

the LUCE LADDER

"Courage is the ladder on which
all the other virtues mount." —Clare Boothe Luce

Issue 2

2017



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Nonie Darwish, a Middle East expert and author, educates young women leaders from campuses across the nation about the dangers to women of radical Islam at CBLPI's 9th annual Western Women's Summit.

Western Women's Summit

Young women leaders from campuses across the nation gathered in Scottsdale, Arizona, for a time of networking, training, and learning about key issues. Read more about the event on page 4.



Left: Second Amendment rights activist Antonia Okafor speaking at the Summit on how she became a conservative after recognizing the failures of liberalism. Right: Summit speaker Peggy Grande signs copies of her book *The President Will See You Now: My Stories and Lessons from Ronald Reagan's Final Years* for attendees.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In celebration of our 25th anniversary in 2018, CBLPI has released a special edition of our popular Great American Conservative Women Calendar. We went back and reproduced photos of some of the most accomplished women leaders who have appeared in previous CBLPI calendars through the years.



Women in the 2018 calendar include Counselor to the President **Kellyanne Conway**, Congressman **Marsha Blackburn** (R-TN), national security expert **KT McFarland**, best-selling author **Michelle Malkin**, attorney **Cleta Mitchell**, and more.

Millions of young women are struggling against liberalism at their schools and in popular culture. Our mission with this calendar, and all of our programs, is to inspire and equip young women to become our future leaders by highlighting great women role models who embrace conservative values.

Copies of the 2018 calendar are free to students and available to others for a small donation by visiting our website, cblpi.org. Thank you for your support that allows the Institute to reach so many young women and highlight our best women leaders.

Michelle Easton

Michelle Easton

The Luce Society

*CBLPI Forms Campus Chapters for
Young Conservative Women*



The Luce Society chapter at the University of Wisconsin-Madison uses sidewalk chalk to promote an upcoming CBLPI sponsored lecture by Bay Buchanan.

This fall, CBLPI worked with student leaders at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to form the first ever Luce Society campus chapter. The Luce Society is the Institute's response to conservative women student leaders who say there is a desperate need to counter radical feminist groups and other leftwing women on campus with a conservative women's campus group.

The Luce Society will provide a needed resource to campus leaders like Ellen Schutt, who spent last summer working at Luce Headquarters and then went back to campus and organized the Luce Society Chapter in Madison. Working with Institute staff, students will host Luce Society events and activism projects on their campus and invite other women students to become involved.

Pass Your Ideas On to the Next Generation

Consider leaving a gift in your will to shape the future of our precious young conservative women and our country. Please call at 888-891-4288 if you would like to discuss or want more information.



Photo: CBLPI President Michelle Easton with her granddaughter, Josephine, our next generation.

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The Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute's mission is to prepare women for effective leadership and to promote leading conservative women. The Institute strives to advance America's women by promoting and preserving conservative principles.

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The Conservative Women's Network (CWN) is a monthly luncheon co-hosted by the Luce Policy Institute and The Heritage Foundation. Held in Washington, DC, the luncheons provide attendees with the opportunity to learn about current issues from conservative leaders and connect with other women in the D.C. area. For more information about CWN, visit cblpi.org or contact Camille Hart at chart@cblpi.org.

➤ We asked three leading women experts to discuss the economic battles facing our nation, including key issues like tax reform and the debt limit. The panelists were **Romina Boccia**, a leading fiscal and economic expert at The Heritage Foundation who focuses on government spending and the national debt; **Veronique de Rugy**, a Senior Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and a nationally syndicated columnist; and **Diana Furchtgott-Roth**, a Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute and Director of the Economics21 program.

➤ **Rachel Semmel**, the Media Relations Director for District Media Group, led our November CWN with a session on how to effectively communicate through social media platforms.

CBLPI President Michelle Easton (left) moderates a panel discussion about key economic issues facing the nation.



Rachel Semmel spoke at our November CWN on how to effectively build a social media brand and presence.



Campus Lecture *Spotlight*

When summer 2017 CBLPI Fellow Kelly Heilman went back to her campus this fall, she immediately began using the training she had received during her time at Luce to battle for conservative principles. Her school, Sewanee: the University of the South, in Tennessee, had never in its history hosted a conservative woman speaker. So despite push-back from school administrators, Kelly worked with CBLPI to bring Dr. Christina Hoff Sommers, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) where she studies the politics of gender and feminism, to campus. The lecture was titled, "The Failures of Feminism."

The school finally allowed the lecture to take place, but insisted that a panel discussion to refute Dr. Sommers be held immediately after the lecture in the same room. Every seat was filled while Dr. Sommers spoke, but almost everyone left before the opposing panel got started. Kelly said all she learned during her CBLPI Fellowship gave her the courage to host the lecture.



Summer 2017 CBLPI Fellow Kelly Heilman (left) brought Dr. Christina Hoff Sommers to speak at Sewanee.



CBLPI sponsored a lecture by Dr. Christina Hoff Sommers at Sewanee: the University of the South.



Some of the student attendees wear their conference t-shirts at the opening welcome reception.



The Summit featured a campus activism panel with students from Rutgers University, Georgetown University, Sewanee: The University of the South, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Western Women's Summit (continued from page 1)

Young women leaders from across the nation gathered in Scottsdale, Arizona, this fall for CBLPI's Western Women's Summit. Attendees learned about critical issues, heard from top women speakers, and participated in leadership training sessions.

Summit speakers included Second Amendment Activist **Antonia Okafor**; Middle East Expert **Nonie Darwish**; Media Coach **Rachel Semmel**; Author and Executive Assistant to Ronald Reagan **Peggy Grande**; Executive Director of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons Dr. **Jane Orient**; businesswoman **Julia Rindlaub**; and Senior

Advisor for Policy at the Department of Homeland Security **Katharine Gorka**. **Mollie Hemingway**, Senior Editor at The Federalist and a Fox News Contributor, gave the keynote speech at the Summit dinner banquet.

After the event, one student told us, "I have been able to make some great friends and develop a fantastic network of smart, dedicated conservative women. It is incredibly unique for this conference to have been focused on and run by women, as conservative women are left out of general feminism and sometimes conservatism too."

Dr. Elizabeth Pankey Center for Conservative Women

A special supporter sponsors CBLPI's new Center for Conservative Women

CBLPI acquired space right next door earlier this year to expand our Virginia Headquarters and create a Center for Conservative Women—two generous supporters paid for the entire purchase. It will provide a safe and private place for us to bring more young women for activism training, mentoring, and education on key policy issues. We are honored to have a special supporter of the Institute, Dr. Elizabeth Pankey, as our sponsor of the new Center for Conservative Women.

Dr. Pankey has lived a full and remarkable life, recently celebrating her 100th birthday! Her story will be an inspiration to every young woman coming to our new national Center for Conservative Women.



Dr. Elizabeth Pankey

After graduating from Pomona College in 1938, Elizabeth Searles married Edgar Pankey and began their exciting life together in California - partners in farming, in military service, as business entrepreneurs, world travelers, adventurers and philanthropists. Dr. Pankey will tell you she and her husband were most proud of being parents to four accomplished children.

When Dr. Pankey learned about the Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute, she told CBLPI President Michelle Easton, "Finally, an organization committed to conservative young women." Because of her generous gift, we are happy to share plans for the Dr. Elizabeth Pankey Center for Conservative Women to open its doors in 2018. Much like Clare Boothe Luce, Elizabeth Pankey is a shining example of living life with extraordinary enthusiasm, courage, conservative principles and generosity. Her gift sponsoring the Dr. Elizabeth Pankey Center for Conservative Women ensures the conservative education and inspiration of America's young women for generations to come.

