

# THE AMERICAN FEMINIST®



FEMINISTS FOR LIFE AT FIFTY

# THE AMERICAN FEMINIST®

A publication of Feminists for Life of America

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Established in 1972, Feminists for Life of America is a nonsectarian, nonpartisan, grassroots organization that seeks real solutions to the challenges women face. Our efforts are shaped by the core feminist values of justice, nondiscrimination, and nonviolence. Feminists for Life of America continues the tradition of early American feminists such as Susan B. Anthony, who opposed abortion.

Feminists for Life of America recognizes that abortion is a reflection that our society has failed to meet the needs of women. We are dedicated to systematically eliminating the root causes that drive women to abortion—primarily lack of practical resources and support—through holistic, woman-centered solutions. Women deserve better than abortion.

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Spring/Summer 2022

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Serrin M. Foster

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WHEN A MAN STEALS TO SATISFY HUNGER, WE MAY SAFELY CONCLUDE THAT THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG IN SOCIETY—SO WHEN A WOMAN DESTROYS THE LIFE OF HER UNBORN CHILD, IT IS AN EVIDENCE THAT EITHER BY EDUCATION OR CIRCUMSTANCES THAT SHE HAS BEEN GREATLY WRONGED.

—**Mattie Brinkerhoff**,  
The Revolution, September 2, 1869

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**FEMINISTS FOR LIFE  
OF AMERICA**

# FAVOR LIFE

FORM ANOTHER FEMINIST GROUP

CITIZEN-JOURNAL

WOMEN'S FEATURES

THURS., MAR. 16, 1972

Favor Life

## Form Another Feminist Group

By SHARON ABERCROMBIE

Citizen-Journal Staff Writer

Women's Liberation groups that support abortion may be weakening the entire feminist movement says an OSU linguistics professor and an Ohio Dominican College senior.

A great many women who agree with most feminist causes refuse to join liberation groups because of the abortion issue, point out professor Catherine Callahan and Mrs. Patricia Goltz.

ANOTHER PRACTICAL consideration: Anti-life lib groups are killing off potential membership; girl babies.

The two are co-organizers of a new group, Feminists for Life. Idea is to attract membership from women who are both pro-life and pro-equality, said Mrs. Goltz.

FEMINISTS FOR Life will exist primarily as an educational service to acquaint women with "all the alternatives to pregnancy" as well as work for women's lib goals.

In a statement of purpose, the leaders said their organization takes two basic stands: Full equality for women in all areas and the right of every baby to be born.

"WE DEMAND an end to all legal, social and economic discrimination against women, including mass media stereotypes. We recognize all people as individuals with equal rights, including the unborn."

"We believe it is increa-

### Women's Features

10 C Citizen-Journal \* \* \* Thurs., Mar. 16, 1972, Col., O.



Dr. Catherine Callaghan, left, and Mrs. Patricia Goltz, check over ideas in their Feminists for Life statement.

for ourselves and deny them to unborn babies. Without the right to life, all other rights to life are meaningless. Further since

roughly 50 per cent of the unborn girls, half the abortions kill our sisters.

"WE HOPE to see an end to pro-abortion stands

in other feminist organizations. By diverting time and energy into abortion legislation, these groups have deemphasized the struggle for legal and social equality. In addition they have deterred many potential feminists from joining the movement."

Feminists for Life's an independent organization. It is not affiliated with Birthright, a service group which helps women who decide to have their babies, or Right to Life, an educational organization which opposes abortion, "but we are sympathetic to their goals," said Dr. Callaghan.

BOTH WOMEN are aware that they may be accused of callousness. "We're not," said Mrs. Goltz. "We're aware of the problems a girl faces with an unplanned pregnancy. But the problems just don't justify abortion as a solution."

For further information contact Feminists for Life, at PO Box 5631, Columbus, Ohio 43221.

## Club Roundup

COLUMBUS LIONS Club Auxillary will meet March 21 at 12:30 p.m. in the Jal Lal for lunch and a talk on German Village.

NORWESTER WOMEN'S

Methodist Church, Mrs. Bert Frye of Xenia will present a chalk presentation on "The Passover Exodus."

Association of Columbus Symphony Orchestra, will meet at 12:30 p.m. March 22 in the home of Mrs. Carroll Neff 1201 G.

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"WE DEMAND an end to all legal, social and economic discrimination against women, including mass media stereotypes. We recognize all people as individuals with equal rights, including the unborn."

"We believe it is inconsistent to demand rights for ourselves and deny them to unborn babies. Without the right to life, all other rights to life are meaningless. Further since roughly 50 per cent of the unborn [are] girls, half the abortions kill our sisters."

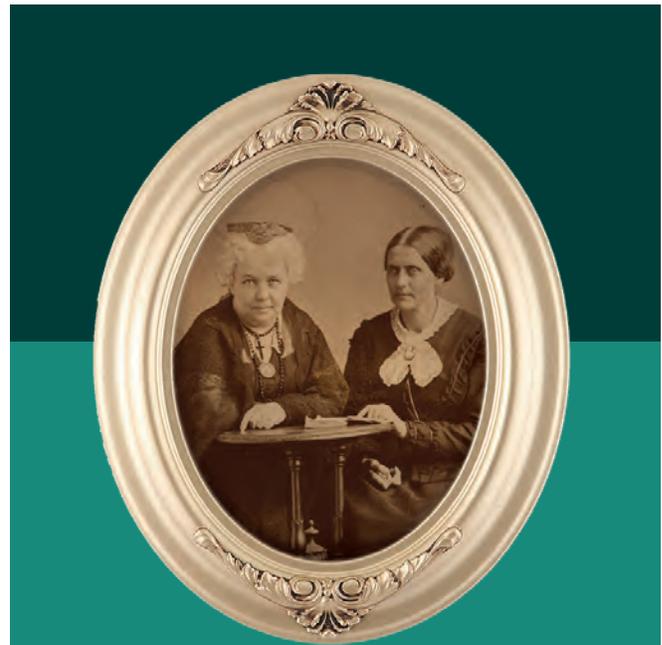
"WE HOPE to see an end to pro-abortion stands in other feminist organizations. By diverting time and energy into abortion legislation, these groups have deemphasized the struggle for legal and social equality. In addition they have deterred many potential feminists from joining the movement."

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Photo caption: Dr. Catherine Callaghan, left, and Mrs. Patricia Goltz, check over ideas in their Feminists for Life statement.



## Live the Legacy. Leave a Legacy.

Please consider leaving a legacy by including Feminists for Life of America as a beneficiary of your estate so that our vital work may continue for the next generation. Please let us know so that we may properly acknowledge your gift.



# CONVERSATIONS WITH FFL CO-FOUNDER PAT GOLTZ

DAMIAN J. GEMINDER, EDITOR

From left to right: FFL co-founder Pat Goltz, FFL Board President Rosemary Bottcher, and FFL co-founder Cathy Callaghan, pictured in 1997 at FFL's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Washington D.C.

The movement to liberalize abortion laws in the United States was spearheaded by men, but it initially made only so much headway during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. It was the politically shrewd strategy of NARAL co-founders Lawrence Lader and Dr. Bernard Nathanson to recruit the women leaders of the nascent second wave feminist movement that seemed to do the trick, shifting the national conversation and the locus of the pro-legal abortion argument from one of medical necessity to one of civil rights.

Their first major public relations victory was hijacking the second meeting of the National Organization for Women (NOW) on November 18, 1967. As Sue Ellen Browder revealed in her interview with FFL President Serrin M. Foster in "Beyond the Schism: Reclaiming Feminism," on that fateful night in the Chinese Room at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington D.C., feminists

on both sides of the abortion issue debated for hours, but the pro-life representatives gave up and left when they realized the deck was stacked against them. In the end, just 57 people voted for a resolution in support of legalizing abortion, following a resolution in support of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

The ERA's author, Alice Paul, who had led the women's suffrage movement to victory nearly a half-century earlier, arrived at the meeting late in the night. Paul was a staunch opponent of abortion, and in turn, she rejected attempts to interpret the ERA as establishing a constitutional right to abortion. But she was too late to influence the outcome of the meeting, and the next day, the press ran with headlines declaring that the women's movement was now an abortion advocacy movement.

The 1970s was a decade of revolution: political, cultural, sexual. The country was still embroiled in a land war in Asia. Trust in long-established institutions was eroding like never before.

Indeed, while there is no consensus about which decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the most consequential for the United States, it is undeniable these 10 years were a period marked by radical change, much of which had been set in motion during the 1960s, if not earlier. Among the social changes rippling through the American landscape were the many states curtailing or even outright overturning their abortion bans. In 1970, Hawaii became the first state to legalize abortion-on-demand, and New York—at the time the second-most populous state—soon followed.

Also in 1970, a young woman named Pat Goltz joined the Columbus, Ohio, chapter of NOW. Pat had always identified as both a feminist and pro-life. In an interview with WORLD magazine, she discussed her upbringing<sup>1</sup>:

I resented the fact that my parents tried to keep me from doing certain things because I was female. My mother forbade me from taking chemistry and told me I had to take home economics or study hall. Whenever I did something I thought they might forbid me to do, I didn't tell them I was doing it. In high school, my future husband made me a code oscillator so I could practice Morse code and get an amateur radio license. He liked to build electronics from old parts, and we'd put equipment together whenever we weren't at the movies for a date. I hid the oscillator from my parents and only used it when they weren't around. Basically, I became a feminist because people discriminated against me for being interested in science....

My parents were pro-life, and I was always pro-life. When I was in high school, I learned what abortion was and was horrified. I am aware that we are made in the image of God and God alone has the right to decide when a person lives or dies. Science tells us that an unborn child is a human being and that life begins at the moment of fertilization.

<sup>1</sup>Savas, Leah. "Pro-Life Progression." WORLD, Vol. 36, No. 2, January 14, 2021, <https://wng.org/articles/pro-life-progression-1617635416>.

Pat hoped NOW would see abortion from her pro-woman, pro-life perspective. She did manage to talk them into hosting a pro-life speaker, and she tried to make them welcoming of children by providing child care for a conference and taking her breastfeeding baby to meetings. Unfortunately, none of these efforts changed the local leadership's minds, and Pat soon understood that she needed to found a new, pro-life feminist organization.

This vision was realized two years later, when she befriended Cathy Callaghan, as Pat recounted<sup>2</sup>:

Cathy and I met over a judo mat. I was just starting, and she had a brown belt. She eventually earned a black belt in judo, and I think also in karate. I eventually earned a green belt in judo, a purple belt in Kem Scrima Doh, and a second degree black belt in taekwondo.

At first, Cathy wasn't interested in feminism, since she had a Ph.D. in linguistics (she worked with the Lake Miwok Indians in California), and felt other women could also achieve. But I pointed out that not everyone has been able to achieve as she had. She was always against abortion, as was I. I persuaded her the feminist movement was needed for the women who were unable to achieve as she had. She achieved in spite of the barriers to women.

On March 16, 1972, *The Columbus Citizen-Journal* ran an article in its "Women's Features" section (see page 3), "**Favor Life: Form Another Feminist Group,**" discussing the founding of FFL and featuring a picture of Pat and Cathy, its co-founders. The two set out to build up membership but found initial success outside of NOW<sup>3</sup>:

Not long after forming the group, Cathy and I attended an Ohio Right to Life board meeting. The attendees thought we were spies at first, until they talked with us. After that, they decided to help us start our group. They gave us names of people who were feminist or leaning in that direction. That was how we got our first members. We attended the monthly meetings for a while and always gave a report on what we had been doing with Feminists for Life.

<sup>2</sup>Email exchange, May 8, 2019.

<sup>3</sup>Savas.

In addition to running FFL, Pat ran a household composed of four children, two of whom were adopted. She further elaborated on the early day-to-day operations of FFL<sup>4</sup>:

Cathy's role was to support me, and she also donated \$100 a month toward my expenses. (I usually paid about \$500 out of pocket, mostly for long distance calls I made to organize, keep contact with other pro-life leaders, and build membership.) I did all the office work and, as far as I know, all the public speaking.

On January 22, 1973, one year after FFL's founding, the all-male U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-2 to legalize abortion-on-demand nationwide. Pat vividly remembers the horror she felt when the decision was handed down<sup>5</sup>:

I had to stop listening to music for over a year. I was a student of piano for years, but after Roe, every time I heard music, I started to cry because I would think about all the babies who would never get to hear music.

In 1974, Pat and Cathy's efforts proved too threatening to some abortion advocates holding the reins of power, and they were ejected from the Columbus chapter of NOW<sup>6</sup>:

The so-called "feminist" movement wanted nothing to do with us. The Columbus board invited me to speak in my defense at a board meeting. I declined, but when the leadership brought it before the general membership, I used my 15 minutes to talk about why abortion was bad for women. After a long discussion, the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of expulsion: The chapter had over 100 members, and only three voted to keep me. National NOW declined to expel me. I got a letter from a chapter in Washington state decrying the action of the Columbus chapter.

FFL's advocacy on Capitol Hill dates back to these early years as well. On August 21, 1974, Pat testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in support of the

Human Life Amendment, which would add protections for unborn children to the Constitution<sup>7</sup>:

Abortion has been presented as a solution to the problems faced by women with untimely pregnancies. The vast majority of these problems can be put into one category: discrimination. We are unilaterally opposed to discrimination based on either sex or maternal status. We reserve the right to be treated as equals, and to be mothers at the same time. We will not accept the current either/or choice. Abortion is a non-solution.

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Sometime during her four years at the helm of FFL, Pat acquired the telephone number of yet another pro-life feminist. It was Alice Paul. She recalls<sup>8</sup>:

I don't remember all that much. It was close to a half-century ago! And the conversation may have lasted all of five minutes. I remember the following things clearly: She said that all the suffragists were staunchly pro-life. The ERA was never intended to make abortion legal. She saw that using the ERA to promote abortion was destroying its chances for ratification, and she was deeply grieved that her life's work was being destroyed in this way. **You could hear her grief in her voice.** She didn't tell me specifically that the suffragists had worked together with the AMA to outlaw abortion in the states, but I already knew that. The quotes you have from the suffragists show clearly why they thought that abortion was the antithesis of women's rights.

<sup>4</sup>Email exchange, December 21, 2021.

<sup>5</sup>Savas.

<sup>6</sup>Savas.

<sup>7</sup>Testimony before United States Senate Judiciary Committee, 1974, in support of S.J.Res. 119 and S.J.Res. 130 by Pat Goltz, International President, Feminists for Life, Inc.

<sup>8</sup>Email exchange, December 21, 2021.

**Those five minutes, however, would go on to spark five decades—and counting—of Feminists for Life’s pro-woman, pro-life advocacy.**

Pat stepped down from FFL in 1976. She and her husband would go on to have three more children after that. She homeschooled their children, and with the advent of the internet, she began counseling women online. By her count, she spoke with more than 1,000 and possibly saved a few lives. In 1977, Pat had her own “near miss” with abortion: She was pregnant and suffered a severe hemorrhage. She went to the hospital, and her family doctor sent a consulting doctor to visit her. Despite Pat’s request for a pro-life physician, the doctor was one who performed abortions and wanted Pat to undergo a “procedure” for an alleged miscarriage.

Pat refused, and the pregnancy turned out to be perfectly healthy. She gave birth to a son. And she never went back to that family doctor. Pat investigated to see if she could file a suit against the abortion doctor for emotional distress, but *Roe* prevented it.<sup>9</sup>

Alice Paul died the year after Pat stepped down. In 2019, Cathy passed away. But as of FFL’s 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Pat is still with us, and we continue to correspond with and learn from her. We will continue to pass on that bright torch for equality and for life, from Susan and Elizabeth, to Alice, to Pat and Cathy, to the next generation—and to generations yet unborn. □

*Bethanie Ryan assisted with compiling the materials for this article.*

**Sponsor a Girls Deserve Better® Kit  
for pro-woman, pro-life high school  
student leaders and advisers  
NOW!**



<sup>9</sup>Email exchanges, August 16 & 17, 2021



# FIFTY YEARS OF ACTIVISM

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DAMIAN J. GEMINDER, EDITOR

## 1972

**Pat Goltz and Cathy Callaghan co-found Feminists for Life** after the National Organization for Women (NOW) makes abortion advocacy a top priority. **Goltz speaks to Alice Paul** and learns we were not the first pro-life feminists; the first wave feminists opposed abortion, too. Goltz starts ***Sisterlife*** as our national newsletter, which Canadian FFL supporters help publish for some time.

## 1974

Pat Goltz testifies before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in support of the Human Life Amendment.

## 1976-1983

From the end of Pat Goltz's leadership in 1976 to the start of Rachel MacNair's tenure in 1984, **the Milwaukee FFL chapter largely leads FFL.**

1984

### FFL's national office moved to Kansas City

under the direction of President Rachel MacNair.



“I wasn’t active until I went to the meeting that was held in conjunction with the National Right to Life convention in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1984,” Rachel says.

“My rise to the presidency was remarkably sudden and based on long social activism and willingness, rather than long experience with the group.”

Rachel kept thorough records and notes of her radio interviews. She conducted 57 of them, usually by phone, all over the country, starting November 12, 1988, and going to July 4, 1990:

Rachel also held more than two dozen college speaking engagements, including at Claremont-McKenna College in Claremont, California, and at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington, both in 1990. In 1991, she spoke at Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey.

“The Princeton one was memorable because they didn’t give me any microphone for a large room. Anyone who knows me knows this is no obstacle: Other people have to learn how to project their voices, but growing up, I had to learn how not to.”

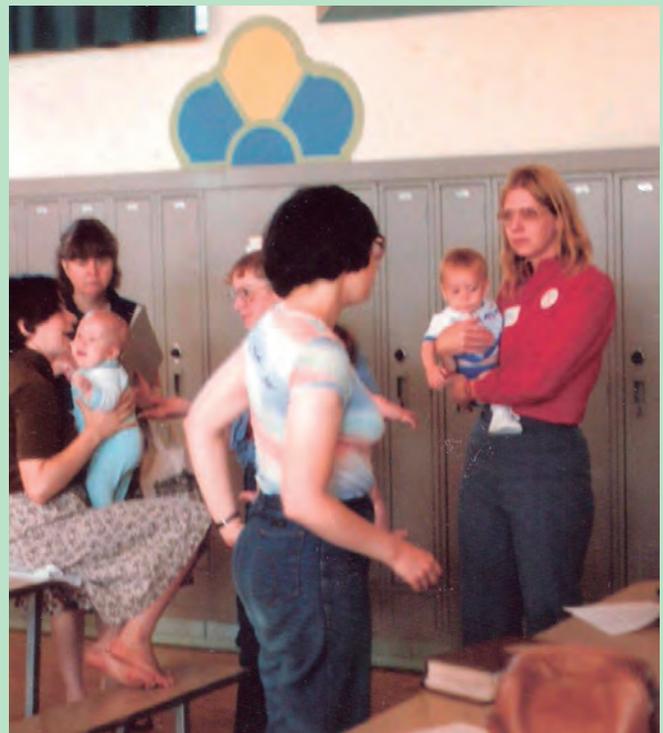
Rachel also recounts “one occasion when I was picketed, and then the picketers brought their signs in with them to sit in the audience. The first thing I said was that there would be a question-and-answer period, and that I was counting on my friends with the signs to see to it that this was vigorous. They nodded their heads with expressions saying, ‘You got that right.’ But it would have made them look like idiots if they heckled me, and they didn’t heckle.”

She established a weekly telephone hotline with a three-minute recorded message giving updates and action suggestions: “Technology from days of yore! This has now of course been replaced by websites, email, and social media, but at the time, people called in weekly and this got the information out quickly.”

FFL also published a monthly newsletter called The Green Sheet: “It was actually green, and just one sheet, which is why we could put it out monthly.”

“  
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one sheet, which is why we could  
put it out monthly.  
”

While FFL had literature tables at many pro-life events and occasional peace events, we were not included at some feminist events. “NOW just didn’t have the space for us,” Rachel recalls.



From left to right: Rachel MacNair, sitting and holding her son, Matthew; Sharon Long (foreground); and Rosemary Bottcher (at right holding one of her children). According to Rachel, “This was in 1985. My memory is that this was June... and that it was our modest conference in Milwaukee, because that’s where Gail Grenier Sweet lived and she was hosting.”

**Fifty Years of Activism**

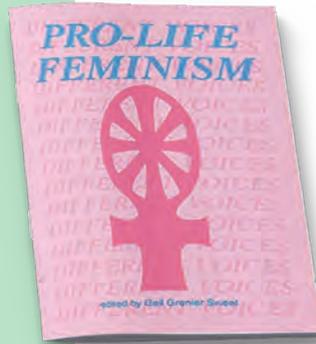
FFL's quarterly newsletter, *Sisterlife*, was already being published at the start of Rachel's term. It was edited first by Gail Grenier Sweet and later by Frederica Mathewes-Green.

The period between the founding and the opening of the Washington D.C. office in 1994 is most notable for the original research by Mary Krane Derr documenting the pro-life sentiments of the first wave feminists, **“Man’s Inhumanity to Woman Makes Countless Women Die.”**

Perhaps the other great hallmark of this time was the powerful writing that solidified FFL’s philosophy on life issues.

————— “ —————  
**No woman wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal caught in a trap wants to gnaw off its own leg.**  
————— ” —————

Vice President of Communications Frederica Mathewes-Green published compelling opinion editorials. Her quote, **“No woman wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal caught in a trap wants to gnaw off its own leg,”** was listed No. 8 out of “The Top 25 All-Time Greatest Pro-Choice Quotes” in Thought Catalog.



**1985**

**“Pro-Life Feminism: Different Voices,”** edited by Gail Grenier Sweet, is published.



**1989**

FFL Vice President of Communications Frederica Mathewes-Green, pictured at left in an appearance on ABC’s *Primetime Live*, represented FFL on multiple television shows during the 1980s and 1990s.

**1991**

FFL’s Education Project publishes the booklet, **“Man’s Inhumanity to Woman Makes Countless Infants Die,”** by Mary Krane Derr.

**1993**

FFL successfully advocates passage of the **Family and Medical Leave Act.**

**1994**

**FFL’s National Office moves to Washington D.C.** Serrin M. Foster becomes the first Executive Director, and later President, on April 4, 1994.

**A womb-to-tomb mission is formally adopted by the Board.**

The American Feminist magazine replaces the *Sisterlife* newsletter.

Serrin presents her first speech at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.



FFL serves on the National Task Force on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, successfully supports passage of the **Violence Against Women Act\***, and opposes abortion coverage in universal health care.

FFL publishes the **first-ever comprehensive pregnancy resource directory in the country**. The self-help directory covered services in **Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C.**

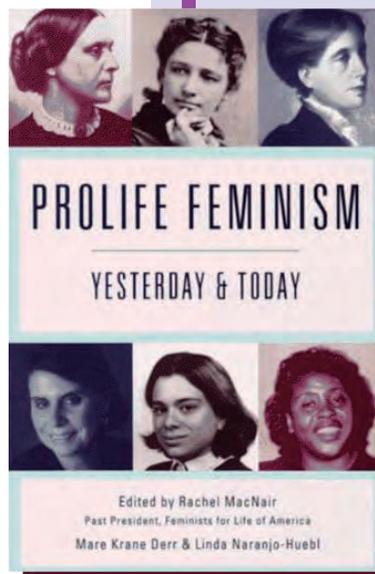
FFL copyrights our slogan, **“Peace Begins in the Womb®.”**

#### 1995

**Feminists for Life of America’s reorganization is completed**, led by Serrin and attorneys Jane Sullivan (now Roberts) and Carla Perantoni Walsh.

FFL emerges as a bridge between women’s associations and pro-life organizations during a **successful effort against a “family cap” and other child exclusion provisions in welfare reform.**

MacNair, Derr, and Linda Naranjo-Hueblco edit ***Prolife Feminism: Yesterday and Today***, which is published by Sulzberger & Graham with content provided by FFL members from across the country. “Yesterday” refers to the writings of early feminists as researched primarily by Mary Krane Derr. “Today” refers to content provided by FFL members from across the country, most of which had already been published in Sisterlife. The Expanded Second Edition is published in 2005.



FFL serves as a charter member of a **coalition against sex trafficking.**

Serrin serves as moderator and presenter at the **Capitol Hill briefing “Welfare and Abortion.”**

During a plenary session at the **U.S. Department of State “Bringing Cairo Home”** conference, Serrin addresses 800 State Department staff and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), explaining the parallels between the circumstances of women in developing countries and the early American feminists, and urges the State Department and women’s groups to focus on solutions rather than imposing abortion on women in developing countries.

FFL’s philosophy inspires **Pope St. John Paul II’s “new feminism,” as articulated in section 99 of his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (“The Gospel of Life”).**

Serrin addresses **the needs of older children in foster care and advocates the needs of birthmothers during a press briefing with Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey, Peace Corps creator Sargent Shriver, New Jersey Rep. Chris Smith, and Ambassador Mary Ann Glendon** for the launch of Casey’s Campaign for the American Family.



Serrin shown here with two of her favorite pro-woman, pro-life champions as they meet to advocate permanent homes for the so-called “unadoptable children” languishing in foster care: New Jersey Rep. Chris Smith (left) and the late Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey.

## **Fifty Years of Activism**

**1996**

FFL launches its **comprehensive College Outreach Program**, including a **new Pregnancy Resource Kit, Feminist History Kit, website, ad campaign, speaker's bureau, and internship program.**

FFL joins a unique coalition of women's groups to **successfully fight child exclusion provisions in welfare reform.\***

FFL successfully advocates the **Enhanced Child Support Enforcement Act of 1996.\***

Serrin joins **an abortion debate hosted by the bipartisan group of celebrities, the Creative Coalition, that was televised on C-SPAN during the 1996 Republican National Convention.**



Panelists from left to right: Pro-life advocates columnist Linda Chavez, Serrin, and Ambassador Alan Keyes and abortion advocates Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter, Republicans for Choice founder Ann Stone, and Massachusetts Gov. William Weld.

**FFL trademarks our unique logo**, a version of the women's symbol that some have said resembles a mother or a child reaching out with open arms. Eunice Kennedy Shriver called it "angelic."

Serrin joins **a panel discussion called "The Politics of Abortion," hosted by Women of Washington and aired on C-SPAN** (see photo top right).



From left to right: Tara Sonenshine, moderator and then-contributing editor for Newsweek; Gail Berendzen, host and President and CEO of Women of Washington; author Naomi Wolf; Frederica Mathewes-Green on behalf of Religion News Service and NPR; Director of Republicans for Choice Ann Stone; President of Planned Parenthood Metropolitan Washington Roseann Wisman; National Conference of Catholic Bishops spokesperson Helen Alvaré; Associate Dean of Georgetown University Law Center Anita Allen; and Serrin. Not pictured: panelist and former Treasurer of the United States Bay Buchanan.



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1997

*The American Feminist* becomes a magazine, rather than a newsletter.



Serrin interviews a former abortion provider for his insights in the article, **“Abortion: A View from the Inside.”** Later, he contributes an op-ed published by *The New York Times* in support of pro-life legislation to protect teens from crossing state lines to acquire an abortion without their parents’ knowledge. Together, they also lobby six U.S. senators who support abortion. The doctor, who to our knowledge remains firmly in support of abortion, flipped the position of three of the senators citing that in his vast experience (45,000 abortions), he had never seen a kindly aunt or godmother take a teen to an abortion (one theory being promoted by abortion advocates). Instead, typically a much older male would seek to cover up the crime of statutory rape.

FFL co-founders reunite at **FFL’s 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Kick-Off Party** in April with national Board and state leaders at a General Assembly in Washington D.C.

Serrin participates in the panel discussion **“Women in Politics” at the American Collegians for Life Conference at Georgetown University** in Washington D.C.

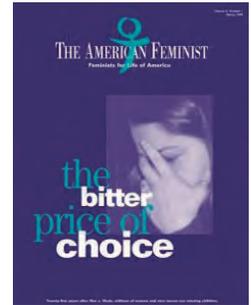
**FFL hosts the first-ever, and subsequently annual, FFL Pregnancy Resource Forum<sup>SM</sup> at Georgetown University.** This initiative has been replicated across the country and inspired numerous legislative initiatives.

**FFL trademarks our name, “Feminists for Life<sup>®</sup> of America.”**

1998

**Actor Patricia Heaton is named Honorary Chair of FFL. Later, Margaret Colin is named Honorary Co-Chair of FFL.**

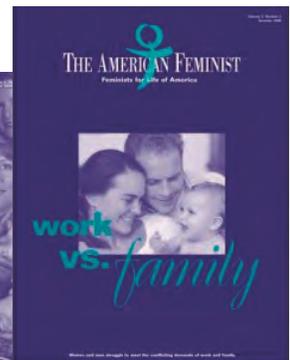
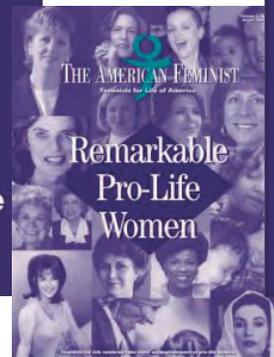
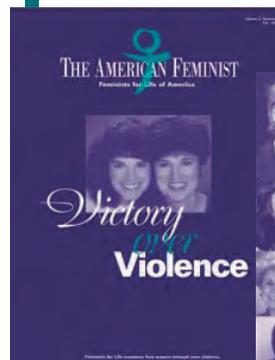
Serrin speaks on the **150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first women’s rights convention in Seneca Falls,** at the very site where Elizabeth Cady Stanton first delivered the Declaration of Sentiments.



Serrin addresses members during the annual meeting of the **American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists at the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology Annual Clinical Meeting** in New Orleans.

Serrin briefs U.S. House and Senate staffers about an FFL supporter who was taken to a Planned Parenthood clinic for an abortion after being molested at age 12. Serrin is accompanied by a former abortion provider who had performed more than 40,000 procedures and who also supported the **Child Custody Protection Act.**

**FFL Board President Rosemary Bottcher, Vice President Maureen O’Connor, and Serrin are invited to meet Mary McAleese, President of the Republic of Ireland, and her husband at the President’s residence in Dublin.**

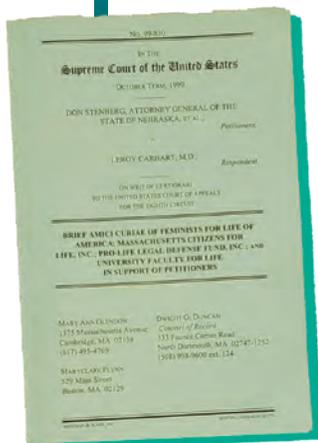
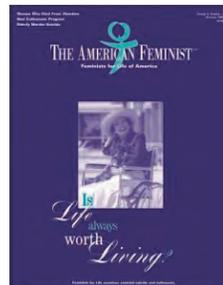
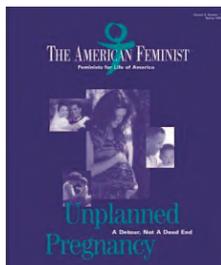


## Fifty Years of Activism

They also meet with **Finola Bruton, whose husband is former Prime Minister John Bruton. Serrin proposes a nationwide version of our campus Pregnancy Resource Forum.**

Serrin's proposal comes to fruition as the **5,000 Too Many Conference, held in Dublin, Ireland.** There, she is the only American speaker and addresses the unmet needs of pregnant and parenting students. The hall is filled with Members of Parliament and press. Finola Bruton serves as moderator, with former Prime Minister Bruton also in attendance. Those on both sides **of the contentious debate express support for FFL's holistic, woman-centered approach.**

1999



**FFL submits an amicus brief in support of two teenage mothers who were denied admission to the National Honor Society.**

The ACLU's lawsuit on the teens' behalf ultimately prevails.\*

2000



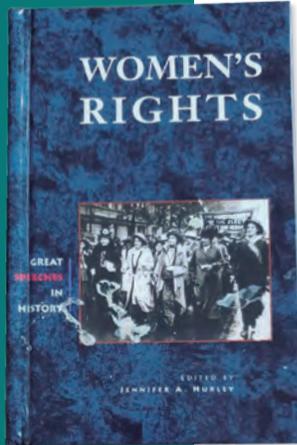
Former Wyoming Sen. Alan K. Simpson invites Serrin to participate in a panel discussion, **“Abortion: Can We Ever Find Common Ground?” at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government** in Boston. Her teammate is the former abortion provider and co-founder of NARAL Dr. Bernard Nathanson. They debate President of Planned Parenthood Gloria Feldt and Bill Baird.



Serrin delivers “The Feminist Case Against Abortion” at the **LIFE Northern Ireland Conference at the Parliament Buildings at Stormont**. “**The Feminist Case Against Abortion**” was subsequently included in an anthology called **Women’s Rights** edited by Jennifer Hurley, part of a series published by Greenhaven Press in 2001 titled “**Great Speeches in History**.”

**State chapters dissolve as part of the 2000 millennium plan** as most volunteers were already working on a national level, including policy, advocacy, and publications; in-person meetings had evolved to televolunteering into national committees; and other roles had been professionalized as staff or consultants.

The Board revises the mission: **Feminists for Life of America recognizes that abortion is a reflection that our society has failed to meet the needs of women. We are dedicated to systematically eliminating the root causes that drive women to abortion—primarily lack of practical resources and support—through holistic, woman-centered solutions. Women deserve better® than abortion.** The former mission statement becomes the vision statement, and Serrin’s title becomes President. The top Board position becomes Chair of the Board.



**2001**

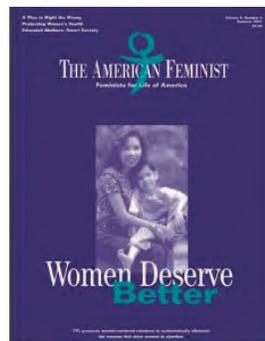
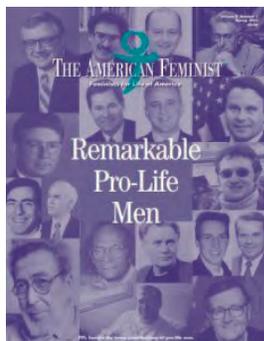
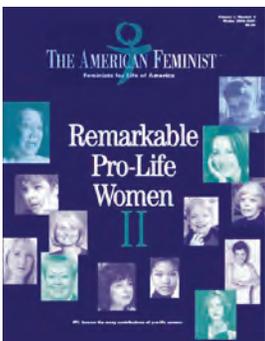
Margaret Colin testifies on behalf of FFL before Sen. Sam Brownback and the Senate Commerce Committee against the creation and destruction of human embryos.

**2002**

**In advance of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roe, FFL’s slogan, “Women Deserve Better® than Abortion” becomes the theme for a coalition of pro-life organizations.** A series of Capitol Hill briefings and individual meetings follow. Actor and model **Jennifer O’Neill** and women from allied organizations share their personal experiences of coerced abortions, while Serrin makes the case for our mission of resources and support.



Serrin introduces Margaret Colin (left) and Patricia Heaton to Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback on April 10, 2002.



## Fifty Years of Activism



Serrin and Honorary Chair Patricia Heaton and Co-Chair Margaret Colin speak at a **Capitol Hill briefing in opposition to human cloning** (see photo on page 16) for research based on feminist principles.

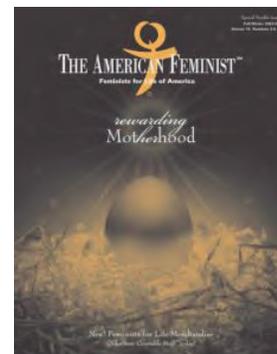
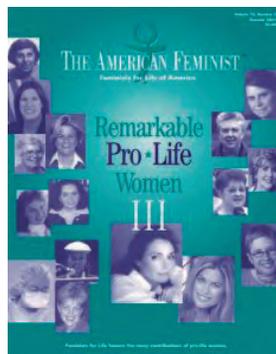
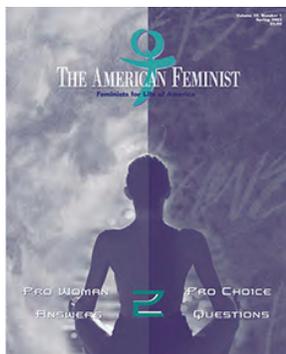
Afterward, **Heaton and Colin privately meet President George W. Bush at the White House before his briefing against cloning.**



Margaret Colin, Patricia Heaton, and Serrin at the White House.

### 2003

**FFL's Question Abortion® ad campaign** reaches 3.7 million students in two years, thanks to a generous donor.

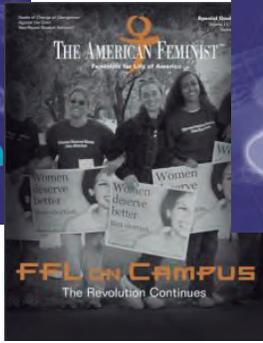


The U.S. Patent and Trademark office awards FFL the registered mark: **WOMEN DESERVE BETTER®** and **REFUSE TO CHOOSE®** during the debate over partial-birth abortion. The refrain becomes a pro-life catchphrase and is often repeated by others in op-eds and speeches, for example:

Kathryn Jean Lopez, whom FFL had recognized earlier as a “Remarkable Pro-Life Woman®” wrote in an article for *The Human Life Review*, “Women Deserve Better”:

“It’s no accident, and perhaps the recent decline [in abortions] no coincidence, that Feminists for Life, for instance, has focused attention on college outreach.” She went on to say, “Because college women are the most likely to have abortions, this is a remarkably significant audience and important success.”

Recognizing the potential impact for our Women Deserve Better campaign, she wrote, “The woman-focused philosophy that undergirds the Women Deserve Better® campaign—along with the miracles of modern technology that allow women and men to see the wonder of human life in its earliest stages—is the most compelling the pro-life movement has taken up, possibly since *Roe v. Wade*.”



2005

FFL has 250 media appearances in just a few weeks as Judge John Roberts, the husband of our counsel, Jane Sullivan Roberts, is nominated and confirmed as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Jane resigns as FFL counsel upon his appointment to the Supreme Court.

FFL trademarks the name of our magazine, *The American Feminist*®.

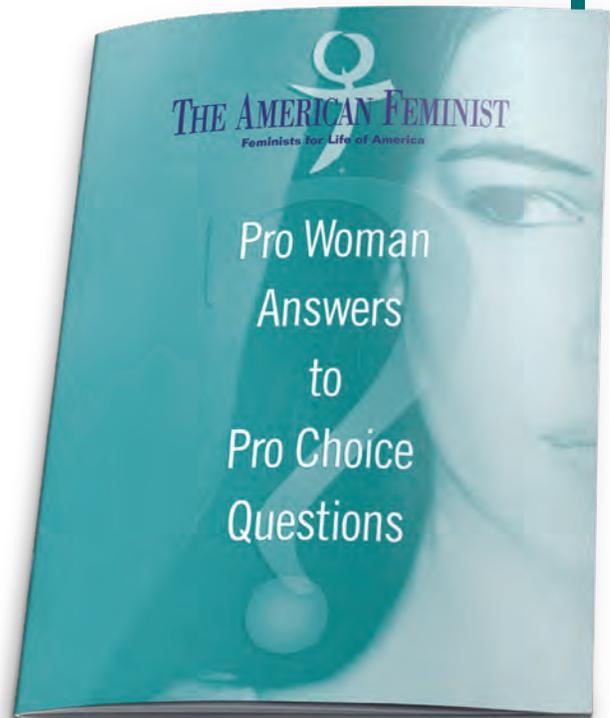
2004

The “Women Deserve Better than Abortion” Symposium is held at the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America, in Washington D.C., in advance of the so-called “March for Women’s Lives.”

The FFL-supported **Laci and Conner’s Law**, also known as the **Unborn Victims of Violence Act**, becomes law.\*\*

**Parking yards from the East Wing inside the secure White House perimeter, Serrin and FFL’s Director of International Outreach, Marie Smith, whose husband is Rep. Chris Smith, are escorted into the White House by security to watch President George W. Bush sign the Unborn Victims of Violence Act on April 1, 2004.**

C-SPAN carries live coverage of Serrin as she testifies before Congress in support of this act.



2006

FFL holds the **first-ever Capitol Hill briefing on the needs of 4.5 million parenting students—including millions of students** who become pregnant and need resources and support for marital and single parenting choices, as well as for various adoption options.

**FFL’s work inspires Michigan legislation, the Pregnant and Parenting Student Services Act.** The bill is overwhelmingly supported by both parties in both state chambers and is signed by the governor, an abortion advocate, in 2004.

In November 2004, at the invitation of FFL Board member and former Senate spouse Susan DeConcini, the FFL Board of Directors holds a private dinner in New Orleans with Remarkable Pro-Life Woman **Ambassador Lindy Boggs**.

## Fifty Years of Activism

2007

As a result of advocacy by Feminists for Life during the Clinton and Bush administrations, states become eligible to apply for waivers that would allow the **State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)** to cover pregnant women and their unborn children. Several states take advantage of this.

FFL contributes copies of hundreds of pro-life feminist documents from *The Revolution* and other historic records to the owner of the **Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum**, Carol Crossed.

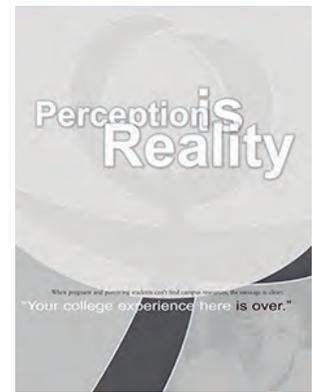
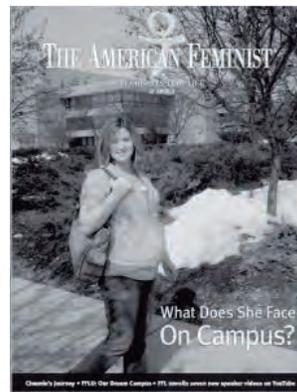
FFL premieres our new online **FFL Pregnancy Resource Survey<sup>SM</sup>** in preparation for the November **"Rally for Resources"** on campuses across the U.S. and a report during the spring semester, **"Perception Is Reality."**



2008

**Both major U.S. political parties' platforms incorporate parts of FFL's pro-woman, pro-life mission:** The Democrats' platform is expanded to include a number of woman-centered solutions. The Republicans' platform includes Feminists for Life's trademark slogan, "Women deserve better<sup>®</sup> than abortion."

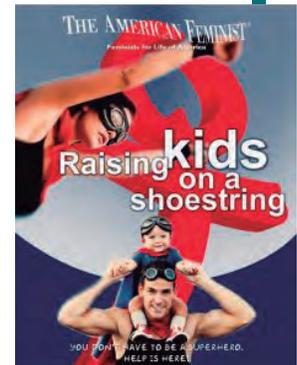
Serrin receives an **honorary doctorate from Belmont Abbey College**, in Belmont, North Carolina, in recognition of her lifetime of work in service of others.



FFL is back in the news as **FFL member Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is nominated for Vice President of the United States**. Serrin praises her for taking her children to work, for choosing life for her son with Down syndrome, and for fully supporting a daughter who is pregnant during the campaign.

2009

**FFL actively champions the New York State model program to help working low-income pregnant women receive prenatal care through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).** The CHIP Reauthorization Act is later signed into law, expanding coverage for the first time to pregnant women, as FFL originally advocated.\* \*\*

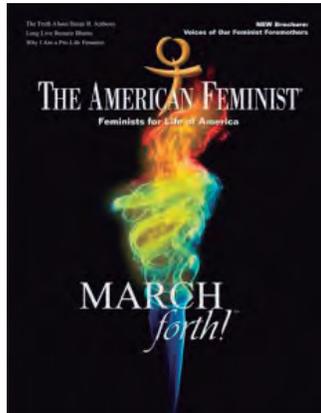


2010

**FFL's Elizabeth Cady Stanton Pregnant and Parenting Student Services Act becomes the core of a new federal law that provides grants to states through the Pregnancy Assistance Fund.**

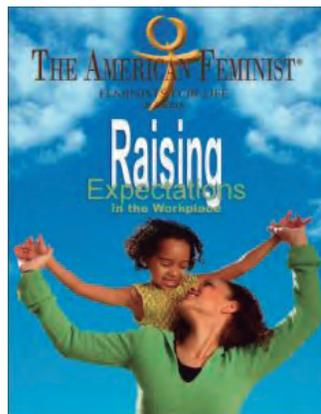
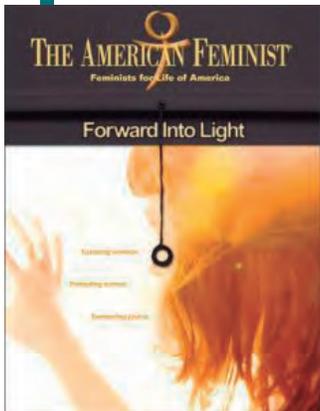
Congresswomen Kathy Dahlkemper and Jean Schmidt host the **Women's History Month Capitol Hill Briefing**. Serrin, FFL Vice President Sally Winn, and Susan B. Anthony List President Marjorie Dannenfelser speak. Portions of Serrin's landmark speech are quoted during "Special Orders" on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives by congresswomen celebrating the contributions of our feminist foremothers.

The FFL Board of Directors meets with staff at the **Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Harvard** and determines that we will donate our archives. FFL is the first pro-life group invited, at the suggestion of Remarkable Pro-Life Woman Dr. Mildred Jefferson, to donate to what is considered the most prestigious women’s archive in the world.



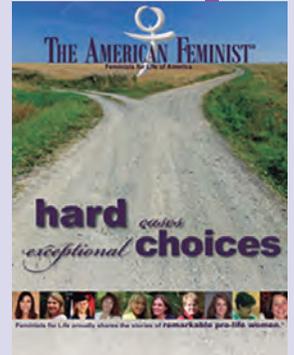
**2011**

On Susan B. Anthony’s birthday, Serrin presents “The Feminist Case *Against* Abortion” to 166 Roman Catholic bishops from the United States, Central America, and the Philippines meeting at the **National Catholic Bioethics Conference** in Dallas, Texas.



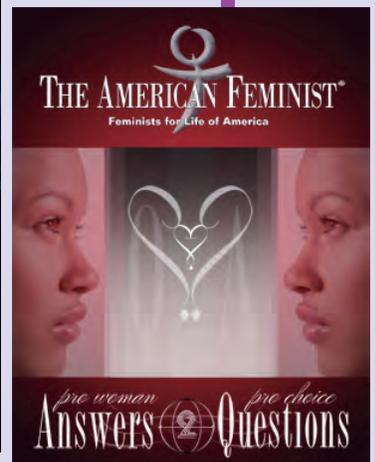
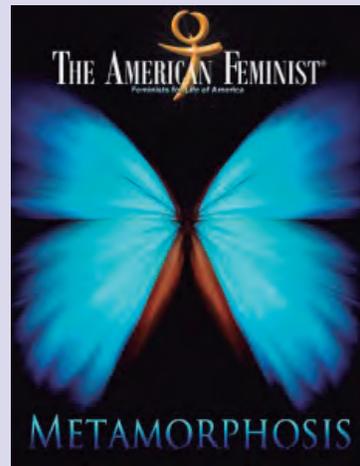
**2012**

**MiraVira (formerly Room at the Inn), a college-based maternity home adjacent to the campus of Belmont Abbey College** in North Carolina, is dedicated by Bishop Peter Jurgis during a joyous ribbon cutting ceremony. Cindy Brown served both as the former Room at the Inn director and as FFL Chair of the Board. FFL’s College Outreach Program inspired the move to Belmont Abbey. Abbot Placid Solari and the monks donated the land for 99 years at the cost of one dollar. Serrin served as an adviser to the development of the home.



**2013**

After years of FFL’s advocacy and efforts to educate college administrators as well as the U.S. government about ongoing discrimination against pregnant women, and documentation of the lack of resources for pregnant women, parents, and birthmothers through the “Perception is Reality” campaign, the **U.S. Department of Education issues guidance to school administrators** across the country which tells them what they must—and must not—do to comply with U.S. law regarding pregnant and parenting students.



**2014**

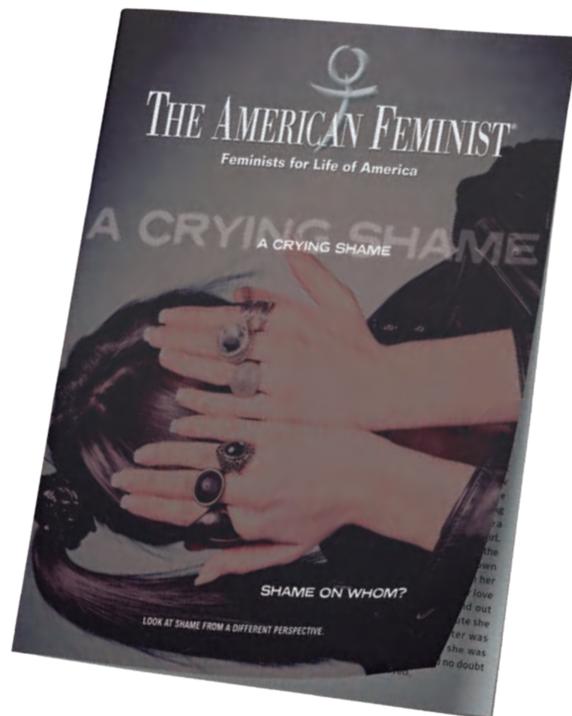
At the invitation of the Vermont Right to Life Committee, Serrin presents her landmark speech, “The Feminist Case *Against* Abortion,” at the **Vermont State House** on the anniversary of *Roe*.

Twenty years after a coalition meeting to pass the Violence Against Women Act, when Serrin first addressed the need to **legally protect mothers and children conceived during sexual assault from rapists seeking visitation and custody**, half of the states have enacted such laws.



**FFL Speaker Joyce McCauley-Benner addresses 600 students at UC Berkeley.** Another speaker at the same event is a professor who has also performed abortions. Draped in condoms, he waves a packet of RU-486 abortifacients, saying, “See, just pills!” Despite overwhelming opposition, Joyce patiently answers questions from an audience surprised to hear from a woman who chose “victory over violence” for herself and her child.

To expand the impact of our work on campuses, **Serrin announces at Yale University that FFL is sharing our Pregnancy Resource Survey, “Tools for Schools,” and map of national resources with Students For Life of America**, which had just launched a new national campus directory of resources and support based on FFL’s original directory.



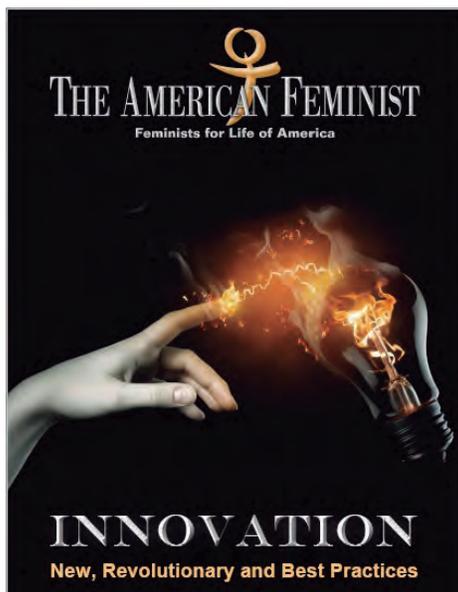
**2015**

FFL launches a dynamic new website, **Raising Kids on a Shoestring**, filled with free, frugal, and creative solutions, as well as an accompanying ad campaign. This serves as the precursor to our helpsite, [WomenDeserveBetter.com](http://WomenDeserveBetter.com).

Serrin moderates the **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Pregnancy Resource Forum at Georgetown University**, which is covered by EWTN. Preeya Noronha Pinto Ashok, who was president of the student pro-life group that held the first Forum at Georgetown, attends along with mothers and the children they gave birth to while in school. In addition, Health Education Administrator Carol Day, who has served on every Forum panel at Georgetown since its inception, is present. Carol had also shared our program with JASPA, the conference for Jesuit administrators, and developed a webinar with input from Serrin and Sally.

At the invitation of March for Life President Jeanne Mancini, Serrin is invited to a Capitol Hill briefing in November to announce the new **theme of the 2016 March for Life: “Pro-Life and Pro-Woman Go Hand in Hand.”**

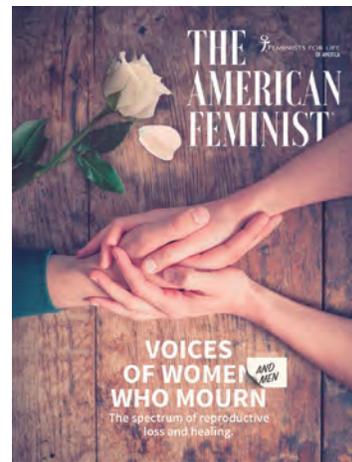
That same day, **Newsmax names Serrin, Joyce, and Speaker Chaunie Brusie among the top 100 most influential pro-life advocates** (Nos. 34, 38, and 39 respectively).



2016

Serrin is invited by the **Yale Political Union to argue the motion “Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman.”** After Serrin made the case, seven debate societies argue for well over three hours, and for the first time that we are aware, ***a pro-life motion won!***

Joyce delivers “Victory Over Violence” at **the Panamerican Youth Forum** in Panama City.



2017

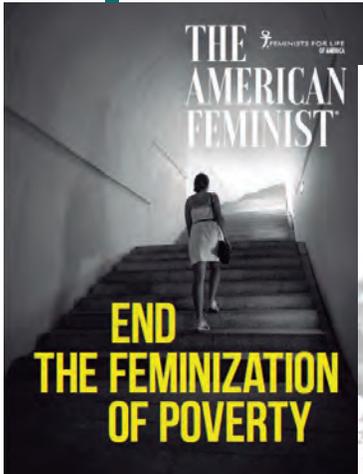
**FFL debuts our helpsite, WomenDeserveBetter.com.**

FFL launches our **Down syndrome awareness** campaign, including a video and multiple memes highlighting how people with Down syndrome and their families value their lives, while solemnly noting that two of every three pregnancies diagnosed with Down syndrome in the United States are aborted.



## Fifty Years of Activism

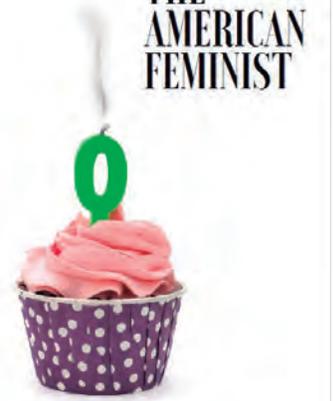
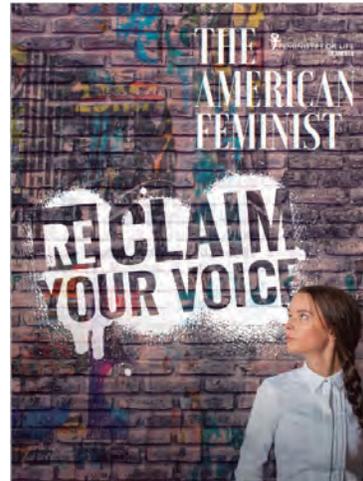
After FFL's "Peace Begins in the Womb" billboard sparks a controversy, in which a Susan B. Anthony House staffer in Rochester publicly dismisses our claims about Anthony's anti-abortion sentiments, *Saturday Night Live* (perhaps coincidentally) mainstreams our originally researched history of our feminist foremothers' opposition to abortion. The show airs a skit featuring the ghost of Susan B. Anthony declaring, "Abortion is murder!" (While Anthony never said these exact words, she wrote in opposition to abortion in her newspaper, *The Revolution*.)



2018

On International Women's Day, FFL releases our "Report on Resources and Support for Pregnant and Parenting Students at Highest Risk of Dropping out Attending California State Colleges and Universities," in advance of a vote on a bill that would have required California state colleges and universities to provide chemical abortions on campus (SB-320). To our delight, the governor, an abortion advocate, then vetoed the bill!

The FFL-supported **Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017** is signed into law.

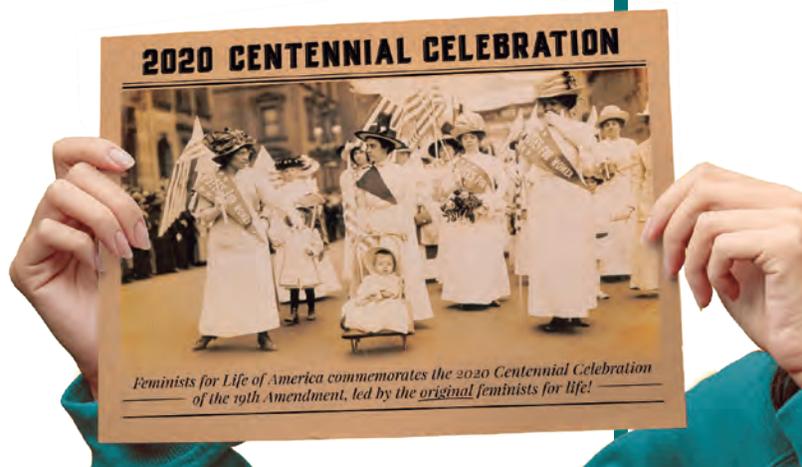
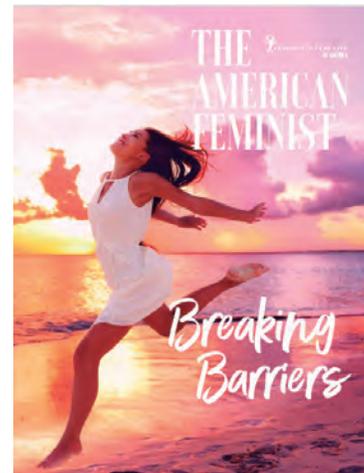


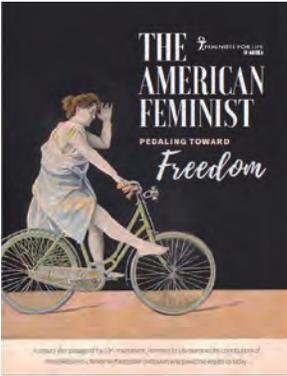
Abortion: Nothing to Celebrate

2019

Feminists for Life of America celebrates **unanimous support by the California legislature for AB-809**, which was inspired by FFL's research and greatly enhances support for pregnant and parenting students, especially for those attending graduate school.

Serrin is awarded the **First Annual Legacy Award at the Pro-Life Women's Conference**.





## 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, FFL launches a series of **Women Deserve Better** articles geared toward the unique challenges mothers, pregnant women, and caregivers face.

FFL announces our **Teen Outreach Program** and launches **GirlsDeserveBetter.org**.

The FFL-endorsed **Savanna's Act** is signed into law, after passing Congress *unanimously*. This new law will help combat the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

The FFL-endorsed **STOP Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act** of 2020 is signed into law, after passing Congress *unanimously*. FFL has advocated for FGM victims since our 2002 issue of *The American Feminist*, "Crimes Against Women Around the World."

FFL successfully calls for **Discover to cease the use of its card services on Pornhub**, following reports of sexual assault and sex trafficking videos, including of minors, on the site.

## 2021

With hopes of seeing the end of *Roe v. Wade*—as well as that the court might recognize the capacity of mothers in the workplace—FFL demonstrates in front of the U.S. Supreme Court during the landmark ***Dobbs v. Jackson*** hearing.

\*Was the only pro-life group.

\*\*Was the only feminist group.



Former intern Katherine Beck Johnson, now an attorney and mother of a daughter, speaks at the Dobbs rally; she had submitted an amicus brief in support of women and their unborn babies, and is carrying her second child, a son.

On December 28, 2021, the United States Patent and Trademark office grants FFL a new mark, **GIRLS DESERVE BETTER®**, as part of our Teen Outreach Program, because girls are FOREVER Priceless<sup>SM</sup>.

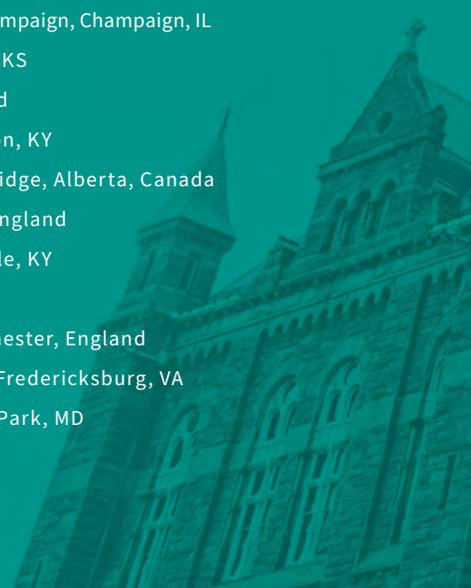


Sheer Joy

# HOPE FOR THE FUTURE: FEMINISTS FOR LIFE ON CAMPUS

American University, Washington D.C.  
Anna Maria College, Paxton, MA  
Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI  
Augustana College, Rock Island, IL  
Ball State University, Muncie, IN  
Barnard College at Columbia University, New York, NY  
Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, NC  
Berea College, Berea, KY  
Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington, VA  
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA  
Boston College Law School, Newton, MA  
Boston University, Boston, MA  
Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH  
Bradley University, Peoria, IL  
Brown University, Providence, RI  
Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA  
Cambridge University, Cambridge, England  
Canisius College, Buffalo, NY  
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA  
Carroll College, Helena, MT  
Clarion University, Clarion, PA  
Colgate University, Hamilton, NY  
College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, St. Joseph, MN  
College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN  
College of St. Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ  
College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN  
College of The Holy Cross, Worcester, MA  
College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA  
College of Wooster, Wooster, OH  
Columbia University, New York, NY  
Converse College, Spartanburg, SC  
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
Creighton University, Omaha, NE  
Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH  
Davidson College, Davidson, NC  
Denison University, Granville, OH  
DePaul University, Chicago, IL  
DePauw University, Greencastle, IN  
Drake University, Des Moines, IA  
Drew University, Madison, NJ  
Drexel Medical School, Philadelphia, PA  
Duke University, Durham, NC  
Duquesne University (student training at our Alexandria, VA, office)  
Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA  
Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT  
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL  
Fordham University, Bronx, NY  
Franciscan University of Steubenville, Steubenville, OH  
Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA  
Furman University, Greenville, SC  
George Fox University, Newberg, OR  
George Mason University, Fairfax, VA  
George Washington University, Washington D.C.  
Georgetown University, Washington D.C.  
Georgetown University Law Center, Washington D.C.  
Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA  
Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA  
Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA  
Graduate Theological Union, San Francisco, CA  
Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI  
Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA  
Guelph University, Guelph, Ontario, Canada  
Hamilton College, Clinton, NY  
Harvard Law, Cambridge, MA  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY  
Holy Family College, Philadelphia, PA  
Hood College, Frederick, MD  
Husson College, Bangor, ME  
Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL  
Immanuel Christian High School, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada  
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD  
Kent State University, Kent, OH  
King's University College, London, Ontario, Canada  
La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA  
Liberty University School of Law, Lynchburg, VA  
Loyola College of Maryland, Baltimore, MD  
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA  
Loyola University, New Orleans, LA  
Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA  
McGovern Medical School, Houston, TX  
Medical College of Ohio, Toledo, OH  
Miami University, Oxford, OH

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI  
 Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT  
 Minnesota State University, Moorhead, MN  
 Molloy College, Rockville Centre, NY  
 Montana State University, Bozeman, MT  
 Montana Tech, Butte, MT  
 Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, MD  
 North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC  
 North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND  
 Northeastern University, Boston, MA  
 Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY  
 Northwestern University, Evanston, IL  
 Northwestern University School of Medicine, Chicago, IL  
 Notre Dame de Namur University, Belmont, CA  
 Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH  
 Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, GA  
 Ohio State University, Columbus, OH  
 Ohio University Medical School, Athens, OH  
 Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA  
 Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR  
 Oxford University, Oxford, England  
 Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR  
 Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA  
 Pepperdine University Pregnancy Resource Forum, Malibu, CA  
 Princeton University, Princeton, NJ  
 Providence College, Providence, RI  
 Regis University, Denver, CO  
 Rhodes College, Memphis, TN  
 Rice University, Houston, TX  
 Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ  
 Rutgers University, Camden, NJ  
 Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT  
 Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA  
 Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO  
 Saint Mary's Hall, San Antonio, TX  
 Seattle University, Seattle, WA  
 St. Bonaventure University, NY  
 St. Isidore School, Danville, CA  
 St. John's University, Jamaica, NY  
 St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO  
 St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN  
 St. Mary's College, St. Mary's City, MD  
 St. Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA  
 St. Michael's College, Colchester, VT  
 St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI  
 St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN  
 St. Xavier University, Chicago, IL  
 Stanford University, Stanford, CA  
 Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA  
 Temple University, Philadelphia, PA  
 Texas A&M University, Bryan-College Station, TX  
 Texas Tech, Lubbock, TX  
 The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.  
 The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, Washington D.C.  
 The University of Scranton, Scranton, PA  
 Towson University, Towson, MD  
 Trinity College, Dublin  
 Trinity College, Hartford, CT  
 Trinity College, Washington D.C.  
 Tufts University, Boston, MA  
 Tulane University, New Orleans, LA  
 UCLA, Los Angeles, CA  
 University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY  
 University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA  
 University of California at San Diego, CA  
 University of California at Santa Barbara, CA  
 University of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
 University of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
 University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT  
 University of Dayton, Dayton, OH  
 University of Delaware, Newark, DE  
 University of Denver, Denver, CO  
 University of East Anglia, Norwich, England  
 University of Florida, Gainesville, FL  
 University of Hartford, Hartford, CT  
 University of Houston, Houston, TX  
 University of Idaho, Moscow, ID  
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL  
 University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS  
 University of Kent, Kent, England  
 University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY  
 University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada  
 University of London, London, England  
 University of Louisville, Louisville, KY  
 University of Maine, Orono, ME  
 University of Manchester, Manchester, England  
 University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA  
 University of Maryland, College Park, MD



## Hope for the Future: Feminists for Life on Campus

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI  
University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, MI  
University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn, MI  
University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minneapolis-St. Paul  
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE  
University of Nevada, Reno, NV  
University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC  
University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, NC  
University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA  
University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN  
University of Oregon, Eugene, OR  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA  
University of Richmond, Richmond, VA  
University of Rochester, Rochester, NY  
University of San Diego, San Diego, CA  
University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA  
University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, IN  
University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN  
University of Texas, Austin, TX  
University of Texas, San Antonio, TX  
University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX  
University of Vermont, Burlington, VT  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA  
University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI  
University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie, WI  
University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI  
University of York, York, England  
Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN  
Villanova University, Villanova, PA  
Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN  
Washington & Lee, Lexington, VA  
Washington State University, Pullman, WA  
Washington University, St. Louis, MO  
Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA  
West Chester University, West Chester, PA  
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA  
Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL  
Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, WV  
Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA  
Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada  
William & Mary Law School, Williamsburg, VA  
Williams College, Williamstown, MA  
Wingate University, Wingate, NC  
Winona State University, Winona, MN  
Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC  
Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH  
Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT  
Yale Law School, New Haven, CT  
Yale University, New Haven, CT

### **Compiled by Mary Piescik**

*Editor's Note: Many of these schools held numerous events, most notably Georgetown, which hosted the first-ever FFL Pregnancy Resource Forum<sup>SM</sup> in January 1997, as well as the annual Cardinal O'Connor Conference. In addition, students from across the country attended numerous conferences, including the Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life, Boots on the Ground, Students for Life of America, and the Ivy League Coalition for Life.*



# Many Stories. One Home.

Do you remember how you first heard of Feminists for Life?

I remember the moment when I saw an ad for a PRO-WOMAN PRO-LIFE job in the newspaper. Then I read FEMINISTS FOR LIFE. In that moment, I knew that everything in my life had prepared me for this, including my first speech in college against abortion, tragic stories I had heard from teens and women who had no support, experience working for two major nonprofits, and dreaming of writing pro-life feminist bumper stickers while in traffic. I thought I was all alone, forced to choose between women's rights and the lives of children. Then, I met Carla Perantoni Walsh, who was heading the executive search. *I found my home.* And hope you feel that way, too.



Because women deserve better,  
Serrin M. Foster  
President

## Marilyn Kopp, former FFL Ohio state chapter leader

I joined FFL in 1988 when my first daughter was born. I've always been pro-life. But it wasn't until I was pregnant myself and felt the baby kicking that I decided I had to become an activist! So the first thing I did was to join my church's pro-life group. From them, I learned about Right to Life. From RTL, I learned about FFL. When I learned that our feminist foremothers were pro-life, I knew I had found my home. I joined our local FFL chapter and became their communications director. From there, I went on to become president of our state chapter for 10 years. I've been involved ever since, including as a frequent contributor to *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*.



Marilyn Kopp (left) and Beth Shoemaker, at Lilith Fair.



## Kay Kemper, former FFL Minnesota state chapter leader

I always felt like a feminist—but I was told I couldn't be because I was pro-life. In early 1984, I read a letter to the editor from a state board member. I tracked down the group (I was so excited!!), and in a few months, I was the state chapter president!! I ran the group for 10 years, helping pass legislation like parental leave and protection from violence against women, as well as pro-life legislation. We were well respected in the legislature.

- Protesting our exclusion for booth space at Sarah McLaughlin's women's concert Lilith Fair (which got considerable media coverage, including the cover story in our liberal weekly, *The Free Times*, plus coverage in the *Plain Dealer* and the *New York Post*).
- Our Women's History Month event when we dressed up in suffrage outfits and read from our foremothers' words.
- Our art and poetry exhibit, which featured banned work from artist Mary Cate Carrol and poet Jean Blackwood.
- Initiating the Common Ground group in Cleveland for pro-life and pro-choice activists to work together on things we agreed on.

**Sharon Serratore, FFL Board member and Secretary**

It was about 30 years ago that I was introduced to Feminists for Life. I don't recall the specific occasion, but I remember being puzzled at hearing the name (*Feminists for Life??*) and being struck by the very existence of such a bewildering sounding group! Whether through FFL materials picked up in my travels or by mention in some publication I'd read, I just recall that hearing that name, and discovering that such a group existed, this grandly struck me, caught my attention for sure, and intrigued me to learn more.



To my undeveloped understanding, how could a feminist be considered pro-life? At the time, I was a young, independent, and single woman, enjoying the benefits of opportunity and happily employed in my first professional position. I still had this remnant idea, advanced by the rhetoric of the day and cultured in college, that abortion was a liberating and treasured feminist value. While I didn't see abortion as a "good," I still thought abortion rights were a boon to women. Back then—and strangely to me now—when I considered abortion and abortion rights, I conjured images of confident, liberated women striding into clinics exercising their rights.

I sought out FFL (this was pre-Google), and upon learning more about our remarkable organization and its philosophy, I found it made such sense. It made perfect sense. It sounded reasonable. It stood independent of factions. It served women. The pro-life approach from a woman-centered perspective was wise, true, and authentic—and remains so.

Now marking 50 years, the mission of FFL is more vital than ever. Our enigmatic name still catches attention and prompts conversation. "Women Deserve Better®" is a message that most people agree with—one that can serve as a point at which to begin

discussion about serving the needs of pregnant women and parents. May we march forth with that mission in mind, until there is no longer need.

**Elizabeth Edinger**

I first read about Feminists for Life in "NRL News" when I was in high school. I had no way to contact FFL then, but I was sure I would want to join at some point. I finally joined in 1994 after finding FFL's booth at the March for Life.

When Feminists for Life still had state chapters and I was living in Maryland, I was a member of the Maryland chapter. I attended meetings, wrote articles for the newsletter, tabled at events, and helped sell buttons and bumper stickers (and other things). I also attended seven Marches for Life. Several years ago, I filled out FFL's campus resources survey with help from my father, who was not pro-life. More recently, I have participated in five OneLife LA events, so far. I handed out 100 Feminists for Life placards at OneLife LA in 2020.



Outside of FFL, I have borne witness in front of an abortion clinic, raised money (a little) for a pregnancy center, written letters and emails to the editors of various publications and to politicians in defense of life, and participated in a failed campaign to change Maryland's horrible abortion law in 1992.

**Susan Schoppa, FFL Board member**

I'm deeply grateful to my dear college friend Lisa, who introduced me to FFL in 1988. Lisa grew up in Pennsylvania and participated in the March for Life in D.C. many times. When she spent a year studying abroad, I decided I would attend and march in her place.

Lisa must have shared a newsletter with me, because a few years later, I wrote to FFL and asked to be on

the mailing list. I received the first issue of *The American Feminist* in 1994. Through a dozen moves since then, I've kept that issue safe and sound in a small collection of favorite writings. In high school, I had written about the first feminists being pro-life, and I was thrilled to know FFL was advocating on so many levels and issues.



Over the years, I've made modest donations to FFL. Every time Serrin sent an acknowledgment, she crossed out "Ms. Schoppa" and hand wrote "Susan." This lovely courtesy made me feel connected to FFL as a companion, more than a donor or member.

In the fall of 2020, I was delighted to get a bumper sticker with FFL's slogan "Peace Begins in the Womb®." Because I was working from home, I realized more people would see the sticker in our front window. I was so happy when I put it up that I snapped a photo, and for the second time, I wrote FFL.

Imagine my added delight when FFL's Editor, Damian Geminder, replied, excited to see my display of the sticker. I didn't tell him that peace is the spiritual foundation of my vocation—my calling to be a peacemaker. I did tell him of my work as an attorney serving low-income clients. A few weeks later, he and Serrin asked if I would write for the Women Deserve Better helpsite.

And then last year, FFL offered me the best invitation yet: the honor and privilege of serving on the Board.

I've thanked Lisa for that introduction all those years ago. I've thanked Serrin, Damian, and my fellow Board members for the opportunity to serve with them. I've thanked friends who have become members at my invitation this last year.

Now, I offer my thanks to all of you, fellow FFL members. You provide the many happy returns as we celebrate FFL's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

## **Diane Kenney**

Several years ago, a friend once told me to read Pope St. John Paul II's *Letter to Women* written June 29, 1995. At that time, I had this inner pull to look at the women in our society; I just felt there was a grave injustice and women were not allowed to be who they were intended to be. The letter resonated within me as I had always believed just what he was so grateful for in each and every woman. This one quote helped me formalize in mind why I stood so strongly for the dignity of every human life. "For in giving themselves to others each day women fulfill their deepest vocation. Perhaps more than men, women acknowledge the person, because they see persons with their hearts. They see them independently of various ideological or political systems. They see others in their greatness and limitations; they try to go out to them and help them." Women have this incredible insight which is a part of their womanhood, and it lends itself to world understanding and making each human relationship more honest and authentic.



So, with this, I began searching for pro-life organizations that not only looked at the baby but also walked with the woman acknowledging her worth in the world. I believed the only way to end abortion was to increase options for women to have a true choice. It is through this search I found Feminists for Life—your mission spoke to me, and it fit into all my beliefs about our role as women, how the early feminists were trying to work with society to embrace all that we bring to the table, including motherhood. I am truly proud to be a part of Feminists for Life.

## **Lourdes Hnath**

I stumbled upon Feminists for Life accidentally. I was reading about an actress I admire, Patricia Heaton, and saw she was on the Board of Feminists for Life. I looked into this and became an instant fan.

## **Many Stories. One Home.**

As a mother of a young man with Down syndrome, I am extra passionate about the rights of the unborn. So many doctors encouraged me to destroy my baby boy. How could anyone expect me to hurt my baby? My baby turned 28 years old last year, on December 22. I—and our entire family—could never imagine life without him.

Everyone has the right to be born.

Thank you for all you do for those who cannot speak for themselves and for their parents who are brainwashed by the ignorant.



### **Patrick A. O’Kane, FFL Board member and Vice President**

It was in the late 1990s, during a conversation with a woman who was the director of the Family Life Office in the Diocese of Oakland, that she mentioned Feminists for Life to me. The fact that there was an organization that had literally a global reach for women and their unborn children impressed me.



So, on one of my trips out East, I met FFL President Serrin M. Foster in the D.C. office. I knew almost immediately that I was meeting one of the most credible and compelling voices for the cause of

women and unborn children. My day job and my work on the board of our local pregnancy services centers kept me busy, but I maintained an interest in and contact with FFL after that first meeting. On another occasion, I was able to watch Serrin participate on a panel discussion at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Her teammate was Dr. Bernard Nathanson, while she took on the president of Planned Parenthood, Gloria Feldt, asking her to support the “rest of the choices” on college campuses.

By 2007, I was able to respond to an invitation to join the FFL Board of Directors. Over the years since then, I’ve seen FFL perform its mission and propagate its message at Pregnancy and Parenting Resource Forums<sup>SM</sup> on college campuses, through its outstanding media (e.g. *The American Feminist*) and FFL Speakers, and its presence at major pro-life events (e.g. Walks for Life) and smaller informational gatherings. After nearly 15 years as an FFL Board member, it’s still clear to me that FFL plays a key role in awakening the conscience of people and moving them toward upholding the sanctity of human life, and in equipping advocates and resource providers with critical information and support—and inspiring the next generation of leaders.

### **Damian J. Geminder, FFL Director of Public Education & Editor**

I was “raised pro-life,” and so the notion that abortion was a bad thing was never really a question for me. But it’s one thing to feel strongly that something is a bad idea; it is another thing entirely to argue forcefully—and successfully—against it.



When I was in eighth grade, our class was tasked by our language arts teacher to write and deliver a speech about a controversial topic. The best speeches

would go on to another contest at the school. So, I chose abortion. By that time, my older sister, Jessica, had already been an FFL supporter for nearly a decade, and she helped me with my speech (read: She ghostwrote it, just like the suffragists did for each other!). For the first time, I was introduced to woman-centered arguments against abortion that didn't just sound good, but they *educated* me about how abortion harms all parties involved, not just the baby (but certainly including her or him). On top of that, I was—and continue to be—a history nerd, and I was hooked on FFL's original research into how the suffragists were pro-life.

The day of my speech, I spoke for 14 minutes and received a positive response from my classmates, as well as my teacher. There was just one problem: The speech time was capped at four minutes, something we were never told in advance. I refused to cut much of anything, and so I was ineligible to proceed to the contest. Their loss!

Fast forward a decade to 2013. I was between my degrees, and I saw FFL was offering its annual summer internships. My sister saw the offer, too, and encouraged me to apply. So, I did. As part of the requisite writing sample, I sent my bachelor's thesis. The topic? How the media unfairly covers female candidates for high office. If you've read this far, you probably already guessed correctly that I was accepted.

That summer, I worked on multiple important projects, but the largest by far was calling nearly a third of the House of Representatives to invite their interns to our Annual Capitol Hill Intern Briefing. At the time, I was working merciless hours in retail, but the flexibility of the then-novel concept of a telecommuting internship allowed me to work at my own pace and, mostly, on my own schedule. I kept in touch with Serrin after my internship ended and eventually went for my master's in journalism. As I was wrapping up my final semester in fall 2015, she approached me to edit the next issue of *The American Feminist*—and possibly to become full-fledged staff.

As the new year approached, Serrin said that, yes, it was looking like there might be a job opening and asked me to join her at Yale University in early February as she argued the motion, “Resolved: Pro-life is pro-woman,” before the Yale Political Union. Seven debate societies argued for well over three hours, and for the first time that we are aware, a pro-life motion won! Shortly thereafter, I got the official job offer and accepted. On February 15, 2016—Susan B. Anthony's 196<sup>th</sup> birthday—I became FFL's Communications Coordinator & Editor. More than six years later, my title is Director of Public Education & Editor, and now, I'm the one supervising interns, booking events, and occasionally even speaking at those events!

I could write an entire essay about my experiences on staff at FFL, but for the sake of space (I am, after all, the one editing the magazine you're reading right now), I won't. I just wish to close with a word of thanks to everyone who allowed me to do the good work I do every day at FFL, on behalf of the most vulnerable, especially my parents and my sister, for encouraging my involvement with and making me aware of FFL in the first place. And it all started the better part of two decades ago with a speech in front of 30 classmates that ultimately got shot down.

### **Joyce McCauley-Benner, FFL Speaker**

In 2007, I was a closeted pro-life feminist. So was one of my friends. We hung around a lot of feminists and marched with them in events like Take Back the Night and worked with them on a host of issues.



But when it came to abortion rights, we simply made excuses and didn't show up. We didn't know our pro-life feminist history yet, let alone that there were thousands like us across the U.S. My friend was an online news junkie and librarian, so she was the queen of research. She found Feminists for Life online and quickly signed up for their email list. One day, she

## **Many Stories. One Home.**

forwarded me an email that was a call out for stories of unplanned pregnancies. She knew bits and pieces of my story and stated, “This might be the group for you.” She couldn’t be more right!

As I browsed their website and emails I felt like the prodigal daughter who had finally returned home. I felt ***seen*** and ***accepted*** and **that I belonged.**

In this feeling of acceptance, I wrote down my story. A story that very few knew at that time—that the pregnancy with my oldest son was definitely unplanned and, as some say, a crisis. When I found out I was pregnant, it was only a few weeks after I had been raped, and so I did not know who the father was. I didn’t have the words yet to explain it all, but I was emboldened by what FFL had said and put together some initial thoughts.

I clicked send. Instantly, I panicked and wanted to take it back. Was I crazy? Did my story even matter? Would they read it? What if they did?!

A few weeks went by, and I received a call.

The rest is *herstory*...

My journey with FFL began then and blossomed into becoming one of their speakers and writers. I found healing, hope, and joy in sharing with others how to be pro-woman and pro-life, even in the hardest of circumstances.

My friend who introduced me to FFL passed away a few years ago, but we were always in awe of how powerful it was to journey with other pro-life feminists and the gift FFL became to me.

**Fifty years of empowering women, fifty years of championing life, fifty years of challenging the status quo.**

**I couldn’t be more proud to continue the legacy!**

### **Julia Simmons**

I was reading an online article about abortion in a major news magazine (not pro-life), and FFL was mentioned. My heart and mind leapt to learn about you!! Immediately I searched for your website and felt so validated and supported by everything I read. That was about 12 or 15 years ago. Thank you for standing strong all these years!!



### **Diane Becker-Reilly**

I first learned of Feminists for Life and its mission from YOU, Serrin, at Belmont Abbey College. You spoke at St. Leo’s Hall. It was at least 10 years ago, maybe 11 or 12.

Thank you for being there, and everywhere that you go, and sharing this important message: All human life is valuable, no matter how small. And that mothers and fathers should not be deceived by those who claim to know best what they should be doing with and to their unborn children, when it comes to annihilating them.

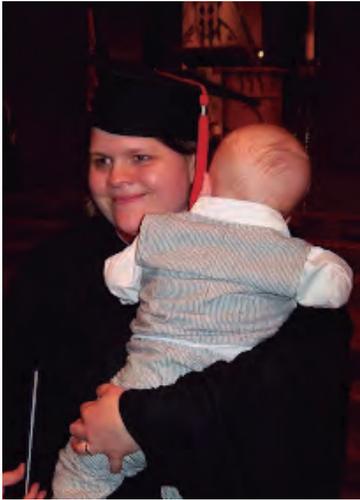
### **Claire Swinarski, author of *Letters from a Catholic Feminist***

I was a FOCUS missionary in 2013 and had the opportunity to hear Serrin Foster speak at Tulane University. It was truly life-changing and set me out on a path of helping women understand why abortion is so harmful to the feminist movement.



Photo credit: Mary Clare Lococo  
Photography

### **Bethanie Ryan, FFL Website Coordinator**



I don't remember exactly how I had heard of Feminists for Life. I guess I must've googled "pro-life feminist" and FFL was what popped up. I was on the mailing list for years before I applied for an internship. In 2012, I had my son. He was unplanned. I

was still in grad school and newly married. We had only one income and had planned on starting our family three years later. I know many women in my situation would have felt like abortion was their only option. I lucked out in that my husband and I were both pro-life, my grad school was very flexible with me, and my husband's job was able to support all of us. It opened my eyes to the plight of women less lucky than I. When I saw the call-out for interns, I knew I'd regret it if I didn't apply, although I was definitely a non-traditional intern. I got in and now I work as a technical Jane-of-all-trades for FFL. I am proud of the work I have done to help women in positions similar to the one I was in, especially through our Women Deserve Better helpsite. Serrin has been a big help in balancing my career and my unplanned, now 9-years-old, bundle of joy.

### **Cynthia J. Wood, J.D., FFL Speaker and National Operations Coordinator**

As someone actively involved in the pro-life Movement as far back as 1980, it surprised me that it took 35 years for me to discover Feminists for Life. I credit my sister who told me about a part-time position with FFL. After researching this



organization and learning of its rich pro-life feminist history, I eagerly applied and was hired. That was 6 ½ years ago.

I have always considered myself pro-life and a "true" feminist. Coming from a family with four brothers and three sisters and parents who raised us equally, I was never hindered by the concept of a glass ceiling. I worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as an Environmental Scientist for 40 years, have been married for 37 years, and have four children and two grandchildren, with one on the way. While being a working mom had its challenges, I considered each one a blessing. My pregnancies, while never easy, were always welcomed, even when late in life I decided to pursue a law degree while working full-time. It took a little longer to finish law school during which I dealt with three separate moves, the birth of my last child who at 2 developed Type I diabetes, a third miscarriage, and my 13-year-old son's open heart surgery.

I am in no way looking for a medal or even a pat in the back. Neither did our pro-life foremothers who fought and sacrificed much for the privileges women of today enjoy. That is what makes a true feminist. We do not whine. We just do. We are not victims. We seek to overcome obstacles. We believe in equality, knowing we are no better or worse in value and worth than another, including our own unborn children. That is what true equality means. That is what FFL stands for. That is why I am a Feminist for Life.

**Check out FFL Speaker Cynthia J. Wood, J.D.'s video, "Know Your Worth"!**



To have Cynthia deliver her presentation at your next in-person or virtual event, email us at [info@feministsforlife.org](mailto:info@feministsforlife.org).

## Many Stories. One Home.

### **Kara Sorenson, FFL Chair of the Board**

In spring of 2015, I was volunteering at a local pregnancy resource center in Pennsylvania called AAA Life Services. The executive director at the time heard that Feminists for Life of America President Serrin M. Foster was coming to Clarion University's campus and asked me to attend her landmark speech, "The Feminist Case *Against* Abortion."



This was when I first learned that the original feminists, like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Alice Paul, were pro-life. They believed in a world where women had equal rights and a strong voice in society, but not at the compromise of their own motherhood or family.

I was inspired to learn that Feminists For Life was working to continue this pro-woman, pro-life legacy. I was also heartened to hear that they believed abortion is a reflection that our society has failed to meet the needs of women.

So as vice president of our pro-life student group, I invited Serrin to return to Clarion, this time to moderate a panel of 16 administrators, community service providers, and a student mom for an FFL Pregnancy Resource Forum<sup>SM</sup>. In just two hours, we developed a plan to provide better resources on campus for pregnant and parenting students.

During the summer of 2016, I interned with Feminists for Life, working on articles that would ultimately comprise our new WomenDeserveBetter.com helpsite. That summer, I also staffed FFL's table at the first Pro-Life Women's Conference, led by Abby Johnson.

That same summer, I also had the opportunity to work on FFL's Annual Capitol Hill Intern Briefing and then again in 2017, when I spoke to students to encourage them to go back to their colleges and universities and try to assess the needs for their pregnant and parenting students.

Since November 2017, I have served on FFL's national Board of Directors. In 2018, I was honored to share our College Outreach Program at the March for Life Youth Rally, and in 2019 helped to distribute FFL materials at the March for Life Expo. Serrin and I had the great honor to be onstage with other pro-life leaders at the March for Life in Washington D.C. I left that event renewed and excited to again share our pro-life feminist story with the people of Erie, Pennsylvania, at their annual march. In February 2020, I also had the privilege of addressing the University of Pittsburgh.

After speaking with a dedicated donor over the holidays of 2019, I was invited to fly to San Antonio and sit on a panel for a high school abortion debate. I was among varying abortion advocates and pro-life debaters, and I can say with confidence our feminist history and stance on the way we view and approach abortion was the most well-received among the young women and men. I got to speak with a crowd of students after the event who wanted to hear more about our pro-life feminist approach. Although most of those in support of abortion remained on their side of the topic, I was met with understanding and common ground, which hopefully planted a seed that has grown more today.

It has been a blessing to serve as Chair of the Board alongside amazing members who care so deeply for our cause. As we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday, I am honored to be a part of a legacy of women and men who have and continue to work toward a pro-life feminist world.

**Check out FFL President Serrin M. Foster's video, "The Feminist Case *Against* Abortion: Part 1"!**



### **The Feminist Case *Against* Abortion**

Part 1: First Wave Feminists

by Serrin M. Foster

President of Feminists for Life of America



To have Serrin deliver her acclaimed speech at your next virtual event, email us at [info@feministsforlife.org](mailto:info@feministsforlife.org).

### Mary Piescik

I am a pro-life feminist because I acknowledge that men and women are different but equal. I am a pro-life feminist because I respect the dignity of every woman, from the moment she comes into existence, that she deserves the gift of life, and the opportunity to give life to others. I respect the dignity of motherhood. I respect the dignity of all human persons. I respect the dignity of children. I resent that abortion is the legally sanctioned murder of children.



I heard FFL President Serrin M. Foster speak at Mary Washington University in October 2021. The talk inspired me to spread the message that women deserve better than abortion. Now, I am a Contributor to FFL's helpsite, WomenDeserveBetter.com, and I get to help women through the articles I write—including about my pregnancy right now!

### Tureygua Inaru



I used to be pro-choice. For a long time, I thought abortion was a compassionate choice if a woman was poor or otherwise unable to care for her child. I found FFL when I realized I wasn't pro-choice

anymore, but I also didn't understand why I was pro-life. I was turned off by other pro-life organizations' fundamental misunderstanding of what leads women to abortion. FFL understands that abortion is a societal failure that harms everyone, not just the baby, but women, too, and dare I say, even men. That is why I applied to become—and now am—an intern at FFL.

I am a pro-life feminist because all life is a miracle. I am a pro-life feminist because all life has value. I am a pro-life feminist because I believe in optimism and opportunity, and because I believe in tomorrow.

I believe we should celebrate life and build a global culture of life. I believe, if given the chance, we should take a chance on life, every time.

### Florine Sullivan

Alice Brown and I have celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> year as co-founders of Birthright (later Birthline) here in St. Cloud.

The phone was in my home and on May 11, 1971, I took the 1<sup>st</sup> call—no office as of then. That mom is now a grandmom!

Alice and I are now in our 80s and so pleased and comforted to know that there are thousands of caring people to forward our work, dreams, and plans into the future.

***Persevere and know that you are loved and thanked by us and others gone before you!***

## Check out FFL's First Wave History Course and Quiz!

The perfect online supplementary material for our 2020 Centennial issue of *The American Feminist*, "Pedaling Toward Freedom."  
Look for more chapters to be added soon!



# WOMEN DESERVE BETTER<sup>®</sup> THAN ABORTION.

Abortion is a reflection that  
we have not met the needs of women.

Support us now!

 FEMINISTS FOR LIFE  
OF AMERICA



My dearest sisters and brothers in Feminists for Life,  
I wish we could name every Board member, staff,  
volunteer, intern, and donor who has been a part  
of our 50 years of advocacy, education, and service.

As I look back on my 28 years with FFL, my mother  
always reminds me that early on, Planned Parenthood,  
the nation's largest abortion provider, warned its  
staff that Feminists for Life's College Outreach Program  
is "the newest and most challenging concept in anti-  
choice student organizing" and "could have a profound  
impact" on college campuses "as well as Planned  
Parenthood's public education and advocacy efforts."\*



They were right. Ten years later, only one group had a 30% decrease in abortions: college educated women.

You have my heartfelt thanks for your contributions to our half-century of accomplishments so that women  
can live better, and babies can live to be loved.

With great hope for the future. It all starts with the essential question: What does she need, and how can  
we help her?

Meanwhile, share the good news.

Because women—and girls—deserve better,

**SERRIN M. FOSTER**  
PRESIDENT

\*Planned Parenthood's newsletter, *INSider*, Spring 1997.

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FEMINISTS FOR LIFE  
OF AMERICA

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Without children,  
there is no future.  
Without the future,  
There is no hope.

**We have  
hope for the future.**

