



## About NWHM

### From Our Founder

*A better world awaits the generation that absorbs what women and men have to share about life from a joint perspective. We have much to work toward...if we - and future generations - are to learn all the lessons of the past upon which to build the future, we must be aware of the true experiences and contributions of women. Clearly, men cannot get there alone. Together, all things are possible.*

**Karen Staser**  
Founder, National Women's History Museum

### What is the National Women's History Museum?

The National Women's History Museum (NWHM), founded in 1996, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the diverse historic contributions of women, and integrating this rich heritage fully into our nation's history. NWHM is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Although women constitute a majority of the population, their lives, achievements, and contributions are underrepresented in museums. Recognition of the achievements made by American women will promote a better understanding of our history and culture for all who visit Washington, D.C. In 1999, *The President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History* called for a women's history museum on the Mall in Washington, DC, and specifically cited the NWHM in that role.

### Obtaining a Permanent Site

From its founding, NWHM has worked hard towards obtaining a permanent museum site in the nation's capital on or near the National Mall. Such prestigious space requires Congressional approval. [Click here](#) to learn about the latest effort to secure a permanent home.

### Supporters

The NWHM has the support of a strong and diverse network of national organizations representing citizens throughout the country:

- The NWHM Honorary Board of Directors comprises over 200 members of the U.S. Congress and past and present members of the Cabinet.
- The NWHM has organized a National Coalition, currently numbering 38, of leading national women's service and professional organizations. Together these organizations reach over 8.5 million members.
- Dr. Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, spearheaded the NWHM national outreach campaign beginning in September 2001. In more recent years, actress Meryl Streep, who is also the national spokesperson for the Site Campaign, authored a membership appeal, and actress Laura Dern authored one. NWHM's national membership has grown rapidly and approximately 36,000 people have become Charter Members.
- Newsletter – The NWHM newsletter, *A Different Point of View*, is published quarterly and mailed to current Museum members and supporters. The newsletter provides information on past and future educational events and programs sponsored by the Museum. The publication features seasonal stories about topics in women's history and notable American women, as well as updates on the progress of the museum.



## About NWHM

### Our Mission

The National Women's History Museum affirms the value of knowing Women's History, illuminates the role of women in transforming society and encourages all people, women and men, to participate in democratic dialogue about our future.

### Our First Success

The Museum is in its infancy, but our founders have already accomplished a great deal. NWHM was the driving force behind the raising of the Woman Suffrage Statue, a monument to Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott, from the U.S. Capitol Crypt to the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. For the first time in our nation's history, our foremothers are honored with our forefathers!



## Faqs - General Questions

### What is the mission of the National Women's History Museum?

The National Women's History Museum affirms the value of knowing Women's History, illuminates the role of women in transforming society and encourages all people, women and men, to participate in democratic dialogue about our future.

To do this, the Museum will research, collect and exhibit the contributions of women to the social, cultural, economic and political life of our nation in a context of world history. The museum will use innovative and engaging means including permanent and traveling exhibits, its CyberMuseum, educational programs, and outreach efforts to communicate the breath of women's experiences and accomplishments to the widest possible audience. The sharing of this knowledge will illuminate and encourage women and men, people of all classes, races and cultures to move into the future with respect, equal confidence, greater partnership, and opportunity.

### Why "women's history" - isn't it all just "history?"

Women's contributions and accomplishments for the most part have been overlooked and consequently omitted from mainstream culture. The National Women's History Museum will help fill that void. Rather than rewriting current exhibitions at other history museums or having to decide what to omit elsewhere to "fit in" women's history, the NWHM will serve to place women's history along side current historical exhibitions.

Women's history is half of our national story. The objective is to promote scholarship and expand our knowledge of American history.

### There's a great women's museum in Dallas, Texas. Do we need another? Why not just partner with the Susan B. Anthony House or another women's history site?

There's a great art museum in Philadelphia, but we still have the National Gallery of Art in DC!

Women's history is a lot more diverse than most people realize. Our museum is the only museum with the mission to reclaim women's history and create an accurate historical record which is appropriate for a national museum. Other organizations have different missions.

There is some confusion in the Washington area because there is a National Museum of Women in the Arts. Their focus is women artists; ours is women's history. It's an education process.

Think of it this way: if you went to an American history museum, you wouldn't just learn about the Revolutionary War, you'd learn all sorts of things from before and after the Declaration of Independence. It's the same thing with women's history - there's more than suffrage and the 19th Amendment.

### When was the NWHM founded?

The National Women's History Museum was founded in 1996 by Karen Staser. [Click here for a letter from our founder.](#)

### Where are you located?

The National Women's History Museum currently has administrative offices in Alexandria, VA while it works towards the goal of a permanent museum site. Staff will continue to work from this office until the museum opens.

### How can I contact you?

You can call the Museum at 703-461-1920 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you call outside those hours (or all our lines are busy) leave a voicemail message, and someone will return your call as soon as possible.

If you prefer, you can email us at [info@nwhm.org](mailto:info@nwhm.org).

Or write to us - our mailing address is:  
 National Women's History Museum  
 Administrative Offices  
 205 S. Whiting Street Suite 254  
 Alexandria, VA 22304



## Faqs - Permanent Site

### If you don't have a building, what exactly do you do?

Even though the NWHM is still in the process of getting a permanent physical site, we've done quite a bit.

**Our first success:** NWHM raised \$85,000 and generated public support to move this monument of Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony from the U.S. Capitol Crypt to the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

NWHM created a traveling exhibit, **Rights for Women**, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York. The exhibit was curated by Edith P. Mayo, Curator Emeritus, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, and displayed at the World Financial Center.

"Clandestine Women; the Untold Stories of Women in Espionage" opened in March 2002. This exhibition at the Women In Military Service For America Memorial honors all women intelligence officers who have served this country.

"Partners in Winning the War; American Women In World War II" opened in May 2004. The exhibition is a photographic tribute of posters, photographs, articles and documents that demonstrate the contributions and sacrifices of women in the effort to win the war.

On July 29th, 2005, the U.S. Senate passed [S.501](#), the National Women's History Museum Act of 2005, by unanimous consent. Senator Susan Collins introduced the bill with 20 cosponsors, including all of the female Senators. The Senate previously passed a similar bill, [S.1741](#), unanimously in 2003. Both of these bills identified the Annex of the Old Post Office Building as a permanent home for the museum. Both times the bill was referred to the House of Representatives where it never came up for a vote.

On a regular basis, NWHM adds CyberExhibits to its CyberMuseum. As of April 2009, there are 15 exhibits on various aspects of women's history and four in planning and research stages.

On March 25, 2009, Representative Carolyn Maloney introduced HR 6548 that identifies a different site at 12th Street and Independence Avenue as the museum's home.

Once we have a permanent site, we will continue to create online exhibits and programming that will be accessible from our website.

### Is the National Women's History Museum a Smithsonian museum?

We are privately funded and just happen to be in the same town as most of the Smithsonian museums. Once a physical site is established, we will apply to the Smithsonian for an affiliation. This will allow us to borrow objects from the Smithsonian's collections for use in exhibitions.



« [NWHM Celebrates Labor Day](#)  
[NWHM President & CEO, Joan Wages, Shares Comments on "The Deep Black Hole of Women's History"](#) »

## NWHM Legislation Passes Out of House Committee

September 8th, 2011

NWHM is pleased to announce passage today of the National Women's History Museum bill in the House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Next stop, the House floor.

The NWHM bill was attached to other legislation supported by Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL) and re-introduced as HR 2844, the National Women's History Museum and Federal Facilities Consolidation and Efficiency Act of 2011. Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) is a cosponsor of the bill.

The legislative language in the new bill revises and further clarifies the boundaries of the site that NWHM will be allowed to purchase at 12th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., adjacent to the National Mall. This change eliminates any questions as to Congressional intent and will be helpful in site negotiations with the General Services Administration (GSA), the nation's landlord.

NWHM urges support for the passage of HR 2844. Please contact your Member of Congress to encourage their support for this bill. For more information on NWHM and legislation go to [www.nwhm.org](http://www.nwhm.org).

Posted in [All News](#), [Building the Museum News](#), [Get Involved News](#) | [2 Comments](#) »

### 2 Responses to "NWHM Legislation Passes Out of House Committee"

- 
**myra bahme** says:  
[September 8, 2011 at 1:16 pm](#)

Why not have a sample letter of support and a link from the NWHM web site to the Congressional members' e-mails? This would make it much easier for your membership to respond to your request that we contact our members of Congress in support of the bill.

- 
**Jane Prugh** says:  
[September 29, 2011 at 10:01 am](#)

What wonderful news! Let's hope we succeed this time!

### Leave a Reply

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 Name (required)

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 Mail (will not be published) (required)

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 Website

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 Comment

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## Pamela Marsch

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**From:** Pamela Marsch  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 05, 2011 8:30 AM  
**To:** Sen. Bettye Davis  
**Subject:** Invitation - DC event with Meryl Streep

From: Jennifer Rosen [mailto:jennifer\_rosen@womenlegislators.org]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 5:58 AM  
To: Pamela Marsch  
Subject: RE: Invitation - DC event with Meryl Streep

Thank you! I will confirm Senator Davis on our list, we are so glad she will be able to attend! I will furnish additional details closer to the event, so please feel free to move forward in making her travel arrangements to DC, she is confirmed!

-----Original Message-----

From: Pamela Marsch [mailto:Pamela\_Marsch@legis.state.ak.us]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 8:34 AM  
To: Jennifer Rosen  
Subject: Re: Invitation - DC event with Meryl Streep

Jennifer,

Senator Davis would like to request one complimentary ticket for the National Women's History Museum's gala.

Thank so much for putting this together.

Pamela Marsch  
Staff for Senator Davis

On Oct 4, 2011, at 12:11 PM, "Jennifer Rosen" <jennifer\_rosen@womenlegislators.org> wrote:

> NOTE: this invitation is currently only being shared with select group of elected women who have been active within NFWL's leadership or education initiatives (limited number of tickets available).

>

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> National Women's History Museum Gala

> "The de Pizan Honors"

> November 16, 2011

> Washington, DC

>

> October 4, 2011

>

> Dear NFWL Leader,

>

> The National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) and the National Women's History Museum (NWHM) are hoping you will join us for the National Women's History Museum's 1052708

> This event is named for Christine de Pizan who lived in Italy in the early 1400s and was the first Western woman to write about women's impact on society and show how they were being left out of history. Now 600 years later, no country has succeeded in fulfilling her goal.

> The Museum's mission is to educate the public about women – primarily American — who have significantly shaped our world; the de Pizan Honors gala will honor female history-makers to ensure that their legacy remains alive. This year, we are paying tribute posthumously to three selected women with an award in their name presented to a contemporary counterpart.

>

> The contributions and life stories of the honorees will be part of a permanent exhibition within the soon-to-be-built, world-class National Women's History Museum. Legislation is pending in Congress that will provide a permanent site for the building at the National Mall alongside our nation's most iconic museums.

>

> NFWL has been an integral member of the National Women's History Museum's Coalition since its inception, and now Congress is on the verge of passing legislation that will provide a permanent home for the NWHM in Washington, DC, thanks to the support of our elected women nationwide who have advocated for the legislation. Over the past decade, NWHM has relied on online exhibits, temporary and special traveling exhibitions, newsletters, and speeches to accomplish its mission and communicate its message.

>

> Within a few short years NFWL will embark on its 75th Anniversary (originally founded in Connecticut in 1938). A large part of recognizing this milestone is seeing this process through and supporting the establishment and growth of the National Women's History Museum. In preparation, we would like you to serve as a key elected woman leader in your state to help us raise awareness about the Museum and the importance of educating our youth about ground-breaking women and their achievements. This will serve as a good issue for you to connect with your constituents, business leaders, and campaign donors on as you head into a busy election season and throughout the year.

>

> You make history everyday as a legislator. You connect with your constituents, respond to their needs, take on ground breaking issues, and move our country forward. It is actions like these that the NWHM honors. By attending the de Pizan Honors you will be at the forefront of this historical event. What you learn and the glass-breaking women you will meet will inspire you to carry the Museum's message back to your state.

>

> Though NFWL does not have funds to assist with travel expenses, we hope that you will consider coming to this powerful event to represent the women leaders in your state. We have a LIMITED number of complimentary tickets for our elected women leaders, so we will need to hear from you right away if you would like to attend.

>

> This is an exciting time for women leaders. We hold a multitude of offices at all levels of government. Young women are attending college and earning advanced degrees at the highest rate in history and the future only looks bright for the girls and young women of tomorrow. While celebrating our current achievements and future hopes, it is important to acknowledge the accomplishments of our past. As a legislator you are at the heart of our nation's democracy. As a woman you are at the heart of our nation's society.

>

> I would be grateful if you would respond to Jennifer Rosen, NFWL's Director of Policy and Communications, as soon as possible to let us know if you would like to attend. Jennifer can be reached by email at [Jennifer\\_Rosen@womenlegislators.org](mailto:Jennifer_Rosen@womenlegislators.org) and by phone at 202-293-3040 ext. 1008. Thank you for your continued leadership, and I hope to see you in November in Washington, DC, with Meryl Streep!

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> Sincerely,

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> Robin Read

> President & CEO, NFWL

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>  
> Jennifer Rosen  
> Director, Policy & Communications  
> National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL)  
> 910 16th Street NW, Suite 100  
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>  
> [www.womenlegislators.org](http://www.womenlegislators.org)<<http://www.womenlegislators.org>>  
>  
> NFWL has gone SOCIAL - Follow us on LinkedIn<<http://www.linkedin.com/company/732523>>,  
Facebook<<http://www.facebook.com/electedwomen>>, and Twitter<<http://twitter.com/#!/electedwomen>>!  
>  
> <NWHM Gala Invite 11.16.11.pdf>