

Lighting
the way
since 1915



WOMAN'S
CITY CLUB
OF GREATER CINCINNATI

THE BULLETIN



GREEN TIP:

As we begin the gardening season, consider native plants.

They are adapted to survive in our area according to climate, soils, rainfall, and pollinators. Native plants also require less maintenance.

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WCC Hosts Its First "Crafted Storytelling" Event

When: Tuesday, March 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Where: REDTREE Art Gallery and Coffee Shop
3210 Madison Road, 45209



Selected WCC members will share life-changing stories that played a role in their joining WCC and supporting the Club's mission. Invite a friend and join us for two hours of storytelling in the ambiance of the REDTREE Art Gallery and Coffee Shop. "We exist to provide a space for creativity and community to meet."

WCC Program and Membership Committees have collaborated in the planning of our *March City Conversations*, a special event for WCC members and their friends.



You may purchase specially crafted coffee drinks made on site by the barista, or enjoy wine and dessert offered by WCC. We are renting the whole place exclusively for our event.

Ample parking is available behind the gallery.

Questions? Call Cindy Rowland (513) 314-4480

The *Bulletin*, together with the *Bi-Weekly Updates* and *News from the Network*, keeps our membership connected. The next issue will appear in the first week of May. The deadline for copy will be **April 15, 2016** (Word limit 250 words.)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

“Facilitating what is happening is more potent than pushing for what you wish were happening.”

-John Heider, Tao of Leadership



Alice Schneider

Continuity of leadership is important for the survival of Woman’s City Club. Being a leader is not necessarily an inborn trait. It is a learned skill. I was born the youngest of five children. Since my mother was older and busy working, my brother and three sisters more or less raised me. They took care of me and I did not have to assert myself much. Hence, I am not a born leader but over the years I have learned and have been able to hone my skills to undertake leadership roles. I have also learned from books.

Indeed one of the influential sources for me has been a book called the “Tao of Leadership” by John Heider.

Here is a useful quote from the book:

“Group processes evolve naturally. Learn to trust what is happening. If there is silence let it grow: something will emerge. If there is a storm let it rage: it will resolve into calm. Is the group discontented? You can’t make it happy. Even if you could, your efforts might well deprive the group of a very creative struggle. Facilitating what is happening is more potent than pushing for what you wish were happening.”

Hence, leading a group is about listening and then guiding the group to action.

Woman’s City Club offers a safe place where you can develop your leadership skills. There are opportunities to lead committees, serve on the board or be an officer. Please consider serving on the board or becoming a leader of a WCC committee. You will be rewarded.

Please look over the rest of this Bulletin for information about upcoming programs and especially our National Speaker this year, Isabel Wilkerson.

~Alice Schneider

ISABEL WILKERSON – WCC NATIONAL SPEAKER FOR 2016

We are down to the wire for the visit of Isabel Wilkerson to the Queen City. Order your tickets now for this forum entitled:



BLACK MIGRATION TO RACIAL JUSTICE:

Are We There Yet?

Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 7:30 PM

Music Hall Ballroom

1214 Elm Street, downtown Cincinnati

Isabel is a Pulitzer prize winner and the author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*. This epic novel tells the story of the great migration of African Americans from the South to the North for economic opportunity and freedom from Jim Crow laws. In this timely lecture, she will address the persistence of racial injustice and economic disparity as a national challenge and the lessons her historical analysis can teach us as we work to address it. For more information on this speaker please visit www.prhspeakers.com.

To order tickets call WCC 513 751-0100 or order on line at www.womancityclub.org.

Lecture \$40 – students \$10.00 - Private reception with Ms. Wilkerson after lecture - \$100.

Moving Forward into Our Second Century

We need your ideas!



In 2015, WCC celebrated our 100 years. We built a lot of momentum at the Centennial, and now it's time to gather together and craft strategies that will carry us onward into our second hundred years.

Please join us for a professionally facilitated Strategy Meeting on Sunday March 20. This will be an inspiring session, and we are excited for what's ahead!! This is the first step; we'll complete the plan at the annual meeting.

When: Sunday, March 20, 2016

Where: Crossroads Community Church, Mason,
990 Reading Road, Mason Ohio, 45040

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Whether or not you can attend, we are asking members to answer the three following questions:

What is WCC's greatest value to the community?

What is WCC's biggest challenge over the next two to four years?

What is WCC's greatest opportunity to improve its impact?

Please keep your answers short (300 characters). Responses must be received by March 13, 2016. Your answers will be part of the information (anonymous and aggregate) presented for discussion at the Strategy Meeting.

How to respond: All members who use email will receive a "SurveyMonkey" email inviting them to the meeting and asking them to respond to the three questions. If you do not receive the email, you can also respond at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLRK5X3> or mail your answers to the WCC office.

~Rina Saperstein

Woman's City Club, the Cincinnati Association, and AIR, Inc. present:

**An Updated Strategic Plan
for the Cincinnati Preschool Promise**



Thursday, March 31,

5:30 pm. Light Refreshments

6:00 pm. Program

United Way Convening Center,

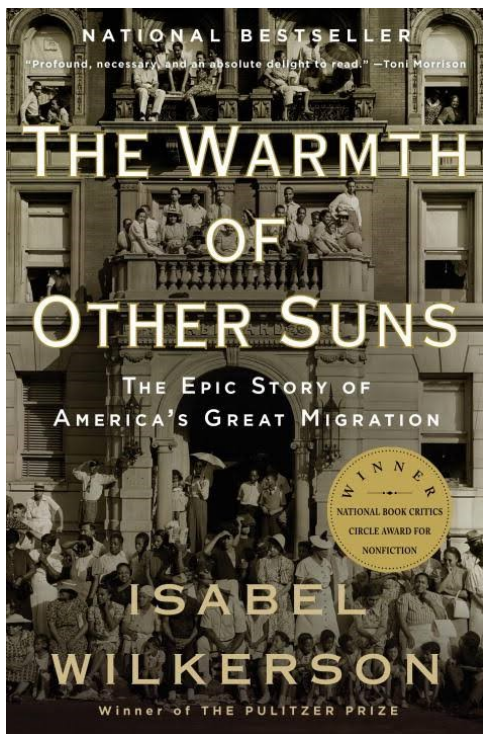
2400 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Greg Landsman, Strategic Advisory and Co-convenor of Preschool Promise and key leaders will present an informational forum on the updated "Strategic Plan for the Cincinnati Preschool Promise." Mr. Landsman will host the panel and moderate the Q & A afterwards.

The purpose of Cincinnati Preschool Promise is a cross-sector effort to provide universal access to high-quality affordable preschool for all 3 and 4 year olds in the city of Cincinnati, building on what preschool programs are already available.

The purpose is to give **“every child the same fair start... to get more children ready for school, reading successfully by the end of 3rd grade, and graduating from high school prepared for college and careers.”** The goal is to obtain “a local, 5-10 year sustainable funding stream” to this end.

This forum will present an updated strategic plan for carrying out the Preschool Promise. It should be of great interest to everyone concerned about the flourishing of the young children in our community. While the community is largely in support of an initiative to increase access to high quality preschool slots, consensus has yet to be reached on how to fund it or indeed how it will be managed and by whom. CPP has contracted with the Rand Corporation to look at how other cities/states have designed and implemented publicly funded preschools. It has examined such issues as funding mechanisms, governance, ages to be covered, assuring affordability and equity, and the short and long term benefits of expanding preschool. It has also consulted broadly in the community.



NATIONAL SPEAKER Book Discussion

THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS

By **ISABEL WILKERSON**

When:

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Program begins at 6:00 pm

Where:

First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton Street,
off Reading Rd.

Facilitated by Alice Schneider
Light refreshments will be available

The Warmth of Other Suns is the epic story of the Great Migration, when from World War I until the 1970s, six million African-Americans headed North, where they hoped to find economic opportunity and freedom from Jim Crow laws. This is one of the biggest underreported stories of the 20th century. Ms. Wilkerson tells the story of three very different individuals who followed different but ultimately successful paths.

Named to more than 30 best of the year lists, the book made national news when President Obama chose *Warmth* for summer reading in 2011. In 2012, *The New York Times* named the *Warmth of Other Suns* to its list of the best nonfiction books of all time.

Ms. Wilkerson won the Pulitzer Prize for her work as Chicago Bureau Chief of the *New York Times*, the first black woman to win a Pulitzer Prize. Her commentary and

articles appear regularly. She can be seen on national news programs and heard frequently on PBS News Hour.

Wilkerson will be the featured speaker at Woman's City Club's 2016 National Speaker forum April 14 where her topic will be "Black Migration to Racial Justice: Are We There Yet?"

This book discussion is a collaboration of the Woman's City Club Book Club and the First Unitarian Church Book Discussion Group. Alice is President of WCC and a member of First Unitarian Church.

The book is long, so please feel free to join us whether or not you finish it.



Isabel Wilkerson



Member Profile: Dot Christenson

Dot Christenson was one of this year's Lions Awardees at the Annual Urban League Luncheon 2016. Congratulations, Dot, on a well-deserved honor!

Dot is the former Executive Director of the Better Housing League of Greater Cincinnati, and she chaired the Cincinnati Area Lead Poison Prevention Advisory Committee between 1996 and 2002. She became involved in the Cincinnati community after witnessing blatant racial steering by a realtor when house hunting near the University of Cincinnati.

Born in Los Angeles, CA, Dot went to high school in Sacramento and graduated with a BA in Economics from the University of Washington in Seattle, where she met her husband of 50 years and had the first of their three sons.

The family came to Cincinnati from Madison, WI, after her husband John joined the UC faculty. Her first job after getting a Masters degree in Public Administration from UC was as Planned Parenthood's first Development Director. Her first achievement at PP was to get the State legislature to include Family Planning in Title XX services. This provided both Federal and State funding for the first time. It is ironic that the Governor just signed (2/21/16) legislation to de-fund PP after 45 years!

From 1980-1985, Dot ran Bobbie Sterne's office at City Hall and then moved to Cincinnati Area Senior Services where she established their Adult Day Care Center in collaboration with Good Samaritan Hospital and directed a national Congressionally mandated Alzheimer's Research Study from 1989-1993. As Executive Director of the Better Housing League, the agency received several HUD awards, and she brought the Community Lead Education and Awareness Americorp team to Cincinnati.

Dot joined Woman's City Club back in 1971 and served as Chair of Housing. Her committee initiated and eventually changed the Ohio constitution to make housing a public purpose (1989). She served as President of WCC dur-

ing a period of declining attendance at WCC's 26 weekly luncheon meetings. By cutting the number to eight and initiating the first of WCC's Annual Speaker's Forum with Mary Wells in 1993, she kept the Club from serious financial and organizational decline.

Dot retired in 2003. Three of her goals in retirement have been attained. She got her instrument pilot's license, completed her Grandfather's biography, and managed to travel to all seven continents.

Dot is active on three non-profit Boards of Directors (secretary to two), and she belongs to a writer's group that read and critiqued her biography of Marian Spencer -- *Keep On Fighting: The Life and Civil Rights Legacy of Marian A. Spencer* -- which was published last year and which Dot is now turning into a one-woman play script.

Dot's enthusiasm and energy has been a continuing asset to the club.

~Jeanne Nightingale

Report on January Forum

***THRIVING CINCINNATI* HELPS PASS WAGE THEFT ORDINANCE!**



Thriving
CINCINNATI

On January 15th, *Thriving Cincinnati* gathered 60 plus people to discuss wage theft —the illegal withholding of wages— or the denial of benefits that are rightfully owed to an employee.



Vice Mayor David Mann explained his wage theft ordinance that was coming up in committee the following week. It strengthens Federal Law locally by fining, taking away tax abatements, and possibly causing the contractor to lose a contract if they commit wage theft in our city. Thanks to Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center, a large crowd attended the meeting to support the ordinance. Susan Noonan testified that Woman's City Club supported the ordinance, as well as Brennan Grayson of CIWC and several victims of wage theft. Six members of the Finance Committee supported; two abstained. Con-

sequently the Ordinance went to full council the following Wednesday and passed with flying colors! Only Amy Murray and Charlie Winburn did not support the Ordinance.

Thriving Cincinnati will continue to support efforts to decrease wage inadequacy, unfair wage practices and increasing self sufficiency for all residents of our city as one of our goals.

PLEASE remember to sign on to Thrivingcincinnati.org and become a partner! It is a Woman's City Club's initiative - an invitation and service to the community - to increase the civic dialogue among individuals and groups addressing income inad-

January's Public Forum

Hope for Children Who Experience Adversity and Trauma

On a cold winter's day in January, over 80 members, friends and professionals, all concerned about children's flourishing, attended Woman's City Club's forum on the impact of adversity and trauma on children's healthy development and some interventions that promise to prevent and reduce the trauma's effects.

Local leaders in this work comprised a highly informative expert panel: **Dr. Robert Shapiro** and **Dr. Erna Olafson** of Children's Hospital Medical Center and **Jennifer Zimmerman** of the Consortium for Resilient Young Children. **Dr. Shapiro** described the developmental consequences for children who live in families and neighborhoods where they experience trauma from accumulated burden of economic hardship (including homelessness and hunger), exposure to community violence, abuse, chronic neglect—even harsh parenting, and caregiver substance abuse or mental illness, when no adult is providing adequate caring support.



These experiences, when strong, frequent or prolonged in a young child's life, may cause "toxic" stress, in the absence of the buffering protection of a supportive adult relationship and thus derail healthy development. The stress can change a child's immune system, their ability to stay well and fight infection. Stress can also affect the young brain and cause learning and behavioral issues.

Reducing the child's adverse circumstances and providing children with healthy, safe, and nurturing environments can prevent or reduce the harm of stress and build resilient children and families.

Dr. Erna Olafson, a member of WCC, is co-director of a National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) site at Children's Hospital and associate professor of clinical psychiatry and pediatrics at the



Erna Olafson

UC Medical School. She uses an evidence-based (evaluated as effective) treatment called Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy, and has trained thousands of teachers in this method. She generously offered a survey of the resources available from the network, whose treatment entails helping the persons being treated (child, adolescent) understand the role trauma has in their lives, teaching coping strategies and ways to manage the strong emotions they feel. Her slides can be accessed on the WCC website, <http://womancityclub.org>.

Jennifer Zimmerman described the spectrum of services available through the Consortium for Resilient Young Children, whose purpose is "to promote the social and emotional well-being of children before they enter kindergarten." In one program, trained coaches visit preschools and Head Start programs to observe and suggest ways the teachers can help their charges cope better with toxic stress and strengthen their connections with their families. The Consortium also helps parents in difficult neighborhoods share their experiences and build a social network.

Marge Davis and I were fortunate to have terrific help of Erna Olafson, Bob Shapiro and Liz Hente of Children's Hospital Medical Center in designing this program.

~ Sarah Gideonse

City Conversations Forum on Black Lives Matter



The Black Lives Matter movement has emerged as the new face of civil rights in our country. WCC devoted its City Conversations forum this month to a heart-to-heart discussion on a topic that needs to be understood.

An audience of over 50 came together to listen to social activist and Act One member Christina Brown share her experience as a leader in the BLM movement here in Cincinnati. Maria Yunker, peace activist mediator and Act One member, facilitated our spirited break-out conversations in the second hour of the meeting.

The Black Lives Matter movement, co-founded by three African-American women - Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi, campaigns against violence toward black people and focuses its work on issues of racial profiling, police brutality, and racial inequality in the United States criminal justice system. It draws its inspiration from the Civic Rights Movement, the Black Power movement, Pan-Africanism, Anti-Apartheid, Hip Hop, LGBT social movements and Occupy Wall Street.

To engage us in the spirit of the movement, Christina lead us in protest chants and inspired us to be part of needed social change and act in solidarity with the movement, its demand for justice for all victims of white supremacy and police terror. Looking at the evidence, how can we do better?

In our break-outs, Christina invited us to consider the question: How can we reimagine our city? What are the barriers to better race relations? Does Cincinnati's

Collaborative Agreement, one of the most innovative plans for improving police-community relations, still serve as a model for other troubled cities?

Some of the responses coming out of our discussions were: break down housing barriers and build better connections in our neighborhoods, revive Study Circles, fund restorative justice programs in schools, encourage respectful behavior of police, stop "war on drugs" and mass incarceration, support "Success by Six," create safe green spaces and playgrounds, fix food desserts, reflect on the difference between "equality" and "equity" and prioritize those in greatest need.

Finally, we all agreed that more community discussions such as this would help bring needed change in our city. At the end we joined hands in a circle of solidarity and sang a song for peace.

~Jeanne Nightingale

Link to Black Lives Matter Song Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e88C_5zgdss



City Conversations serves as WCC's regular monthly membership meetings and offers an informal venue for connecting younger and older members around a topic of shared interest. *Act One* is the youth contingent of WCC and the League of Women Voters (ages 18-40)

Changing CO₂urse: Local Solutions to a Global Crisis

-- COMING in March and April --

Two films showing the “big picture” of climate warming and its worldwide consequences



Sunday, March 27 - 6:30-8:30 pm. St. John's UU Church, 320 Resor, Clifton.

"Earth From Space" - A groundbreaking PBS documentary that reveals a spectacular new vision of our planet from space. Produced in extensive consultation with NASA scientists, NOVA takes data from earth-observing satellites and transforms it into dazzling visual sequences, each one exposing the intricate and surprising web of forces that sustains life on earth. From the microscopic world of water molecules vaporizing over the ocean to the magnetic field that is bigger than Earth itself, the film reveals the astonishing beauty and complexity of our dynamic planet, the interplay of Earth's processes which result in human life. Do our choices have the power to shape those processes?



Sunday, April 24 - 6:30-8:30 pm. St. John's UU Church, 320 Resor, Clifton.

"Climate Refugees: The Human Face of Climate Change" First feature film to explore the global impact of climate change and its destabilizing effects on international politics. The film turns the concept of climate warming into a concrete human problem with worldwide consequences. Experts predict that by mid-century hundreds of millions of people will be uprooted as a result of sea level rise and an increase in extreme weather events, droughts and desertification. Little is being done to plan for the potential mass migration of millions of refugees who will be forced to cross national borders. There are already more environmental refugees in the world than political or religious refugees. The pentagon now considers climate change a national security risk and the phrase "climate wars" is being talked about in war-rooms.

Woman's City Club has sponsored the *Changing Course* programs over the past three years. Every fourth Sunday of the month, we gather to discuss ways we can respond locally as a community to environmental and economic crises that threaten our city, our nation and our planet. The series focuses on environmental justice issues - the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, now and into the future, in a just and equitable manner, whilst living within the limits of supporting ecosystems.



Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati
103 William Howard Taft Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

Phone: 513-751-0100

- Our Mission:** Woman's City Club is committed to building a strong Greater Cincinnati community through educating, empowering, and engaging all citizens to participate in promoting the common good.
- Our Vision:** We envision a just and sustainable community where all citizens are engaged as informed stakeholders in the shaping of our shared future.
- Our Values:** Collaboration -- Citizen Empowerment -- Civic Literacy -- Equity and Justice -- Children and Youth on Positive Trajectories to Achieve their Dreams and Lead Constructive Lives -- A Thriving City of the Future.

Calendar of WCC Events

March 16th 7-9pm
Warmth of Other Son's
Book Discussion
First Church
536 Linton St Cincinnati OH

March 27th 6:30-8:30pm
Changing CO2course Series
Earth From Space
St. John's Church
302 Resor Ave Clifton

April 24th 6:30-8:30pm
Changing CO2course Series
Climate Refugees
St. John's Church
302 Resor Ave Clifton

March 20th 2-6pm
WCC Strategy Meeting
Crossroads Mason
990 Reading Rd Mason OH

March 31st 5:30-7:00pm
Pre-School Promise
United Way
2400 Reading Rd Cincinnati

March 22nd 6:30-8:30pm
Crafted Stories
Redtree Art Gallery and Coffee
3210 Madison Rd Cincinnati OH

April 14th 7:30-9:00pm
National Speaker Event
Isabel Wilkerson
Cincinnati Music Hall
1241 Elm St Cincinnati



Search for Woman's City Club Cincinnati and click "Like" to keep up with the latest news and commentary.

WCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

For the latest schedule of Committee Meetings, check our Website Calendar at womanscityclub.org (click on the "Calendar & Events" tab at the top)

CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

For an updated list, go to the City website at cincinnati-oh.gov/council/.

The e-Bulletin, together with the Weekly Updates and News from the Network, keeps our membership connected. The next issue will appear in March. Submit articles to j.nightingale@fuse.net with the subject line "WCC bulletin" (word limit 250 words).

Jeanne Nightingale, managing editor