



February 2022 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

**Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, February 22, 2022 (12:00-1:30 PM)**  
**“Black Women’s Health, Wealth and Wellness”**

Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom  
[Registration Link](#)

This meeting will be hosted by CWI’s, **Dr. Alotta Taylor**. Sherry Klein assisted in arranging this program.

**Dr. C. Nicole Mason**, President/CEO, [Institute for Women’s Policy Research \(IWPR\)](#), was [named one of the World’s 50 Greatest Leaders by Fortune Magazine](#). She is also the author of [Born Bright: A Young Girl’s Journey from Nothing to Something in America](#). She will focus on women’s wealth inequities and the ways to fix them.

“Prior to IWPR, Dr. Mason was the executive director of the [Women of Color Policy Network at New York University’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service](#).

At the start of the pandemic, [she coined the term she-cession](#) to describe the disproportionate impact of the employment and income losses on women. Dr. Mason has written hundreds of articles on women, poverty, and economic security. Her writing and commentary have been featured in the New York Times, MSNBC, CNN, NBC, CBS, the Washington Post, Marie Claire, the Progressive, ESSENCE, Bustle, BIG THINK, Miami Herald, Democracy Now, and numerous NPR affiliates, among others.”

**Dr. Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson**, DNP, MSN, RN-BC, Director, [Center for Gerontology Excellence](#) (Hampton University), U.S. Army Nurse Corps veteran, will address topics related to older women of color. Dr. McQueen-Gibson is a School of Nursing Associate Professor at Hampton University, Board Chair of the American Heart Association, Member of the Governor’s COVID-19 Long Term Care Task Force, and the State COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Workgroup.

Her current clinical research focuses on the social, ethical, and behavioral implications (SEBI) of COVID-19 testing among underserved and/or vulnerable populations, addressing residents’ mistrust from communities of color of public health messaging and review of COVID-19 testing protocols within public housing in Southern Virginia, and how these protocols can be adapted to be more responsive to the needs of residents. This research is a partnership between Hampton University, Eastern Virginia Medical School and Norfolk State’s Center for Health Disparities.

Please join us at this meeting by registering and coming to our noon Feb. 22 zoom meeting at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZwsdO2przMiGNBHh2119StBIPsyDHvi0XLI>

**[March 22 Noon Zoom CWI Women’s History Month Meeting. Women & the US Judiciary](#)**

## Summary of January 25, 2022 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Zoom Meeting on “Combatting Women’s Health and Wealth Inequities”

CWI Treasurer Holly Joseph hosted the January 25, 2022, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) meeting on **Combatting Women’s Health and Wealth Inequities**. A video of this meeting is available on [CWI's YouTube Playlist](https://youtu.be/M2CqGiEPpgc). Direct link: <https://youtu.be/M2CqGiEPpgc>

The session brought together two leaders in the field of Women's Health and Wealth Inequities. Both speakers, experts in their area, pointed out how wealth impacts health and why only effective and enforceable legislation will have any impact for change.



**Dr. Martha Burk**, a long-time feminist activist, is the Money Editor, *Ms. Magazine*, a Gender Pay Equity Consultant for [genderpayequity.org](http://genderpayequity.org), and Producer/Host, Equal Time with Martha Burk, KSFR public radio.

Burk has been featured on the US Department of Labor website as an advisor on city, county, and state governments on gender pay equity and conducts internal pay analyses for private sector companies seeking to improve their understanding of wage gaps by gender and race. Burk designed and implemented the first-in-the-nation equal pay contractor reporting initiatives for the State of New Mexico and the City of Albuquerque. She is the author of *Your Voice Your Vote: The Savvy Woman's Guide to Politics, Power, and the Change We Need* (2020-2021 Edition). She holds a Ph.D. in experimental psychology with an emphasis on research and statistics.

Burk pointed out that women suffer the most because of being in jobs with lower wages and because of their need for childcare. One of the differences is that women's jobs are primarily indoor like cafeteria/food service work versus men's outdoor work like construction which pays more. However, even when women are employed in male occupations, men are paid higher than women for the same work.

Burk discussed how most laws about pay equity are “complaint driven” in that the case for pay equity for the same job would have to be taken to court to address the laws.

Another key factor is how committed elected officials are to the related laws that are on the books. Burk worked under New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson who issued an Executive Order that required employers to report public information on the pay inequities. This would affect their receiving state contracts. Subsequent governors did not enforce the law.

In discussing what we can do, Burk stressed backing Biden's Build Back Better Plan which provided for childcare and for home care workers to be allowed to be unionized.



**Alanna Murrell** is a Special Projects Manager at The Black Women's Health Imperative (BWHI), the only national organization solely focused on promoting the physical, emotional, and financial health and wellness of the nation's 21 million Black women and girls. "For almost four decades, BWHI has served as the leading voice for health and wellness for Black women and girls across the country. Their mission is to advance health equity and social justice for Black women across the lifespan, eliminate racial and gender-based health inequities and deepen Black women's resolve in becoming informed decision makers to achieve optimum health and wellness." (From <https://bwhi.org>)

"We cannot have a discussion about disparities without discussing racism as its root." Murrell presented much information along with comprehensive presentation slides. She stated that the disparity in health care for Black women comes from institutional and structural racism, which is further perpetuated by myths like the one of Black women having a higher pain threshold. That, added to the gender disparity leads to women, and Black women even more so, not being taken as seriously in a healthcare setting (as a White male who typically would receive better care).

Financial disparities can play a part in poor healthcare outcomes for women of color, but racial and cultural prejudices add another layer that cause even wealthy Black women's lives to be threatened by inadequate health care (examples Beyonce Knowles and Serena Williams problems with childbearing and birthing). According to NIH, African Americans are among the most at risk for health disparities. There are higher rates for people of color for being uninsured or underinsured, which dominoes to poorer health outcomes. Black women are the most affected in reproductive, maternal deaths, cancer deaths, and poor disease diagnoses "largely due to gaps in access to quality and innovative care."

"Without proper education people have lower rates of health literacy and potentially face issues finding higher paying jobs."

Long-standing systemic inequities in health care access and quality are rooted in economic instability and lack of access and quality of education.

What can we do to bridge the inequalities and help Black women become safer?

"Educate yourself about the disparities Black women and their families face on a daily basis."

BWHI created the [National Health Policy Agenda 2020-1 foundational policy blueprint](#), from which much of Murrell's presentation is taken. Within the blueprint, Pillar 1 – Access to Quality and Affordable Health Care: Areas of High Priority for Black Women's Health, answers the question of why Black women's health matters."

The Unequal Burden of Obesity on Communities of Color: "Black women have the highest rates of obesity or being overweight nationwide, with about four out of five American women being overweight or obese according to the US Department of Health and Human Services." (Adult Obesity rate at 56.9 percent among Black Women.)

“Nearly half (48.3 %) of African-American women ages 20 and older have cardiovascular disease”. “Research also shows that prolonged exposure to stress, as from coping with perceived racism, may produce higher cortisol reactivity. In Black women, cortisol—a stress hormone—can lead to higher rates of obesity, (footnote 82) which increases the risk of heart disease and other chronic illnesses.”([p.29 BWHI NHPA 2020-21.pdf](#))

Bottom line, Murrell pointed out from the [BWHI National Health Policy Agenda blueprint](#) that access to quality and affordable health care for everything from cardiovascular health to diabetes, obesity, and breast cancer (and beyond) is a huge issue for African American women, who bear an outsized impact of these diseases. For example, African American women’s breast tissue is often denser, and thus access to affordable timely 3D mammography is necessary to diagnose breast cancer early enough to avoid fatality.

For Policy Advocacy, these were mentioned- Support Build Back Better Act, Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021, Stephanie Tubbs Jones Uterine Fibroids Research and Education Act of 2021, Jeanette Acosta Invest in Women’s Health Act of 2021.

Murrell’s call to action “is to vote and to educate yourself to support everything you can that promotes health equity and equity in general.”

The discussion following their presentations highlighted the connections between wealth and health, and why legislation is necessary. More advocacy will put more focus and get more resources and solutions.

## WEBSITES

- Dr. Burk websites: [marthaburk.org](#) , [genderpayequity.org](#)
- [Black Women’s Health Imperative](#) (BWHI) web site: [bwhi.org](#)
  - [National Health Policy Agenda 2020-1 foundational policy blueprint](#) referenced and comprising much of Murrell’s presentation
- A summary of recommendations from chat participant/s:
  - *The Future of Nursing 2020–2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity* (2021) <https://www.nap.edu/resource/25982/>
  - The whole report: <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25982/the-future-of-nursing-2020-2030-charting-a-path-to>
  - National Women’s Political Caucus of CA is planning a symposium on reproductive health and justice--looking at current court cases but also exploring related issues like maternal health outcomes, access to contraception and quality prenatal and postnatal care, criminalization of stillbirths and miscarriages, forced sterilization, etc. These are all parts of a policy environment that relegates women’s health in general to a lesser status, and especially affects low-income women, immigrant women, women of color, etc. The symposium will be held on Saturday, March 26. by Zoom--more information at [www.nwppca.org](http://www.nwppca.org).

## DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to [sklein@feminist.org](mailto:sklein@feminist.org). LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook [www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse](http://www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse) and Twitter [www.twitter.com/CWINews](http://www.twitter.com/CWINews) pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor and provider. <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on feminist meetings and activities. Times given are Eastern Time. Special thanks to Montgomery County, MD NOW for information on many of these events.

### EVENTS

Now thru Feb.22 IN THE TRADITION: African American Hand Sewn Quilts. In-Person. Maryland Women's Heritage Center. The Marian House/Maryland Womens Heritage Center, 333 Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Monday, Feb 14, 2-3:30PM. Invisible Warriors – African-American Women in WWII, Women's Bureau. [Register to attend](#)

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 5PM. Resisting Attacks on Palestinian Human Rights Activists. Code Pink. [For More Information and to RSVP](#)

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 5:30-6:30 PM. [Virtual Happy Hour: Artemisia Gentileschi Celebration: National Museum of Women in the Arts](#)

Thursday, Feb. 17, 6PM. Malaika Adero—Vice President Kamala Harris: Her Path to the White House, Virtual. Woman's National Democratic Club. **FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER**

Tuesday, Feb. 22, Noon-1:30 PM. Black Women's Health, Wealth and Wellness, Clearinghouse on Women's issues. See page 1.

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 4-5 PM. 34th ANNUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE MEMORIAL SERVICE. Virtual Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence. **FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER**

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 6-7 PM. Critical Race Theory: What is it? Maryland women's Heritage Center. **FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER**

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 11-2 PM. Racial Justice Summit: Connected by Justice & Intersectionality: Facing the Realities of Race in America sponsored by NOW **FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER**

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 1-2:30 PM. 2022 Data Privacy Colloquium: Modern Communications & the Structure of Privacy, The Uniquely Human Faculty, Dialogue on Diversity, Zoom webinar. Free [Register here](#).

Thursday, Feb. 24, 12:30-2PM. Webinar: Equity in Focus, Job Creation for a Just Society. Women's Bureau. [Register to Attend](#) Saturday, March 26. by Zoom--more information at [www.nwpcca.org](http://www.nwpcca.org).

Thursday, March 8. International Women's Day

Wednesday, March 16, 5:30-6:30 PM. Virtual Happy Hour: [Celebrating Black Women Printmakers](#), National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Tuesday, March 22, Noon Zoom: Women and the US Judiciary: Increasing Feminist Goals, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Saturday, March 26, by Zoom: Reproductive Health and Justice Seminar. National Women's Political Caucus. For more information check [nwpcca.org](http://nwpcca.org).

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

*Meeting summary by Sheila Wickouski and Sherry Klein and Meeting Presenters.*

*Newsletter edited by Sue Klein*

#### **CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2021 – JUNE 2022**

**OFFICERS:** Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla also VP Membership; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary, Sheila Wickouski; VP Global Issues, Megan Corrado; VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis; VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Technology, Sherry Klein; VP Organizational Management, Anne Martin; VP Diversity, Alotta Taylor; Director, Linda Fihelly; Director Emerita: Elaine Newman; 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. 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

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NAME & EMAIL of Org. Rep.: 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
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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](mailto:MembershipChair@womensclearinghouse.org); or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)