



Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, January 26, 2021 (12:00-1:30 PM EST)

January 2021 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

“Successful Collaboration in Feminist Women’s Organizations: How Much Is Racism at Play?”

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom - Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdOivpJliE9LImRmOGXDs0VuPbbIJAzt8>

“The Constitution they wrote was designed to protect the rights of white, male citizens. As there were no black Founding Fathers, there were no founding mothers - a great pity, on both counts. It is not too late to complete the work they left undone. Today, here, we should start to do so.” - Shirley Chisholm, 8/10/1970 [SC, 11/30/24-1/1/05]

“Can’t we all just get along?” - Rodney King, 5/1/1992 [RK, 4/2/65-6/17/12]

The current pandemic has exposed great inequity and injustice in our country. We all face the deadly virus which can only be controlled when we come together to fight it collaboratively.

So it is timely for the Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues to focus this month on aspects of women and race to examine what the thinkers above urged us to address. Please note that the “today” of Shirley Chisholm’s words was more than fifty years ago. The urgency seems to grow and especially with the events of recent days.

We are indeed fortunate to have these three women share their experience and expertise to guide us in this discussion through an intergenerational lens.

Sheila Coates is a sixth generation Virginian activist on behalf of African American women and families for more than four decades. In 1985 she founded [Black Women United for Action](#) (BWUFA), a community service volunteer organization which she still serves as president. BWUFA has grown from 14 Northern Virginia members to an international organization with ties in Africa, Canada and Europe. Her many accomplishments as the leader of BWUFA include the development of the annual observance of the Slave Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony at Mount Vernon. The annual ceremony, developed many years ago, has grown from a few local guests to travelers from all over the world, including Africa and Canada. Ms. Coates has successfully advocated for the appointment of an African American woman to the Board of George Mason University (a first in that institution’s history). She has testified numerous times on behalf of African American families before official committees and commissions and has been invited to the White House under two administrations to speak on public policy issues and family preservation. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Stan Lee Foundation, devoted to promoting literacy, diversity, culture and the arts. Ms. Coates has received four gubernatorial appointments, including the Virginia Commission on Women, the George Mason University Board, and the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association Advisory Board. In addition, she has served on several other community boards and commissions and has received numerous awards.

Thu Nguyen serves [OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates](#) National as its Director. A graduate from Rice University with degrees in Chemistry and Sociology, Thu found her way into the nonprofit sector through organizing Asian American students on campus and bridging partnerships between student groups and local Houston community organizations. Previously she freelanced for non-profits and Asian-owned start-ups to do community outreach and marketing. As Director, Thu oversees storytelling, relationships, and operations for OCA. She brings a unique understanding of grassroots organizing and design to her work at the national level where she focuses on the intersection of advocacy

with small businesses. She works 5-9 in hospitality, cosmetology, and zine-making. You can find her exploring how to spacemake via thudawin.org.

Christian F. Nunes, MBA, MS, LCSW, in August 2020, became the president of the [National Organization for Women](#) (NOW), the largest grassroots feminist organization in the country. She was previously appointed Vice President by the NOW board in May 2019. Christian is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Consultant, and a Woman-Minority Business Owner. She received her BSW degree from Northern Arizona University, Master of Science from Columbia University, and Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. An active community organizer, she has spoken at events such as the March for Black Women in 2018. Along with her activism for mental health, she also has over 20 years of experience advocating for children's and women's issues. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Consultant, and Woman-Minority Business Owner. In 2006, she founded a behavioral health and consulting practice where she assists social service and behavioral health companies, and provides direct mental health services to individuals and families. As an advocate for social justice and mental health policy, she took up the role as Chair of the Phoenix Mayor's Commission on Disability Issues and co-authored a community survey on police response to crisis. Additionally, she has worked tirelessly to elect progressive candidates to school boards and local office positions. She is often featured in many media outlets such as Ebony, Black Enterprise magazine, AZ News Channel 3, and Yahoo News.

We hope you will join us in this important discussion which is co-sponsored by Montgomery County Maryland NOW and that you will bring your questions to that conversation.

Updates from the CWI Board

Have you viewed CWI FIVE YEAR HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAMS CELEBRATING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT by Loretto Gubernatis (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjP_063LZrM).

If you are a past presenter or in-person audience member, you may see yourself in this highlights reel.

This production, an homage to our foremothers, shows small snippets from many of our programs in the past five years.

If you like it enough to own a DVD copy, do purchase one by selecting Other Amount: \$20

on <https://womensclearinghouse.org/membership/> and enter your email address. We will contact you for your mailing address. If you select Other Amount: \$31, we will include one year of membership with your DVD.

Info from 1-6-2021 Board meeting: List of Planned CWI 2021 Noon Zoom Meetings

January 26 **Racism and Feminism- Intersections** - Alotta Taylor & Holly Joseph

February 23 **Elder Issues and Actions** – Harriett Stonehill

March 23 **What's Up with the National Women's History Museum?** - Sue Klein & Alotta Taylor

April 27 **The First 100 Days: Assessment of Progress** - Connie Cordovilla & Jeanette Esbrook

May 25 **Global Women's Community** – Megan Corrado

June 22 **Taking Stock of the Membership of CWI**

Discussion of the former National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO): CWI is discussing if and how it might take on some of the tasks of the former NCWO. Martha Burk, former chair and founder of NCWO, pointed out its importance and says it should be revitalized. Karen Humphrey noted that it will take more collaboration and a good data management system. Will it require paid staff? Sue Klein suggested that CWI might take over some of the information sharing functions of NCWO. It would be helpful if CWI could produce the membership booklet of over 200 organizations. The discussion will continue at the next board meeting in March. We welcome your suggestions on what you would want from an umbrella organization of feminist organizations.

Elections of Note: Let's cheer for the results of the recent special elections in VA and GA. In VA, the January 5th contests to fill recently vacated seats in the House of Delegates were won by Democratic women of color who will have a foothold for the regular fall elections when all 100 seats in the VA House of Delegates will be up for vote. And in

Georgia, thanks to work of Stacey Abrams and the thousands of volunteers, from all over the country, many of whom were women of color, the winners of the run-off Senate elections were the two Democratic candidates. This ends the current Republican control of the US Senate and brings the control of both houses to the same party as well as the White House. It will allow for fair hearings on many issues that have been tabled or stalled by the previous administration.

Congratulations Are in Order! We join feminists in congratulating the Biden-Harris team in winning the November 2020 election. As discussed at our October 2020 CWI meeting, we urge everyone to consider working with their state legislators to sign on to the National Popular Vote Compact so that in the next presidential election everyone's vote will be counted equally no matter what state they are from. Check to see the status of your state's sign-on to the National Popular Vote Compact at <https://www.commoncause.org/our-work/voting-and-elections/national-popular-vote/>. This is a much more feasible solution than the more difficult challenge of abolishing the electoral college with a constitutional amendment. Again, many thanks to all our meeting presenters and attendees and our hardworking volunteer CWI Board.

CWI Board Meeting Updates:

CWI had its Zoom Board Meeting on January 6, and it thankfully ended as the Trump supporters started to storm the Capitol. We hope all our readers are staying safe and healthy during these trying times. We also just received an announcement that **Nan Aron**, founder and president of the Alliance for Justice, will step down as president July 31, 2021. We deeply thank Nan and AFJ for hosting CWI in-person meetings for many years.

Summary of CWI Zoom Meeting, November 17, 2020, 12:00-1:30 PM EST "Feminist Priorities in the Biden-Harris Administration"

This well-attended meeting allowed all to start celebrating the election of the Biden-Harris Administration and learn about some of the possibilities that it will bring to feminists to accomplish the vision developed in the Biden Agenda for Women (<https://joebiden.com/womens-agenda/#>).

The audio of this meeting is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJhnEB7XXso&feature=youtu.be>. We encourage you to listen to it to get more of the richness of this meeting than we are able to capture in the following summary.

The meeting presenters discussed feminist priorities in the areas of education, economics, health, and foreign policy as well as how to nominate feminists for key governmental positions in the Biden-Harris administration.

Meeting presenters:



Ben Strand, Legislative Assistant from Senator Mazie Hirono's office (D-HI), discussed the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity Education Act (GEEA) which Senator Hirono reintroduced during the 116th Congress (2019-2020) with Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA). GEEA would establish an Office for Gender Equity in the US Department of Education (DOE) and provide \$80 million for additional resources, training, and technical assistance to support the full implementation of Title IX and develop an infrastructure focused on Title IX Coordinators. There has not been any office focusing on gender equity in the DOE since the Women's Educational Act expired except for a small Title IX team in the ED Office for Civil Rights.

Following a discussion of establishing an Office for Gender Equity in the US Department of Education which could be done administratively even before GEEA is passed, the Feminist Majority Foundation developed an organizational [sign-on letter](#) requesting the Biden-Harris DOE transition team to establish an Office for Gender Equity reporting to the new Secretary of Education. This letter was sent Jan. 8, 2021 and had over 100 organizational supporters. This letter points out why the Office is needed and how it can be established administratively even before GEEA is passed.

Donna Lent, President of the National Women’s Political Caucus (NWPC) explained how NWPC is again leading a multi-partisan nominations process to contribute to the new Administration’s feminist leadership team under the Coalition for Women’s Appointments. NWPC started this Coalition for Women’s Appointments in 1976 and claims helping with the original federal appointments of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Janet Reno, and Madeleine Albright. The goal is 50% women appointments. The Coalition for Women’s Appointments is establishing a digital registry that can be used beyond Biden-Harris appointments. It can be used for state and local positions and even by corporations. The process for nominating feminists is described in detail in the NWPC website:



<https://www.nwpc.org/launch-of-the-coalition-for-womens-appointments/> and <https://appointwomen.org/home>.



Connie Cordovilla, Co-President, Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues and President of Virginian NOW, Inc. reported on **The Institute for Women’s Policy Research** new report entitled “Build(ing) the Future: Bold Policies for a Gender-Equitable Recovery.” (<https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Policies-for-a-Gender-Equitable-Recovery-Finalsm2.pdf>) which thoroughly covers stressors and solutions facing working women in the wake of the economic downturn caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. This report provides a framework for shared prosperity and equitable economic recovery. It examines the impact of the economic crisis and recession on working women, their families, and communities. So far 850,000 women have left the workforce mainly to provide childcare. The report provides a blueprint for a gender equitable recovery that is not only about meeting the immediate economic needs of women and families, but it lays out a long-term strategy for creating stronger systems and institutions that reflect the experiences and contributions of women in the workforce, in society, and in their families.



Dr. Diana Zuckerman, PhD, President of the [National Center for Health Research](#), (NCHR) who is an epidemiologist and psychologist, addressed a wide range of health priorities. These priorities included improving testing, treatments, and vaccines for Covid-19; improving access to reproductive health; correcting the lack of diversity in clinical trials that harms women of color and older women; the lowering the safety standards for medical products (speed and greed vs. safety and effectiveness); and the need for rebuilding and strengthening the clout and independence of the Offices focused on women’s health in the various federal health agencies.

Covid-19 has a disparate impact on women although men are more likely to die from it. Many older women are very isolated due to the threat or actual suffering from Covid-19. The National Center for Health Research has criticized the Trump administration for lowering standards for Covid-19 treatment and testing. In the

testing of vaccines, although most of those who have gotten COVID are in the placebo group, we know little about the impact on older people, people of color, and other people at higher risk. There has been much emphasis on speed and greed. Few older women have been in the drug testing trials even though older people metabolize drugs differently than younger adults.



Megan Corrado, Esq., CWI’s Vice President for Global Affairs, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Alliance for Peacebuilding, and Co-Chair of the U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). This group is a collective of over 50 NGOs aiming to fully implement the Women Peace and Security Act of 2017 and to ensure women's meaningful participation in all aspects of peacebuilding. In conjunction with its Secretariat, the United States Institute of Peace, it seeks to build bridges between the US Government and civil society, and to serve as a go-to network of experts to facilitate a cross-government and holistic approach to WPS through foreign and national security policy.

Megan addressed some key priorities to achieve a feminist foreign policy to ensure women's meaningful participation in all facets of decision-making and improve the lives of women and families around the world.

In doing so Megan described the framework and priorities she has been working on with a collective of the nine largest coalitions focused on international gender, women, and girls issues—Girls Not Brides, Coalition to end Gender Based Violence Globally, Coalition for Women’s Economic Empowerment and Equality, Sexual and Reproductive Health Roundtable, Big Ideas Coalition, CSWG, and others. The framework for the new administration is designed to elevate issues related to gender in its development, humanitarian, asylum, security, and overall foreign policy. (See : https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FFPFramework_d12-spreads.pdf) Although each individual coalition had context-specific priorities, a few cross-cutting themes emerged.

DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org . LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider. <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Times are EST. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on additional feminist meetings and activities. To join the National Women’s Political Caucus VA chapter, contact katihornung@gmail.com or jane.newell@comcast.net , or visit NWPC.org/membership.

Maryland Women’s History Podcast Releases Second Season of Ballot & Beyond, produced by Preservation Maryland. It is a multi-media public history exhibit and podcast highlighting the work of remarkable Maryland women with a focus on the state’s suffragists and activists. More than 55 episodes are available now for streaming and reading on: ballotandbeyond.org.

Tune in to episodes of Ms. magazine podcasts, On the Issues, with Michele Goodwin on [Apple Podcasts](#) + [Spotify](#).

Sign up for free Health Empowerment Academy. This is a 6-day mini-course from the National Women's Health Network . [Get Instant Access.](#)

Events:

Saturday, January 16, 2021, 11am-12:30pm - SPW Leadership Opportunities Webinar, American Psychological Association, Div. 35, Psychology of Women. [Register](#)

Monday, January 18, 2021, 4-5:30pm - People's Holiday Concert. National Museum of African American History and Culture [Register](#) <https://eventactions.com/eareg.aspx?ea=RsvpSu>

Monday, January 18, 2021, 7pm - Trending Topics: State & Local Budget Projections and Their Impact on Future Legislation, League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. [For More Information and to Register.](#)

Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 6:30-8pm - EcoHour Speaker Series on seafood, public health and food systems. DC EcoWomen. [For More information.](#)

Tuesday, January 26, 2021, Noon - CWI Meeting (See Page 1). Successful Collaboration in Feminist Women's Organizations: How Much Is Racism at Play?

Tuesday January 26, 2021, 6-6:45pm - MCASA's Legislative Reception. Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault. For [More Information and to Register.](#)

Thursday, January 28, 2021 - Demanding What to Build: A Reflective Plenary on Post-Election Scholarship and Academic Labor, National Women's Studies Association [Registration](#) for On-line. Plenary \$5. Open to the Public.

Thursday, January 28, 2021 - 323 Days of COVID: The Lasting Impact on Women, National NOW, For More Information visit website <https://now.org/first-100-days-the-feminist-agenda/>.

Sunday, January 31, 2021, 12:30-4:30pm, Virtual Maryland Legislative Briefing, Montgomery County Commission for Women and Co-sponsors. [Registration](#) \$20 through Jan. 28 (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-womens-legislative-briefing-registration-128800049415>).

Thursday, February 4, 2021, 7-8:15pm - Betty Friedan's 100 Birthday: Moving the Legacy Forward, Veteran Feminists of America. [Free Registration](#)

Thursday, February 25, 2021 - A Holistic Approach to Equitable Reproductive Healthcare, National NOW For More Information visit website <https://now.org/first-100-days-the-feminist-agenda/>

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

Meeting summary by Sue Klein and the meeting presenters. Newsletter edited by Sue Klein and Holly Joseph

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2021

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla; VP Membership, Connie Cordovilla; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary and VP Global Issues, Megan Corrado, VP Diversity, Alotta Taylor; VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis; VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Technology, Sherry Klein; VP Organizational Management, Anne Martin; Director, Linda Fihelly; **DIRECTOR EMERITA:** Elaine Newman, **EX OFFICIO:** -Harriett Stonehill
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February 2021 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, February 23, 2021 (12:00-1:30 PM EST)

“Wise Aging – Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit”

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdOivpiliE9LImRm0GXDs0VuPbbIJAZt8>

Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit www.jewishspirituality.org (based on the book Wise Aging by Cowan and Thal.) Wise aging is a senior program that considers mindfulness and contemplative practices such as meditation, text study, journaling and gentle movement as key tools.

This CWI meeting is organized and led by **Harriett Stonehill**, past CWI Co-President, mega skills trainer of trainers, professor at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), author, and an experienced Wise Aging facilitator. She has arranged for the following trained Wise Aging Facilitators who are active nationally and internationally to lead us in various interactive activities in this CWI meeting.

Evi Beck, is a retired professor of Women’s Studies at University of Maryland, author and long-time Circle Dance teacher who conducts programs across the country and world. She will lead us virtually in some dances.

Harriette Kinberg, is a retired Federal Government Manager who worked at FEMA and a Wise Aging Facilitator in DC, Maryland and Virginia. She will provide an overview of the Wise Aging program and describe what happens during a typical Wise Aging group session using power point materials.

Francie Schwartz, retired from the Union of Reform Judaism, where she worked as the Adult Jewish Learning Coordinator and still loves to teach all things Jewish to our community. She is now a Wise Aging Facilitator at Temple Micah in DC. She will focus on using meditation.

The majority of participants in the Wise Aging Programs are women so the focus has mainly been on their needs as they grow older.

This session will be interactive with a discussion after the presentations. Attendees will be able to join and focus on various strategies. Please have a pen and blank paper handy.

Questions may be addressed to Harriett Stonehill at (202) 232-8173. Invite your friends to join us.

Zoom Meeting Summary, January 26, 2021 - 12:00-1:30 PM EST, “Successful Collaboration in Feminist Women’s Organizations: How Much Is Racism at Play?”

The raw video recording of this meeting is available on <https://youtu.be/xhyMYMWBeQU> We encourage you to view it to get more of the richness of this meeting than we were able to capture in the following summary. The first 10 minutes of the presentation, including the introduction by meeting organizers Holly Joseph, Dr. Alotta Taylor, and Christian Nunes, president of NOW, were not recorded due to technical difficulties. We thank the presenters, organizers, participants, and witnesses to the discussion. We also apologize to those 200+ additional people who were unsuccessful in attending this zoom meeting which was limited to 100. CWI Treasurer and Montgomery County Maryland NOW's Holly Joseph introduced the program that she and Dr. Alotta Taylor, CWI's Vice-President for Diversity, organized. The presenters then introduced themselves.



Christian F. Nunes, MBA, MS, LCSW, in August 2020, became the president of the [National Organization for Women](#) (NOW), the largest grassroots feminist organization in the country. Christian is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Consultant, and a Woman-Minority Business Owner. She received her BSW degree from Northern Arizona University, Master of Science from Columbia University, and Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. An active community organizer, she has spoken at events such as the March for Black Women in 2018. Along with her activism for mental health, she also has over 20 years of experience advocating for children’s and women’s issues. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Consultant, and Woman-Minority Business Owner. In 2006, she founded a behavioral health and consulting practice where

she assisted social service and behavioral health companies and provided direct mental health services to individuals and families.



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appointment of an African American woman to the Board of George Mason University (a first in that institution's history). She has testified numerous times on behalf of African American families before official committees and commissions and has been invited to the White House under two administrations to speak on public policy issues and family preservation. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Stan Lee Foundation, devoted to promoting literacy, diversity, culture and the arts. Ms. Coates has received four gubernatorial appointments, including the Virginia Commission on Women, the George Mason University Board, and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association Advisory Board.

First Question posed to panelists: What are the factors affecting success and barriers to organizations, especially women's and intergenerational organizations?

Christian Nunes: Barriers – 1) rigidity in reasons for joining (and staying with a movement) 2) stuck on grievances with the movement (it must be perfect instead of focusing on what it does in line with values?) 3) leadership takes power and runs or holds on to it for as long as possible 4) perspective changes of important issues or which are the key issues that need focus 5) exclusion occurs when instead of embracing difference and diversity in membership and embracing its power, the movement or organization becomes more representative of one person's or a small group's perspective 6) lack of succession planning and teaching successor leaders 7) difficulty meshing waves and generations of feminism.

Successes- 1) rich history, brilliance, and vitality which cause the waves to share similar themes. 2) Commonality found within NOW exemplifies how age gap between herself and a NOW founder can be bridged.

Thu Nguyen: Barriers – A lack of culture of succession planning including organizational knowledge and standard procedures.

Sheila Coates: Barriers- lack of visibility and diversity, for example, Black women were not included in the greater women's movement, and did not have a seat at the table. "It saddened us that we still have to have different ethnic groups fighting for the same fair chance."

Successes- Commonalities can be recognized by honoring unique perspectives. "Through education we will learn how to better improve the status of women across the board" (housing inequity, economics, healthcare). We need to be able to talk about inequities: "If we don't talk about it, we won't know about it." Coates gave an example of BWUFA partnering with a very conservative group ([Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union](#)) for the past 30 years and seeing growth for both organizations as a result. Finding pockets of need, meeting the need, and replicating the process elsewhere.

Second Question to panelists: Can you cite examples of including women and minorities in organizations? What steps were taken?

Christian Nunes: NOW currently has Partnership with [Black Women's Blueprint](#) to have - [First 100 Days of A Feminist Agenda Listening Series](#) to hear first hand narratives & experiences of women's issues and perspectives. This is open to the public. "We are being very intentional about uplifting the experiences of women of color and to ensure we are hearing, listening, not trying to tell the story for them. It's important that we don't try to define the story, but rather listen and let individuals define their own story. NOW plans to place the results of the First 100 Days into a policy manual they will then submit to the Biden-Harris administration."

Thu Nguyen: "We have been pushing the Biden-Harris administration to include representation of Asian Americans in cabinet secretary positions, in order to fulfill the promise of bringing together our country with diversity and inclusion, by having his appointments reflect that. In March we are taking initiative to be conveners of a week long summit partnering with Center for APA Women in Kapaa to put on a Multicultural Women's summit with the Boys And Girls Club of America, the Native American Women's Association. Topics will include COVID, Empowerment, <work-home-family->space-in-context-of-working-from-home (in times of COVID), including all ages and discussing how we can support each other. Providing the space to have these conversations is a really important step for inclusion."

Sheila Coates: The evolution of women on local education boards to increased representation in Virginia of women on boards of State supported Universities. Recognize and encourage diverse talent around you to share their expertise on a greater scale, such as with local government.

Third Question to panelists: As women we tend to embrace diversity because we understand that different opinions, different backgrounds, and perspectives enriches the environment and products, so we'd like for you panelists to share with us how do you as an individual or even as an organization encourage inclusion, a positive environment, and discourage a negative environment?

Christian Nunes: Encourage people to be authentic, themselves. Ensure there is representation. #representationmatters. Remember how it feels to be the only person of color in a room, being spoken over, whitesplained, mansplained. Put yourself in people's shoes. Know the importance of why inclusion is needed for safety and people to feel safe. Perfection does not exist but we need to continue to try, and not take things personally. Approach things with a "we" perspective, not "I" perspective.

Thu Nguyen: Even if you feel like you have imposter syndrome, embrace the space you are in, you were invited or are here for a reason. Nguyen is excited about how stereotypes can be reclaimed to change the narrative and that this can be a difficult conversation intergenerationally. The concept of a brave space, where you "bring yourself to a conversation aware you may hear something quite different from what you feel or believe and realize it as that person's truth and talk it out."

Sheila Coates: Notice people's strengths and quality, not pick them due to connections, degrees, or as tokens. Remember that everyone has their own specialness, even if it is different from one's own.

Fourth and Fifth Questions to panelists: What do you see more to be done? After the firsts have been achieved, how do you measure success or know that you're working to achieve it?

Christian Nunes: “The Social justice movement - if one group is suffering there is always to work to do, we can not work in a siloed movement. We can not stop working. We can not assume we are in a siloed movement, even if ERA is passed. As long as people are still oppressed there is still work to be done. As long as the root causes remain that contribute to suffering of women, there is work to be done. Some are built within the framework of the US and we have a lot of work to do in that sense. Rebuild the institution and structure of America. White privilege, racism, etc. 100s of years. oppression resolved, then see how/if that is do-able - Can we do that if income is in 6% of American's hands? We can continue to make progress not to stop until we see what we want.

We are seeing favor for things that are more in favor of the people right now so there is hope. Madam Vice President and she is a woman of color. This is due to organizing and not taking no for an answer. Continue with that attitude, work hard, together, in solidarity in movements. Continue to have support and get behind all groups, let them lead, and follow in the.”

Q: Measure success/improvements by being more collaborative? Do we set goals/measure? How?

A: Be more collaborative. We can't be siloed. Measure how we see improvements of systems of oppression. Gender wage gap closing based on color for example.

Thu Nguyen: “Digital Divide, literacy and access to connectivity, how our world is changing and basic needs in the world is changing to include tech. Institutional change and cultural change. Culturally change in past 4 years. Change policy and people simultaneously. We can advocate for women around us to get involved, like our small businesses on the ground and how they interact with the people involved. Push friends and family around us to keep in mind the culture of change. Become positive and inclusive in all environments. Success measure: Not the same 5 people to represent X community at an event. When there is more visibility and more people included to represent.”

Sheila Coates: “Kudos to you, CWI. This is the way, the start. Will we have learned anything new when we hang up from today? It had to take mindsets to put this event together. We learn from each other through education and from hearing. What can we do? We can talk to someone else and if you see something that isn't right, speak. Ex. Forbes article of top 50 women and all were white. If you don't have diversity you may not notice they **were all white. Diverse women are included in women. There is no way we would have achieved in Black Women United if we had not spoken up. We shared information that we thought was not right and inclusive.**”

Connie Cordovilla, co-President, CWI, President NOW VA : "Silence is agreement so you must never be silent."

Sheila Coates: We are complacent when we don't.

Economics alone will not allow for you to say what you really feel and maintain a job. : We're stronger in commonality than in difference.

Holly Joseph: Pointed out the President's calling out "white supremacy" in his inauguration speech, and during the swearing in of civil servants saying they would be "fired on the spot" if not respectful of one another.

DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org . LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook

www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider. <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Times are Eastern. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on additional feminist meetings and activities.

Maryland Women's History Podcast Releases Second Season

Ballot & Beyond is produced by Preservation Maryland.

Ballot & Beyond is a multi-media public history exhibit and podcast highlighting the work of remarkable Maryland women with a focus on the state's suffragists and activists. More than 55 episodes are available now for streaming and reading on: ballotandbeyond.org.

Tune in to episodes of Ms. magazine podcasts, On the issues with Michele Goodwin on [Apple Podcasts](#) + [Spotify](#).

Events:

Tue. Feb. 16, 7 PM Maryland NOW Council Virtual Meeting [RSVP](#)

Tue. Feb. 16, 8-9 PM. The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together- A Discussion between Heather McGhee and Elizabeth Warren on the costs of racism for everyone. [Webinar Registration](#) – Zoom

Sunday, Feb. 21, 1-3PM Talking About Abortion in Challenging Places. Maryland NOW Special Event. RSVP to [:30@marylandnow.org](mailto:30@marylandnow.org).

Tue. Feb. 23 A Salute to Maryland Black Women Legislators 6-7:30 PM. Maryland Women's Heritage Center. [Register](#)
Tickets \$15

Tue. Feb. 23, 12 noon to 1:30. Clearinghouse on Women's Issues zoom meeting. Wise-Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit. See P 1.

Wed. Feb. 24. 11AM. NOW's 2021 Racial Justice Summit. Online Webinar. [Register](#)

Wed. Feb. 24, 2021 7PM Reclaiming the Purim Narrative: A Feminist Celebration Event. National Council of Jewish Women. [RSVP](#).

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021 "Healing from Centuries of Oppression: Our Work is Not Yet Done, A Holistic Approach to Equitable Healthcare". National Organization for Women. [Register](#) <https://now.org/first-100-days-the-feminist-agenda/>.

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

Meeting summary by Sherry Klein and the meeting presenters. Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2021

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla also VP Membership; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary and 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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700 Seventh St. SW, Suite 3, Washington, DC 20024 Tel. 202/438-5655



March 2021 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, March 23, 2021 (12:00-1:30 PM EST)

“Next Steps in Creating the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum”

Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZEvdOivpJliE9LImRm0GXD50VuPbbIJAZt8>

(Please register for this free public meeting by 3/22/21)

The Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues is delighted to celebrate Women’s History Month by sharing information on the recent passage of the Smithsonian Women’s History Museum Act to create a museum for which the federal government will pay half the development and operating costs of this museum under auspices of the Smithsonian Institution.

Many of us have supported the development of this museum mainly via the privately funded and mostly virtual National Women’s History Museum (NWHM) incorporated in 1996. To show equal treatment of women, many believed the museum should be partly supported by the federal government and be part of the Smithsonian. We are delighted that this is now to become a reality. A Congressional Commission created in 2014 to study the establishment of the museum issued a detailed report (<http://AMWH.us>) in 2016 recommending not only that the U.S. needs and deserves a physical women’s history museum but that it be part of the Smithsonian and located on or near the National Mall in Washington, DC. The bipartisan Commission was created by a bill sponsored by Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney.

Congresswoman Maloney then introduced H.R. 19 in the 115th Congress and H.R. 1980 in the 116th Congress based on the Commission’s recommendations. The bipartisan Smithsonian Women’s History Museum Act passed the House in 2019. The legislation was then included in the bipartisan omnibus spending package at the end of 2020, which was signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020. Representative Maloney will outline key accomplishments and next steps for funding and building the museum.

Wendy Pangburn, who served as the Executive Director of the American Museum of Women’s History Congressional Commission will add brief insights from the Commission to help guide the museum’s creation.

We are delighted that both **Holly Hotchner**, President and CEO of the National Women’s History Museum, and Museum Board Chair, **Susan Whiting**, will join us to highlight NWHM’s historic role in getting legislation passed for a museum. They will also discuss NWHM’s current programming and how the Museum will continue to shine a light on women’s contributions to American history while the plans for the Smithsonian develop.

To conclude, we hope to hear from a Smithsonian Representative who will inform us of some of the current details of fundraising, site selection and more as they also work on developing the newly authorized National Museum of the American Latino. They will also provide insight from the experiences of the Smithsonian Director, Lonnie Bunch who led in the creation of the National African American Museum of History and Culture.

We hope to reserve time for the presenters to comment on each other’s presentation and for some audience questions to them.

**Summary of CWI Zoom Meeting on “Wise Aging – Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit”
Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 12:00-1:30 PM**

“Wise Aging uses texts, poetry, experiential exercises, secular writings, and heartfelt dialogue to challenge participants to develop their own sense of what it means to “number their days” and grow a heart of wisdom.”

Today, with work life and work patterns engulfing our time and our thoughts, fear of retirement or loss of an identity after leaving the work force is ever so prominent. Along with this, a denial about the realities of aging can cause us to face harsh realities that can be challenging to handle.

This is why the Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues chose to focus this month on Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit, based on the book *Wise Aging* by Cowan and Thal. Wise aging is a senior program, designed for people aged 55 and older, that considers mindfulness and contemplative practices such as meditation, text study, journaling and gentle movement as key tools.

This CWI meeting is organized and led by **Harriett Stonehill**, past CWI Co-President, mega skills trainer of trainers, professor at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), author, and an experienced Wise Aging facilitator. Harriett noted that Wise Aging was particularly important for people who were switching from active careers to a productive retirement. She arranged for the following trained Wise Aging Facilitators who are active nationally and internationally to lead attendees in various interactive activities in this CWI meeting.



Harriette Kinberg, is a retired Federal Government Manager who worked at FEMA and she is a Wise Aging Facilitator in DC, Maryland and Virginia. She provided an overview of the Wise Aging program and described what happens during a typical Wise Aging group session using power point materials.

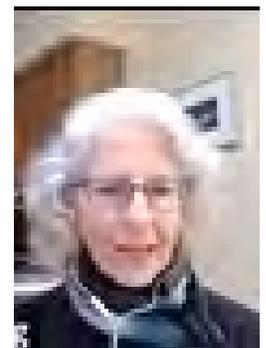
Francie Schwartz, retired from the Union of Reform Judaism, where she worked as the Adult Jewish Learning Coordinator and still loves to teach all things Jewish to our community. She is now a Wise Aging Facilitator at Temple Micah in DC. She guided participants through a meditation exercise.

Evelyn (Evi) Torton Beck is a scholar-activist, a founder of the discipline of Women's Studies, and Professor Emerita at the University of Maryland where she served as Chair of that department for two decades. She is also a long-time teacher and choreographer of the healing practice of Sacred Circle Dance, which she has brought to many countries around the world.

Introduction to Wise Aging Programs - Harriette Kinberg

Developed by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, Wise Aging helps to counter stereotypes about age and aging, replace those stereotypes with positive, realistic images of what elderhood can be, helps foster the transition between constant doing to the cultivation of being, and allows us to grow into our truest selves.

The Wise Aging process consists of core components, including establishing ground rules for safety, openness and trust, and contemplative or active listening, which means to listen with care, without commenting, interrupting, or judging so that others feel heard and find their inner voice.



The program also involves text study from a variety of texts, poems, and stories that address the themes of each unit. Participants engage deeply with the text, discern its deeper meaning, and explore whether we agree or disagree with it.

Mindfulness meditation and sacred practices are also involved in the process. Mindfulness meditation is used to help us live more in the present, and less in our stories of the past or our wishes for the future, helping develop patience, trust, and equanimity. Along with this, sacred practices help participants touch the realm of the sacred through prayer, practice, silence, nature, music, community.

The primary topics revolve around the nine chapters in the Wise Aging book. If you would like to begin this process you can find a Wise Aging group to join or read the book with a partner, or a group of your own. Use the exercises and mediations provided in the book and enjoy the journey.



Mindfulness Meditation – Francie Schwartz

Francie Schwartz introduced participants to mindfulness meditation, a practice that is relatively simple, straightforward, and well-suited to the goal of developing self-knowledge. As she stated, “Though we may not have choices about what happens, we do have choices about how we want to respond to what happens.” By practicing mindfulness, we can approach aging with patience, trust, and equanimity.

Francie Schwartz guided participants through a meditation activity.

Sacred Circle Dances – Evi Beck

Evi Beck introduced participants to Sacred Circle Dance, a gentle form of meditative movement that aims to integrate mind, body, and spirit, in which the "sacred" is not associated with any religion, but on the intention of being fully present. These dances draw upon ancient steps and music from around the world. By moving together, we can get in touch with the oneness of human existence and be moved to make positive changes in the world. The dances involve working with our chi and flowing with it, giving oneself over to the dance.



Participants were shown different steps of Sacred Circle Dance, dancing to Bread and Roses, Breathes, and a Hawaiian song called E Malama. She ended with teaching us a Jewish Klezmer dance.

Evi Beck teaches dance classes Tuesdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and Fridays from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Classes are free. For more information, email her at etb@umd.edu.

You can find the lyrics to **E Malama** here: <https://www.musixmatch.com/lyrics/Jivan/E-Malama-I-Ka-Heiau>.

Further Information:

The public video of this 2-23-21 CWI meeting is available on https://youtu.be/r7BdfM_hejl and posted to a playlist on the CWI website <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Harriette Kinberg email: hkinberg@yahoo.com

Francie Schwartz email: FS925@aol.com

Evi Beck Email: etb@umd.edu

Wise Aging Book: *Wise Aging Living with Joy Resilience and Spirit* by Cowen and Thal.

Next Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Zoom Meeting will be Tuesday Noon, Mar. 23, 2021. To help celebrate Women's History Month it will be on "Next Steps in Creating the Smithsonian's American Women's History Museum". It will feature Representative Carolyn Maloney, key sponsor of the recently enacted Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act, Holly Hotchner, President and CEO of the National Women's History Museum, Susan Whiting, Chair of the Board of the National Women's History Museum, Wendy Pangburn, Executive Director of the Congressional Commission of the American Museum of Women's History, and a representative of the Smithsonian.

DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

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Maryland Women's History Podcast Releases Second Season

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Federal Resources and Events for Women's History Month. Check out. Womenshistorymonth.gov

The Ms. Guide to Celebrating Virtual Women's History Month

3/1/2021 by **MS. EDITORS**. The Ms. Guide to Celebrating Virtual Women's History Month

3/1/2021 by MS. EDITORS. This extensive and well described list of events will be updated daily through Women's History Month. Find it [here](#).

Other Events: (Time given in Eastern Time)

Monday, March 8, noon-1 PM. FEMA Presents: Breaking Barriers a Conversation on Developing Women in Leadership roles via Zoom. Register https://fema.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_335IOZ07Rwi3F5D85T1tWw.

Monday, March 8, 2-3 PM. The Path to Leadership: The Next Chapter; Influential women in Montgomery County Politics- Virtual. <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/4778975>

Monday, March 8, 6-7:30 PM. NWHM Presents! And She Could Be Next Film Screening, Episode 1, National Women's History Museum. [Register](#)

Tuesday, March 9. 3-4 PM From Research to Practice: An Up-to-Date Look at Gender Equity in STEM from the National Girls Collaborative Project. [Sign up](#)

Wednesday, March 10. Women Veterans Day, 9-10 AM. [Registration](#)

Wednesday, March 10, 3 PM "The Legacy of Jovita Idar" Women's Media Center. [Register](#)

Thursday, March 11, 5 PM. Gender Equality as the Law of the Land: The Work to Pass ERA, NOW. [Reg#](#)

Thursday, March 11, 5-6 PM. In Dialogue: Smithsonian Objects and Social Justice. National Portrait Gallery. [Register](#)

Monday, March 15, 4:30 PM #RuthsRevolution Continues: An Exploration of Reproductive Freedom in Honor of Justice Ginsburg. National Council of Jewish Women. [RSVP](#)

Monday, March 15, 6-7:30 PM. NWHM Presents! And She Could Be. Next Film Screening, Episode 2, National Women's History Museum [Register](#)

Tuesday, March 16, 11 AM. "Amman Principles" for the National Mechanisms for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. [Create a free profile to register.](#)

Wednesday, March 17, 6-7 PM, Ai-jen Poo, director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, will deliver a lecture on the theme, "Our Politics, Our Selves." Poo will address her evolution as an organizer, the impact of the pandemic and uprisings for Black lives on her organization's members, and the significance of the 2020 US elections. A conversation with immigrant rights lawyer, Alina Das (NYU School of Law), follows. [More Info & RSVP](#)

Thursday, March 18, 9 AM. Root Causes of Women's Economic Inequality: Discriminatory Family Laws. [Create a free profile to register](#) or join us on [Facebook Live](#).

Tuesday, March 23, Noon to 1:30 PM. Next Steps in Creating the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues. See page 1 for details and [zoom registration](#) .

Thursday, March 25, 12:30 PM. Social Protection for Vulnerable Women during Crisis. [Create a free profile to register](#)

Wednesday, April 7, 12 Noon Brave Girls Virtual Storytime; Marjory Saves the Everglades: the Story of Marjory Stoneman Douglas. [Register](#)

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

Meeting summary by Sascha Shroff, NOW intern and the meeting presenters. Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2021

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April 2021 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, April 27, 2021 (12:00-1:30 PM ET)

“The First 100 Days of the Biden/Harris Administration: Accomplishments, Challenges and Issues”

Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdOivpiliE9LImRm0GXDs0VuPbbIJAzt8>

The Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues is delighted to offer an examination into the actions of the first months of the Biden/Harris Team. The foci will be on economics, civil rights, education and the transition requests for the priorities on women’s and family issues. Many of us worked hard to ensure that 2020 elections would bring about a change in the administration and the direction in which our country and our society were moving. Through pandemic and voting rights challenges, we persevered and, in fact, were able to bring a fresh perspective and reasoning to the highest level of US Government. We want to know what the administration is accountable for and what remains to be done. Accountability for all the projected changes promised is being demanded.



Shiwali Patel, Director of Justice for Student Survivors & Senior Counsel at the National Women’s Law Center will address the gains made on the recognition and elimination of sexual harassment and sexual assault. Following #MeToo as well as the latest reports from the Governor’s office in New York, the threat of harassment or actual assault has raised the consciousness of many people and moved legislative action. But more is needed. Most recently, NWLC published [NWLC Leads Civil Rights Brief in Support of Students’ Rights to Be Free from Harassment and Unfair Discipline](#).



Ariane Hegewisch, Program Director of Employment and Earnings at IWPR and Scholar in Residence at American University, will discuss the economic progress in the first one hundred days. IWPR has done the research to expose the economic impact of covid on women and families, especially women of color and the steps needed to help women overcome the struggles of fair pay, job preparation and “glass ceilings.”. How it will affect gender equality has been discussed in the recent IWPR Report, [BUILD\(ING\) THE FUTURE: BOLD POLICIES FOR A GENDER-EQUITABLE RECOVERY](#)



Mindy Grimes-Festge, Secretary/Treasurer of the United Teachers of Dade, will discuss the educational needs of students, especially the impact of the forced virtual learning in the face of the pandemic and re-opening schools safely.

Finally, we are in the process of finding a speaker for the areas of women’s and human rights who can address the early work of the new administration, the executive orders and other planned legislation and women’s equality moves such as the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Summary of CWI Zoom Meeting, March 23, 2021
“Next Steps in Creating the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum”
By Sheila Wickouski with help from many of the presenters

What better way to have celebrated Women’s History Month than to meet to discuss “Next Steps in Creating the Smithsonian’s American Women’s History Museum”? This was the topic of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) meeting which convened in March for Women's History Month.

There are many women’s museums across America. Most are either devoted to a specific area (women in the arts, space) or themed to specific topics like suffrage or the armed service. Some museums have designated galleries for women’s art or history, while some are homes of noted women that have been designated museums. Some are even virtual museums like the National Women’s History Museum (NWHM) founded in 1995.

The facts: Our nation’s history is incomplete as it often fails to tell the complete story of American women who are more than half the population. There is no comprehensive physical museum anywhere in the U.S. dedicated to the full story of American women’s history. Only 9 out of 100 statues in the U.S. Capitol’s National Statuary Hall depict women. Only 5% of the approximately 2,400 national monuments honor women. Women are underrepresented in the history textbooks students read in schools.

The year 2020, the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote, was an ideal time to start rectifying the imbalance with the passage of Congressional legislation for the Smithsonian to proceed with the creation of the American Women’s History Museum. (Also included in the bill is creation of the National Museum of the American Latino).

The legislation was a long time in coming.

In the early 90s, a group of women and men got together to move the Portrait Monument from the basement of the U.S. Capitol into the Capitol Rotunda. The statue (fondly referred to as “the bathtub”) carved by Adelaide Johnson portrays Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and Susan B. Anthony (left to right), all women who fought for suffrage.



That project spurred the organizers to found the National Women's History Museum (NWHM) as a group that would lobby for legislation to create a comprehensive women's history museum on the National Mall, as well as to create a website to capture women's history and make it widely accessible, as a physical museum did not exist. For the past 25 years, NWHM has continued to champion legislation, and focus upon and deliver women's history to audiences worldwide. NWHM also graciously provided the seed money to fund the work of the Congressional Commission.

In 2014, in a bill sponsored by Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) Congress created a bipartisan Congressional Commission to study the potential for the establishment of a U.S. museum of women's history, arguing that American women have always been marginalized in the narrative of United States history, especially at the Smithsonian. Unlike other Congressional Commissions which were federally funded to the tune of about \$3 million each, the Women's History Congressional Commission bill came without a single dollar of federal support. Therefore, the Women's History Commissioners relied upon generous seed money from NWHM plus in-kind donations worth millions of dollars provided by volunteer professionals and scholars, museum consulting companies, architectural firms, real estate developers, internet and web developers, printers, copywriters, film producers, photographers and many others from across the nation to produce a world class report.

The main findings of American Museum of Women's History Congressional Commission report presented to Congress and President Obama in 2016 (<http://AMWH.us>) were: The U.S. needs and deserves a comprehensive museum dedicated to women's history in Washington, D.C. The future Museum of Women's History should be part of the Smithsonian. The exhibits and collections should be inclusive and represent a diverse array of viewpoints and perspectives of women who have helped shape America. The museum deserves a prominent location on or very close to the National Mall.

In 2018, the Smithsonian, per the recommendations made by the Commission and with seed money raised by the Commissioners, officially launched the *Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative*—"Because of Her Story"—to document, research, collect and exhibit the stories of women who have helped shape America. The initiative has developed exhibitions, programs, educational material and digital content; funded nine curatorial positions dedicated to women's history across Smithsonian museums; and published a book, *Smithsonian American Women*.

Based on the Commission's recommendations, Representative Maloney introduced H.R. 19 in the 115th Congress and H.R. 1980 in the 116th Congress. The bipartisan Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act passed the House in 2019. The legislation was then included in the bipartisan and bicameral omnibus spending package at the end of 2020, which was signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020.

The two Senate sponsors of the women's history museum, Senator Susan Collins, a Maine Republican, and Senator Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat, greeted the passage of the omnibus legislation.

"As our Women's Suffrage Centennial year draws to a close, I am delighted that Congress was able to work together in a bipartisan way to pass this legislation," said Senator Collins. "I look forward to the creation of a museum in our nation's capital that celebrates the invaluable contributions women have made to our nation."

"Women have been a central part of American history from our founding to the present day in every way, whether it's science, business, the arts or politics," said Senator Feinstein. "A permanent museum to celebrate those contributions and tell the stories of so many incredible women is long overdue."

Going beyond the why question about this museum, the next questions ahead are what, where, when and how it will be come to be.

The path from congressional approval to opening day is likely to be a long one.

It is off to a great start with the Congressional legislation and with the support of Secretary of the Smithsonian, Lonnie Bunch. Secretary Bunch is experienced in museum creation since he was the founding director of the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture.

The challenges facing the museum after legislation is nonetheless considerable. The new museum will be a 50/50 funding project between government money and private donations. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has put forth an official initial estimate that a proposed 350,000 square foot museum would cost \$375 million to build. (For comparison, bill to create the African American museum passed in 2003 but the museum itself didn't open its doors until September 2016. The 400,000 square foot museum cost \$540 million and was funded through a similar 50/50 public-private partnership.)

CWI MEETING

Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla, Co-Presidents, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) convened this CWI March 23, 2021, Women's History Month noon meeting. A video of this meeting is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6G1ilj6GPs>.

CWI'S March meeting featured **Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney** (D-NY), key sponsor of the recently enacted Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Act, who outlined her role in the process, starting 23 years ago.

When in a walk around the Mall she had asked "Where are the women?" She noted that "slivers" of museums for specific women like Annie Oakley or the First Ladies, which failed to address the forgotten women, such as a Revolutionary War hero, Margaret Corbin.

As chair of the House Oversight Committee, Rep. Maloney spoke not only of the key accomplishments and next steps for funding and building the museum, but also on the issues of Equal Pay Gap.



Wendy Pangburn, Executive Director of the American Museum of Women's History Congressional Commission, (AMWHCC) gave insight into the Commission that helped guide the museum's creation. She also described the Smithsonian's American Women's History Initiative.



Holly Hotchner, President and CEO of the National Women's History Museum (NWHM) (photo on left) and **Susan Whiting**, Chair of the Board of NWHM, (photo on right) highlighted NWHM's historic role in getting legislation passed for a museum and in contributing some funding to the Congressional Commission. The privately funded and mostly virtual NWHM was incorporated in 1996.



Currently NWHM features virtual tours and more than 50 exhibits available on their [website](#) (which they are now remodeling). NWHM's current programming includes resources for educators and learners of all ages; events ranging from scholarly panel discussions and film screens to virtual field trips and exhibit walk throughs; and the collection and digitizing of journals from women all over the world during the year of Covid-19 as part of the Museum's [Women Writing History: A Coronavirus Journaling Project](#). NWHM will continue to shine a light on women's contributions to American history while the plans for the Smithsonian develop and will host physical exhibits and programming in Washington, D.C. beginning in 2022.

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 (AWHM) and the ongoing Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative. They have appointed Lisa Sasaki, Director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, as interim director and are starting the search for a Founding director of AWHM.



The Smithsonian Secretary is naming interim directors for each museum while two executive search firms are retained to help with the search for the founding directors. The site-selection process for each museum is to be completed in two years, by December 2022. Site selection requires an outside consulting firm or perhaps two separate firms. The deadline to pick the sites, as per the legislation, is two years from the date of passage. The final decision on the sites will be made by the Smithsonian Board of Regents, although the legislation for each museum names a few locations to be considered and expresses the intent of Congress that the sites be located on or near the National Mall.

While it has taken decades, the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum is on its way to show not only our country, but the world, that women are valued and appreciated for what they have done and to inspire men and women of all ages who come from around the world to visit the museums on the Mall.

In the meantime, the Smithsonian has a robust program of exhibitions, public events and research to tell the stories of both Latino Americans and women in the United States. These programs will continue to work across the Institution during the years the museums are being established.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Mar. 23, 2021 meeting is available for viewing on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6G1ilj6GPs>

Smithsonian Institution resources include: <https://womenshistory.si.edu>, Sign up for the Smithsonian Women's History Initiative newsletter: womenshistory@si.org. The full report of the 2016 American Museum of Women's History Congressional Commission can be found at amwh.us/report

Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 contains Division T Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Act, December 21, 2020, pages 336-352

<https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/BILLS-116HR133SA-RCP-116-68.pdf>

Congresswoman Maloney's web site on womens-issues <https://maloney.house.gov/issues/womens-issues/national-womens-history-museum-0>

National Women's History Museum web site and newsletters available at www.womenshistory.org/about-us

The National Women's History Alliance web page: <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org>

Information about international museums at <https://iawm.international/about-us/womens-museums/museums-list/>

Smithsonian Magazine: The Suffragist Statue Trapped in a Broom Closet for 75 Years,
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/suffragist-statue-trapped-broom-closet-75-years-180963274/>

Smithsonian American Women: Remarkable Objects and Stories of Strength, Ingenuity, and Vision from the National Collection Hardcover – 2019. Smithsonian Institution (Author), Victoria Pope (Editor), Christine Schrum (Editor), Jill Lepore (Foreword) (Slide of this book cover shown in video by Wendy Pangburn.)

DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

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Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2021

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla also VP Membership; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary and 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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May 2021 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Newsletter
<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

(Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, May 25, 2021 (12:00-1:30 PM EDT))

**“Update on Global Gender Issues highlighting a Strategy for Progress,
D.C. for CEDAW: The Time is Now!”**

Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdOivpiliE9LImRm0GXDs0VuPbbIJAZt8>

Presenters:

Karen Mulhauser, President, Mulhauser and Associates, Past President NARAL, Past Chair United Nations Association of the USA, Past President United Nations Association, National Capital Area, will provide a brief history and update on the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) including plans to gain US ratification of this important treaty and how it would work with the ERA when both are passed. She will then describe progress made with the Cities for CEDAW movement and why it is important to make DC a City or hopefully state for CEDAW.

Shayna Vayser, Managing Director of Advocacy and Policy Strategy at the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA), will share a call to action for gender equity in Washington, DC. DC for CEDAW is a campaign to have the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted into city legislatures across the National Capital Area, starting with the District of Columbia. The legislation's primary focus requires government agencies to report gender analysis data and develop a citywide plan to ensure equality for women and girls in all arenas. Shayna, representing UNA-NCA's DC for CEDAW Initiative, will provide a presentation on their efforts to work with coalition partners and DC City Council pass and sign CEDAW into local law. DC for CEDAW is coordinated by the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA), a non-profit dedicated to advancing the values and priorities of the United Nations locally and globally.

Megan Corrado, Esq, CWI's Vice President of Global Issues, Director of Policy and Advocacy with the [Alliance for Peacebuilding](#), and Co-Chair of the [U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security](#) will provide an update on the Biden-Harris Administration's foreign policy accomplishments and challenges related to gender over its first few months. From the creation of the White House Gender Policy Council and rescission of the “Global Gag Rule,” a devastating anti-abortion and reproductive rights policy that undermined the health and freedoms of women around the world, the Administration has made important strides in reversing the harmful policies of the last few years. However, the Administration has been slow to advance some gender laws and policies, such as the Women, Peace, and Security Act, or issue a revised USAID Gender Policy. The recent decision to withdraw all U.S. forces from Afghanistan will have significant implications for the tremendous strides Afghan women and girls have made over the last 20 years. Megan will review and reflect on what has and has not yet been achieved and outlined key policy priorities for the Administration to advance a feminist foreign policy.

Next CWI zoom meeting noon Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Summary of CWI April 27, 2021 Meeting

“The First 100 Days of the Biden/Harris Administration: Accomplishments, Challenges, and Issues”

CWI discusses the issues behind the news. The April 2021 CWI Co-President, Connie Cordovilla and Vice President, Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook focused on civil rights, economics, and education, in addressing what the administration faces, what it has promised and what must be done.

President Biden gave his first address before a joint session of Congress on April 28. The news media reported on his proposed sweeping \$1.8 trillion plan for national paid family leave, universal pre-kindergarten, free community college and subsidized child care in what would be a dramatic federal expansion of the social safety net for families and children.

Biden also formally introduced his American Families Plan. Billed as “generational investments in our future,” the second piece of his "Build Back Better" economic agenda following the release of a \$2.3 trillion infrastructure and jobs plan released earlier this month.

Our speakers are each actively involved in the issues addressed in this historic presidential speech. You can view the video of this meeting by going to <https://womensclearinghouse.org/Programs> and then go to April 2021-“First 100 Days of Biden/Harris Administration: Accomplishments, Challenges and Issues” or go directly to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLkZ4Zmli1k>.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Shiwali Patel, Director of Justice for Student Survivors & Senior Counsel at the National



Women’s Law Center (NWLC), presented an overview of Title IX, the civil rights law passed in 1972 (the year when NWLC was founded.) It prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance.

Patel discussed where we are at the beginning of the Biden administration when a Trump Department of Education, weakened the Title IX Regulation (rule) with a narrow definition of sexual harassment and other provisions that mandated uniquely unfair and burdensome grievance procedures. She also described the current state of lawsuits to stop these new Title IX rules and the long rule making process needed to undo these harmful provisions.

She also discussed the steps that the Biden Administration announced it would take on the Title IX rule in President Biden’s March 8 Executive Order “Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free From Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity,” and the Education Department (ED’s) April 6 stakeholder letter outlining its plans for implementing the Executive Order. Next steps include the Department holding a hearing to hear from students, educators, and others about sexual harassment in education, as well as discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

ED also indicated that it will issue a Questions & Answer (Q&A) document “to provide additional clarity about how its Office for Civil Rights interprets schools’ existing obligations under the 2020 rule, including the areas in

which schools have discretion in their procedures for responding to reports of sexual harassment,” and that it “anticipates” issuing a notice of proposed rule making to amend the harmful changes to the Title IX rule.

NWLC Resources on the Title IX rule:

NWLC’s explainer on the DeVos rule (<https://nwlc.org/resources/devos-new-title-ix-sexual-harassment-rule-explained/>)

Resources on NWLC website about the rule (<https://nwlc.org/respect-students/>)

Letter NWLC sent to the Biden-Harris transition team in December 2020 which was signed by over 100 organizations including CWI (<https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Biden-Harris-Title-IX-sexual-harassment-sign-on-letter-12.9.20-vF.pdf>).

NWLC Leads Civil Rights Brief in Support of Students’ Rights to be Free from Harassment and Unfair Discipline (<https://nwlc.org/blog/nwlc-leads-civil-rights-brief-in-support-of-students-rights-to-be-free-from-harassment-and-unfair-discipline/>)

Legislative Action to /support Student Survivors of Sexual Harassment <https://nwlc.org/resources/70-groups-call-for-legislative-action-to-support-student-survivors-of-sexual-harassment/>

ECONOMIC



Ariane Hegewisch, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, (IWPR) presented the research done by IWPR to expose the economic impact of covid on women and families, especially women of color and the steps needed to help women overcome the struggles of fair pay, job preparation and glass ceilings. These include: childcare and care crisis; unemployment & workforce exits; profound wealth and earnings inequality and gender wage gap as well as no paid family leave, paid sick leave, or universal healthcare access; and occupational segregation. She emphasized how the gender segregation in occupations perpetuates and deepens the gender wage gap.

Hegewisch more recently shared a new report from IWPR on the Economic Impact of Equal Pay which finds that if women were paid the same as equally qualified men, poverty for working women would be reduced by more than 40 percent. Closing the gender wage gap would increase working women’s annual average earnings from \$41,402 to \$48,326, a \$541 billion in wage and salary income to the U.S. economy (2.8 percent of 2019 GDP).

IWPR Resources:

IWPR Hegewisch Biden First 100 Days slides (<https://womensclearinghouse.org/wp-content/uploads/IWPR-Hegewisch-Biden-First-100-Days-2021-4-27.pdf>) The last slide has links to other resources.

Economic Impact of Equal Pay (https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Economic-Impact-of-Equal-Pay-by-State_FINAL.pdf) This 5/11/21 analysis is pre-COVID pandemic; 2020 data are not yet available at the level of detailed needed.

EDUCATION

Mindy Grimes-Festge, Secretary/Treasurer of the United Teachers of Dade, discussed the educational needs of students, especially the impact of the forced virtual learning in the face of the pandemic and re-opening schools safely. She discussed the importance of the \$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan Act which designated \$170.3 B to education and \$125.5 B for K to 12 education. She also lamented the She-Cession when 2.3 million women left the workforce during the Covid 19 pandemic between Feb. 2020 and Feb. 2021. After discussing AFT Reopening plans Grimes-Festge outlined learning beyond Covid such as broadening assessment instruments to increase focus on student mental health and socio and emotional aspects of teaching. She recommended more focus on expanding early childhood education, supporting English Language Learners, extended school days, summer programs and individual tutoring.



First 100 Days Presentation – Grimes-Festge (<https://womensclearinghouse.org/wp-content/uploads/First-100-Days-Presentation-Mindy-Grimes-Festge.pdf>)

WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS

Jeanette Lim Esbrook, CWI Vice President, Legal Affairs listed some of the women President Biden appointed or nominated for leadership positions in his administration during the first 100 Days. Besides the leadership of the First Lady Jill Biden and the Vice President Kamala Harris, the new administration has so far appointed more women to cabinet level positions than any other president.



Janet Yellen would be the nation's first woman Treasury secretary and Deb Haaland would be the first Native American as head of the Department of the Interior. Biden has also named a number of other firsts to positions just under the Cabinet level, recently appointing Dr. Rachel Levine as assistant secretary of health. She would be the first-ever transgender person to be confirmed by the Senate.

Other women Cabinet level appointees include:

Marcia Fudge, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy
Isabel Guzman, Administrator, Small Business Administration
Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence
Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce
Cecilia Rouse, Chair, Council of Economic Advisors
Katherine Tai, U.S. Trade Representative
Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US. Ambassador to the United Nations

SUMMARY

The Biden-Harris administration has taken important steps during the first 100 days to take vital steps to move women forward.

They have prioritized their commitment to gender equity, by initiating the process of rescinding harmful Trump administration actions.

This includes the Title X domestic gag rule that restricted access to vital family planning services for millions of people. A review of the Department of Education's Title IX regulations that weakened protections for sexual assault survivors was initiated.

The Biden Cabinet is the most diverse in United States history, with women comprising nearly half of all appointees. An executive order was issued to create the White House Gender Policy Council to implement governmentwide gender equity strategies.

CLEARINGHOUSE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES (CWI) BOARD ELECTIONS

CWI BOARD MEMBER TERMS ARE 2 YEARS.

The following CWI board members' terms end in June 30, 2021 but they have agreed to stand for election at the June 22, 2021 CWI meeting.

Co-Presidents Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla have agreed to run for reelection and Connie has also agreed to serve as VP membership.

Anne Martin has agreed to continue as VP Organizational Management

Sherry Klein has agreed to continue as VP Technology

Alotta Taylor, has agree to continue as VP Diversity

Linda Fihelly has agreed to continue as a Board Member

CWI Members are encouraged to volunteer to serve on our great board. Just tell any board member you are interested in being appointed.

DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org . LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider. <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on additional feminist meetings and activities.

The following events in purple are copied from the Montgomery County MD Chapter of NOW Feminist Calendar with many thanks.

Maryland Democratic Party Asian American Pacific Islander Diversity Leadership Council

United Communities of Color: Anti-Hate Panel

Monday, May 17 • 7 pm EST

Panel will discuss the disturbing rise in hate crimes targeting Asian Americans, and how we can come together as Marylanders to create a more united country and state. The panel will be moderated by **James Stowe**, Director of the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, and will feature **Gustavo Torres**, Executive Director of CASA; **Zainab Chaudry**, Director of CAIR's Office in Maryland; **Cherri Branson**, Third VP, Montgomery County NAACP; and **Paul Tiao**, President of Communities United Against Hate. **TO REGISTER**

Tuesday May 18; 8-9 PM EDT, Stop US Support for Saudi Arabia Code Pink, RSVP

Wednesday, May 19, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM The Criminalization of Black and Brown Girls: Adversity, Abuse and the School-to-Prison Pipeline” VA NOW and many co-sponsors. REGISTER

Washington Area Women's Foundation

#AskThem Webinar: The Impact of Gender-Based Violence on AAPI Women

Wednesday, May 19 • 12 pm

Join us for our next #AskHer webinar about the impact of gender-based violence on AAPI women. On May 19th, participate in a poignant discussion on how our culture, institutions, and systems undermine the safety of women and gender expansive people from Asian and Pacific Island cultures. We'll discuss this historical issue and how it is playing out today alongside the recent increased violence against Asian American communities. **[FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)**

One America Movement

The Science of Polarization: Decoding and Demystifying Our Divisions

Wednesday, May 19 • 7 pm EST

Join One America Movement in their virtual fast-paced sessions that will help you better understand the subtle inner workings of your brain and behavior that influence how you perceive and interact with others— and how they perceive and interact with you. **[TO REGISTER](#)**

Alice Paul Institute

The 28th Amendment: A Bipartisan Case for the ERA

Thursday, May 20 • 6 pm EST

The Alice Paul Institute welcomes GOP for the ERA founder and Executive Director **Steve Anderson**, for a conversation about the nonpartisan history of the ERA. As a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, Steve led the charge for ratification of the ERA in 2019 and argues that it is well past time for renewed bipartisan support of the national legislation. Steve will lead a discussion about his efforts to promote ratification in other states and to advocate for Congress to remove the ERA's ratification timeline. Alice Paul famously stated, "...most reforms, most problems are complicated, but to me, there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality." Join us as we examine the unprecedented complications faced by this important amendment. **[FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)**

Tuesday May 25, 10 AM, POLITICO'S Health Care Innovators: Fixing America's Maternal Health Crisis, CVS Health. [Register](#)

Tuesday May 25, Noon Update on Global Gender Issues highlighting a Strategy for Progress, DC for CEDAW: The Time is Now! (See newsletter page 1 for details.)

Tuesday, May 25; 7:30-8:30 PM Let's talk about women and the pandemic (*save this link to your calendar*)<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84275800009>

Meeting ID: 842 7580 0009 Please RSVP to info@mcmdnow.org

The 2021 National NOW Conference, themed *Springing Hope into Action: Amplifying NOW's Intersectional Feminist Agenda* will be held virtually on **Saturday, July 24 and Sunday, July 25; Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1; and on Saturday, August 7 and Sunday, August 8.**

Here are some favorite feminist articles from Carrie Baker

Advocates Cheer FDA Review of Abortion Pill Restrictions

<https://fixingmaternalhealthcrisis.splashthat.com/Invite1>

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/05/11/fda-review-abortion-pill-restrictions-mifepristone-biden/>>

Ms., May 11, 2021.

Linking Voter Suppression and Abortion Restrictions: “If We Lose Voting Rights, We Lose Women’s Rights,” Ms., May 7, 2021

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/05/07/voter-suppression-abortion-restrictions-womens-rights/>

Attorneys General Appeal ERA Lawsuit, Press Biden Administration to

Recognize the 28th Amendment

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/05/06/equal-rights-amendment-attorneys-general-virginia-illinois-nevada-appeal-era-lawsuit-biden-administration-28th-amendment/>>, Ms., May 6, 2021.

Major Victory for National Abortion Federation Against Anti-Abortion Extremists

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/05/04/david-daleiden-national-abortion-federation-anti-abortion-extremists-planned-parenthood/>>, Ms., May 5, 2021.

Unprecedented Surge in Anti-Abortion Laws Proposed and Passed Across the U.S.

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/05/04/anti-abortion-laws-texas-arizona-arkansas-indiana-west-virginia-kentucky-oklahoma-south-dakota-wyoming/>>, Ms., May 4, 2021.

Athletes Win Historic Title IX Settlement with Clemson University

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/05/03/title-ix-settlement-clemson-university-womens-sports/>>

, Ms., May 3, 2021.

“Every Issue is a Gender Issue”: United State of Women Highlights Gender

Disparities in All U.S. Policy

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/04/28/every-issue-is-a-gender-issue-united-state-of-women-gender-disparity-policy/>>, Ms., April 28, 2021.

“Invisible Abuse: Ending Coercive Control in Intimate Relationships,”

<<https://www.gazettenet.com/Columnist-Carrie-N-Baker-40071670>> Daily

Hampshire Gazette, April 22, 2021 (republished on Ms. here

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/04/25/ending-coercive-control-domestic-violence-connecticut/>>

).

FDA Allows Telemedicine Abortion During Pandemic

<<https://msmagazine.com/2021/04/19/fda-telemedicine-abortion-pill-mifepristone/>>

, Ms., April 19, 2021.

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

Meeting summary by Sheila Wickouski and many of the Meeting Presenters.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

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June 2021 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Newsletter
<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

(Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, June 22, 2021 (12:00-1:30 PM)

“Celebrating Title IX’s 49th Birthday with the Reintroduction of the Gender Equity in Education Act in the 117th Congress”

Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdOivpiliE9LImRm0GXDs0VuPbbIJAZt8>

Moderator: **Sue Klein**, Co-President Clearinghouse on Women's Issues and Education Equity Director, Feminist Majority Foundation.

Presenters:

Representatives from the Office of U.S. Senator Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI) and the Office of U.S. Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA) will discuss the reintroduction of the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA). Here is the most recent [version](#).

Ben Strand, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Senator Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI), **Laura Forero**, Legislative Assistant, U.S. Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA), and others who have been working to update and expand GEEA will discuss reintroduction for the 117th Congress (2021-2022)—which will coincide with Title IX's 49th Anniversary on June 23, 2021.

They will address the following:

What is the Gender Equity Education Act (GEEA)?

What changes have been made to GEEA since the 116th Congress (2019-2020)?

Who has cosponsored GEEA for the 117th Congress (2021-2022)?

Why do we need this legislation?

How can we increase support for the bill?

What is the path forward on the bill?

At the end of the meeting members of the CLEARINGHOUSE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES (CWI) will be invited to stay a few minutes to elect half the CWI BOARD for 2yr terms July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023.

The following CWI board members' terms end in June 30, 2021 but they have agreed to stand for election at the June 22, 2021 CWI meeting.

Co-Presidents Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla have agreed to run for reelection and Connie has also agreed to serve as VP membership.

Anne Martin has agreed to continue as VP Organization Management

Alotta Taylor, has agree to continue as VP Diversity. Linda Fihelly has agreed to continue as a Board Member.

Next CWI meeting Sept. 28, 2021

Summary of Clearinghouse on Women's Issues May 25, 2021 Zoom Meeting "An Update on Global Gender Issues highlighting a Strategy for Progress, D.C. for CEDAW: The Time is Now!"

This interactive CWI meeting focused on foreign and domestic feminist issues. The first part of the meeting addressed CEDAW, the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, and its use in encouraging gender analysis in US cities. The second part emphasized the Biden Administration's positive and negative actions in advancing gender equity internationally.

You can view a video recording of the full meeting here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHDK6gPmpII>

DC for CEDAW



Karen Mulhauser, President of Mulhauser and Associates, Past President NARAL, Past Chair United Nations Association of the USA, Past President United Nations Association, National Capital Area. She currently serves on the DC Commission on Human Rights.

Mulhauser opened the discussion with a brief history of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the progress made with the Cities for CEDAW movement and why it is important to make DC a city, or hopefully a state, for CEDAW. <http://citiesforcedaw.org>. The full text of CEDAW is here: <https://www.ohchr.org/documents/professionalinterest/cedaw.pdf>

Shayna Vayser, Managing Director of Advocacy and Policy Strategy at the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NC) Vayser began with a comprehensive survey of DC for CEDAW and the campaign to have the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted into city legislatures across the National Capital Area, starting with the District of Columbia. The legislation's primary focus requires government agencies to report gender analysis data and develop a citywide plan to ensure equality for women and girls in all arenas. See 1 pager on "DC for CEDAW". Vayser's presentation slides are available here: <https://womensclearinghouse.org/wp-content/uploads/DC-for-CEDAW-CWI.pdf>



DC for CEDAW is coordinated by the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA), a non-profit dedicated to advancing the values and priorities of the United Nations locally and globally. Established in 1953, UNA-NCA is one of the oldest and largest divisions of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA). With the help of over 2,000 members, volunteers, and supporters in the greater Washington area, UNA-NCA works to build public knowledge, strengthen UN-U.S. relations, and aid the UN in achieving its goals.

CEDAW was adopted by the UN in 1979 and signed by President Carter, but never ratified by the US Senate. The United States is one of only six UN member states not to ratify (incl. Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Tonga, Palau). Most recently: In November 2010, the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law held a hearing on CEDAW.

National grassroots effort that provides tools and leadership to empower local women's organizations and municipalities to effectively initiate CEDAW within their city, county, or state. Over 40 cities have passed a CEDAW resolution or

ordinance. In 1998, San Francisco became the first city in the world to adopt an ordinance reflecting the gender analysis principles of CEDAW.

Gender analysis data: analyzes workforce, services, and the city budget to integrate gender considerations into the daily operations of local agencies. It institutionalizes new ways of thinking about the equitable distribution of government resources and links gender to race, disability, immigration status, and sexual orientation. As a result of San Francisco's CEDAW ordinance, the city eliminated domestic homicides for a record 44 months from 2010-2013. Appendix B of the 2018 IAOHRA Gender Equity Toolkit contains a Local Government Gender Analysis Toolkit. <http://citiesforcedaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Revised-New-IAOHRA-pdf.pdf>.

In 2015, UNA-NCA and coalition members successfully partnered with DC Councilman David Grosso to introduce the Local Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Despite co-sponsorships from the majority of DC Council members, a hearing and subsequent vote were never scheduled. In 2017, DC Councilmember Charles Allen wrote to the DC City Administrator asking that all DC agencies' annual Performance Reports include gender data. This is the first step toward doing a gender audit and this data has not yet been collected.

DC Councilmember Robert White has told UNA-NCA that he will draft CEDAW legislation this year. He chairs the [Committee on Government Operations and Facilities](#) which will hold hearings later this year. The legislation will ask District government agencies to include gender data in their annual Performance Reports, the first step toward a comprehensive gender audit and an evaluation of gender equity in the District government agency operations.

Hopefully the legislation will ask each agency to designate a management or executive level employee to serve as a liaison to the Office of Human Rights (OHR) which will develop timelines for completion of the gender analysis. Annually, DC OHR will provide training for DC agencies and develop a citywide action plan to address any deficiencies identified in the gender analysis reporting. DC OHR will present the annual action plan to the Mayor and monitor the implementation of the citywide action plan, and will make available to all District government agencies training in human rights with a gender perspective.

This bill will lay the groundwork for expanded policy (and funding) in alignment with the principles of CEDAW. DC for CEDAW, is asking for your support and for signatures (as individuals/ organizations) for a letter to the DC Council, urging them to pass a local implementation of DC for CEDAW.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WP1R6EzC7NTA8G8JTqnBShsiDhJIWCNg/view>. Here is the DC for CEDAW Petition: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDw4xygmVihyeRo20uC7U9Z3OPm-Uuj2sRp6qgqE1uLMFykg/viewform>.

Global Gender Issues During the Early Biden/Harris Administration



Megan Corrado, Esq CWIs Vice President of Global Issues, Director of Policy and Advocacy with the Alliance for Peacebuilding, and Co-Chair of the U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security. Corrado presented a comprehensive update on the Biden-Harris Administration's foreign policy accomplishments and challenges related to gender to date. We suggest you watch the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHDK6gPmplI> (start at 40.01) of Megan Corrado's fast past review of progress and the continuing to do list.

She started by reminding us of the new Administration's general global progress which is good for all humanity such as the Paris Climate agreement and rejoining the World Health Organization. Additionally, the Biden-Harris Administration reversed the previous Administration's harmful Executive order on race and sex stereotyping. Corrado also praised the Biden-Harris Administration on the diversity of the appointments and good representation of women such as Samantha Power as Administrator of US AID. But she noted that the Ambassador of the Global Women's Issues Office in

the State Department had not yet been appointed. She praised VP Harris's statement that "The status of women is the status of democracy." International Women's Day, March 8, 2021 was celebrated by the announcement of the White House Gender Policy Council. The new Administration also announced a national gender strategy and reinstatement of State Dept Reporting requirements on women that were eliminated in past Administration. Corrado praised the appointment of two women generals. She thought the draft skinny budget looked promising, as it included funding for prevention of gender violence and that Secretary of State Blinken made good statements on integrating women's issues in foreign policy. As expected progress was made on repealing the global gag rule which prohibits US funded entities from providing information on abortion, implementing the Women, Peace and Security Act that was passed in June 2020, and on establishing a Commission on addressing sexual assault in the US military.

The still to do list includes: plans on CEDAW support, more on a structural gender policy, and more details on implementing the Women, Peace and Security Act, more attention to the prevention of violence and conflict strategies, more intersectional gender analysis and support of women's groups globally. A key challenge especially after the announcement of the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan is how the advances for women there will be protected, but Corrado noted that there was some good attention from Congress on that challenge. These are just some of the key policy priorities for the Administration to advance a feminist foreign policy.

Highlights From the Participants Discussion.

Kathy Chiron, President of the DC League of Women Voters will see about their support for DC for CEDAW.

Lisa Sales discussed domestic policy and gender and race assessment and the relation of CEDAW and ERA. She noted that she introduced a CEDAW resolution into the Va legislature under the sponsorship of Hala Ayala who is now running for VA Lt Governor.

Caitlin Ryan Horrigan Director, Global Advocacy Planned Parenthood Federation of America provided further information starting with the creation of the White House Gender Policy Council and rescission of the Global Gag Rule which as a devastating anti-abortion and reproductive rights policy undermined the health and freedoms of women around the world. Further in agreement with Megan Corrado the recent decision to withdraw all U.S. forces from Afghanistan will have significant implications for the tremendous strides Afghan women and girls have made over the last 20 years. She also pointed out that while making gains more support is needed for the Global HER Act in the Senate.

Follow-up Information from our March 2021 CWI Meeting on "Next Steps in Creating the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum"

CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN B. MALONEY (NY-12), APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER DAY TESTIMONY,
JUNE 9, 2021

Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, and members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to express my support for appropriations for the Smithsonian Institute to begin operations of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum. As you know, legislation to establish the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), which Congress passed at the end of last year.

I request that the Committee appropriate \$5 million for Salaries and Expenses for the Smithsonian Institute. This is a higher allocation than has been requested by the Smithsonian, but I hope the Committee will consider the importance of providing sufficient federal funding for the operations costs of the museum in the first Fiscal Year since the legislation passed. I am proud to have helped secure funding for the American Women's History Initiative since it was created in 2018. The Initiative's scholarship and educational programming has built a strong foundation for the work necessary to create a physical women's history museum on the National Mall. As mentioned in the FY22 Smithsonian Budget Justification, it has already transferred funds from the Initiative to operations for the women's history museum.

The Smithsonian has appointed an interim executive director for the museum who will shepherd the project through the initial stages of establishment, including launching a site selection study and starting a fundraising operation. I

understand the Smithsonian will start hiring the personnel who will carry out these responsibilities with plans to hire more throughout the year. The fundraising operation is important because the legislation specifies that the construction costs of the museum will be evenly split between federal appropriations and private fundraising.

I also request that the Committee consider appropriating funds for the costs of future construction of the museum. Securing an early federal contribution for construction is an investment that will enhance the Smithsonian's ability to successfully raise private matching funds.

This museum is overdue and has broad support. In 2016, the bipartisan American Museum of Women's History Congressional Commission unanimously concluded that the United States needs and deserves a women's history museum that acknowledges women's contributions that have shaped the nation in every sector of society. There is no other comprehensive museum in the nation that is dedicated to the achievements of women. Women account for only about 5% of subjects in national monuments across the country and are woefully underrepresented in students' history textbooks. This museum is an important step toward making the Smithsonian Institute even more inclusive of the nation's history and diversity, and recognizing women who have made remarkable impacts on the country during every major moment in our history. Congress must continue its strong support for this effort, beginning with significant funding for operational expenses and an investment in the future construction of what will surely be a world-class museum.

In the months since the legislation was signed into law, the Smithsonian has made good progress toward meeting the deadlines set in the legislation and assembling its staff that will manage the early steps of the process to create the museum. The Smithsonian is also setting up the National Museum of the American Latino at the same time. Early Congressional support through adequate appropriations is necessary for the Smithsonian to successfully establish these important new museums that will help tell a more inclusive and complete story of our nation and its history that will inspire generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support for this historic effort.

DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org . LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider. <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on additional feminist meetings and activities.

The 2021 National NOW Conference, themed ***Springing Hope into Action: Amplifying NOW's Intersectional Feminist Agenda*** will be held virtually on **Saturday, July 24 and Sunday, July 25; Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1; and on Saturday, August 7 and Sunday, August 8.**

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

Meeting summary by Sheila Wickouski and many of the Meeting Presenters. Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2021

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla also VP Membership; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary and 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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September 2021 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Newsletter
<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

(Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, September 28, 2021 (12:00-1:30 PM)

“Redistricting, Gerrymandering and Voting Rights”

Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsdO2przMIGNBHh2119StBIPsyDHvi0XLI>

The CWI noon zoom meeting on September 28th is an opportunity to learn more about "Redistricting, Gerrymandering and Voting Rights." Population data from the 2020 Census identified states whose population increased and states whose population decreased. That information informed each state with their share of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives until the next census in 2030. Knowledgeable speakers at this meeting will discuss the variety of State processes for drawing lines to identify their Congressional Districts, including possible gerrymandering.

Discussion on how voting rights of minority, poor voters and women political candidates are being targeted. These can be complex and opaque processes with massive ramifications, starting with an impact on the 2022 mid-term elections. Speakers will also discuss the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act HR-4 and HR 1 to counter the effect of the States who have enacted laws to inhibit voting rights.

This meeting was organized and will be moderated by CWI VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook with assistance from VP Diversity, Alotta Taylor.

Scheduled speakers are: Gerardo Vildostegui, an advisor with the Brennan Center's Voting Rights section; Demetrius Fisher from the League of Women Voters' "People Powered Fair Maps" campaign; Toni-Michelle Travis, a professor of political science at George Mason University; and Joseph N. Posimato, an Associate with Perkin Coe's Political Law Group who is litigating state voting law cases.

Please join our first meeting of this year by registering and coming to our noon 9/28 zoom meeting at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsdO2przMIGNBHh2119StBIPsyDHvi0XLI>

Zoom Meeting Summary: Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) 6-22-21 Celebrating Title IX's 49th Birthday with the Reintroduction of the Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) in the 117th Congress



Dr. Sue Klein, Co-President CWI and Education Equity Director, Feminist Majority Foundation opened the meeting on June 22, 2021, with thanks to U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and U.S. Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA) for their plans to reintroduce the 2021 expanded Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) on June 23, 2021, the 49th anniversary of Title IX. The recording of the meeting is [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_2VvH8viZw) on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_2VvH8viZw. Congressional Information on the bills [S. 2186](#) and is [H.R. 4097](#) can be found on congress.gov.

Dr. Klein presented a brief history of attention to Women's/Gender Equity in the US Department of Education (ED) where she had worked for 34 years before joining the Feminist Majority Foundation in 2003. Here are some highlights from her talk.

Dr. Klein described how she worked on gender equity in education in the US Dept of Education (ED) (and its Office of Education predecessor) whenever she could. She worked in the National Institute of Education, Women's Research Team 1978-81 and was detailed to the National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs from 1981 to 1982. Other times she worked on gender equity assignments along with her dissemination and evaluation responsibilities. She learned how ED worked but was always disappointed that an important topic like Title IX and gender equity was given relatively little attention and resources. For example, Special Education, Indian Education and Bilingual Education had their own large offices and substantial budgeted programs but sex equity or gender equity did not.

The Gender Equity in Education Act has two major purposes:

- 1 To create an Office for Gender Equity reporting directly to the Secretary of ED to provide leadership and coordination for gender equity in education activities within the Department and with other federal agencies.
2. To manage a grants program with related dissemination, research, and evaluation components to facilitate an effective National Gender Equity Infrastructure with vertical and horizontal networks to help well trained Title IX Coordinators and their equity allies work well together to decrease and hopefully eliminate sex discrimination in and through education.

Dr. Klein pointed out that there has never been an overall high-level **Office for Gender Equity in ED** although it has been proposed. In 1993 new federal gender equity funding initiatives were introduced as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. They included the creation of a Gender Equity Office with a full-time coordinator in ED, expansion of gender equity research and training and more resources for gender equity related to math and science, sexual harassment, and athletics.

In 1994 the US Department of ED Organization Act was changed to include a Special Assistant for Gender Equity (SAGE) to advise the Secretary and Deputy Secretary to promote and coordinate gender equity programs and provide technical assistance. However, there was not much attention to this position, and it has not been filled since end of Clinton Administration.

Over the years there have been various programs that funded some gender equity work in ED. Most well-known was the Women's Educational Equity Act, (WEEA) which was passed in 1974 and lasted until 2003. WEEA funded the development, evaluation, and dissemination of local model grants, and provided technical assistance through the WEEA resource center until 2003. The highest annual WEEA funding was \$10 million in 1980. WEEA funded 800 projects through nationally competitive grants. The WEEA office was mostly located within the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, but its programs could also fund postsecondary and adult education. Dr. Klein even monitored the WEEA Resource Center for a few years out of the ED research office and established a WEEA funded gender equity expert panel (1996-2002) to identify high quality effective programs to advance gender equity from any source.

Other ED gender equity funding included state level vocational education sex equity coordinators and some state sex equity programs, a small group of projects under the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education, and Civil Rights Act Title IV (CRA) equity technical assistance centers. In the early CRA Title IV years there were separate Sex Equity Technical Assistance Centers. In later years a small focus on sex equity was maintained when they formed combined Equity Assistance Centers which still exist today. The ED Office of Educational Research and Improvement also funded a Minorities and Women's R&D training program and the National Center for Education Statistics often disaggregated data by sex and other characteristics.

Next Dr. Klein Discussed the **History related to key Purposes of the Grants Program focusing on Title IX Coordinators and the National Gender Equity Infrastructure**

The ED Office for Civil Rights (OCR) gave some attention to Title IX Coordinators but has never funded them. When Ken Marcus was Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in 2004, he wrote to post secondary institutions and superintendents of state education agencies and local school districts to remind them to designate Title IX Coordinators to carry out their responsibilities. This included notifying students and employees of the name, address, and telephone numbers of Title IX Coordinators. The WEEA Resource Center maintained a list of state Title IX Coordinators and aided Title IX Coordinators.

After urging from the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, the Obama Administration requested and posted contact information for post secondary institution's Title IX Coordinators as part of required Cleary Act reports and later requested information on school district Title IX Coordinators in the Civil Rights Data Collection. In 2015 OCR issued guidance on Title IX Coordinators roles and responsibilities. Regional OCR offices also offered training for Title IX Coordinators. The Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) in 2016 wrote *Reinvigorating the Role of the Title IX Coordinator: A Requirement and Resource* which pointed out that there need to be many more trained Title IX Coordinators in a supportive national infrastructure to fully implement Title IX. The report estimated there should be over 100,000 Title IX Coordinators if all entities responsible for implementing Title IX had a designated Title IX Coordinator to help them. ED in the Obama Administration made good progress in starting to pay attention to Title IX Coordinators, but never explicitly recommended that local pre K-12 schools should have their own Title IX Coordinators working with required school district level Title IX Coordinators. The Trump administration, under Education Secretary DeVos, rescinded the 2015 Title IX Coordinator guidance.

In 2010 Dr. Klein coauthored a Reauthorization Proposal for WEEA which was influential in the 2015 version of GEEA introduced by Senator Hirono and Representative Louise Slaughter. Help with implementing Title IX as specified in the expanded GEEA introduced on 6-23-21 is now needed more than ever. Congress needs to pass

the new GEEA soon or incorporate its provisions in other legislation, but the Department of Education can start some of the key components even before legislation such as:

1. implementing an Office for Gender Equity in ED
2. revising new guidance on Title IX Coordinators roles and responsibilities which should clarify that pre-K-12 schools responsible for implementing Title IX should have their own Title IX Coordinators who work with school district Title IX Coordinators who work with state education agency Title IX Coordinators. Horizontal networks of Title IX Coordinators should work with their peer Title IX Coordinators, other equity coordinators (specializing in race, disabilities and English language learners, sexual orientation and gender identity), school staff, parents and stakeholders and other equity allies.
3. Updating web databases that provide contact information on Title IX Coordinators so that they can be easily located by those they are supposed to protect from sex discrimination.



Ben Strand, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of U.S. Senator Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI) discussed the reintroduction of GEEA for the 117th Congress (2021-2022). It was first introduced in the 115th Congress by Sen. Hirono and Representative Louise Slaughter.



He noted the major changes in this reintroduction of GEEA include some updating of the findings, new definitions of sex such as sexual orientation and gender identity which were considered, but not included, during the Trump administration, the listing of new

coordination responsibilities such as with the White House Gender Policy Council, and the expanded focus on developing a National Gender Equity Infrastructure. The new GEEA also doubled the authorization of appropriations to \$160 million annually with \$140 million reserved for the Title IX Coordinator focused grants program.

Ben Strand and Laura Forero in Representative Matsui's office have started signing up House and Senate Co-sponsors listed on the Congress.gov website under the Bill numbers [S. 2186](#) and [H.R. 4097](#). Supporters are encouraged to contact your congress person to request they cosponsor this bicameral GEEA. Senator Hirono and Representative Matsui also issued this 6-23-21 [press release](#).

The following inserted article **Making Title IX's Promise a Reality with The Gender Equity Education Act** is in ms.magazine online on 6/24/2021, by Carrie N. Baker, J.D., Ph.D. It is based in large part on the Press Release on 6/23/21 from Sen. Hirono and Rep. Matsui.

The Gender Equity Education Act promises to make tangible advancements in gender equity by "creating equitable and welcoming school environments" for students.

The Gender Equity Education Act would provide Title IX Coordinators with annual trainings, information and best practices about Title IX compliance (USAID / Flickr)

On Wednesday, June 23—the 49th anniversary of Congress passing Title IX—Sen. Mazie K. Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Rep. Doris Matsui (D-Calif.) reintroduced the [Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in](#)

[Education Act of 2021](#) (GEEA). GEEA would provide funding and resources to finally realize Title IX’s long-awaited promise of equality in education.

The late U.S. Representative [Patsy Mink](#) (D-Hawaii)—the first woman of color elected to the House of Representatives and the first Asian woman to serve in Congress—co-authored [Title IX](#) and was the driving force behind the law’s passage. Rep. [Louise Slaughter](#) (D-N.Y.), who died in 2018, was a fierce advocate for gender equity.

“Trailblazers Patsy Mink and Louise Slaughter spent their careers demanding better opportunities for all Americans, regardless of their gender. This bill builds on their legacy by providing more funding to address sex-based harassment and discrimination in education,” [said](#) Hirono. “On the 49th anniversary of Title IX’s enactment, Congress should act now to make sure that all students can learn in safe and supportive learning environments.”

“Patsy Mink and Louise Slaughter were tireless warriors for equality and continue to serve as our north star for expanding opportunity and eradicating discrimination on the basis of sex in schools everywhere,” [said](#) Matsui. “Moving forward, it is our duty make sure that every child, regardless of gender, has the same opportunity to succeed.”



Rep. Doris Matsui, @DorisMatsui

During the week of the 49th anniversary of [#TitleIX](#), I join [@maziehiro](#) in reintroducing the Patsy T. Mink & Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act, which would provide resources, training, & technical assistance to combat harassment & discrimination in education.



Hirono and Matsui previously introduced the legislation in the [115th](#) and [116th](#) Congresses.

The bill would create an Office for Gender Equity inside the Department of Education tasked with developing new gender equity initiatives in schools and addressing pressing issues experienced by women and girls in education, including access to STEM education, athletics, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment and assault.

“There’s never been very much federal leadership to implement Title IX,” [said](#) Dr. Sue Klein, education equity director of the Feminist Majority Foundation, who is one of the leaders of effort. “This office would correct that.”

What the Gender Equity in Education Act Will Do

According to Klein, the office would create a “proactive gender equity infrastructure of Title IX Coordinators and gender equity experts” with state Title IX coordinators, school district Title IX coordinators and hopefully a Title IX Coordinator in each post-secondary and K-12 school networked together for training, assessment, and as needed, enforcement of Title IX and related civil rights laws and best practices.

“GEEA has great potential for making a comprehensive and lasting impact on improving gender equity in and through education,” [said](#) Klein. “Using existing legislation, GEEA should inspire the Education Department to establish an Office for Gender Equity and issue new guidance on the roles and responsibilities of Title IX Coordinators in a Title IX Gender Equity Infrastructure even before GEEA is passed.”

GEEA would provide critical funding to support Title IX coordinators. Nationally, the Feminist Majority Foundation has estimated at least [100,000 Title IX Coordinators](#) are needed, but a [report](#) only identified 23,000 Title IX Coordinators in 2016. The Feminist Majority Foundation also found that schools serving children in prekindergarten through grade 12 rarely have their own Title IX Coordinators. GEEA would provide Title IX Coordinators with annual trainings, information and best practices about Title IX compliance.

“For decades, school and college-based Title IX administrators have worked diligently with the limited resources available to them to implement the aims of Title IX,” [said](#) Brett Sokolow, President of Association of Title IX Administrators (ATIXA). “ATIXA calls on Congress to pass the GEEA to provide Title IX administrators with the essential resources, training and financial support needed to fully deliver on Title IX’s promise of sex and gender equity in education and thanks Sen. Hirono for championing the passage of this bill.”

The bill would protect students who face discrimination based on actual or perceived sex, including sex stereotypes; pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions; and sexual orientation or gender identity. It would also focus on eliminating compounded discrimination based on race, disability, immigration, English Language Learners, LGBTQ status and poverty.

“Despite the passage of Title IX, women and girls of color continue to experience barriers to education at higher rates when compared to their white counterparts,” [said](#) Elisha Rhodes, interim CEO at YWCA USA. “If we truly intend to achieve equity in education, we must continue to provide resources and technical assistance that will center the impacts and experiences faced by women and girls of color. That begins with passage of the Gender Equity in Education Act.”

Increasing Equity in Athletics

GEEA would also support increased equity in athletics. Despite 49 years of Title IX, female participation rates in athletics still lag far behind male participation rates, especially for girls of color. Boys, for example, receive more than [1.3 million more](#) opportunities to play high school sports than girls across the nation.

“Access to equal sports opportunities for our female students is an integral part of affording a well-rounded, effective education, as girls and young women who play sports are healthier, graduate at higher rates, and go on to experience greater workplace success as adults,” [said](#) Kim Turner, director and senior staff attorney of Fair Play for Girls in Sports, a project of nonprofit Legal Aid at Work. “GEEA can be a key component to promoting educational equality and societal wellness for all.”

GEEA allocates \$160 million of funding over five years to enforce Title IX, including funding competitive grants for K-12 schools, colleges and universities, states, school districts and other educational organizations to boost Title IX compliance programs.

“Title IX became law on this day 49 years ago, and we celebrate the advances made in education to ensure that all students, including women and girls, have equal access to education,” [said](#) Shiwali Patel, director of Justice for Student Survivors and senior counsel of the National Women’s Law Center. “However, much remains to be done to eliminate sex discrimination and bias in schools, and GEEA brings us closer towards achieving this and creating equitable and welcoming school environments.”

Another [related article](#) is from the Feminist Majority Foundation news wire.

Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues Board Members elected in 2020 and 2021 for 2 year terms were re-elected at June 22, 2021 Meeting and held a CWI Board Meeting, Aug. 5, 2021

At the end of the 6-22-21 meeting, members of the CWI elected half of the CWI BOARD for 2 yr. terms July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. The following CWI board members whose terms end in June 30, 2021 were re-elected:

Co-Presidents Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla. Connie also agreed to serve as VP Membership.

Anne Martin has agreed to continue as VP Organization Management

Alotta Taylor, has agree to continue as VP Diversity. Sherry Klein has agreed to continue as VP Technology. Linda Fihelly has agreed to continue as a Board Member. Harriett Stonehill is remaining on the Board as President Emeritus.



CWI Board Members attending in person Board Meeting on 8-5-21: Front row left to right: Anne Martin, VP Organizational Management; Harriett Stonehill, Pres. Emerita; Sue Klein, Co-President; Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Legal Affairs; Back row left to right: Connie Cordovilla, Co-President and VP Membership; Alotta Taylor, VP Diversity; Sherry Klein, VP Technology; Sheila Wickouski, Secretary



Board Members Attending 8-5 Board Meeting on Zoom (left to right): Linda Fihelly and Treasurer, Holly Joseph. Other Board Members Megan Corrado, VP Global Issues and Loretta Gubernatis, VP Media Relations

We Thank Susan Scanlan for her Many Feminist Contributions and Mourn her Passing. By Anne Martin, CWI VP Organizational Management

Our community lost a strong voice and unflinching advocate for women and feminist issues in July. Susan Scanlan passed away peacefully in Texas surrounded by her family. Her husband of 40 years, Jared Cameron, preceded her in death. Many of us knew Susan from her eight years as Chair of the National Council of Women’s Organizations (a coalition of progressive women’s groups). She was a frequent speaker on news outlets and interviews with The Washington Post and the New York Times discussing Title IX, women in combat and health care for women. Most recently she was a Visiting Scholar for the State Department, collaborating with women to encourage them to run for office and to advocate for legislation promoting gender equality.

Susan helped author legislation admitting women to the U.S. military academies and establishing March of each year as Women’s History Month. Susan helped found the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues and the Women’s Research & Education Institute. She accompanied her husband to Asia for seven years where she taught and wrote a monthly magazine column. President Bill Clinton named Susan to the Advisory Committee on Employment Training for Veterans at the Department of Labor. She received the Women’s Leadership Award from the International Women’s Democracy Center along with then Secretary of State John Kerry. She was on the Board of the National Women’s History Museum. Susan was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Sweet Briar College and earned a Master’s Degree in Modern Languages from Tulane University. Susan will be missed by all who knew her and her work for women and women’s rights remains as a tribute to her memory. Remembrances in Susan’s memory may be made to the Women’s Congressional Policy Institute.

DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to sklein@feminist.org . LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & 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.

Events:

Tue Sept. 7, 8 PM Afghanistan: What Next? A Zoom Discussion with Sonali Kolhtkar and Phyllis Bennis. Sponsored by CODEPINK CONGRESS CALLING PARTY. [RSVP](#)

Wed-Sept 8-10. My Name is Pauli Murray Exclusive Screening and Discussion, sponsored by National Women's History Museum and the ERA Coalition/Fund for Women's Equality. [Purchase Tickets](#) for \$20 preorder <https://watch.eventive.org/era/play/611bf4ef3cb3d10053b1fc7d?m=1>

Another discussion of this film is sponsored by the Smithsonian African American History and Culture Museum is from 7-8 PM. Free [Register](#)

Sat. Sept. 11, 10 AM 2 PM Online Introduction to Restorative Justice. [Register](#) DC Peace Team, Contribution Expected.

Sun. Sept. 12, 2-4 PM In Person- Women's Suffrage Marker Dedication, Sandy Spring Museum, 17901 Bentley Rd., Sandy Spring, MD 20860, honors Mary Bentley Thomas and Carolyn Hallowell Miller. Speaker

Wed. Sept. 15, 4 PM National Girls Collaborative Project National Webinar: Addressing STEM Stereotypes and Biases: Facilitating Challenging Conversations with Youth. [Register](#)

Sat. Sept. 18, 1:30-6:30 pm. Zoom Active Bystander Intervention Training, DC Peace Team. Register <https://www.sandyspringmuseum.org/event/in-person-womens-suffrage-marker-dedication/> Contribution expected.

Sun. Sept. 19, 3 PM One Year Later: Honoring the Life and Legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Free but [advance registration](#) required. Sponsored by the National Women's History Museum

Sat. Sept. 25, 2-3:30 Memorial Service for Linda Mahoney, F.Scott Fitzgerald Theater (603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD 20950). Followed by a reception 3:30-5 PM , World of Beer. Register <https://linda-mahoney-celebration-of-life.eventbrite.com>

Sun. Sept. 26, 7:30 PM In Person free screen live performance from Arena Stage at Nationals Park in DC, the Play, Toni Stone. Reserve <https://www.arenastage.org/tonistonenatspark>. Toni Stone was the first woman to play baseball in the Negro Leagues.

Sat. Oct. 2 March for Reproductive Rights Washington, DC and many other cities. Sponsored by Women's March and others. Details to come.

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

Meeting summary by Sheila Wickouski and many of the Meeting Presenters. Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

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October 2021 Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) Newsletter
<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

(Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, October 26, 2021 (12:00-1:30 PM))

“The Challenges and Future for Afghan Women and Girls”

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

[Registration Link](#)

We are all worried about the disaster for women and girls and all the people in Afghanistan since the US withdrawal and the takeover by the Taliban in Aug. 2021. This CWI noon zoom meeting on October 26th will enable us to learn more about the disaster even for those who were fortunate enough to leave, the roles of women and girls in the education and the civic sectors, what is happening now, and what the US and others should do to avoid continued and new disasters.

This meeting is organized and will be emceed by CWI Co-President, **Connie Cordovilla** and Vice President for Global Issues, **Megan Corrado**, who worked for Women for Afghan Women and is now Director of Policy and Advocacy for the Alliance for Peacebuilding.

Eleanor Smeal, President of the Feminist Majority Foundation, the Feminist Majority, and publisher of Ms. Magazine, who has worked to save Afghan women since the first Taliban takeover will amplify her understanding of the current disaster and share her advice on what women's organizations and activists should do now and in the future.

Saba, Founder of a college for women in Afghanistan and other Afghan schools and organizations to help women and girls. She will speak on the education of girls and women both before and after the current takeover of the Taliban.

Stacey Schamber, an American who worked with the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), providing technical assistance on the Better Peace Initiative, the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL), and issues of protection and psychosocial support has agreed to share her knowledge and insights based on her ongoing work with Afghan women.

We are also hoping to be joined by additional Afghan women experts.

Please join us at this meeting by registering and coming to our noon Oct. 26 zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsdO2przMiGNBhh2119StBIPsyDHvi0XLI>

Zoom Meeting Summary: Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI),

September 28, 2021-Redistricting, Gerrymandering and Voting Rights

This meeting was organized and moderated by CWI VP for Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook, with assistance in arranging speakers from CWI VP for Diversity, Alotta Taylor. CWI Secretary Sheila Wickouski, with assistance from CWI Co-President Sue Klein and meeting presenters who have edited the meeting transcript and added information to clarify the points made.

The recording of this zoom meeting is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AkuwVA4JQA>

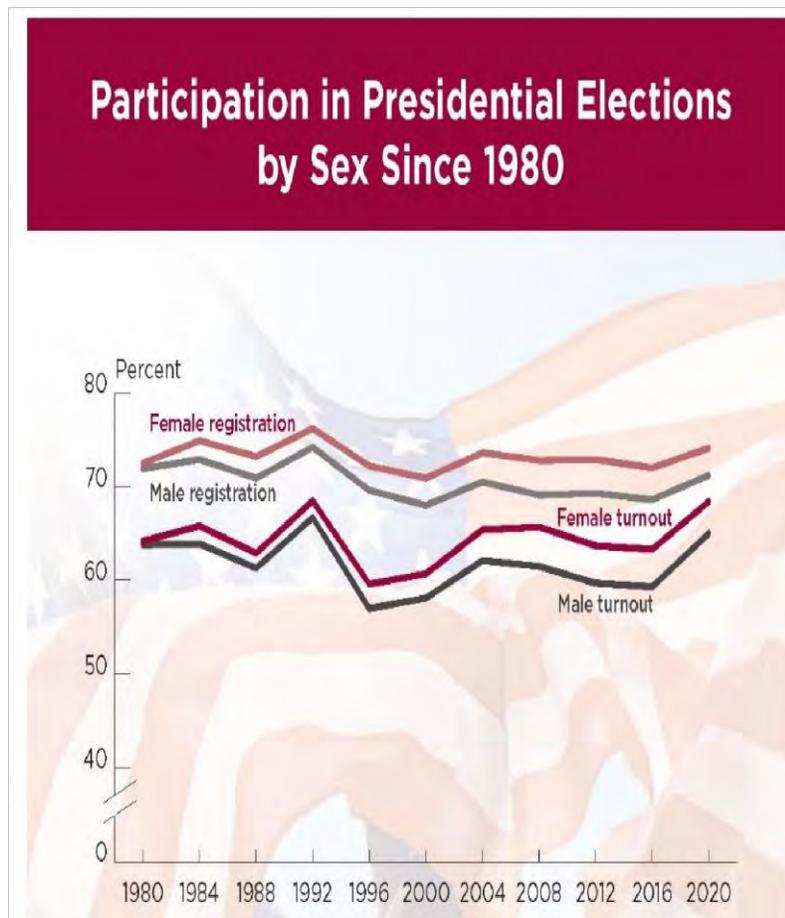
CWI Co-president Sue Klein opened the September 2021 Meeting on **Redistricting, Gerrymandering and Voting Rights** which was very appropriately on September 28, National Voter Registration Day. After the meeting Sue saw this good news from the Census Bureau on larger voter registration by women. She encourages us to keep it up, but to also increase voter registration by men!

Celebrating Our Democracy: September 28

See Census Figure on right.
Note: Estimates are based on citizen voting-age populations, which is anyone age 18 and older who is also a citizen.

Source:www.census.gov/Topics/public-sector/voting.html

Co-president Connie Cordovilla welcomed everybody and introduced the panel of experts to discuss "About this once every 10 year realignment of legislative and congressional districts now that the 2020 census data has been shared."



We will hear also that across the country states are using a variety of ways to redraw their new maps. There's been a lot of concern about that methodology as well as over

the impact on minority and low-income population of the redrawing and the most extreme would be deliberate gerrymandering of those populations. The lawsuits have been filed over the state legislations whose purpose it seems is to inhibit and restrict voting rights. We'll hear about some of those lawsuits.



Moderator, Jeanette Lim Esbrook introduced our first Panelist and previous CWI presenter, Gerardo Vildostegui. He is an advisor with the Brennan Center's Voting Rights section, a Yale Law School graduate and was editor-in-chief of the Yale Law Journal and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in philosophy at the University of California Berkeley. Vildostegui has taught constitutional law, administrative law and political philosophy for 12 years at Rutgers Law School and New York Law School.

Vildostegui began by discussing the timing of this discussion, which falls in the thick of redistricting season. In August, the Census Bureau released to the states the very fine-grained, block-level enumerations – corresponding almost to city-block-level census data--which is what states use to draw congressional and legislative districts. Almost right on cue for our discussion, Oregon just finished its congressional districts and the governor signed the bill, making them the first state to complete the process. Redistricting is a practical matter right now and because Covid delayed some of the processes there's an especially tight turnaround for the redistricting to happen in time for the 2022 elections. In an overview of the process, Vildostegui discussed how redistricting works, some of the problems and possible solutions.



Redistricting is the third stage in a decennial process. (Stage 1 is the census enumeration, and Stage 2 is the reapportionment of the number of representatives for each state.) If you take literally the metaphor of "house" in House of Representatives, this process is a kind of 10-year renovation of that house. Congress is the branch of our federal government that is supposed to be closest to the people, and the House of Representatives is the closest part of that closest part. Redistricting is supposed to ensure that the House continues to be a successful representation of the people.

Redistricting depends on the actual count, which is the first stage. The United States Constitution requires an enumeration of the people where they live, not just a survey. That is why it is so important for people to fill out their census forms, because the government cannot use statistical methods to estimate how many people really live there as in surveys. Once the census data is processed the second stage is called reapportionment and the Census

Bureau uses a particular mathematical formula. The most recent one was enacted into law in 1941 to determine how many representatives in Congress each state will be allotted.

Among the interesting changes in the reapportionment this time were one-representative gains in Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, and Oregon. The big winner was Texas, which gained two congressional seats. Among the states that lost representation are some with traditionally large populations, like New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and surprisingly California.

The third stage for redistricting is when the Census Bureau releases the fine-grained data that then allows the states to draw maps. Redistricting unlike reapportionment is not a mathematical process, but very much a political process. The constitution as it's been interpreted requires that the districts be of roughly equal population, but the boundaries of those districts are not determined really by much in the way of constitutional constraint. There is an important caveat that racial gerrymanders receive a particular kind of scrutiny. Gerrymanders based on partisan considerations have been held by the Supreme Court to be outside the scope of their review so that redistricting is a process that's been left to the political branches. Some states, like California and Colorado, have used their own legal mechanisms to set up independent commissions to draw the districts. The point of those commissions is to have a balanced group that is somewhat insulated from electoral politics and that represents both political parties draw the districts, so that we don't have the problem of legislators trying to protect themselves and trying to advance purely partisan interests. Commissions like these have been set up in a few states and there's a growing movement on that issue.

The constitutional default established by Article 1, section 4 of the Constitution is for the state legislators to do the redistricting themselves. And that is where the real drama around redistricting happens, in the state legislatures. A recent example is Oregon which has a very high quorum requirement for their legislature. To do business the Republican minority was able to extract some concessions. That's not exactly the kind of balance that you'd ideally hope for in something like an independent commission, but it does show that where there is some contestation in the state government, some division, the political process can yield some kind of compromise.

The biggest problems arise where one party thoroughly controls a state government. Then there really is no impediment to their drawing the districts in such a way as to entrench partisan advantage.

The problem isn't a purely partisan one, but partisan imbalances are nonetheless a helpful starting point. We can look at a couple of examples from *Rucho v. Common Cause*, the recent Supreme Court case I alluded to earlier, which held that political gerrymanders were not really a topic for judicial examination. In that case, the Court considered two partisan gerrymanders. The first was in North Carolina, where in 2016 Republicans won about 50 percent of the

statewide vote but won 10 out of 13 House seats in the state. That means they won about 77 percent of the representation despite winning only about 50 percent of the votes. In Maryland, from the years 2012 to 2018, Democrats consistently won a majority of statewide votes, but never more than 65 percent of the vote. But during this time they held seven out of eight house seats, and so had a representation of about 88 percent.

Beyond the partisan problem, there is a deeper problem for democracy itself. Some people describe as the problem with gerrymandering, with this kind of heavily partisan redistricting, by saying it allows politicians to choose their voters other than allowing voters to choose their politicians. What it really means is that it makes the legislative body less responsive to the people and specifically less responsive to shifts in popular opinion.

So much depends on the median voter, that elusive person who voted for Obama and then Trump--the people who really are persuadable in every election. When you have redistricting in a partisan fashion like in NC or MD, the voices of those median voters are basically lost in the shuffle and don't really make a difference. Gerrymandering obstructs exactly what redistricting is supposed to accomplish, which is to create a legislature that is responsive to the people and that is renovated and refreshed in a democratic way.

Compounding that is the problem that minority representation can also get suppressed during a redistricting process. Recently, David Wasserman of the Cook Political Report, in an article on redistricting in the Atlantic Monthly, noted that in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina--African Americans are 28 percent of the voters, but they hold just 17 percent of the congressional seats.

Since the Supreme Court has said this is basically a political question that has to be determined by the political branches and unless there is an issue of racial gerrymandering the court is not going to get involved, so what can be done? A couple of options are: independent commissions like the ones in California. These, however, take time to set up and it's getting late for the 2022 elections. There is a proposed federal law, the Freedom to Vote Act, sponsored by Senators Manchin and Klobuchar, which tries to limit the role of partisan motives in redistricting. This is one among many bills currently being talked about in Congress, and its fate is very much up in the air.

Another solution--also on a longer time horizon than the 2022 elections--would be to increase the size of the House of Representatives. And, of course, there is also the possibility of litigation in state courts, which Joseph will be discussing.



Demetrius Fisher, League of Women Voters’ “People Powered Fair Maps” campaign. Fisher has a dual bachelor of business administration, degrees in management and in general business, a master of science degree in guidance and counseling from Fort Valley State University in Georgia. The People-Powered Fair Map is a national redistricting program focused on creating fair political maps nationwide in all 50 states plus DC. Fisher has led a pilot program in Ohio to increase voter registration and turnout in communities of color on an important ballot initiative. He has also served as the senior executive administrator for the chief operating officer at the CDC. Fisher began his career in grassroots organizing and non-profit management with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Fisher reminded us that redistricting is not a one size fit all for each state. Political parties marginalize populations and often Black communities and communities of color which mean this is what we call gerrymandering, so there are in reality two types of gerrymandering. One is racial gerrymandering and the other is political gerrymandering.

A racial gerrymander is when map makers draw boundaries to either benefit or disenfranchise members of a certain race. This happened when North Carolina was split into two different districts in 2016. Political gerrymandering is when maps are drawn to increase or decrease the influence of a particular political party. Democrats are in seven of the eight congressional seats, so that is an example of what this looks like on the political and also on the racial landscape. That is why in 2019 the League launched its People Fair Maps Program which advocates for the creation of equitable accurate maps in all 50 states plus DC and to educate folks around the redistricting process to ensure that we increase public engagement in this redistricting cycle. Demetrius works to get people to be involved in redistricting hearings and to push back against challenges to gerrymandered maps so we're really working with the campaign legal center around this tool for advancing fair redistricting.

Toni-Michelle C. Travis, Emerita Professor of Political Science at George Mason University; Travis has taught and conducted research on urban politics, racial and gender dimensions of elections and Virginia government. Her latest co-authored book is *Uneven Roads: An Introduction to U.S. Racial and Ethnic Politics*. She has served as a political analyst on C-Span, CNN, Fox Morning News, and the BBC. Her current research is on the mayoral administration of Walter E. Washington, the first elected mayor of Washington, D.C. in the twentieth century. She was also a fellow at the Rothermere American Institute of Oxford University.



Travis discussed voter suppression and stated that gerrymandering is the old method of voter suppression which was not done in public view when redistricting was done by the majority party in the state house.

Now redistricting in some states is by a commission. We even have computer models that are now used to draw new lines to determine if a district is compact, has equal population and avoids racial gerrymandering among the guidelines for drawing equitable districts.

In Virginia under the Byrd machine years ago, the poll tax was used to suppress the vote of not only Blacks but of all poor residents. Today Virginia provides options for early voting, services for those who need assistance, and absentee voting. But the new tactics of voter suppression will differ on a state-by-state basis and at least 18 states have written new laws mostly to make it inconvenient and difficult to vote. There is now a list of at least 61 ways that are being used to suppress the vote which include no Sunday early voting, fewer polling places, a failure to accept tribal IDs, employers who will not give time off to vote, and proof of citizenship.

Possible responses to that type of suppression by new laws is that voters need to be organized like the days of machine politics in Chicago and Boston where every registered voter (Democratic party) was known and often was provided a way to get to the polls on election day. Today this means assisting older voters and especially African American women who are the most powerful voting bloc in the Democratic party.

The big change has been the formation of new organizations and coalitions fighting voter suppression. Black women are now organized. For example, new leaders include Stacey Abrams with Fair Fight and Leticia Brown's Black Voters Matter Fund which focus on combatting impediments to Black voting.



Joseph N. Posimato, formerly with Perkin Coie's Political Law Group, is now an associate in the Elias Law Group recently formed by Mark Elias, a well-known speaker and litigator for election rights. Posimato's law practice includes areas of constitutional law, challenges to restrictions on voting rights. He is currently involved in several state cases. Positano has a law degree with honors from Harvard Law School. He was an invitational member of the Harvard Supreme Court Litigation Clinic. He is a graduate of Fordham University and has clerked for the Honorable Joseph Drony, U.S. Court of Appeals of the

Second Circuit and also Clerked for the Honorable Katherine Blake, U.S. District Court for Maryland.

Posimato spoke of the tidal wave of new voting rights restrictions and a lot of attention that has been given to laws that are directly suppressing or restricting the right to vote in elections.

Not so much attention has been given to redistricting and how similar forces are at work to try to prevent particularly minority and to be more particular Black and Latino voters from gaining access to the polls and electing candidates of their choice.

These sorts of laws and restrictions are only going to grow as demographics across the country change and as minority voters play a large and larger role in elections across the country. We are now gearing up for a significant fight on redistricting across the country. Posimato talked first about some of the causes of action that we generally bring to challenge these maps. First, primary law that we use outside the constitution for challenging these sorts of restrictions and these maps is Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which prevents legislators in the voting context from denying the right to vote on the basis of race or on the basis of the language minority and, in the redistricting context, it bars the legislatures from passing maps that dilute the vote for certain racial minorities.

At a simple level, if a law has the effect of denying the right to vote for a racial minority you then have the beginnings of a claim under the VRA.

The Supreme Court's recent decision in *Brnovich* last term has made bringing these claims more difficult. It is still the case that you do not need intent so the legislature does not need to intend to racially discriminate in their voting rights laws to bring one of these claims but you do need to show more than just a modest burden on a minority group's ability to vote in order to succeed on these claims going forward.

In the registration context, what it means to dilute the vote is not immediately intuitive but essentially what it means is that a legislature is barred from creating a map with districts that either pack minority voters in one district or "crack districts," by splitting up minority populations into several districts. The reason a legislature might pack the minorities in one district is so that their influence is limited to that one district. A legislature might crack a district to suppress the power of minority voters in a single district.

For example, Alabama has a significant Black population, and the state can curb the influence of that Black population by packing those Black voters in one district, which means that they have the power to elect one candidate of their choice but no more than one despite the fact that they may have substantial numbers or enough numbers to elect more than one candidate of their choice.

In that circumstance section two provides a remedy which allows litigators to challenge those maps as diluting the right of those voters to vote. We see these sorts of problematic districts across the country and expect many of the maps that are ultimately passed to include these features. Race is the predominant factor at play in voting restrictions as well outside redistricting context.

State laws are also important to bringing claims against a redistricting proposal. One in particular is Florida's 2010 Fair Districts Amendment, which the citizens of Florida had passed after being fed up with the state's partisan gerrymandering and which codifies many aspects of the federal voter rights act to prevent racial discrimination, but in addition bans partisan and incumbent preferences in drawing districts. In particular, it bars the intentional favoring of particular political parties or incumbents when drawing maps.

These Amendments sowed disaster for the Florida legislature's preferred map during the 2010 cycle. Over the course of several different cases, which unfortunately took years to resolve, the courts determined that the maps had irredeemably violated the Fair Districts Amendment by showing a preference for the Republican party.

One other note about redistricting. The process is often spoken about broadly, but it encompasses usually three different maps. One's the congressional map which is the federal map that will be used to elect federal candidates, but it also includes state legislative maps. States will pass a house map to elect the state house representatives as well as state senate map to elect the state senate representatives. All three maps are up for grabs during these cycles.

From a litigator's perspective, we also must weigh other considerations such as where we want to bring a case and how favorable the bench is to certain claims. We must also pay attention to state specific processes. Different states have different redistricting deadlines. In Alabama, that deadline is in January and so we expect the legislature to move very quickly in adopting a map, but it also means that litigation has to proceed very quickly in order make sure that a suitable map is in place in time for the state's elections. There are a ton of challenges involved in these sorts of claims.

In sum, it would be way better for this litigation not to exist. It would be better for Congress and other state legislatures to pass laws that prevent unconstitutional and unlawful redistricting maps in the first place and not create the need for litigation. But I hope this provides a general overview of the litigation we are likely to see over the next few months.

In a discussion with the speakers that followed, note was made of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act required Dept. of Justice approval of any changes of voting in these certain states. Justice Roberts in *Shelby County versus Holder* said it was no longer needed because voting has not been inhibited in these states. Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote a dissent that stated that taking away section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, is "like in a downpour, removing an umbrella because you are dry."

Also discussed was the role of the Electoral College, which in recent elections has failed to elect the candidate such as Hillary Clinton who had more popular votes than Donald Trump. In

looking back at events of January 6, 2021 and the threat to our democracy from the unclarity of that law which contains a lot of seemingly contradictory provisions, but most importantly does not really clarify the extent of the authority that the vice president has in counting the votes and doesn't really clarify what reasons somebody could have for counting or not counting a vote. Relatedly, we discussed the Popular Vote Compact instead of abolishing the electoral college, which would be difficult to do without a Constitutional Amendment, has established a legal procedure for states to decide to send their electoral college votes according to which candidate in their state won the most popular votes. Vildostegui who had presented in the [Oct. 27, 2020 CWI meeting](#) on "The Electoral College: Peril and Possibilities for the 2020 Presidential Election" said it was still viable although more safeguards will be needed to keep it fair. The response is the that the most urgent reform is a statutory one and not a constitutional one at this moment.

OCTOBER MEETING

Connie Cordovilla announced that the October 26, 2021 CWI meeting will focus on the plight of women in Afghanistan and what can be done to help them both here and over there. Working with Megan Corrado, CWI Vice President for Global Issues, who has worked with Afghan women, they are arranging speakers for the CWI October 26th zoom meeting from 12 to 1:30 PM.

We had hoped to be able to provide you with some positive information but the news Sept. 28 wasn't good about the 200 women judges who are hiding in fear of their life.

Sept. 28 is international abortion day and because Saturday Oct 2 is the march against the restrictive law in Texas and potential that the Supreme Court will overturn *Roe v. Wade*, we should start thinking about what happens in other countries and bring some of that back home.

In Fond Memory of Sheila Tobias

CWI celebrates the life and contributions of our longtime member and friend, Sheila Tobias. We thank former CWI Board member Dr. Janice Koch for writing the following tribute to Sheila. Janice is a science education professor Emerita from Hofstra University who organized this Jan. 28, 2014 CWI Meeting featuring Sheila Tobias on "Women and STEM: The Professional Science Masters – Changing Lives and Careers." This meeting is described and summarized in our [Jan. and Feb. 2014 CWI newsletters](#).

In memory of Sheila Tobias (1935-2021)

A fearless feminist, brilliant researcher, ardent advocate for women and women's studies, Sheila Tobias died in her hometown of Tucson, Arizona this past summer on July 6, 2021.



Sheila was born in Brooklyn and went on to Radcliffe College where, upon graduation, she embarked on a lifetime defined by her activism on behalf of women and science and math. Sheila was an activist, an author, a consultant, and a speaker.

She is best known for exploring “math anxiety” and why so few young women pursue careers in the physical sciences. She has authored or coauthored 12 books. Her groundbreaking book, *Overcoming Math Anxiety* was first published in 1978 and reissued in 1993. It was so important for girls and young women to see their math avoidance, not as a product of their intelligence, but as a social construction leading to a lack of confidence. Her other best-known books are *Succeed with Math*; *Breaking the Science Barrier*;

They're not Dumb, They're Different; *Revitalizing Undergraduate Science: Why Some Things Work and Most Don't*; and *Rethinking Science as a Career*. Sheila used to say she was good at “demystifying science and math” in ways that made these areas accessible to those who have been underrepresented in these fields.

In the early 2000s, when Sheila was a consultant for the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, she worked tirelessly to promote the Professional Science Masters (PSM). The PSM is intended for math and science graduates bent on careers at the intersection of science and management. In large public and private enterprises, graduates serve as lab and project managers and/or work in close collaboration with specialists in finance, intellectual property or regulatory affairs. In smaller startups, they carry responsibilities in both science and management (Tobias, 2009). She spoke at CWI in 2014 about the Professional Science Masters. Her visit to our group was inspiring. To be around Sheila Tobias was to be amid a firestorm of energy, confidence, brilliance, and determination. She will always be remembered and sorely missed.

For the past 20 years, Sheila had been studying, writing, and lecturing on "neglected issues in science and mathematics education," supported by the Ford, Rockefeller, and Sloan Foundations and by the Research Corporation of Tucson, Arizona. In addition to her books on science/math anxiety and avoidance, Sheila published her own political retrospective on the Second Wave entitled *Faces of Feminism: An Activist's Reflections on the Women's Movement* (1997) reviewed in the N.Y. Times by Wendy Kaminer, and with Jean Bethke Elstain *Women, Militarism, and War: Essays in History and Social Theory* (1990).

In an interview for *Physics Today* in August 2020, Sheila stated, “My hope is that people take as a lesson from my career that if you are passionate about equity, you can make a career of it. And if you are curious enough to dip into lots of subjects, you don’t reduce your focus, you enlarge it.”

Rest in Peace Sheila...and thank you....

Janice Koch, October 11, 2021

A Memorial Tribute to Feminist Leader, Linda Mahoney by CWI VP for Media Relations, Loretto Gubernatis

Linda Mahoney passed away on March 8th 2021. The sun stopped shining. She leaves behind her wonderful Irish family, including Faith and Jill, two of her sisters. Linda worked with many great women's organizations, including NOW, National Organization for Women, MWHC, The Maryland Women's Heritage Center and the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. She was a board member of all three. She was a fierce advocate for the rights of women and was also a lawyer. Linda's partner of 24 years, Edith Miller, passed away a few years ago. I was honored to be hired by Linda to shoot Edith's Memorial in 2018. It is up on YouTube if anyone wants to see it. The links are at the end. Sadly I did not have a chance to shoot Linda's memorial. But I did have a lovely conversation with her sister Faith.



Linda was one of my best supporters in my Film and Video work and my writing. She paid me to shoot programs on NOW for her. These are also up on YouTube in a playlist titled NOW. Linda always made sure I had a ride to events even coming to my house to pick me up. One of our last video-tapings was at the house of Diana Bailey, MWHC Director. At that taping, it was an honor to interview the founding mothers of the Heritage Center, Linda Shevitz and Jill Moss Greenberg. It was a hour and a half of reminiscence about the struggle and roots of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center.

Linda Mahoney was Irish, as am I and we had some good chats about our visits there. I managed to go 4 times before the Pandemic to Dublin and Sligo. Linda bought many of my books on Irish Celtic Lore. I would like to sing a little melody for her. When Irish Eyes are smiling, they steal your heart away and Linda certainly has stolen ours and all the women she supported. She was the shoulders some will stand upon.

Edith's Memorial Part One <https://youtu.be/JvijbS3F6Tw>

Edith's Memorial Part Two <https://youtu.be/-8hNwaiTQ5w>

Edith's Memorial Part Three <https://youtu.be/zfcVed845i4>

written by Loretto Gubernatis for CWI Clearing House on Women's Issues, an organization with many of Linda's friends and supporters.

DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to sklein@feminist.org . LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter 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:

Wednesday Oct. 20, 7 PM, Feminist Future Series. Everyday Women are the Protagonists, Sponsored by Women's March, [Register](#)

Thursday, Oct. 21, 1 PM, Latina Equal Pay Day & Essential Women Worker Virtual Summit. Free [Register Now](#)

Thursday Oct. 21, 12 PM, Domestic Violence in America, The Washington Post / Live Register [Stream here: https://wapo.st/domesticviolenceoct2021](https://wapo.st/domesticviolenceoct2021)

Thursday, Oct. 21, 6 PM, The Suffragist Playbook Alice Paul Institute [FOR MORE INFO](#)

Thursday Oct. 21, 7:30 PM, Girls State of the Union, NOW and EveryGirl World . Hear from young activists. [RSVP](#) Tue. Oct. 26 Noon CWI Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 26, Noon, Zoom meeting on The Challenges and Future for Afghan Women and Girls. Clearinghouse on Women's Issues. Registration and information on page 1 of this newsletter.

Thursday, Oct. 28, 2 PM, Emerging Voices from the Pandemic: Students Speak Out, National Urban League Film Series [Register Now](#)

Thursday, Oct. 28, 5:30 – 8PM, WISER In-person reception , 101 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC [RSVP to attend this in-person event.](#)

Friday, Oct. 29, 11:30 AM – 3:35 PM, WISER'S Annual Women's Symposium: 25 Years of Improving Women's Financial Security, Dr Mildred Garcia, President of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, A virtual Event [Symposium Agenda](#) [Register](#)

Friday, Nov. 5, 4 PM, From Uncle Tom to the Hill We Climb: The Legacy of Harriet Beecher Stowe, Maryland Women's Heritage Center. [FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER](#)

Wednesday, Nov. 10, National Women's History Museum, A Vote for Susana: The First Woman Mayor by Karen M. Greenwald presented for Election Day. [Register](#)

Saturday, Nov. 13, 9 AM – 1 PM, MLAW Fall Conference: Turning Crisis Into Opportunity: Building a Stronger Care Infrastructure. Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women. **FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER**

Thursday, Nov. 28, PM, 2021 Virtual Annual Awards & Meeting, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence. **FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER**

Sunday, Dec. 5, National Women's History Museum, Feminism: The Fourth Wave: Guest Curator-Led Virtual Tour of Upcoming exhibit. [Register](#)

Sunday, Dec. 12, National Women's History Museum, The Missing Waves of Feminism Symposium Series: The Fourth Wave. [Read More](#)

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

Meeting summary by Sheila Wickouski and many of the Meeting Presenters.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

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