

THE  FEMINISTS FOR LIFE  
OF AMERICA

AMERICAN  
FEMINIST

STRONG  
AS A  
MOTHER



# THE AMERICAN FEMINIST®

A publication of Feminists for Life of America

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Editorial Board **MAUREEN BAILEY, CHERYL BLAKE, SERRIN M. FOSTER, CAROLINE JARBOE, JOYCE MCCAULEY-BENNER, SHARON SERRATORE, SUSAN SCHOPPA, REBECCA WEBB, AND CYNTHIA J. WOOD**

Copy Editors **MAUREEN BAILEY, CHERYL BLAKE, DONNA HAYDEN FOSTER, CAROLINE JARBOE, JOYCE MCCAULEY-BENNER, COLETTE MORAN, BETHANIE RYAN, SUSAN SCHOPPA, SHARON SERRATORE, AND CYNTHIA J. WOOD**

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FEMINISTS FOR LIFE OF AMERICA

PO BOX 151567, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22315

WWW.FEMINISTSFORLIFE.ORG

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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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## STRONG AS A MOTHER

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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 SHE HAS BEEN GREATLY WRONGED.

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



# MAKING OUR STAMP ON HISTORY



Dear Feminists for Life,

This issue of *The American Feminist* honors the strength and dignity of women. We share stories of the strong women in the lives of FFL supporters—and honor mothers and our feminist foremothers.

I wish to thank each of you who have helped over three decades, “to support mothers generally, so their unborn little ones would not be willed away from them,” as Susan B. Anthony wrote. You, too, have made sacrifices of “time and treasure” so that mothers could experience sheer joy—and children lived and are loved.

Too often, I get the credit for what all of *you* did to help make FFL possible. I think back on our Board members, staff, volunteers, interns, writers and designers, and advisors in specialized fields from legislation to resource development.

When I started in a small windowless room on the ninth floor of an asbestos-filled office and received a small shoebox with index cards of our then 22-year donor history, we had no mission, goals, education programs, or legislative strategy. No strategic plan. And we were in debt. It was terrifying. But we had thoughtful and passionate members who beautifully articulated our philosophy and documented that our feminist foremothers were pro-life, ready for us to reveal to wider audiences. And I knew that everything in my life had prepared me for this. I was home from the moment I met Carla Walsh, my first of four interviewers for this position.

I had no idea that we would influence so many others who would become today’s leaders, that Pope John Paul II would embrace a “new feminism,” (meaning pro-life feminism), that the “Women Deserve Better than Abortion” slogan would be inserted into the Republican Party platform, or that the meaning of comprehensive support for mothers and birthmothers would be enshrined that same year in the Democratic Party platform.

Early on, the Board developed a strategic plan to educate the pro-life and women’s movements that:

1. our feminist foremothers were pro-life,
  2. teens and women were hurt and killed by abortion,
  3. we need to systematically eliminate the root causes that drive women to abortion—and prevent new sources of pressure on her,
  4. women need resources and support,
- and later,
5. women deserve better than abortion.



A few years after I started, the Board would meet in my home and we decided to focus on collegians, especially young women. According to a Gallup poll, 37% of young women in high school supported abortion but by the time they went through four years of college, 73% of women supported abortion! They were at high risk of abortion—and would change the world in every field. As most of us were college-educated feminists, we knew where we needed to be.

After we created our original ad series and sent 650 kits to campus health care centers in order to redirect the way pregnant women were treated, Planned Parenthood predicted that our College Outreach Program could have a “profound impact” on campus. They

were right. Ten years later the only drop in abortions was among college-educated women *by thirty percent*. Our Pregnancy Resource Forums<sup>SM</sup> have inspired state and national legislation and helped transform hundreds of schools.

Later, four of us working on the Women Deserve Better campaign in 2001 leading up to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Roe*, would take our message, solutions, and stories to the Hill. FFL would become front page news because of notable people who joined us.

Most recently, we added teen outreach and started the Girls Deserve Better Instagram page. Meanwhile, we launched a new billboard campaign.

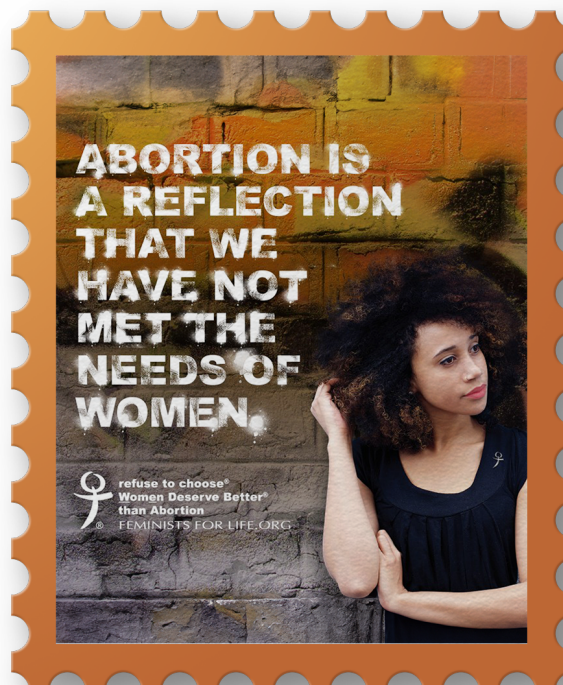
When you hear our “Women Deserve Better” slogan or history, and see others focus on students on campus or on the Hill when initially people questioned our college outreach, you know we have made the difference of a lifetime—thanks to each of you who invested in FFL.

Now we have new future leaders, educators, legislators, health care providers, journalists, business owners and human resource staff, parents, and yes, women who suffered abortions to reach. And in a post-*Dobbs* America, we have new challenges. I have no doubt that thanks to you, we are up to meeting the moment once again.

Because women deserve better,



**Serrin M. Foster**  
President





# SHOUT YOUR ABORTION??

BY JOYCE MCCAULEY-BENNER

EDITOR

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At the dawn of the second wave of feminism, abortion advocates convinced women to tout abortion as a solution to the challenges they faced. Whether women needed to succeed in their careers, continue their education, escape violence or financial struggle, rather than solving the problems mothers face, abortion was promised to be the way for women to "advance."

Abortion became the default "solution" for employers, educators, and the men whom pregnant women hoped would support them. No need to change the structures of the institutions or create more resources. Simply give them the "choice" to rid themselves of the "problem." Translation: Don't bother us with your pregnancy or the kid.

Women's history professors were either ignorant or chose to hide our pro-life feminist history. Seventies activists would tell women that any pregnancy "was just a clump of cells" and that abortion would be safe, legal, and rare.

Since *Roe v. Wade*, 66 million unborn children and hundreds, perhaps thousands of teens and women died paying the price. Millions of women have suffered in silence in the aftermath of directing the destruction of their own children. Nothing was solved for mothers as women judged themselves and each other on men's terms. The false message was clear: Pregnancy is an obstacle to success.

In 2002, a remarkable pro-life woman, Georgette Forney, the leader of Anglicans for Life, finally recalled the abortion she had as a teen. She stood before the U.S. Supreme Court Building holding a homemade sign on the anniversary of *Roe*. It declared: **I regret my abortion.**

As a part of the Women Deserve Better campaign, also launched in 2002—the year leading up to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Roe*—Cathy Cleaver Ruse began a meeting to brief individual members of Congress by introducing FFL President Serrin Foster. Ms. Foster told members of Congress about our pro-life feminist history and what we mean by our now

famous slogan. Georgette and another woman told their abortion stories to senators and representatives who had never heard testimony like this before. No one had been talking about abortions. Millions of women were mourning in silence, keeping the terrible secret to themselves.

While Silent No More grew along with Rachel's Vineyard and Project Rachel, abortion proponents started their response. Post abortive women began to sport an in-your-face message on their t-shirt: **I had an abortion.**

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**No one had been talking about abortions.  
Millions of women were mourning in  
silence, keeping the terrible secret to  
themselves.**

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The modern abortion rights movement has evolved to fully embrace abortion, even celebrating the act with cakes, pictures, social media shout-outs, and celebrity stories of how they wouldn't be where they are today without having had one or more abortions. Yet, we have over 50 years of stories, anecdotes, lives lost, and memories grieved that tell us the celebrations are an illusion.

Like so much of social media that hides truth in plain sight, a website was created to "Shout Your Abortion."

The website encourages women to speak their truth, without shame, and to share their reasons for their abortion. But something else happened. Women talked about their unmet needs, their regret, their loss.

Some felt relief as they went back to the same unsupportive conditions. But many began to share their grief and despair, and to discuss societal ills. There are countless stories of financial fears and lack of basic resources. Women lament the lack of childcare, money, and support, telling their deceased children they wished they could have kept them for later.

**"When I realized how unrealistic it was to have more children, I spiraled hard. Not only is my age borderline 'geriatric pregnancy' but we also didn't have the financial means or village of support to bring another child into the world. Having another child would have meant sinking back into debt and juggling careers with no good childcare."**

— EJ



[shoutyourabortion.com/share/58388](https://shoutyourabortion.com/share/58388)

**"I knew that me and your father were not financially able to give you the best life that you deserve. I lost my job, your father was not making enough to support us both."**

— Anonymous



[shoutyourabortion.com/share/3184](https://shoutyourabortion.com/share/3184)

Choosing abortions didn't seem to even solve a temporary "problem"—let alone improve their circumstances—and isn't that what abortion advocates promise?

Others share their anger at themselves for not being able to conquer the villains in their lives.

**“I was mad at myself for ignoring signs of abuse and romanticizing someone that ultimately was using me for sex, slowly breaking away my soul with drugs and alcohol.”**

— JK



[shoutyourabortion.com/share/58652](https://shoutyourabortion.com/share/58652)

And it isn't just women and unborn little ones who would pay the price. Men have started sharing their regret for participating or pressuring teens and women into abortions.

Spending time with these women and men who are “shouting” their abortion doesn't seem like time spent at a party. They don't share a sense of joy or inspire celebration with their stories.

Rather, it feels like time spent at a wake of a tragic death, trying to piece together the puzzle of why something like this happened, trying to investigate an accident, and wishing they could go back in time, that someone would help them, that someone would love them.

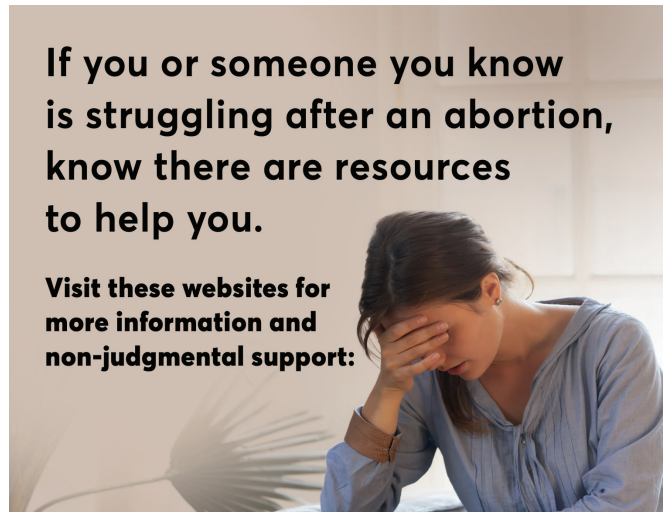
The Feminist for Life in me wants to shout to all of them: “YOU DESERVED BETTER!” You deserved so much more than being abandoned and left to suffer alone. And you deserved a feminist movement that would find you the resources, support, and justice you needed!

We have the time now to tell them—before millions more choose without knowing the regret—that we have the resources to make abortion the choice no one is shouting anymore. □

**If you or someone you know is struggling after an abortion, know there are resources to help you.**

**Visit these websites for more information and non-judgmental support:**

[supportafterabortion.com](https://supportafterabortion.com)  
[silentnomoreawareness.org](https://silentnomoreawareness.org)  
[hopeafterabortion.com](https://hopeafterabortion.com)



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- /Feminists4Life
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# OUR VOICES: STRONG AS A MOTHER

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JOYCE MCCAULEY-BENNER

EDITOR

From FFL’s conception, the idea that motherhood enhances womanhood—and that women can advance while being mothers—has been a part of our core values.

FFL Co-Founder Pat Goltz shares how her motherhood inspired and motivated her to develop the organization:

*During the time I was married and had children, I completed my college degree. In fact, I was pregnant with my second child while in college, gave birth during the school year, was out for a week, and aced my courses. By the time I graduated, we had four children.*

*During the time I was president of Feminists for Life, I was pregnant part of the time, breastfeeding other times, taking my youngest with me when I flew to various states to speak on behalf of the organization.*

*I learned many skills as a result of motherhood, and I often attended classes and lessons with my children.*

Pat knew she could successfully parent and continue with her goals. As states reconsider abortion restrictions in this post-*Dobbs* landscape, abortion advocates once again incite fear: can women succeed without the right to terminate their pregnancies?

Our supporters share their stories to demonstrate that women are strong, that our children are not the problem, and that we don’t have to give into these unfounded, dystopian fears.

## **What was it like to find out you were pregnant?**

**Mama Echo** I wanted an abortion with my son. It was the “right” thing to do. I was young, unmarried, headed off to college...

**Chrissyrrt** I was 14 going on 15, scared to death, could not tell my parents.

**Morgan** I was sixteen when I found out I was pregnant with my first child. I was determined to prove every pregnant teen statistic wrong.

**Pat S.** I was 31 and pregnant in a nursing career that was on the skids.

**Maria** I was in my 30s and self-supporting when I learned that I was pregnant for the second time. Nevertheless, my story may not be all that uncommon as well. My then husband and I had been struggling with our marriage for a few years. This pregnancy complicated an already tense situation and threw a huge monkey wrench into deciding what we should or should not do about our future. With a marriage on the verge of collapse and a contentious divorce looming, it would have been “convenient” to eliminate that added gnawing factor—the presence of another child.

**Erinjordan** All I ever wanted to do was go to college. Coming out of high school I had two pieces of advice from my mother: go to college, and don’t get “knocked up.” Finding out I was pregnant, while in college full-time was overwhelming to say the least, and I was terrified to tell my mom.

**Rebecca** My excitement was mixed with nerves. Pregnancy meant I would have to stop the heart medication I relied on to function—to protect the baby's critical early development.

**What got you through the challenges?**

**Mama Echo** Once I saw the ultrasound, though, I knew I couldn’t.

**Chrissyrrt** I hid my pregnancy, with baggy clothes. I thought about abortion but didn’t know where to go at first, then felt life inside. When I ended up in the hospital in labor, I learned of a couple that had been praying to be parents.

**Laura** Fighting for my baby against all odds made me fall in love all over again with the idea of being a mom. When she was born—and even before—my whole life was changed. I was partying a lot and I was all around lost, but having her made me turn my whole life around.

Even through the very difficult bits with her dad—who is an abusive, compulsive liar who even

kidnapped her for 3 weeks—she and I, we have always been a team, us against the world.

**Erinjordan** Depressed and confused, I remember having some very honest conversations with God, lamenting over the dramatic change in my life and grieving the future I thought I'd have. I was devastated to give up my dream of college for a child I did not ask for. My husband got hired as a worship leader at a local church. Within just a few weeks of us finding out about the pregnancy, they instantly adopted and supported us.

**Rebecca** The first few months were tough—with a racing heart and constant dizziness every time I stood up, it was impossible to go to work in the mornings. But the supportive ecosystem around me made all the difference. My husband took on the lion's share of chores at home, and my employer agreed to let me work remotely so I could keep up with the office. When societies unconditionally support women, we—and our babies—can thrive in the face of health challenges. Every woman deserves this kind of experience.

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**I was determined to prove every pregnant teen statistic wrong.**

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**What have you learned through your motherhood journey?**

**Mama Echo** I chose life and now he’s an 18-year-old college student. I went on to have three more amazing boys all while becoming a doula, advocating for life, and volunteering in many different roles. Motherhood didn’t ruin my life; it enriched it! I am so grateful for all the wonderful and hard lessons motherhood has taught me.

**Chrissyrrt** Forty-six years later my birth son, raised well by loving parents, is saving lives as a paramedic. I’m a mother of 6, grandmother of 12, happily married, and a pediatric nurse for over 20 years.

**Laura** My daughter brought light to the world and I know she is going to change everyone she meets for good, and my little boy is going to do the same.

I fought so bad for both of them in very different ways. And they are not just mine, but they are here, and being a mom is not the stupid stereotypical, always tired idea that the media likes to sell—being a mom is being the strongest woman your kids are ever going to meet.

**Morgan** I continued with my high school classes, breastfeeding my daughter before I left for school and when I got home. I graduated. Two years later I started college. I waitressed my way through college and graduated with honors. I've been a teacher for over ten years. I am married with four daughters. Motherhood is the greatest blessing of my life.

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**Being a mom is being the  
strongest woman your kids are  
ever going to meet**  
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**Maria** Today I look at my 36-year-old daughter and thank God for her. The joy Rachel and my older daughter Marisa have brought to my life has greatly outweighed all the angst over an unplanned pregnancy in the midst of marital tsunami. As circumstances would have it, both of my daughters would save my life when, 24 years later, I fainted—the result of dehydration. The table really turned that fateful night.

**Rebecca** Each of my pregnancies came with health risks, but my babies were infinitely worth the fight. Looking back now, I realize that those tough nine months were a short season; the joy I have found in my children will last a lifetime.

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**Who would've thought the path  
you never thought you'd be on was  
the path you were supposed to be  
on the whole time?**  
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**ErinJordan** After my husband graduated seminary, we moved to upstate New York for a church where he would be a pastor. Just a few months after we got here, I unexpectedly got hired at a crisis pregnancy center, where I now get to be a safe space for women every day who are experiencing the same emotions I went through. And I'm proud to say, 11 years after I dropped out of college, I just went back with a goal of working in maternal mental health.

Who would've thought the path you never thought you'd be on was the path you were supposed to be on the whole time?

## CONGRATULATIONS KARA!

"My husband and I are expecting our first child this summer and couldn't be more excited to welcome this little one into our family. We can't wait to experience all the wonderful blessings of parenthood and share our love with God's precious gift."



**Kara Sorenson-Smith**  
FFL Chair of the Board

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or fetus. • In *Roe*  
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# EUPHEMISMS KILL

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SERRIN M. FOSTER

PRESIDENT

It's a frustrating game of saying the opposite. No, I'm not referring to George's character on the sitcom, "Seinfeld." It's the not-so-cleverly disingenuous wordsmithing by abortion proponents to devise ways to hide their true aim in legislation and marketing.


Consider the work of Planned Parenthood which promotes *un*planned *un*parenthood and "abortion care," as if it's a day at a spa.

From the states to Congress to the U.N., we see attempts to slip in language in regulations and legislation that promote "freedom," "choice," and "reproductive health." Translation: Abortion. Nothing is as it seems.

Pro-lifers are constantly being lectured by abortion businesses and their surrogates who frame abortion as "reproductive justice," a part of "women's rights" when they are actually wrongs against women and unborn children.

We know that abortion has nothing to do with "reproducing."

And abortion does nothing to provide "justice" for women—as well as their children.



**There is no "reproductive justice" without the support for women to give birth and raise their children—and the right of children to be born.**

 FEMINISTS FOR LIFE  
www.FeministsForLife.org

**There is no “reproductive justice” without the support for women** to give birth and raise their children—and the right of children to be born.

**There is no “justice” for an innocent baby whose life is snuffed out.** There is NO justification for taking the life of a tiny human being who hasn't done anything but grow inside their mother's womb. They don't deserve the death penalty.

We *know* why women have abortions—and they aren't EVER thinking, “Oh, I need an abortion because I want ‘justice.’”

No. Instead, a woman facing an unplanned pregnancy is often wondering how she is going to make it without the love and support of the father of the child, her parents, her school, her employer, her conditional “friends,” and roommates.

If in high school, she may hide sexual activity by having an abortion. She isn't worrying about her future fertility or other side effects later in life. No. She is worrying about disappointing or angering her parents NOW. She is concerned about how her friends, frenemies, and enemies will turn on her.

If in college, she is wondering where she is going to live, how she will afford the baby, and whether she will be able to complete her education. She fears the lack of support from the father of their child.

If she is poor and is already struggling to feed born children and other dependents, she is wondering how she will feed and care for another.

If she is working, she may not know how she can take off for doctor appointments, maternity leave, and when her child is sick.

If she is living with an abuser who doesn't want children, she may be so run down that she has no faith in herself.

You may be thinking that I am justifying abortion. Absolutely not. We must meet the needs of women with *solutions*.



Feminists for Life is calling on *everyone* to raise expectations and to work together to systematically eliminate the reasons that drive women to abortion. Each one of us can do something to support the most vulnerable women and children. It is so rewarding to help.

Abortion proponents forget we can clearly see the unborn child on sonograms through all stages of her or his development. Mothers who are visually impaired can feel their babies kick and hear them using a stethoscope. Abortion activists aren't fooling us. We have science on our side. And we see the love in a mother's eyes when she first meets her newborn. What greater love is there?

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you are in school or at work, you can help create policies, advocate for resources, and connect pregnant women, birthmothers, and parents to help on campus, in the workplace, and in the community. And we are here to help you endorse effective solutions. Contact us now at [info@feministsforlife.org](mailto:info@feministsforlife.org).

You can support local, state, or national efforts for low-income women and those who survive abuse. Be an advocate when we call out opportunities to contact your legislators.

You can support our work on our Women Deserve Better helpsite by contributing articles. Contact us now if you have expertise or are a good writer. We have assignments. And you can promote our resources by distributing our brochures, sharing our resources via social media, forwarding our emails, and downloading and posting our ads.

And we have other opportunities at FFL. Contact us to see if we have other volunteer, intern, or paid positions. FFL is growing! Grow with us as we work to help women find the resources and support they'll need and deserve.





# MY HEROIC CLIENTS: REFLECTIONS OF A CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT CASEWORKER

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BY SHARON LONG  
FORMER FFL BOARD SECRETARY

Last Friday, although I was severely backed up with other work, I spent a half hour listening to a crying woman vent. She was very worried about her son's future. She had cancer and her 22-year-old son had intellectual challenges, not severe enough to obtain a totally inadequate disability benefit, but severe enough to get him fired from several jobs. He was falling through the cracks in the educational and social service systems.

The father, from whom she had long been separated, was unsympathetic. The judge had just ruled that the young man was not legally entitled to any more financial support from his father and that child support should have stopped on her son's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, since he was not in college, wiping out close to \$85,000.00 of previously collectible arrears.

It's a normal experience for me in my job as a bill collector—the bill being child support. Statistics

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**Statistics show that only about half of court-ordered child support is actually paid. While wealthier women might turn to private lawyers and detectives, the middle and working classes, and the unemployed, turn to us.**

”  
show that only about half of court-ordered child support is actually paid. While wealthier women might turn to private lawyers and detectives, the middle and working classes, and the unemployed, turn to us.

I have 550 cases, only about half of them paying, and it's pretty tough. The non-custodial parents, mainly fathers, do not have much

money themselves and frequently, for various reasons, have sporadic work histories. More importantly, however, many were raised without fathers themselves and view the mother as the one who has the principal, if not the exclusive, role in financially supporting the children. Some see child support as a tax and have told me openly that they will not work on the books because after being garnished for child support, “It does not pay to work.”

So what do I see? Mothers bringing home \$600 a week and trying to pay \$1500 or more in rent a month, generally ineligible for food stamps or welfare, and put on long waiting lists for subsidized rental units or housing vouchers, which do not cover as much of the rent as families need.

How do these mothers manage? They are drowning in credit card debt (the new welfare), and interest payments balloon. They sometimes, not always, are able to obtain help from relatives, and they try, frequently unsuccessfully, to demand child support from their children’s fathers.

Yet they go on. They all have two jobs, sometimes more, working as many hours as they can to try to pay the bills. Then they have another job at home with all the usual household and family responsibilities, especially caring for their children who sometimes have emotional and behavioral issues, possibly based on the fact that their fathers abandoned them.

It continues to amaze me how these mothers get up in the morning and make it through the week. When I inquire as to how they do it, they all say “I’ve got to be strong for my kids.”

And strong they are.

In spite of my own job stress and low pay, I am very grateful to be able to assist and perhaps, in some small way, help empower these incredible women. They have been such an inspiration to me.

## **Women Deserve Better**<sup>®</sup>

BETTER CHOICES > BETTER LIFE

### **What You Need to Know about Paternal Support**



Yes, I consider it a tremendous privilege to be able to be of help to my clients, my heroic mothers, who rejected abortion and are making such sacrifices to nurture and educate a new generation. ☐

### **NEWEST VIDEO REVEALED!**



FFL’s latest video rejects the assumptions by abortion providers who act as if women are weak!

Please watch it on our YouTube or Rumble channel, then like and share it!



# STRONG WOMEN IN OUR LIVES

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EDITED BY JOYCE MCCAULEY-BENNER

## ***My Incredible, Feminist Mom***

When I was 16, I was chasing after a young man who was, at best, ambivalently interested in me.

In those days, we still wrote paper letters. As I was walking, taking my letter to him to a mailbox in my neighborhood, my mother saw me as she was driving home from work. She stopped the car. She asked for my letter, and as she ripped it up she said, “I am doing this in front of you, not behind your back. I will not have you lie down like a dog and beg him to come back to you.”

Even then I knew that she was right.

Another time when I was a teenager and needed encouragement she gave me a handwritten sign, “For a woman to get half as far as a man she has to be twice as good. Fortunately, this is not difficult.”

---

“  
**For a woman to get half as far as a  
man she has to be twice as good.  
Fortunately, this is not difficult.**

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My Mom is not perfect but she made instilling self-respect, confidence, and courage in her daughter one of her top priorities. I am incredibly fortunate to have such a loving, tenacious, and brave woman as my mother.

She turned ninety-years-old on February 25. I still love you, Mom.

—Sharon Long

**MAMA MARLETTA**

I had a mentor for a while in my early 20s, named Marletta, who played women's full contact American football as a kid, a teenager, and in her early 20s.

She was physically abused as a child and got into drugs and a lot of fights as a young person. When she said, "I would jump on the boys..." she meant she was fighting them.

Her turning point came when her temper destroyed her marriage, she had hit her husband in an argument and knocked him across the room. He packed his bags, not only leaving her, but abandoning their two sons with her as well.

There she was, suddenly responsible for two young boys and no job, no experience, and having to face the choices she'd been making.

She found good mentors in church, and reconnected with the faith she'd been brought up in. Her violent behavior and raging outbursts had to be curbed, and the drugs and booze had to stop. Her emotions needed to be embraced and processed, and her innately aggressive temperament needed to be channeled in positive directions.

She channeled her aggression and her energy into her career so she could feed her family, instead of fistfighting, which had hurt her family.

She worked her way up to the top of her company in the 1970s, '80s, and '90s while raising two boys on her own.

After she retired and her boys were long since grown, she remained a leader.

There is so much misunderstanding of what strength really is in women's movements.

There are even those who would put her hitting her husband and her frequently violent and otherwise irresponsible behavior as a young, unwise person on a pedestal—as if it made her a role model for women. She definitely would not agree with that, at all. That is not what strength is, not when men do it, nor when women do it.

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**There is so much  
misunderstanding of what  
strength really is in women's  
movements.**

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Facing her mistakes and owning them, turning away from drugs and alcohol, and taking responsibility for her life and her family is where her power really started showing up. She said she still looks forward to a fight, but not the same kind of fight. Going through something challenging for a real purpose is the kind of fight she encouraged everyone to look forward to, and to never be intimidated by.

—Esther Davis

**Sheriff Dawanna Witt**

So proud of our Sheriff in Hennepin County (Minneapolis) who shares publicly that she became a mother at 15-years-old.

Hennepin County is the largest county in the state of Minnesota with over 1.3 million residents. Not only did she become a mother at age 15, she excelled in college and went on to become the first person of color and the first woman to ever be elected Sheriff.

—Regan Leindecke

## ***My Mother Rosalyn***

My mother Rosalyn has taught, nurtured, consoled, and inspired me. My dad has too, yet I'm grateful for the grace, beauty, and wisdom that only a mother, my mom, could give. I cannot count as high as the blessings she has given me, and so I'll share one that permeates every facet of my life. Faithful loyalty to others.

My mother taught me to be loyal and loving to family and friends. She showed me this means accepting others as they are, meeting them where they are, and always offering hope to them. She modeled forgiveness and patience, even while she guided me to reflect on who I am (character) and not worry about what others think of me (reputation).

When as a teenager I told her someone asked me "how can you be friends with so-and-so," my mom told me to say, "Yes, isn't it nice I can be friends with different people?" Even now in my middle-aged life, I think of that—how wondrous my relationships are because I can find shared interests and values with others no matter how different I am from them. And oh how that eases conflict and keeps me centered through the common storms of life.

This deep grounding of who I am, accepting others for who they are, the glorious gift of embracing our human dignity in life, that's the essence of motherhood to me. And I marvel that my mom has always shown me that resoundingly with joy.

In recent years my mom, with her beautiful gift of poetic language, will reply after I say, "I love you" with "I loved you first." May I always reflect to others what she has given and taught me, so they know I think of them first with love and loyalty. Thank you dearest Mum!

—Susan Schoppa, FFL Board Secretary

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**This deep grounding of who I am,  
accepting others for who they are,  
the glorious gift of embracing our  
human dignity in life, that's the  
essence of motherhood to me.**

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## ***SERRIN M. FOSTER***

Serrin Foster, FFL's president since 1994, impressed me that she took an enormous salary cut from working at another nonprofit. She has been an inspiration to me all my life.

I started donating to FFL to help her somehow. The Women Deserve Better website is incredible with lots of inexpensive methods moms and dads can use with their babies.

I called Serrin to chat with her, well, to thank her for standing up for women. She invited me to attend a gathering at a liberal CA Bay area university. The evening description follows. It's true, and I will never forget the energy of that evening.

I went with a friend to an informal gathering of women and a few men who were instructors at a CA Bay area university, and we watched Serrin work the crowd of students, forming the nucleus of a university plan to help pregnant women keep their babies and still continue their education.

It was an incredible evening. I have never forgotten how the entire gathering solved the problem of students being pregnant using the rules and organization of the university. To me, it was like a master artist creating a famous painting in front of my eyes!!

—Patricia C. Cornell

**Donna Hayden Foster**

I started at FFL on 4.4.94. I could not have done this without the backing of my mom. I thank her for all the things she taught my sisters and me from knowing right from wrong to all the seemingly little things like how to cross the street safely, to tie our shoes, to get us up and off to school, clothing us in identical dresses, costumes, swimsuits and caps, decorating and keeping our home (she can fix just about anything), teaching me to cook, squirreling away funds that would become the downpayment on our family home, for supporting me as I made the risky choice to leave a stable job for FFL, for copy-editing this magazine for three decades. I could go on.

If my mom didn't marry and have us, she would have run an orphanage just to be able to care for babies. Being a mother is the greatest joy of her life.

My mother has Mary Poppins's purse. Whatever is needed is there. While visiting Pittsburgh in the '60s, an elderly woman got her "maxi" coat sucked into the escalator. My mother whipped out scissors and freed her while the manager was off looking for the key to stop it.

On another occasion my friend and her little girls were vacationing with us at the beach. When the eldest fell on the boardwalk and skinned her knee, my mother had applied antibacterial ointment and a bandage before her mom could drain her soda to ice it down.

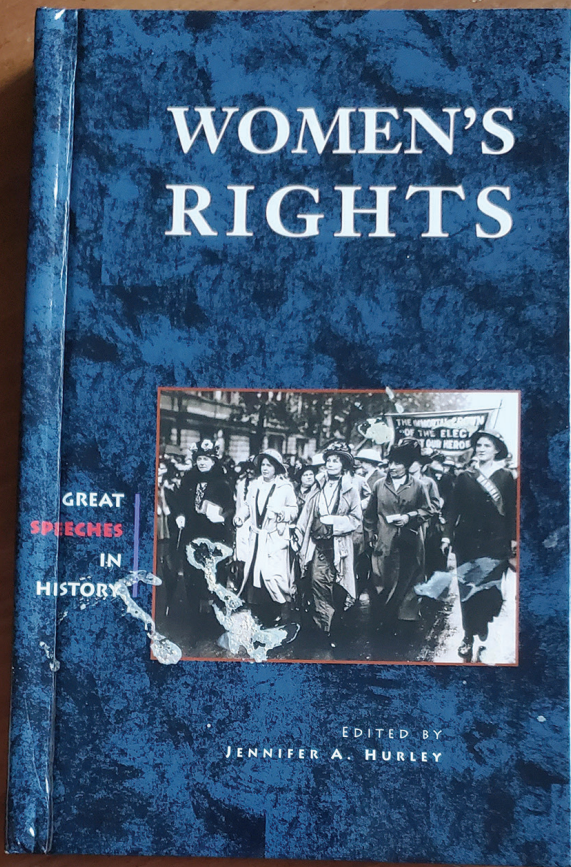
One night while at dinner with my aunt (another amazing woman) and uncle, someone asked what was on TV that night. Naturally my mother whipped out the TV guide.

Now it's my turn to care for her. And like her, it is a source of great joy. I just wish I had her purse.

—Serrin M. Foster

**Treat your mother or another strong woman in your life to something from our Covetable Stuff collection!**





# THE FEMINIST CASE AGAINST ABORTION: FIRST WAVE FEMINISTS

BY SERRIN M. FOSTER  
PRESIDENT

Feminists for Life of America continues a tradition begun in 1792 by British feminist Mary Wollstonecraft.

Decrying the sexual exploitation of women in *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Wollstonecraft also condemned those who would “either destroy the embryo in the womb or cast it off when born,” saying:

*“Nature in everything deserves respect, and those who violate her laws seldom violate them with impunity.”*

Wollstonecraft died from complications following the birth of her second baby girl, who was named Mary in her honor.

Like her mother, the younger Mary would become a great writer, producing one of the greatest novels ever to address the dangers of violating nature—*Frankenstein* by Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin Shelley. Ironically, her mother said that she began to “love the creature,” referring to the daughter in her womb.

Fifty years after Mary Wollstonecraft’s book was published, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton traveled to England to fight for the abolition of slavery. Barred from speaking at the 1840 World Anti-Slavery Convention simply because they were women, Mott and Stanton determined to hold a convention advancing the rights of women.

At that time, American women could not vote or hold property. They could not control their own money, sit on a jury, or even testify on their own behalf. Women’s rights to assemble, speak freely, attend college, or maintain child custody after divorce or spousal death, were severely limited. And marital rape went unacknowledged.



Mary Wollstonecraft

## The Feminist Case Against Abortion: First Wave Feminists

The early feminists—facing conditions similar to those in developing countries today—were strongly opposed to abortion; despite their own struggles, they believed in the worth of all human lives.

Abortion was common in the 1800s. Sarah Norton, who with Susan B. Anthony successfully argued for women’s admission to Cornell University, wrote in 1870:

*Child murderers practice their profession without let or hindrance, and open infant butcheries unquestioned.... Is there no remedy for this ante-natal murder?...*

*Perhaps there will come a day when... an unmarried mother will not be despised because of her motherhood... and when the right of the unborn to be born will not be denied or interfered with.*

Without known exception, the early feminists condemned abortion in no uncertain terms.

In the radical feminist newspaper, *The Revolution*, the publisher **Susan B. Anthony** and co-editor **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** refused to publish advertisements for “Foeticides and Infanticides.” Abortion was consistently referred to as “child murder.”

Stanton, who in 1848 organized the first women’s convention in Seneca Falls, New York, classified abortion as a form

of “infanticide” and, referring to the “murder of children, either before or after birth,” said,

*“We believe the cause of all these abuses lies in the degradation of women.”*

Early feminists argued that women who had abortions were responsible for their actions, but that they resorted to abortion primarily because, within families and throughout society, they lacked autonomy, financial resources, and emotional support.

A passage in Susan B. Anthony’s newspaper answers the question, who is responsible:

*Guilty? Yes, no matter what the motive, love of ease, or a desire to save from suffering the unborn innocent, the woman is awfully guilty who commits the deed. It will burden her conscience in life, it will burden her soul in death; but oh, thrice guilty is he who drove her to the desperation which impelled her to the crime!*

**Victoria Woodhull**, the first woman to run for president, concurred. In her own newspaper, *Woodhull and Claflin’s Weekly*, Woodhull wrote,

*“The rights of children, then, as individuals, begin while they yet remain the foetus.”*

Woodhull and her sister **Tennessee Claflin** declared that:

*“Pregnancy is not a disease, but a beautiful office of nature.”*



*Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton*



*Victoria Woodhull and Tennessee Claflin*



Eleanor Kirk

In 1868, a novelist turned activist named **Eleanor Kirk** linked the need for women’s rights with the need to protect the unborn.

When a woman told her that suffrage was unnecessary because she and her husband were “one,” Kirk asked what would become of her babies if her husband ceased to provide for them:

*“Why doesn’t somebody ask—what has become of the babies? Ask [Madame] Restelle [sic] and thousands of physicians, male and female, who have been engaged in their work of destruction for years. Physicians who have graduated from our first medical colleges, Physicians with high sounding diplomas, whose elegant equipages stand in front of Fifth Avenue mansions, who pocket a big fee and a little bundle of flesh at the same time, and nobody’s the wiser! not even the husband in hosts of circumstances. What will become of the babies—did you ask—and you? Can you not see that the idea is to educate women that they may be self-reliant, self-sustaining, self-respected?”*

*The wheel is a big one, and needs a strong push, and a push all together, giving to it an impulse that will keep it constantly revolving, and the first revolution must be Female Suffrage.... God speed the time, for the sake of the babies. Little ones will then be welcome...”*

## THE FIRST FEMALE PHYSICIANS OPPOSED ABORTION, TOO.

**Elizabeth Blackwell**, who became the first woman in the United States to earn a medical degree, graduated at the top of her class. She penned in her diary that the impetus was her opposition to abortion:

*“The gross perversion and destruction of motherhood by the abortionist filled me with indignation... That the honorable term ‘female physician’ should be exclusively applied to those women who carried on this shocking trade seemed to me a horror. It was an utter degradation of what might and should become a noble position for women...”*



Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell



Dr. Charlotte Lozier

The courageous **Dr. Charlotte Lozier** was applauded by the media for refusing to perform an abortion when a married man brought his young mistress to her practice.

Instead, she offered the young woman help—and called the police—and caused his arrest. The liberal Massachusetts newspaper, the *Springfield Republican*, praised her. So. Do. We.

Sadly she died soon after in a carriage accident. She was pregnant at the time.

In the 1860s, a sisterhood of professional women called Sorosis (derived from the Latin “soror,” for sister) emerged. One of those who helped to found the group

was **Dr. Anna Densmore**, who drew attention to the unmet needs of women resulting in the “crime of abortion, now so frightfully prevalent.”

Like Dr. Lozier, Densmore urged people to “stretch out a helping, saving hand in this direction...” just like people do today to provide support for women seeking help at thousands of pregnancy resource centers and by visiting our Women Deserve Better helpsite.

The Quaker teacher **Dr. Alice Bunker Stockham** asked,

*“By what false reasoning does she convince herself that another life, still more dependent upon her for its existence, with equal rights and possibilities has no claim upon her for protection?”*



**Dr. Alice Bunker Stockham**

Consider Dr. Maria Montessori, most famously known as a pioneer in education. The first female Italian physician was nominated for the Nobel Prize six times and earned the French Legion of Honor. Less well known is that she became pregnant out of wedlock. She could have had an abortion, but instead in 1897 she quietly placed her son in foster care. He learned the truth as a teen, and from that point on, Maria and her “nephew,” Mario, became inseparable.

There are so many others: Dr. Juliet Stillman Severance. Dr. Rachel Brooks Gleason. It makes sense. Who better than the early female physicians to reveal to another woman the amazing ability of her body as another newly formed human being grows within her?

And we cannot ignore great women of color, like **Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte** who was the first American Indian, of either sex, to earn a medical degree.

With two sons of her own, she declared,

*“Motherhood is a privilege.”*

Clearly, we have a wealth of evidence contradicting the lie that feminists must support abortion.

Some who begrudgingly admit the early American feminists were anti-abortion have suggested that their stance arose from Victorian attitudes about sex. That’s not true either.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton shocked Victorian society by parading around in public visibly pregnant. She raised a flag to celebrate the birth of her son. Stanton celebrated womanhood. She was *in your face* about her ability to have children.

But like today’s pro-life feminists, our feminist foremothers also recognized that all women need not bear children to share in the celebration of womanhood.

Susan B. Anthony was once complimented by a man who said that she “ought to have been a wife and mother.” Anthony replied,

*“Sweeter even than to have had the joy of caring for children of my own has it been to me to help bring about a better state of things for mothers generally, so their unborn little ones could not be willed away from them.”*

In her later years, Anthony passed on the responsibility for women’s suffrage to a new generation, just as we must prepare to do.

At the turn of the century, one young woman, Alice Paul, assumed leadership.

Paul fought tirelessly for passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment which, in 1920, finally guaranteed American women their right to vote.

Instead of putting women's right to vote on hold during a world war, Alice Paul and other leaders became determined to "march forth" in major cities and became the first to peacefully protest in front of the White House.

They suffered horribly, but persevered and ultimately won.



Alice Paul

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“  
**We are guided by the principles of feminism, a philosophy that embraces basic rights for all human beings without exception**  
”

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### **WOMEN DESERVE BETTER**

Abortion betrays the basic feminist principles of nonviolence, nondiscrimination, and justice for all.

**Abortion is a reflection that we have not met the needs of women—and that women have settled for less. Women deserve better.**

More than a century ago, the same women who fought for women's rights and for the rights of slaves to be free also fought to protect women and children from abortion. We continue their fight in the spirit of Mattie Brinkerhoff, who wrote in 1869 in *The Revolution*:

*“When a man steals to satisfy hunger, we can safely assume 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 she has been greatly wronged.”*

We are guided by the principles of feminism, a philosophy that embraces basic rights for all human beings without exception—*without* regard to race, religion, sex, size, age, location, disability, or parentage.

Born from abolition, feminism rejects the use of force to dominate, control, or destroy anyone.

All people are equal. All choices are not.

We envision a better day, a day when womanhood is celebrated, mothers are supported, fatherhood is honored, and every child is cherished. A world where peace begins in the womb and spreads across the country and around the globe.

And as advocates of life, peace, and justice, we *will never trade one form of violence for another.*

Because you refuse to choose between women and children, because you work to systematically eliminate the root causes that drive women to abortion, you already follow in the footsteps of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul, and our other feminist foremothers.

And you, my dear Feminists for Life, inspire me. March forth. ☐

**Please join our celebration of Serrin's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary leading FFL! Post your message to Serrin and make a gift in her honor:**

<https://www.feministsforlife.org/celebrateserrin30years/>



# STRONG WOMEN IN HERSTORY JULIA WARD HOWE

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BY CHERYL BLAKE

The name Julia Ward Howe may be familiar since she wrote the poem that was set to music and became the “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” But Howe’s life encompassed so much more than that song. She was an intellect, a socialite, a writer, an abolitionist, a force for more sanitary conditions for the wounded and prisoners in the Civil War, and a proponent for equal rights for herself and in the lives of all women. Among her causes was a campaign for a recognized annual Mothers’ Day, a day not only to honor mothers but also to promote peace.

Born on May 27 of 1819 in New York City, Howe began life as Julia Ward in a comfortable but conservative family. Her mother died when Howe was only five-years-old, so her father, a banker and a strict Calvinist, dominated her formative years. Tutors and private schools provided formal education, including music and several languages. Taking advantage of the extensive library in the New York house, Howe was also self-taught through her

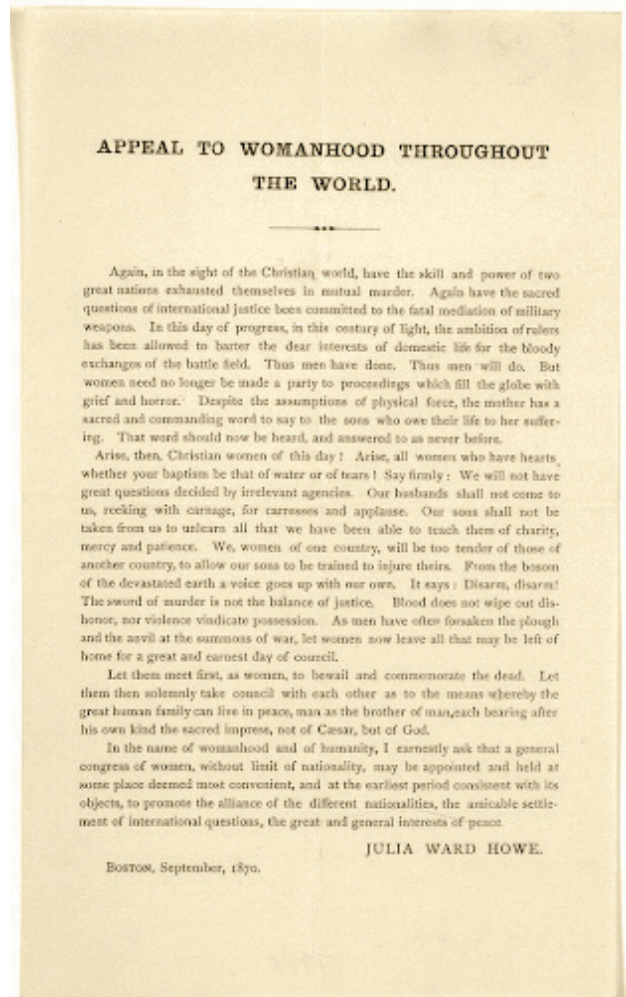
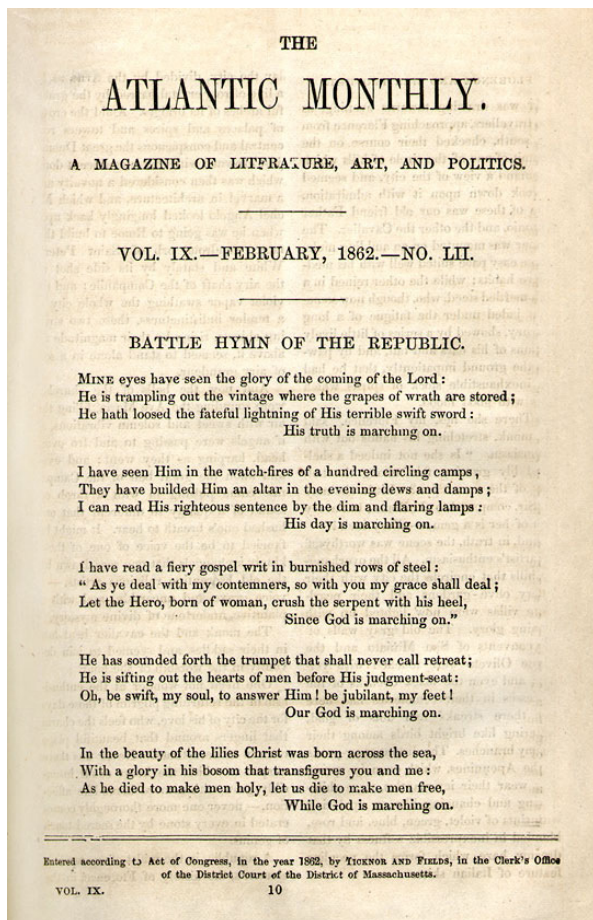
reading of philosophy, history, and literature. This broad education allowed Howe to develop liberal attitudes and beliefs not necessarily common for young society women of the time.

Julia Ward Howe’s liberal thinking, articulation, and wit attracted her future husband Samuel Gridley Howe (S.G.H.) to her. They married when she was in her early twenties and he was close to forty. Although they were like-minded in causes such as abolition, S.G.H. was particularly conservative in one area: marriage. After their wedding, S.G.H. expected his wife to be a helpmate and support him in his work, but she was no longer to have a public life.

After a long honeymoon in Europe where the places they visited were mostly determined by S.G.H. so he could meet with other reformers, the couple then settled close to the school for the blind that he had helped found. Howe was isolated but busy with her children, five close together in age and one later in their life together.

Feeling intellectually stilted in her limited environment, Howe turned to writing. A few of her poems were published in anthologies, and in 1854 a book of her poetry was published anonymously, much to her husband's displeasure. Plays and more poetry followed, often portraying less than ideal domestic relationships, which S.G.H. resented.

Both Howe and her husband supported abolition. When the Civil War overtook the nation, Howe did get to work with her husband to better the sanitation and living conditions of the wounded soldiers and prisoners of war. What she saw of the war, its victims, and the aftermath, made a lasting impression on Howe. It was during the war that she wrote the lyrics to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." This accomplishment increased her fame and ushered her further into the public arena.



The losses in the Civil War had shocked and dismayed Howe. After the war, she worked to bring neighbors, who had fought one another, back together.

Connecting motherhood to peacemaking was also a cause championed by Howe, and she wrote an "Appeal to womanhood throughout the world," which became her "Mothers' Day Proclamation."

In her proclamation, Howe wrote that the women should gather ". . . to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace."

She would organize women to work for peace, and she encouraged an annual Mothers' Day that would commemorate peace efforts and the losses due to war. It was the mothers, after all, who were losing husbands and sons to war. She envisioned a yearly

## Strong Women in Herstory

gathering of women, without regard to nationality, who would work on solutions to the world's conflicts. She did accomplish hosting the gatherings for several years, and she tied the concept of Mothers' Day to peace, but official recognition did not follow.

Another cause Howe strongly supported was suffrage for women—a natural extension of her belief that all people are equal. Throwing herself into this work, Howe helped begin the New England Suffrage Association in 1868, and she served twice as the organization's president for a total of over 25 years. Her involvement in the Massachusetts Suffrage Association led to her being its president for a term in the 1870s and again in the 1890s. Having become acquainted with like-minded women, Howe and Lucy Stone, another suffragist, created the American Woman Suffrage Association (A.W.S.A.). They, along with Stone's husband, began the *Woman's Journal* to which Howe contributed for two decades using her writing talent to advance the effort to get the vote for women. She not only wrote but also lectured on suffrage for the rest of her life.

In 1889, she was instrumental in merging the A.W.S.A. with Elizabeth Cady Stanton's and Susan B. Anthony's suffrage group to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association. She continued to work for suffrage as well as moral and social reform. Howe's work garnered respect. For instance, the American Academy of Arts and Letters made her a member, the first woman to receive that honor. She was also awarded an honorary degree by Smith College.

Although primarily remembered for "Battle Hymn of the Republic," Julia Ward Howe led a much richer life than writing that one poem. At a time when women were usually subjugated to their husbands or male guardians, she challenged the suffocation of her own marriage. Her diaries suggest that she and her husband considered divorce, but the

dissolution of the marriage meant giving up custody of at least two of her children. Howe would not make that sacrifice. She also challenged the male dominated institution of war, and she encouraged mothers everywhere to work for peace.

Her conviction that all people are equal spurred her on to support abolition of slavery and women's suffrage. Neither an official Mothers' Day nor voting rights for women happened in her lifetime, but within a few years of her death in 1910, both of those goals were accomplished.

Near the end of her life, Howe continued her advocacy for women's rights when in 1908 she was among the famous suffragists attending a fundraising tea at the Newport, Rhode Island, home of Alva Vanderbilt Belmont where the first blue and white "Votes for Women" china were introduced. At 90-years-old, Howe was wheeled in to address a thousand attendees. She spoke for several minutes and received a warm ovation from attendees. Impressively, she championed suffrage for fifty years.

A year later, Julia Ward Howe passed away. Four thousand people sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" at her funeral. While Howe is most often remembered for a war song, she most likely would have wished it was as a mother firmly behind the peace movement. □

## LIVE THE LEGACY LEAVE A LEGACY

**We who refuse to choose between women and children live the legacy of Susan B. Anthony and the other early American feminists. Please consider leaving a legacy by including Feminists for Life of America as a beneficiary of your estate so that our work may continue. Let us know so that we may properly acknowledge your gift.**



# STRONG WOMEN IN HERSTORY

## DR. MABEL PING-HUA LEE

BY SERRIN M. FOSTER

PRESIDENT

*Mabel Lee pictured in the April  
13, 1912 New York Tribune*

We celebrate the contributions of Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee who was born on October 7, 1896, in China. The daughter of a minister, Mabel followed her father many years after he became a missionary to Chinese immigrants in America. She lived in New York City's Chinatown. Dr. Lee mobilized the Chinese community in America to support women's right to vote, knowing that as an immigrant who had not achieved citizenship, she would not be able to vote.

At age 16, the suffragist marched in 1912. Like Inez Milholland Boissevain, Mabel mounted a horse to help lead the parade along with other suffrage leaders including Anna Howard Shaw from the National American Women's Suffrage Association. Shaw carried a National American Women's Suffrage Association banner that declared, "N.A.W.S.A Catching Up with China" from Greenwich Village, as noted by the *New York Times*.

Along with noting Dr. Lee's participation in the suffrage march, the *New York Times* also noted her impressive academic accomplishment and dedication to improving the lives of girls and women. In 1914 while attending Barnard College she penned "The Meaning of Women's Suffrage," where she wrote:

*"We believe in the idea of democracy; woman suffrage or the feminist movement... The fundamental principle of democracy is equality of opportunity ... It means an equal chance for each man to show what his merits are. ... the **feminists want nothing more than the equality of opportunity for women to prove their merits and what they are best suited to do.**"*

Dr. Lee was the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in economics at Columbia University.

Despite her longing to return to China, when her father died in 1924, Dr. Lee took on his position as director of the First Chinese Baptist Church in New York City. She never married, devoting her life to the Chinese community.

The Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed in 1943. Despite her leadership in the women's movement, historians are unaware if this remarkable suffragist ever became a US citizen, or if she ever cast a ballot in the US. She died in 1966. □



# STRONG WOMEN IN HERSTORY

FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER

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**Editor's Note:** *Frances Ellen Watkins Harper was an abolitionist, suffragist, lecturer, and writer.*

*She was born in 1825 in Baltimore, Maryland to free parents. She was a young child when her parents died and was sent to live with her uncle. Influenced and taught by her uncle's abolitionist beliefs and his Watkins Academy for Negro Youth, Frances would go on to become a teacher and avid reader.*

*When her home state of Maryland passed a law barring any free Blacks to come back into the state, Frances turned her passion to the anti-slavery cause. Her writings would be published in the *The Liberator*, and in Frederick Douglass' Paper.*

*In May 1866 Harper addressed the Eleventh National Women's Rights Convention in New York City where she sat on the platform with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. An excerpt of that address appears below.*

I FEEL I AM SOMETHING of a novice upon this platform. Born of a race whose inheritance has been outrage and wrong, most of my life had been spent in battling against those wrongs. But I did not feel as keenly as others, that I had these rights, in common with other women, which are now demanded. About two years ago, I stood within the shadows of my home. A great sorrow had fallen upon my life. My husband had died suddenly, leaving me a widow, with four children, one my

own, and the others stepchildren. I tried to keep my children together. But my husband died in debt; and before he had been in his grave three months, the administrator had swept the very milk-crocks and wash tubs from my hands. I was a farmer's wife and made butter for the Columbus market; but what could I do, when they had swept all away? They left me one thing—and that was a looking glass! Had I died instead of my husband, how different would have been the result! By this time he would have had another wife, it is likely; and no administrator would have gone into his house, broken up his home, and sold his bed, and taken away his means of support.

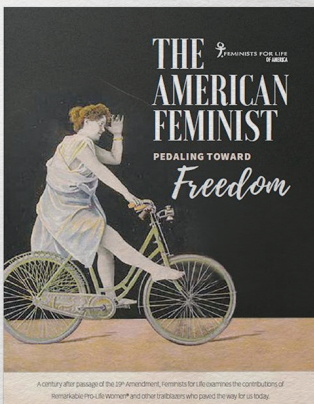
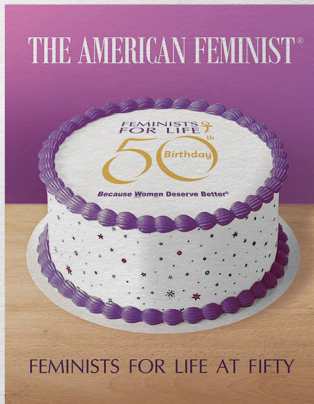
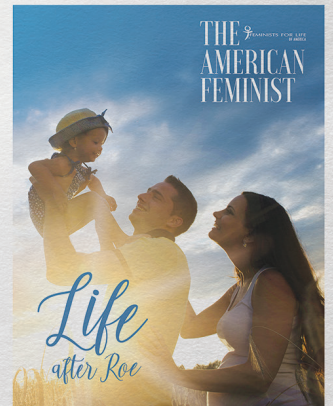
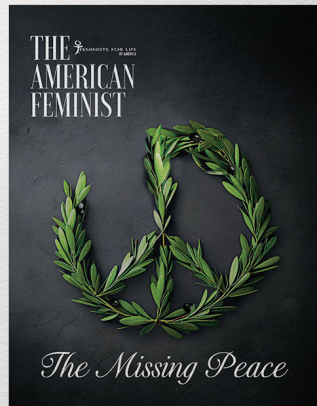
I took my children in my arms, and went out to seek my living. While I was gone, a neighbor to whom I had once lent five dollars, went before a magistrate and Swore that he believed I was a non-resident, and laid an attachment on my very bed. And I went back to Ohio with my orphan children in my arms, without a single feather bed in this wide world, that was not in the custody of the law. **I say, then, that justice is not fulfilled so long as woman is unequal before the law.**

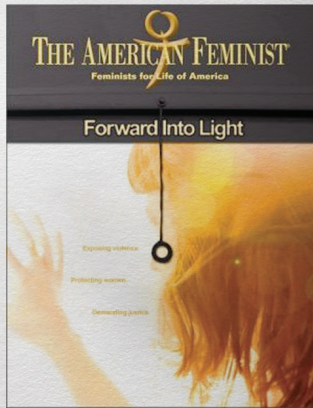
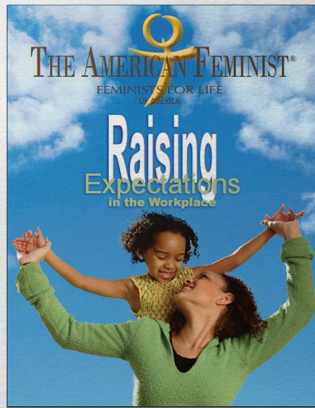
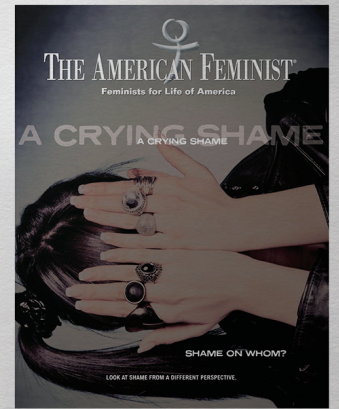
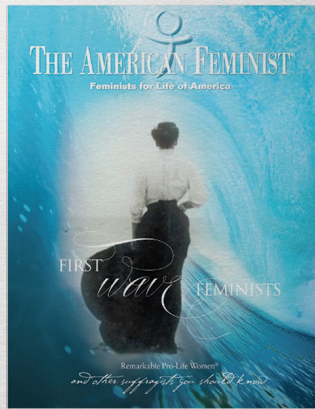
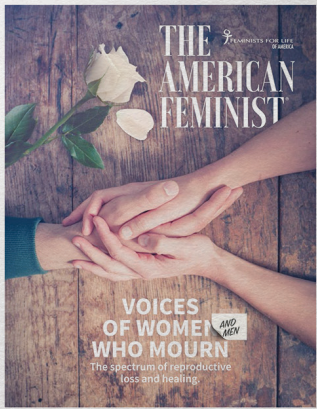
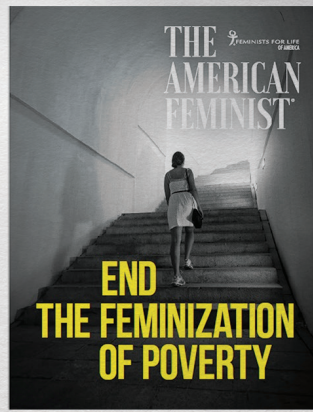
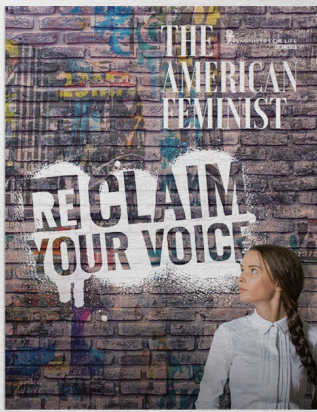
We are all bound up together in one great bundle of humanity, and society cannot trample on the weakest and feeblest of its members without receiving the curse in its own soul. □

# 30 YEARS of THE AMERICAN FEMINIST

When the FFL Board moved the national office to Washington, D.C., and Serrin was hired in 1994 to lead a new era, we began to publish *The American Feminist* newsletters in lieu of *Sisterlife*. *The American Feminist* became a magazine in 1997.

As part of our celebration of Serrin's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we look back at our evergreen magazine's evolution once we began printing in full color. We also honor our late art director Lisa Toscani, past writers, designers, and editors including Damian Geminder.





**Thank you for your support as we continue to make our stamp in history.**

If you are missing issues from your collection, please go to [feministsforlife.org/CovetableStuff](http://feministsforlife.org/CovetableStuff) and order now.



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