayanna Pressley's D/MA, Resolution, which has 203 House cosponsors, and the companion bill in the Senate, S.J.Res. 4, sponsored by Sen. Cardin, D/MD, had a majority of supporters (53), but not enough to overcome the Senate filibuster requirement of 60 votes. Some supporters wanted the vote to show where members of Congress really stood on the ERA. After that vote in June, 2023, Sen. Schumer, D/NY, Senate Majority Leader, changed his vote to the prevailing side so that, under Senate rules, he could bring it up again during the session. Enabling another vote would make a stronger case, in the opinion of many, for the Court to see support.

Ellie explained that the court will likely be involved – possibly because of challenges from the rescission states, so the strongest case is essential. (She said that while making history, one doesn't know how it will turn out.)

In a rally outside the White House attendees learned that Biden's Office of Legal Counsel has pushed aside the statement of the former Trump opinion. She pointed out that from the founding of the Constitution, the President was given no role in the amending process nor do the governors – to avoid tyrants/dictators. She notes that Biden's support for ERA has been unwavering in his voting. Nevertheless, she is hopeful and feels that we have never been so close to ERA inclusion in the Constitution. She also notes that the ERA's importance has grown. She also noted Alito's interpretation of the 14th's Amendment regarding right to privacy is outrageous. So is Justice Thomas's, and she advises that everyone read them. Insurance companies and the Catholic Church have had undue weight in their opposition. Elizabeth Cady Stanton said until we address the discrimination in religion it will continue in politics. The Carters were strong supporters of the ERA, with Jimmy Carter's books on the subject of women in churches. Discussion followed on the strong arm of Chairman Sam Ervin who put the fear of equality of women as a disaster for the country. The effect of the discrimination wasn't clear at the time; the numbers have come in, and it was staggering. Since then some things have been corrected – like maternity costs. Ellie cited schools that didn't admit women.



Nicole Vorrasi Bates is the Founder and Executive Director of Shattering Glass, a non-profit dedicated to the fight for gender equity and gender equality. She had worked for twenty-two years in the male-dominated field of corporate tax law, doing mergers and acquisitions. Having made partner in a field she found unwelcoming to women, particularly women of color and mothers, she left to do something else. Then the pandemic hit, and she decided to start "Shattering Glass",

because she saw how much work there was to do. She noticed how easy it was to have rights rolled back – with changes in politicians and the judges they appoint. Recognizing the Equal Rights Amendment is the first critical step towards attaining gender equality, Nicole has been working to ensure the ERA is published as the 28th Amendment to our Constitution.

Having passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and having been ratified by 3/4s of the States, the ERA has satisfied all requirements and is currently the 28th Amendment. There are two parallel strategies: Ellie described the one focused on Congress. And, yes, we agree: the ERA is done. It has been ratified; it was passed. It just needs to be enshrined in the Constitution. One strategy is to go to Congress and remove all doubts that the ERA is actually ratified right now. The other strategy is to get the ERA published in the Constitution – literally published means printed in the Constitution with the Equal Rights Amendment in it because all the requirements have been satisfied. That should have happened on January 27, 2020, when Virginia became the 38th and final state needed for ratification. Nicole wants the US Archivist to perform her ministerial duty of printing a revised Constitution which includes the ERA as the 28th Amendment. When Nevada ratified in 2017, the U.S. Archivist certified it as tasked by federal statute to collect the ratifications and call and print them in the Constitution – that is the Archivist’s job then David Ferriero, now Colleen Shogan. When Illinois ratified in 2018 - again, the Archivist accepted and certified Illinois’s ratification. It was only in 2020 when the Archivist didn’t accept Virginia’s ratification. The reason being is that in 2019, when it was obvious that Virginia was going to ratify, the states of Alabama, North Dakota, and Louisiana initiated a lawsuit against the Archivist saying “the ERA is dead, you cannot accept ratifications.” Publication has not yet happened as it has been blocked by the Executive Branch – first the Trump Administration and now the Biden Administration, although all 27 other Amendments have been published when the required number of certifications were received despite any challenges.

This interference by the Executive Branch shifted the burden of proof from the opponents of equality to the proponents of equality to establish the ERA as valid. And based on numerous lawsuits filed to date and the Biden Administration’s admission, ERA proponents have been unable to overcome the procedural hurdles to do so.

Nicole described why the ERA and its immediate publication are critical to protecting the rights of women, girls and LGBTQIA+ people, as well as how ERAs in state constitutions have been used recently to defeat abortion and gender affirming care restrictions. As a result, the calls for publication of the ERA are growing rapidly. From US Senators and Representatives, to state legislatures and hundreds of democracy and gender justice organizations, unions, professional associations and more passing resolutions.

Take Action: Sign ERA Petition: www.sign4era.org/

[Results of Elections on June 20, 2023 CWI BOARD of Directors](#)

CWI BOARD MEMBER TERMS ARE 2 YEARS. The following CWI board members’ terms ended June 30, 2023 but they were re-elected at the June 20, 2023 CWI meeting to continue to serve as CWI Board Members for July 1, 2023 –June 30, 2025.

Specifically, re-elected Co-President Sue Klein has agreed to continue to serve as Co-President. Connie Cordovilla has agreed to continue as VP Membership. D. Anne Martin will continue as VP Organizational Management. Sherry Klein will continue as VP Technology. Alotta Taylor will continue as VP Diversity. Sheila Wickouski will resume a 2-year board member term as VP, Women in the Arts along with two new Board members: Jan Erickson from NOW, who will also serve as CWI Co-President and Denise Hyater Lindenmuth from the National Women’s Health Network (NWHN), who will serve as VP for Women’s Health.

Additionally, the following CWI Board Members will continue the second year of their terms: Holly Taggart Joseph as Treasurer, Jeanette Lim Esbrook, VP Legal Affairs, and Loretto Gubernatis, VP Media Outreach.

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

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

Mon. Sept. 18, 3:30 PM. This is Climate: Women Leading the Charge. Virtual Washington Post [Register to watch](#)

Mon. Sept. 18, 7-8:30 PM. Harnessing the Power of the Youth Vote. Virtual. League of women Voters of Montgomery County, MD [TO REGISTER](#)

Tues. Sept. 19 , 6-7 PM. Abortion Rights and the Future of State Constitutions, Brennan Center for Justice. Virtual. [RSVP today.](#)

Sat. Sept 23, 11 AM to 8 PM, Washington DC area ERA Centennial Excursions and Reception at 6 PM, Alice Paul Institute. For more information about this event, please contact Heather at hminty@alicepaul.org. [Purchase Tickets](#)

Tue. Sept. 26 Noon-1:30 PM CWI Zoom meeting “Equal Rights Amendment Centennial Convention: A Multigenerational Push in Seneca Falls”, Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues [Zoom Meeting Registration Link](#)

Wed. Sept 27, 11am Safe Abortion Worldwide, Virtual . Catholics for Choice. [TO REGISTER](#)

Wed. Sept. 27 3-4:15 pm “Safe Schools, Thriving Students: School, District, State, and Federal Policy Lessons” Learning Policy Institute. [Register](#)

Thur. Sept 28, 7 PM. Meet Stem Picture Book Author and Founder of Let’s Engineer: Sheryl Haft. National Girls Collaborative Project. [REGISTER](#)

Oct 12-14 Research on Women and Education 50th Annual Conference, Embassy Suites Hotel, 3600 Paradise Rd. , Las Vegas, NV Register www.aera.net/Events-Meetings/SIG98ConferenceRegistration **HOTEL RESERVATIONS LINK: Be sure to click "Attendee"** <https://book.passkey.com/event/50638220/owner/4294/home>

Tue. Oct. 17, 3:30 PM, Webinar: Girls STEAM Ahead with NASA Resources in Action. National Girls Collaborative Project. [REGISTER](#)

Tue. Oct. 24, 12 noon to 1:30 PM. Update on Federal Legislation on Women’s Health Issues. Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues and the National Women’s Health Network.

SPECIAL FALL WOMEN IN THE ARTS EVENTS/EXHIBITS IN DC-BALTIMORE AREA TO END OF YEAR BY CWI’s SHEILA WICKOUSKI, VP FOR WOMEN AND THE ARTS

ON STAGE

The Shakespeare Theatre starts the season with *Evita* at the Shakespeare Theatre (Sept. 5 to Oct 15 in Harmon Hall) - Eva Peron is the First Lady of Argentina in this classic musical with a new take.

Arena Stage with a Broadway hit *POTUS Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive...* about how seven women of dramatically different backgrounds minimize the damage done by male arrogance and political posturing, in an endearing homage to the women who keep things running behind the scenes. (Oct. 13-Nov. 13 in the Fichandler Stage)

WOMEN IN THE AIR AND THE OPERA

Washington National Opera's *Grounded* at The Kennedy Center Opera House Oct 28- Nov. 13 is Jeanine Tesori's opera based on the award-winning play by George Brant and co-produced with the Metropolitan Opera. Fighter-pilot Jess is an accomplished F-16 fighter pilot—until pregnancy grounds her to the “chair force” to target enemies via drones from a trailer in Las Vegas. This new arrangement seems ideal at first: by day, Jess uses her elite training to protect and serve America, and by night, she returns to her family. Ultimately, we see that protecting Jess from physical danger does little to shield her from the psychological trauma of war-by-proxy.

NASM LECTURES

The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's evening lectures will explore the stories of women and people of color in aviation and spaceflight, from NASA's first female astronauts to the desegregation of commercial aviation. Lectures take place at one of the museum's two locations and will also be streamed online. All lectures are free to the public, but they require advance registration.

This fall's Aviation Adventures lectures will focus on stories from the museum's “America by Air” exhibition, which explores the history of commercial aviation. “Congressman Charles C. Diggs Jr. and the Desegregation of Commercial Air Transportation” will take place Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. ET at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

Oct. 26: “The Pan Am Stewardess at War and Peace” will take place on Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. ET at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. Julia Cooke, author of the book *Come Fly the World: The Jet Age Story of the Women of Pan Am*, will discuss the often-overlooked contributions of Pan American Airways stewardesses to addressing the geopolitical crises of the 1960s and '70s, from escorting dignitaries and refugees to flying into war zones.

ART MUSEUMS

The Baltimore Museum of Art is presenting *Making Her Mark: A History of European Women Artists* (Oct 1 to Jan 7, 2024). Focus is on women artists from the 15th to 18th century.

The National Museum of Women in the Arts reopens on Oct 21 with exhibition *The Sky's The Limit* (to Feb. 25, 2024)

Smithsonian American Art Museum presents *Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas* (September 15, 2023 – June 2, 2024)

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden will present an exhibit by Simon Leigh Nov. 3, 2023 – March 3, 2024

The Baltimore Museum of Art exhibit *Work: Women Printmakers of the WPA*, opens on November 5 through June 30, 2024.

EVENTS

The National Gallery of Art will present *Women in Art and Music: an Early Modern Global Conference* on October 20-21 open to the public in the East Building Auditorium

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

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Jan Erickson; Holly Taggart Joseph, Treasurer; Connie Cordovilla, VP Membership; Sheila Wickowski, VP Women and the Arts; Loretto Gubernatis; VP Media Outreach; Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Legal Affairs; Sherry Klein; VP Technology; Anne Martin, VP Organizational Management; Alotta Taylor, VP Diversity, Denise Hyater Lindenmuth, VP Women's Health



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. 2022-2025 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; or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)

Summary of the Sept. 26, 2023 CWI Meeting on "Equal Rights Amendment Centennial Convention: A Multigenerational Push in Seneca Falls" by Jan Erickson, Co-President, CWI



The September meeting of the Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues continued the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment. Three of CWI’s Board members went on the bus to the “Equal Rights Amendment Centennial Convention: A Multigenerational Push in Seneca Falls”. They were **Connie Cordovilla**, Holly Joseph and Loretto Gubernatis. Connie emceed this Sept. 26 program which is available on www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wk1n1VVAWIQ. This meeting video includes many photos and parts of videos of the events that were shown along with the important comments by the presenters who attended the ERA Centennial Convention held in historic Seneca Falls, NY on July 21 and 22.

Organizers for this centennial convention were leaders from **Generation Ratify** (www.generationratify.org), a young feminist organization which aims to engage the next generation in working to finally incorporate the Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S. Constitution. The ERA has been ratified by three-fourths of the states – all that is necessary to be certified and published, and then placed in the U.S. Constitution. The Generation Ratify organizers wanted the convention to focus on diverse and intergenerational conversations, how to organize, and to link the ERA effort to the civil rights movement.

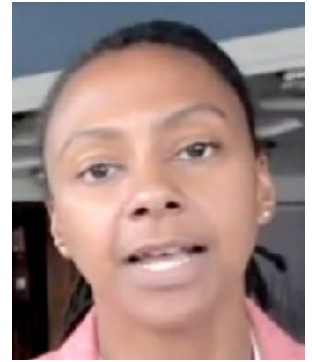
Nearly 300 persons attended the Seneca Falls celebration - about half were younger feminists. Attendees had the memorable experience of meeting in the First Presbyterian Church. This is the very church where ERA author Alice Paul read the text of the proposed amendment which then was intended as a protection for the 19th Women’s Suffrage Amendment.

Prior to attendees from the D.C. area leaving for the convention, a press conference was held at the U.S. Capitol to provide a proper send-off for 40 bus travelers to the convention. Featured speakers included Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA), Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) and Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO) – the latter two are key sponsors of pending ERA legislation. Statements of other experts such as Eleanor Smeal, a long time ERA leader, are in videos listed at the end of this summary. A beautifully decorated Equality Centennial bus awaited the travelers for the six-hour trip north. The design of the bus answered the question “What’s in it for me?” and acted as a moving billboard extolling the benefits of the Equal Rights Amendment. It also featured hundreds of signatures of attendees to the Convention.



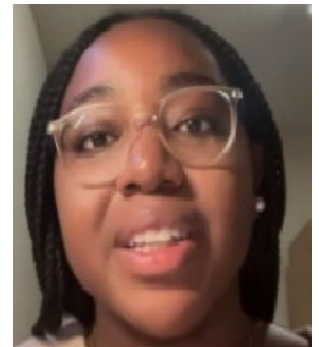
Photo taken in DC by Perry Klein

The first program speaker was **Zakiya Thomas**, CEO of the ERA Coalition/ Fund for Women’s Equality (www.ERACoalition.org), now consisting of more than 300 organizations. She explained the role of the ERA Coalition in building the movement to include the ERA in the U.S. Constitution. She noted the ERA Coalition’s participation in the August 26th 60th Anniversary of the March on Washington and President Biden’s recent statement in support of the ERA. Zakiya spoke about the Coalition’s plans to gain full recognition of the ERA. Their main objective is to bring together groups from a wide range of advocacy efforts, noting that true equality is for everyone. Various forces are working to roll back our rights, but supporters of the ERA are all in this together to expand and protect our equal rights.



Lisa Sales, President of Virginia NOW, designed the bus wrap and trip, and the Capitol Hill send-off press conference. Lisa explained that because Seneca Falls is very small, it was difficult to figure out accessibility and accommodations. There were only three weeks to plan and execute the vision of the event. Lisa also encouraged people to use the full term “Equal Rights Amendment” instead of ERA to make it clear to all what we need. She wrapped up her presentation with a picture from 1923 and a recreation of a picture from 2023. Both Lisa and Zakiya included excerpted video of speakers taken by Loretto Gubernatis.

Claudia Nachea, Deputy Executive Director of Generation Ratify, talked about the organization’s role in planning and executing the convention. Generation Ratify worked closely with The ERA Project at Columbia University Law School, to prepare a curriculum for the convention. Youth participation was paid for by adult tickets to make the event more financially accessible for young people. The convention included workshops on coalition building, organizing, and supporting young people. A Manifesto listing the elements of full equality was read and vocally affirmed by attendees at the convention.



Following the convention, there was an action in the District of Columbia where young people occupied Constitution Avenue outside the National Archives. This action called on the Archivist of the United States to certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment. Claudia also said that the best ways to help the young movement are through financial support, time, work, and expertise.



Closing the program was longtime ERA advocate and CWI Treasurer, **Holly Joseph** who described how the ERA Centennial Convention in Seneca Falls builds on CWI’s June 20th meeting, “When Will Women’s Voices Be Heard? When Will the Equal Rights Amendment be Implemented?” Here is the June meeting link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=EyYqfL8FpC4. Holly urged that that we all need to step up the action for the ERA. Soon federal, local, and state elections are going to be very important to getting the ERA in the Constitution and safeguarding against a rollback of our rights. Holly pointed out it is not unusual for an amendment to the Constitution to have opposition even after it is ratified by the required number of states. She emphasized the importance of actions to get Congressional support for approval and implementation of the ERA. And with Loretto Gubernatis joining her, they emphasized the great value in working intergenerationally.

10-12-23 Recent surveys conducted by Lake Research Partners and sponsored by *Ms.* magazine and the Feminist Majority Foundation show that **we are the overwhelming majority**. What's more, polling shows that when you put abortion and women's rights (especially the ERA) together, they emerge as the 2nd most important issue of the 2024 election.

Take Action: Sign ERA Petition: www.sign4ERA.org

Other Key Resources on the ERA Centennial Convention

"Biden Challenges Congress to Take Action on ERA" by Roxy Szal, Msmagazine.com 8/28/2023.
<https://msmagazine.com/2023/08/28/biden-equal-rights-amendment/>
<https://msmagazine.com/2023/08/28/biden-equal-rights-amendment/>

Link to "ERA Centennial Convention in Seneca Falls: Intergenerational, Diverse, and Determined" by Carrie N. Baker, Msmagazine.com, 7/26/2023 <https://msmagazine.com/2023/07/26/seneca-falls-equal-rights-amendment/>

Link to 30 minute video by Loretto Gubernatis on July 20, 2023 send-off Press Conference on Capitol Hill and other highlights of the Seneca Falls ERA Centennial Convention. <https://youtu.be/x6scSHdJYzk>

Link to "Renewing our Commitment to the ERA on its 100th Anniversary" by Brigid Rawdon, NOW intern, Aug. 2023 [Renewing our Commitment to the ERA on its 100th Anniversary - National Organization for Women \(now.org\)](https://now.org/blog/renewing-our-commitment-to-the-era-on-its-100th-anniversary/) or <https://now.org/blog/renewing-our-commitment-to-the-era-on-its-100th-anniversary/>

ERA Project Events from the Columbia University Law School.
<https://gender-sexuality.law.columbia.edu/content/era-project-events>

Convention Days & ERA Centennial Celebration from the Women's Hall of Fame.
www.womenofthehall.org/event/convention-days-era-centennial-celebration/

The Equal Rights Amendment: Why is it Needed: from Generation Ratify www.generationratify.org/the-era

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues 9/26/23 Meeting. "Equal Rights Amendment Centennial Convention: A Multigenerational Push in Seneca Falls" www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wk1n1VVAwIQ

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

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

Tuesday Oct. 17 6:45 pm to 8 pm Women Physicists and Astronomers. Virtual, Smithsonian Associates. [FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TICKETS](#)

Wednesday Oct. 18. World Menopause Day. For more info see National Women's Health Network.
<https://www.mobilize.us/join/23950865/1:84d12d99a8e2c272b58ddf1ab49f41c97605e98bfd0d5a751b25bf844d845a7/>

Wednesday Oct. 18, 6-9 pm. Safe not Sexualized. Virtual. For details, go here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/safe-not-sexualized-tickets-721334580147/> /
To access the online event page, go here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/x/safe-not-sexualized-tickets-721334580147>

Wednesday Oct. 18, 6-9 pm. Police Sexual Violence in Schools, For details, go here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/police-sexual-violence-in-schools-report-launch-conversation-tickets-721334580147>

To access the online event page, go here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/x/police-sexual-violence-in-schools-report-launch-conversation-tickets-721334580147>

Thursday Oct 19, 6-7:45 pm. Brown Lecture “Otherwise Qualified: The Untold Story of *Brown* and Black Educators’ Professional Superiority,” by **Leslie Fenwick**, In person and virtual. Free, Reagan building and International Trade Center followed by a reception. Register for in person [register](#) or virtual. [Click here to register to watch the livestream.](#) American Education Research Association.

Thursday Oct 19, 6:30-8 pm, Jill Wine-Banks, MSNBC Legal Analyst, Montgomery County Women’s Democratic Club, **In person** [FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER](#)

Saturday Oct. 21, Noon-4 pm. United For Equality Fall Conference | In Person, Business and Professional Women of Maryland For questions or to RSVP, contact Susan Horst at susanhorst@yahoo.com. [FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Monday Oct. 23. 1:15-2:45 pm. Understanding Masculinities to Dismantle Patriarchal Power. International Peace Institute, Equimundo and the New Lines Institute. [Register to attend virtually.](#)

Tuesday Oct. 24. Noon -1 pm [The National Women’s Health Network with a focus on Mifepristone. Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues](#), Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcscuusqTMuHNEp2K7Sy4bVHIYHW7T8k7IS>

Tuesday Oct. 24, 7=8:30 pm. #MeToo & Beyond: An Evening With Ashley Judd, Diane Rosenfeld, Fatima Goss Graves, & Amanda Nguyen In Person. 600 1ST NW, Washington, DC, National women’s History Museum. [Click here](#) to learn more and to purchase a general admission ticket, or if you’re a student, register for a [FREE student ticket](#) (student ID required at check-in). Each ticket includes admission to the event, as well as a copy of *The Bonobo Sisterhood* and bookplate signed by author Diane Rosenfeld.

SPECIAL FALL WOMEN IN THE ARTS EVENTS/EXHIBITS IN DC-BALTIMORE AREA TO END OF YEAR BY CWI’s SHEILA WICKOUSKI, VP FOR WOMEN AND THE ARTS

ON STAGE

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The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum’s evening lectures will explore the stories of women and people of color in aviation and spaceflight, from NASA’s first female astronauts to the desegregation of commercial aviation. Lectures take place at one of the museum’s two locations and will also be streamed online. All lectures are free to the public, but they require advance registration.

This fall's Aviation Adventures lectures is focusing on stories from the museum's "America by Air" exhibition, which explores the history of commercial aviation.

Oct. 26: "The Pan Am Stewardess at War and Peace" will take place on Oct. 26 at 8 pm ET at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. Julia Cooke, author of the book *Come Fly the World: The Jet Age Story of the Women of Pan Am*, will discuss the often-overlooked contributions of Pan American Airways stewardesses to addressing the geopolitical crises of the 1960s and '70s, from escorting dignitaries and refugees to flying into war zones.

ART MUSEUMS

The Baltimore Museum of Art is presenting *Making Her Mark: A History of European Women Artists* (Oct 1 to Jan 7, 2024). Focus is on women artists from the 15th to 18th century.

The National Museum of Women in the Arts reopens on Oct 21 with exhibition *The Sky's The Limit* (to Feb. 25, 2024)

Smithsonian American Art Museum presents *Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas* (September 15, 2023 – June 2, 2024)

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden will present an exhibit by Simon Leigh Nov. 3, 2023 – March 3, 2024

The Baltimore Museum of Art exhibit *Work: Women Printmakers of the WPA*, opens on November 5 through June 30, 2024.

EVENTS

The National Gallery of Art will present *Women in Art and Music: an Early Modern Global Conference* on October 20-21 open to the public in the East Building Auditorium

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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<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. 2022-2025 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.

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