



Join us on March 25, 2008

Celebrating Women's History Month

## Women and Politics / Equality vs. Protectionism in the Law

Celebrating Women's History Month, CWI will present two distinguished authors of books on women and politics, **Jo Freeman** and **Kristie Miller**.

**Jo Freeman**, feminist activist, political scientist, writer and lawyer, chronicles the struggles of women in the United States for political power. She will speak on "Equality vs. Protectionism: Setting the Agenda After Suffrage," the title of one of the chapters from her recently-published book, *We Will Be Heard: Women's Struggle for Political Power in the United States*. ([www.jofreeman.com/books/heard.htm](http://www.jofreeman.com/books/heard.htm)). Among her many publications she authored prize-winning books, *A Room at a Time: How Women Entered Party Politics* and *The Politics of Women's Liberation*.

**Kristie Miller**, who says that women's participation in party politics in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has largely been forgotten, has for the last two decades been writing women back into history. In 2004 she published a biography, *Isabella Greenway: An Enterprising Woman* ([www.kristiemiller.com/index.html](http://www.kristiemiller.com/index.html)). Greenway, a New Deal politician and lifelong friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, blazed a trail for remarkable women in Arizona politics (Sandra Day O'Connor, Governor Janet Napolitano). Miller is now writing a dual biography of the two wives of US President Woodrow Wilson.

**DATE/TIME:** Tuesday, March 25, 2008 / 12 Noon sharp – 1:30 pm  
Open to the public, no reservation necessary.

**PLACE:** One Dupont Circle, American Council on Education, 8th Floor, Kellogg Room  
Bring brown bag lunch. Soft drinks available from a machine.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

*A photo ID must be shown at the security desk of One Dupont Circle.*

*Please allow time to go through the sign-in system.*

*In case of bad weather and closing of government offices, the CWI meeting will be cancelled.*

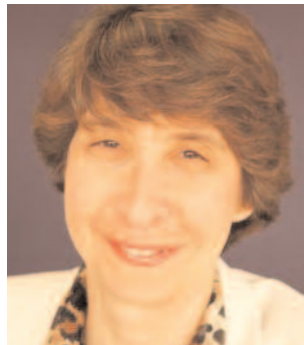
Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 22, 2008  
Women's Role in National Security

## Title IX at 35

**T**itle IX at 35: *Beyond the Headlines*, recently released by the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE), was the focus of CWI's February meeting. The speakers were **Jocelyn Samuels**, vice president for education and employment at National Women's Law Center (NWLC), who presented an overview of the report and **Kim Gandy**, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), who discussed the disadvantages of single-sex education, one of the major areas covered in the report. The report addresses progress and continued challenges around six major Title IX issues: athletics, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), sexual harassment, career and technical education, employment, and sex-segregated education.

**Jocelyn Samuels** noted that many statistics in the report were red flags of potential lack of compliance with Title IX policies. For example, female students comprise 57 percent of the student body in some colleges, however, only 43 percent of college athletes are female, but these female athletes receive only 37 percent of operating budgets for sports. Women comprise only four percent of heating, A/C and refrigeration students, six percent of electrician and plumbing students, and nine percent of automotive students. Women make up 79 percent of United States public school teachers, but only 44 percent are school principals. Women represent less than one in five faculty members in STEM disciplines.

Samuels said that over-representation of women in stereotypical female subjects is prevalent, but they continue to be drastically



Jocelyn Samuels



Kim Gandy



Bernice Sandler

under-represented in the higher paying male dominated fields.

A specific example of gender inequity, she said, is seen in the court case *Communities for Equity v. Michigan High School Athletic Association*. In this case, objections were made to the association's decision to schedule six girls' sports, but no boys' sports, during the off season. This scheduling had a negative impact on young women athletes because among other things it gave them fewer chances to meet college recruiters, unlike their male counterparts who met recruiters during the regular season. Thus, young women athletes in the high school had fewer opportunities for scholarships and recruitment.

Lastly, Samuels presented *Title IX at 35* recommendations for all participants on gender equity issues. The report advocates that Congress conduct oversight hearings, strengthen anti-discrimination laws, and enact new laws to close the wage gap that persists between women and men and increase gender equity research, development, and data collection. For administrative agencies, the report recommends enhanced technical assistance, analysis of data, and greater exercise of their enforcement respon-

sibilities. Schools are advised to appoint Title IX coordinators to ensure that they are meeting their responsibilities to be in compliance with the law, such as the adoption and implementation of effective anti-harassment and anti-discrimination procedures. Schools should also take pro-active steps to ensure that girls are being encouraged to take courses that are atypical for their gender.

**Kim Gandy** discussed the ways single-sex education discriminates against young women.

## *Program Summary, continued*

She stated that the new 2006 Department of Education changes in the Title IX regulations throw out the most basic safeguards of the Title IX legislation. Single-sex programs can now be based on “the vague idea” that they might improve education for girls (or boys). The Department of Education’s new regulations do not mandate equal treatment for those students who are excluded from a single-sex program. She said the regulations rely on faulty and unproven assumptions about the benefits of single-sex programs.

Gandy explained that one of the problems with gender segregated education is that there is no demonstrative effectiveness compared to similar quality coeducation. She emphasized that virtually without exception, gender segregated programs that “work” invariably have greater resources than other schools, adding, “Take any school and add teachers that are motivated by doing something different, especially carefully selected teachers and smaller classes, then of course, the students will do better.” She added, schools that are single-sex reinforce sex stereotypes and increase sexist attitudes, especially of boys.

Gandy described schools as the workplace of childhood, where girls and boys learn how to get along and work together. She pointed out that the belief that single-sex schools are better is based on the unfounded assumptions that boys and girls learn differently and thus should be taught differently and separately. For instance, the Livingston Parish, Louisiana, school district planned to have single sex classes in a formerly coeducational school based on “expert” advice that separating students by gender would be beneficial. One of their experts suggested that boys should learn heroic behavior; he also said “boys need to practice pursuing prey and girls need to practice taking care of babies.” (The NCWGE report describes how the ACLU stopped this planned sex segregation.)

She also discussed the claims of intrinsic sex differences by Leonard Sax and the National Association for Single Sex Public Education which argued that boys need loud and moving classrooms and girls need role playing exercises. In particular, NASSPE said that the teachers should be moving at all times, “the boy should

never know where the teacher will be 20 seconds from now and that girls need role playing exercises.” Gandy said that these types of recommendations make no sense based on gender or other knowledge about effective teaching and learning — that there are many learning styles and the best teachers teach to all of them.

There were additional comments from some of the authors of the National Coalition report.

**Connie Cordovilla**, American Federation of Teachers, reminded everyone that Title IX also protects education employees from sex discrimination. Her chapter in the Title IX report recommended continued attention to the gender wage gap and that the Department of Education should collect data to assess pay equity and require compliance with Title IX and other equal employment laws.

**Fatima Goss Graves**, National Women’s Law Center, pointed out that despite lack of progress in increasing women in the higher paying male-dominated technical careers, some localities have done better than others by using strategies such as mentors and role models. At the federal agency level, despite requests by the NWLC over the past 5 years, there have been no Title IX compliance reviews for career and technical education. She said it is also important to restore funding of programs to help women succeed in the fields where they are still under-represented.

**Sue Klein**, Feminist Majority Foundation, recommended that we capitalize on the requirement for Title IX coordinators, estimating if there was full compliance there would be over 100,000 Title IX gender equity coordinators working to advance gender equality in institutions at all educational levels

**Jan Erickson**, NOW Foundation, noted that one key recommendation from the NCWGE says the Department of Education should withdraw the changes that have been made to the Title IX regulation and only allow single sex education if it is well justified because it decreases sex discrimination. If this isn’t feasible, she said, we will be insisting that there be parameters and demand accountability on single sex programs. A recent evaluation indicated that the girls scored much lower than boys in single sex algebra classes.

## Program Summary, continued

In the Q&A discussions, **Bernice Sandler**, also known as “godmother of Title IX,” added to Gandy’s concerns about the extreme difficulty of establishing gender equitable single sex education in public schools by pointing out that “Different is never equal, it is lesser, and Title IX was set up initially so that with very few exceptions — we would not use sex or gender as a way to categorize people.” She also said that the 2006 changes in the regulations allowing single sex schools, classes, and programs without the previous safeguards against sex discrimination “is indeed the most dangerous attack on Title IX since it began.”

In reply to a question about where the single-sex movement is coming from, **Samuels** said it might in part be born from desperation about many children failing and from those who want to enhance school choice. She added that as research says, we should be devoting our attention to smaller classes, better trained teachers, and more attention to curriculum. **Gandy** added that this focus may be a sleight of hand way to divert attention from real problems and that some of the single sex education advocates really want to reinforce traditional sex stereotypes and feel that it is easiest to do this in sex segregated schools and classes.

**Gandy**, responding to a participant who said “I have heard that women’s colleges help women succeed and that single sex education has been a breeding ground for feminist women,” said single-sex colleges were formed because women were not allowed into Harvard or other elite private institutions, and the schools were not coed, not because women wanted to be segregated, but because it was the only way to get a high quality education. While they are good schools they continue to be single sex because their alumni who help fund them want to keep them that way. The reality is that a Harvard degree was more valued than a Radcliffe degree.

**Samuels** explained that the Title IX regulations prior to the 2006 changes said that some single sex education was legal if it was for remedial or compensatory purposes. Thus, there must be a very good reason for single sex education. What Title IX and the Constitution say about

public education is “you have to have (and she paraphrased the Supreme Court ruling here) a damn good reason for doing it and you have to think very carefully about how you structure it to make sure that the programs don’t end up reinforcing stereotypes, creating new discrimination against either gender, or undermining the basic purposes of promotion of equal opportunity, the purpose for which these kinds of programs are still permissible.

### Key Resources on Title IX at 35:

*Title IX at 35: Beyond the Headlines* is the third five-year report by the 50 organizational members of the NCWGE. [www.ncwge.org](http://www.ncwge.org)

*Ms. Magazine* articles on Triumphs of Title IX, Fall 2007.

[www.feminist.org/education/TriumphsofTitleIX.pdf](http://www.feminist.org/education/TriumphsofTitleIX.pdf)

*Handbook for Achieving Gender Equity* through Education, 2nd Edition, 2007,

[www.feminist.org/education/handbook.asp](http://www.feminist.org/education/handbook.asp)

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### Kellye McIntosh Joins CWI Board

Kellye McIntosh has joined the CWI board of directors. She is presently the associate outreach director at the Alliance for Justice where she works on “fair and independent judiciary” issues. Her impressive former work experience includes jobs as national field director for OWL and for the United States Student Association; as program manager for the Children’s Defense Fund; as coordinator for the Feminist Majority Foundation and as deputy field director for Sen. Carl Levin’s (D-MI) successful re-election campaign in ‘96. She has a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University and a master’s degree from Johns Hopkins University. Kellye began her career as president of the Michigan Collegiate Coalition where she advocated around statewide higher education issues; she has trained hundreds of grassroots advocates in direct action organizing techniques.

## Ashley B. Carson/OWL

OWL – The Voice of Midlife and Older Women, has named Ashley B. Carson, J.D. as its new executive director. Carson has significant experience in advocacy work for women, children and seniors. She can be reached at [acarson@owl-national.org](mailto:acarson@owl-national.org)

CWI's nominating committee — Chair Al Golub, Roslyn Kaiser and Jane Walstedt — is looking for you! If you are interested in joining our board to have an input and participation in our program choices and to better acquaint yourself with active, vital, and interesting women, please call Al Golub at 301-565-3125 and leave a message. Or tell Ros or Jane you are interested.

## Economic Justice Summit

NOW, The National Council of Negro Women and the Institute for Women's Policy Research are convening the Economic Justice Summit, to bring together "scholars, activist and others interested in... women's economic empowerment, security and equality." The conference will be held April 10-12 in Atlanta, GA. For more information, to submit a workshop proposal, or research paper, go to [www.nowfoundation.org/ejsummit](http://www.nowfoundation.org/ejsummit)

## From Barbara J Ratner, President

I spent the day March 10th at the National Council of Women's Organization's annual Women's Equality Summit Conference. I hope more of you will attend next year. There were inspiring speakers who covered most issues important to women. President Susan Scanlan stated, "We are either at the table, or on the menu." CWI's programs keep us well-informed on the issues so we can lobby and advocate effectively. We must stay at the table. It was also stressed that we should hold our candidates accountable on the issues before casting a vote. Ask what they have done or are planning to do on the important issues. Make sure you're an informed voter.

## From Women's eNews

"Have a probing, burning question for Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton about their stance on women's issues? Send your question to us at [editor@womenwork.org](mailto:editor@womenwork.org) with the subject line "Campaign Question" and we'll pick out the best and publish them before the next major primary election in Pennsylvania. Our list will comprise the questions we'd ask the candidates if we were hosting a women's policy debate and could hold their feet to the fire. Here's your chance to throw out a question that hasn't been asked anywhere else. Deadline: March 21." *(Editor's Note: We presume they'll do the same for Sen. John McCain at some point.)*

## Women's History Walking Tour

Sewall-Belmont House & Museum tells us: "On March 3, 1913, Inez Mulholland led the Great Suffrage Parade. Organized by Alice Paul, founder of the National Women's Party, thousands of women marched while 100,000 spectators watched." To mark the anniversary of this historic event, Sewall-Belmont House launched a free, self-guided history walking tour. If you missed it, you can see the map, which is followed by brief descriptions of the itinerary at [www.tailoredtours.com](http://www.tailoredtours.com). Go to the bottom of the page and click on Women's History Month.

## Women Work! and the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity

National Conference, April 6-9, in Arlington, VA

Keynote speakers will be Joan Blades, co-founder of [Moveon.org](http://Moveon.org) and [Momsrising.org](http://Momsrising.org), and Cathy Lanier, DC Chief of Police. There's an Advocacy Day for lobbying Congress, and more than 20 workshops, including Getting Women into Nanoscience and other STEM-Related Fields; It's Not Your Mother's Retirement: Strategies for the Next Generation of Retirees; Single Sex Schools; Issues of Postsecondary Access for Underrepresented Populations. For further information, [www.womenwork.org/network/conferences/advocacy.htm](http://www.womenwork.org/network/conferences/advocacy.htm)

# CWI

## Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

10401 Grosvenor Place #917  
Rockville, MD 20852

FIRST CLASS MAIL

### COMING EVENTS

Monday, April 7

**World Health Day**

April 7-9

**National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity and Women Work! National Conference.**

Contact: Sarah Heynen (202) 986-2600 / [info@nationalpartnership.org](mailto:info@nationalpartnership.org)  
See page 5.

Tuesday, April 22

**Earth Day**

Tuesday, April 22

**Next CWI Meeting: Women's Role in National Security**

Speakers: **Johanna Mendelson-Forman, PhD, JD**, senior associate of the Center For Strategic and International Studies and executive director of the Jatropha Foundation, and **Lorelei Kelly**, policy director of the Real Security Initiative of the White House Project.

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*Photos by D. Anne Martin; February meeting summary draft by Glenda Garcia, Feminist Majority Foundation intern. Newsletter production by Letterforms Typography & Graphic Design*

#### **CWI Board of Directors, July 2007 – June 2008**

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