



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

**Zoom Meeting Registration Link**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/96111166400>

**for Tues. Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> Noon-1:00 PM**

**“The National Women’s Health Network with a focus on Mifepristone”**

**Denise Hyater Lindenmuth**, Executive Director of the National Women’s Health Network and Vice President for Women’s Health at the Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues will serve as Moderator and introduce the National Women’s Health Network ([www.NWHN.org](http://www.NWHN.org)). NWHN was founded in 1975, as a consumer watchdog organization that changes the way the medical establishment listens to women. It has thousands of institutional and organizational members. A donation of \$15 also provides a 12-month membership and other benefits. Special topics of interest include: aging women, maternal health, sexual and reproductive health, abortion, contraception, disability, FDA advocacy, breast health, chronic conditions, LGBTQIA health, mental health and wellbeing, and the social determinants of health. NWHN also analyzes and supports bills and monitors appropriations related to women’s health. It also provides many resources in its key topic areas on its website ([www.NWHN.org](http://www.NWHN.org)).

**Kristen Batstone** from NWHN will provide an update on legal and availability issues for Mifepristone. Kristen Batstone is a Policy Manager at the National Women’s Health Network, where she works on issues related to reproductive health, maternal health and the health and well-being of aging women. Kristen previously worked at the National Rural Health Association, where she managed their women’s health and maternal health legislative portfolio. Kristen was responsible for facilitating relationships with Members of Congress and their staff, as well as developing policy interventions that improved women’s health outcomes in rural areas. Kristen received her undergraduate degree in Women, Gender, Sex and Sexuality Studies from American University, and she is working towards an MPH from the George Washington University. Growing up in rural Pennsylvania, Kristen witnessed first-hand the inequities women from geographically isolated areas experience when trying to access high-quality, comprehensive health care. She is passionate about modernizing our health systems, expanding and diversifying our health care workforce, and decriminalizing life-saving health care.

In the discussion of mifepristone Kristen will provide a brief history of its use and popularity for medical abortions and then discuss the current legal objections and their implications for the future of abortions in the US. In doing so she will discuss the most recent 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals ruling’s meaning and where do we go from here? To preview she notes, "A recent court decision threatens the national availability of Mifepristone, one of two abortion pill medications used for more than half of abortions in the US. Due to a stay issued by the Supreme Court, abortion pills are still available during judicial proceedings, but a subsequent decision from the Supreme Court could have a devastating impact on abortion access. Even if the Supreme Court sides with abortion advocates and upholds recent FDA guidance that allows Mifepristone to be dispensed through the mail and retail pharmacies, Mifepristone access is not guaranteed due to efforts to codify abortion pill bans at the state and federal level. Regardless of actions taken by courts and Congress, abortion pills will still be available by mail in all 50 states, even in states that ban abortion care."

Please come with your questions and suggestions about NWHN and mifepristone.

**Remember to register to attend this Oct 24 CWI noon Zoom meeting at this [Registration Link](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/96111166400).**

The next CWI meeting will be Jan 23, 2024. We will not meet in Nov and Dec due to the holidays.

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



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

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

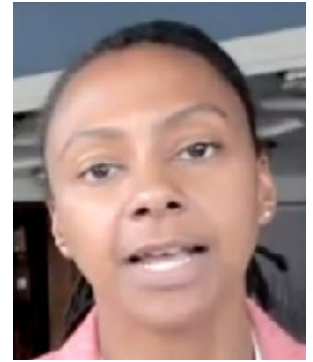
Nearly 300 persons attended the Seneca Falls celebration - about half were younger feminists. Attendees had the memorable experience of meeting in the First Presbyterian Church. This is the very church where ERA author Alice Paul read the text of the proposed amendment which then was intended as a protection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

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



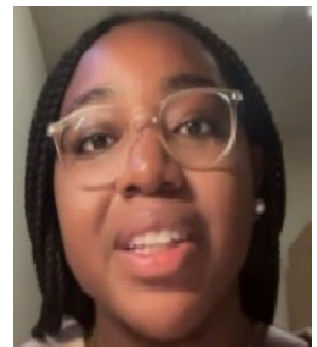
Photo taken in DC by Perry Klein

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



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

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



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



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

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

**Take Action: Sign ERA Petition:** [www.sign4ERA.org](http://www.sign4ERA.org)

## Other Key Resources on the ERA Centennial Convention

"Biden Challenges Congress to Take Action on ERA" by Roxy Szal, Msmagazine.com 8/28/2023.

<https://msmagazine.com/2023/08/28/biden-equal-rights-amendment/>

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

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

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

ERA Project Events from the Columbia University Law School.

<https://gender-sexuality.law.columbia.edu/content/era-project-events>

Convention Days & ERA Centennial Celebration from the Women's Hall of Fame.

[www.womenofthehall.org/event/convention-days-era-centennial-celebration/](http://www.womenofthehall.org/event/convention-days-era-centennial-celebration/)

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

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

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

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

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

**Wednesday Oct. 18. World Menopause Day.** For more info see National Women's Health Network.

<https://www.mobilize.us/join/23950865/1:84d12d99a8e2c272b58ddf1ab49f41c97605e98bfd0d5a751b25bf844d845a7/>

**Wednesday Oct. 18, 6-9 pm. Safe not Sexualized. Virtual.** For details, go here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/safe-not-sexualized-tickets-721334580147/> /

To access the online event page, go here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/x/safe-not-sexualized-tickets-721334580147>

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

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

To access the online event page, go here:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **ON STAGE**

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

### **WOMEN IN THE AIR AND THE OPERA**

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

### **NASM LECTURES**

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

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

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

## ART MUSEUMS

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

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

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

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

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

## EVENTS

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

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

*Newsletter edited by Sue Klein*

### **CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2023– JUNE 2025**

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



# Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues Membership Form

<https://womensclearinghouse.org/>

The CWI membership year is: **July 1-June 30**. Multi-year and Gift memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in beginning and end years (e.g. 2022-2025 for a 3-yr membership). Members will receive CWI newsletters and meeting announcements as well as other feminist news and event notifications. Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

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

OR

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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