



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

<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

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

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

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

[Registration Link](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLEARINGHOUSE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES (CWI) BOARD ELECTIONS

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

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

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

Expectations for Board Members include:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2022 – JUNE 2024

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

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<https://womensclearinghouse.org>



Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues Membership Form

<https://womensclearinghouse.org/>

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

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

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

OR

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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