

# January-February 2015

*Lighting  
the way  
since 1915*



# The Bulletin

## GREEN TIPS

From  
**Mary  
Gerson**



- Replace paper napkins with cloth napkins
- Replace paper towels with cloth rags/towels
- Purchase bleach-free toilet paper
- Print documents on recycled paper and print on both sides
- Attend program "Recycling 2.1" on January 25th.

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## Revving Up for the Centennial: History of WCC Moves from its Past to its Future

Come Celebrate at Our Gala  
Centennial Dinner  
March 6, 2015, 5:30 pm,  
Hall of Mirrors,  
Netherland Hilton Hotel,  
downtown



Woman's City Club is overjoyed to be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. As a leading civic organization, we've had a century of promoting justice, civic reform and citizen engagement through education, advocacy, service, and collaboration. We invite everyone to join us for once-in-a-lifetime gala to send us off into the next

century.

Guests will gather in the Hall of Mirrors lobby for a reception at 5:30; cash bar. Our two Centennial books, *Stirring the Pot*— a cookbook— and *Lighting the Fire, Leading the Way*—the history of WCC in the last 50 years, will be available for purchase.

Dinner begins at 6:30 and the program at 7. The exciting lineup of entertainment includes Cincinnati historian Dan Hurley, who will speak about the contributions of Woman's City Club to the history of the City. MUSE, Cincinnati's wonderful Women's Choir, will sing about the brave efforts of women worldwide. Youth from the Elementz Urban Arts Center will perform. Watch for your invitation to arrive soon.

Tickets may be purchased by calling [513-751-0100](tel:513-751-0100) or online at [womanscityclub.org/](http://womanscityclub.org/)

Individual tickets - \$75 ~ Tables of 10 - \$700 Information about sponsorships is on pages 8,9.

~ Sarah Gideonse

# A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is **2015** and we are in our **100<sup>th</sup>** year of doing what we, as WCC members do, and I think we deserve an “E” for Excellence! We **educate** citizens, **empower** individuals, **engage** the community, **enact** social reform, **enable** children to read, **evolve** as our community changes, **economize** when times are tough, **enhance** the quality of public life, **embrace** equality, **energize** each other, **enlighten** citizens and friends, **encourage** the voices of women, minorities and youth, **endorse** social reform issues, **enlist** stake-holders in our future, **ensure** responsive government, **entrust** each other to promote the common good, **erase** inequities, **establish** goals and work to accomplish them, **evaluate** ourselves each step of the way, **examine** our goals regularly, **exemplify** our values, and **experience** and **express** our profound gratitude for the continued support of our members and friends.

I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again – this is a year to celebrate with our members, friends, collaborators and the community - on **March 6<sup>th</sup>** at our **Centennial Dinner** in the Hall of Mirrors at the Netherland Hilton Hotel – a once in a lifetime event! We need to make this a celebration that no one will ever forget!



As I read through the soon to be published WCC History of its second 50 years, I am amazed at the accomplishments of the women in our club, past and present, and the determination of all to succeed in their mission - when so many other women’s (and men’s) clubs were falling by the wayside due to changing times. The continued reexamining of our interests and programming to fit with current events, and the tenacity of club members NOT TO FAIL has kept us in the forefront of civic engagement. Both of our new publications, ***Stirring the Pot*** – a unique cookbook experience, and ***Lighting the Fire, Leading the Way*** – a history of the second 50 years of WCC - will be available at the Centennial Dinner! You can read for yourself what marvelous work has been accomplished in the last 50 years.

Since our last Bulletin, WCC has held forums with absolutely stellar presenters. In November, O’Dell Owens, President of Cincinnati State, and Janice Urbanik, Partners for Competitive Workforce, spoke on “Combatting Unemployment.” In December, Walter Smitson, President and CEO of Central Clinic, and Elizabeth Atwell, Director of Mental Health America of Northern Kentucky and Southwestern Ohio spoke on “Mental Health: It’s Everyone’s Issue!” Two very high quality presentations!



In addition, on November 7<sup>th</sup> a group of committed Status of Women committee members along with others experienced in working on economic disparity issues, convened in the Geier Room - and determined to make a difference in 2015 by setting an agenda of goals to be accomplished. One of the results will be our Second Annual Woman’s Economic, Mental and Physical Health Expo on Fountain Square on May 29<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with 25-30 other non-profit agencies.

On a sad note, our thoughts and prayers are with longtime member Louise Spiegel, who lost her husband, Judge Arthur Spiegel, on New Year’s Eve. We will all miss him. Louise and Art have been longtime stalwart supporters of WCC and its mission. Thank you all for a wonderful 2014. Now it’s time to get down to the most important business of all: making our major events, in this our most important year in history, occasions to remember for the ages, as befitting such a wonderful and meaningful organization as Woman’s City Club!

**Susan**

# 2014 Festive Feist Tea

## WCC friends and members learn fun facts about

On December 7th, the Barrington of Oakley was filled with fabulous feisty females and some men, who came to honor this year's four feisty ladies. The 2014 Woman's City Club honorees were Joyce Asfour, Carolyn Briese, Ruth Cronenberg and Cheryl Meadows, all of whom, by their extraordinary contributions to the community, promoted a more just and vibrant community. This was the fifth year for the annual event, which was begun by Ruth Cronenberg.

At the Tea, opening remarks were made by Jill Bley, who introduced past honorees and the "Feist Tea" committee. President, Susan Noonan, added a brief history of the Tea and introduced the Queen of the "Feist-Teas" Louise Spiegel. Louise made a few inspiring remarks.

Susan introduced Ruth Cronenberg (president, 2002-2004) by pointing out that the Feist-Tea event was Ruth's brain child five years ago when the Club needed more revenue to stay in operation. Ruth has moved around a lot and her three children were each born in different cities – Cheyenne, Casablanca (!), and Cincinnati. In her different work positions, Ruth has contributed to making the community a better place—at Mercy, Women Working Cooperatively, where a salvage and reuse project led to establishment of the Resource Center, and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. Among her proudest achievements are two projects, the Summertime Kids Program and the Learning Links, which she started at the Foundation and have lasted past 25 years, influencing millions of kids.

In introducing Joyce Asfour, CJ Pierce described her as a woman with a huge sense of humility, compassion and duty. Joyce is proud that she protested injustice, most recently standing with the Anna Louise Inn. Joyce's proudest moment is the opening of Grace Place in College Hill in 1998. After a year of renovations with the help of students from McAuley High School and other volunteers, friends, relatives and strangers, Grace Place welcomed homeless woman and their families.

Joyce encourages us to make an impact by visiting the offices of our elected officials - write letters – follow-up – organize – demonstrate – and PROTEST. Hers is a lifetime spent being bold and feisty.

Marge Davis told us about knowing Cheryl Meadows for 30 years, Marge as a Children's Services administrator and Cheryl heading the Human Relations Department and other departments in the City. When asked about a satisfying thing she did in her career, she mentioned working on homelessness with people like the late Buddy Grey. Cheryl is feisty in part because her mother was her role model. By the nature of her work at the City, Cheryl had to be an advocate because working with a diverse group, population, and programs, if you can't stand up and do what is right not only for the city but the population of the city, you would not get very far. She continues to serve by tutoring and working in two CPS schools.

Jill Bley spoke warmly about Carolyn Briese, drawing on notes provided by her son Craig. Trained as a journalist, Carolyn was a stay-at-home mom, a volunteer in both civic and political organizations, a humanitarian, a progressive, an environmentalist, and a lover of the arts and the outdoors! As a long-time member of WCC, her greatest contribution was heading up the Education Awards Committee. Carolyn was too ill to attend the event, and sadly, we learned the next day that she had passed away (an "in memoriam" is on page 13)

The food was tasty, the atmosphere was festive and there was lots of time for socializing. We raised money for WCC, with some of it going to scholarships presented at the Season Good Luncheon.

The pictures are provided by Harriet Kaufman. CJ Pierce recorded and transcribed remarks that were used in this summary by Mary Gerson and Sarah Gideonse



# 2014 Festive Feist Tea Photos:

Honorees Cheryl Meadows, Ruth Cronenberg, and Joyce Asfour, visiting with Marge Davis



Jane Anderson sampling Feist Tea's fabulous feast



Jill Bley talking about Carolyn Briese



Queen of the Feist Teas Louise Spiegel, with Susan Noonan, warming up the crowd.



Mary Gerson, chair of event



Rosalind Fultz and Yvonne Fender



President Susan Noonan with WCC's production team for WCC's Centennial cookbook, *Stirring the Pot*, which was available for pre-sale.



Marian Spencer, First Feist Tea honoree

# Changing CO<sub>2</sub>urse: Local Solutions to a Global Crisis

Sunday, January 25 - 7:00 to 9:00 pm.  
St. John's UU Church, 320 Resor, Clifton



## RECYCLING 2.0

Everything You Thought  
You Knew

(But the more you know, the more you  
know you don't know!)

~

By Recycling, Reusing, and Reducing,  
you can create many environmental and eco-  
nomic benefits.

**Jenny Lohmann**, Education Outreach Director of the Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District, will give us a seminar on the how and why of recycling so you can reduce the quantity of your waste.

**What can I recycle?** Milk cartons? Metal cans? Light bulbs? Aluminum foil? Broken glass? Catalogues? Plastic bags? Metal cans? Pizza boxes? Dirty napkins? The list keeps changing. **Bring an item you're uncertain about**, and Jenny will help you decide whether it is recyclable or not and, if so, where to recycle it.

**Come learn how your resourcefulness  
can contribute to the health of the planet.**

**COSPONSORS: St John's Green Sanctuary Partners, Woman's City Club,  
League of Women Voters, Hamilton County Solid Waste District.**



## Catherine Roma to Speak on her Choral Work in Prisons A combined City Conversations/Forum event

Tuesday, February 17, 7 pm

First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton Street off  
Reading Rd. 45219

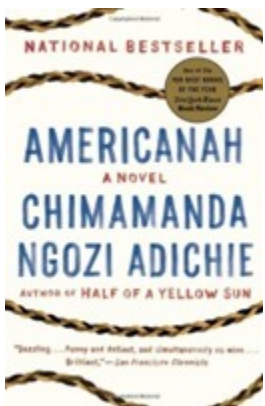
WCC is delighted that Cathy Roma, renowned choral director and founder of MUSE, Cincinnati Women's Choir (now emerita) has agreed to talk to us about her choral work in a prison. Through her association at Wilmington College, where she is professor of music, Catherine founded and directs UMOJA Men's Chorus at Warren Correctional Institution, in Lebanon, Ohio.

According to the MUSE website, Cathy Roma became one of the founding mothers of the

women's choral movement, an international network of over 70 women's choruses, when she started Anna Crasis Women's Choir in her native Philadelphia in 1975. She began MUSE in 1984, after coming to Ohio to do graduate work at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music where she completed her Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in 1989.

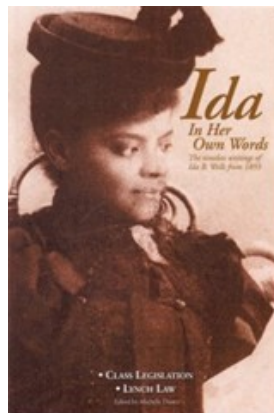
Many of us know Cathy as director of MUSE concerts, her masterful leadership of the choir at St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church, and co-director of the Martin Luther King Coalition Chorale.

## Woman's City Club Book Club -- February 14 Two books about black women's experiences: *Americanah* and *Ida in Her Own Words*, one current, one historical.



What's the difference between an African-American and an American-African? From such a distinction springs a deep-seated discussion of race in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's third novel, "Americanah" (588 pages but a fast read).

Adichie, born in Nigeria but now living both in her homeland and in the United States, is an extraordinarily self-aware thinker and writer, possessing the ability to lambaste society without sneering or patronizing or polemicizing. For her, it seems no great feat to balance high-literary intentions with broad social critique. "Americanah" examines blackness in America, Nigeria and Britain, but it's also a steady-handed dissection of the universal human experience — a platitude made fresh by the accuracy of Adichie's observations. (Mike Peed in the *NY Times*)



Ida in her Own Words (100 pages) takes place in 1893 when African Americans were deliberated excluding from participating in the World's Fair. A small group of four people contributed to a pamphlet entitled The Reason Why the Colored American is not in the Worlds Columbian Exposition. Thousands of pamphlets were distributed. Class Legislation, attributed to Ida B. Wells,

and Lynch Law, written by Ida B. Wells, were two sections included in the pamphlet. The pieces give a glimpse for today's readers to understand the cruelty and hypocrisy of the country at that time.

**Everyone is welcome for the discussion. At Jeanne Nightingale's home, 10 am. Jeanne lives at 2626 Glenway, 45204. RSVP – 513- 471-6622**

## Centennial Planning Moves into Full Gear

The Centennial Planning Committee and the subcommittees planning WCC's big birthday bash on March 6, 2015 are scurrying to coordinate all the last-minute details.

Woman's City Club has secured the venue at the historic Netherland Plaza downtown. Many honorary hosts have accepted our invitation to purchase tables. We are planning a major publicity campaign and continue to seek corporate and non-profit sponsors.

A commemorative video is being prepared for its premiere at the event. The Centennial Cook Book, *Stirring the Pot*, capturing WCC's history from the kitchen to the city square and back is soon to be published. The second volume of our history, *Lighting the Fire, Leading the Way*, covering our most recent half-century, is being readied for publication. Both books will be on sale at the event.

~ Jeanne Nightingale

## Our National Speaker Forum, Featuring Mariel Hemingway, Draws Closer!



We are looking forward to hearing Mariel Hemingway speak at our National Speaker Forum, on "Running from Crazy: A Life Journey with Mariel Hemingway." Be sure to mark your calendars now for this exciting event, April 23, 2015 at 7 pm, to be held in the Music Hall ballroom. A special speaker and location in celebration of our centennial year, this evening will be a memorable. Hemingway will speak on mental health and suicide prevention, a very timely topic.

All WCC members received a letter the first week of January detailing how to purchase tickets and support this extraordinary event. To help with our centennial celebration and to foster the continuing work of WCC, we hope that members will consider becoming a patron or a sponsor of the event. Details on how to do so are in the letter. Please tell your friends, family, and co-workers, etc. that Mariel Hemingway will be headlining this year's National Speaker Forum. We want to be sure everyone has an opportunity to hear her. Thank you so much for your support!

~Carol Donnelly, co-chair, National Speaker Forum Committee



# Centennial Dinner Celebrating 100 years

## March 6, 2015

### Sponsorship Levels

Benefits	Platinum \$10,000 +	Gold \$5,000	Silver \$3,000	Friend \$1,500
Industry Exclusive	●			
Recognition in ads, press releases	●			
Link to your website on WCC website for 1 year	●			
Personal Message in program	●	●		
Premium event Signage	●	●		
Logo on Save the Date and Invitation	●	●		
Program AD and listing	●	●		
Recognition at event	●	●	●	
Recognition on WCC website	●	●	●	●
Recognition in WCC Bulletin	●	●	●	●
Program listing	●	●	●	●
Table Signage	●	●	●	●
Table	●	●	●	●





**Centennial Celebration! March 6, 2015  
At the Hilton Netherland Plaza**

**Sponsor Information**

Company Name ( please write it exactly as it should appear on all print materials)

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person : \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact for Corporate Logo/ Advertisement:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship Level / Payment Information**

Sponsorship Level:

- Platinum Sponsor \$10,000 +
- Silver Sponsor \$3,000
- Table of 10—\$700
- Gold Sponsor \$5,000
- Friend Sponsor \$1,500
- Individual Tickets—75

**Please make checks for sponsorship payment payable to the Woman’s City Club and send payment to:  
103 William Howard Taft Rd, Cincinnati Oh, 45219**

**INVOICE ME**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send form to address below or e-mail to [wcc@womanscityclub.org](mailto:wcc@womanscityclub.org)  
Woman’s City Club, 103 William Howard Taft Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45219**

# ACT ONE follows up on City Charter Reform and the Citizen Task Force



Meeting in the Geier Room on January 6, members of Act One and their mentors from Woman's City Club and the League of Women Voters met to learn more about the Cincinnati Charter and the work of the Citizen's Task Force. Some Act One members had attended a public hearing on the charter reform task force back in 2014 and wanted to hear more. The discussion was led by Carolyn Miller who currently sits on the Charter Review Task Force, Carolyn is the League's Program Chair for City Government.

The Cincinnati City Charter Review Task Force was created by unanimous vote of City Council on December 18, 2013. Council directed the Task Force to organize and convene a public discussion and in depth examination of the city Charter, eventually to propose changes that will modernize the Charter and improve how the city functions. The Task Force and its committees are made up of citizens representing a range of constituencies and with a variety of expertise.

The Cincinnati City Charter is the fundamental law of our municipality. The forty-eight page Charter contains fifteen Articles regulating a range of issues including taxation, elections, the balance of powers between the Mayor and Council, fluoridation of water, use of "red light cameras," and the sale of the water district. Many provisions of the Charter are still relevant today; others are obsolete. Ultimately, changes to the city Charter will be decided by the voters of Cincinnati.

Act One discussed possible topics for its next meetings. Here is a tentative schedule:

**February 3 (Tuesday) at 6:30 - Location: TBA. Topic: Pulse Report: 2020 Jobs and Gender Outlook Report. Link to the report: <http://www.gcfndn.org/CommunityLeadership/TheWomensFund/PulseStudy/tabid/247/Default.aspx>**

**March 2 (Monday) at 6:30 - Location: TBA. Topic: Slavery By Another Name. Link to documentary: <http://www.slaverybyanothername.com/pbs-film/>**

**April 7 (Tuesday) at 6:30 p.m. Location: TBA. Topic: State of local Charter Schools.**

~ Jeanne Nightingale



# Fall Forums and City Conversations: a Report

## “The Decision of the US Supreme Court in the *Hobby Lobby* case”



In mid-October, WCC was privileged to hear UC College of Law professor Verna Williams deliver a scholarly analysis of the Supreme Court decision to allow Hobby Lobby, a chain of crafts stores, not to provide its employees with insurance coverage for certain types of contraception because of religious objections. Ms. Williams argued that the case is about sex discrimination, as it denies the right of access to contraception. The Hobby Lobby owners believe that life begins at conception and that certain types of contraception may result in the destruction of an embryo. The corporation is a person exercising its religion, according to the Supreme Court. By controlling its women employees' reproductive lives, however, the company prevents women from participating equally in the workplace.

The implications of the decision are unclear. What exactly is a closely held corporation, the entity allowed to exercise its religious views with respect to contraception? The decision has unknown but broad implications for the economy.

~ Sarah Gideonse

## October's City Conversations

### A forgotten inner-city neighborhood gets a long-deserved boost



An \$8.3 million dollar renovation of St. Michael's parish buildings in Lower Price Hill promises a new future for a neglected community two miles from center city Cincinnati. Jen Walters, founder and CEO of Lower Price Hill Community School for over 30 thirty years and Mike Moroski, Director of Engagement & Development at Community Matters, a newly formed non-profit offshoot, shared their new excitement with WCC about the far-reaching implications of these new developments.

Their presentation on October 21, “Growing an Urban Community from the Inside Out,” informed us about a community revitalization initiative that is unique because, by placing residents themselves at the center of decision-making, it empowers them and creates new job opportunities. This transformational work is being done in cooperation with Oyer School, Price Hill Will, and other neighborhood organizations.

Community Matters grew from the needs and energy of the Lower Price Hill community and is firmly committed to growing opportunities from within. It believes that all people can thrive when positive opportunities exist within their community. Education Matters, a second non-profit offshoot, works to inspire learning and strengthen the community by removing barriers to education. The school provides educational opportunities like GED prep, college courses and job training. A number of WCC members have sat on the school's board including Bobbie Sterne, Judy Green, Jeff Dey, and Jeanne Nightingale.

Lower Price Hill is a relatively small neighborhood in terms of size, but its central location, historic building stock, and close proximity to both the Ohio River and Downtown make it extremely important in our city. Originally built in the 19th century to provide housing for workers in the Mill Creek Valley, the Lower Price Hill neighborhood today is largely made up of Appalachians and a more recent influx of Hispanic immigrants.

~ Jeanne Nightingale



# Marian Spencer and Judge Nathaniel Jones Share Civil Rights History



On October 29th Woman's City Club was privileged to present civil rights icons Judge Nathaniel Jones and Marian Spencer speaking about the history of their civil rights work in Cincinnati and Ohio.

Judge Jones, emphasizing the importance of knowing history, pointed out that "discrimination against black people was enshrined in the laws and etched into the institutions" in the

Northwest Territory, Ohio, and Cincinnati.

"Cincinnati was a hotbed for the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave act"—remember the Margaret Garner story. Segregation laws became a part of the custom, tradition and institutions of the state. He continued, describing the negative stereotypes of blacks in the Dred Scott decision in 1857, Black Codes, and exclusion of blacks from schools.

Overt discrimination persisted well into the second half of the 20th Century. Marian Spencer described how her grandfather, a freed slave from West Virginia was so insistent that she and her twin sister get an education. "Our grandfather had to go to court and get the high school opened for his grandson, and his sons had never been allowed to go to the high school in Gallipolis where they lived. Marian described Gallipolis as a Sun Down Town where you needed to be out of town before dark if you were black. In the 1970s there were still ten thousand such towns in the US. She pointed out, "What are gated



Marian Spencer

communities for today? Are they sundown towns?"

Spencer joined the NAACP at age 13. An early and visible civil rights activity came in 1953. As chair of the local NAACP she filed a successful suit to let Negro children – as they were called back then – go to Coney Island. When she had taken her two children to Coney Island, she was told they couldn't swim there.

As NAACP president she worked for the 1974 Bronson desegregation suit against Cincinnati Public Schools. In the early 1980's she was a City Council member. "Even at age 94 I find that I learn something new every day," she says. Jones, a former general counsel for the NAACP, said that in preparing for the desegregation cases in Ohio they found that the research that showed that school segregation wasn't an accident or the actions of private people. It was government sanctioned from the beginning. They had to prove that in order to win their case and they did. Ultimately the case in Cincinnati was settled.

When asked what his proudest moment was Judge Jones said, "It was the cases that I lost." Sometimes you have to be willing to fight, lose and keep fighting in order to ultimately win. When Marian was asked the same question, she said that joining the groups willing to fight for justice is what she is most proud of. Spencer and Jones also discussed how we still have to fight to protect black votes.



There were notable civil rights figures in the audience like Al Gerhardstein, Judge Susan Dlott, the late Judge Arthur Spiegel and his wife Louise. An article in Street Vibes by Justin Jeffre was the source of much of this article.

~ Sarah Gideonse



Judge Jones and Susan Noonan

## Workshop: Women and Families -- Wage Inequality and a Living Wage A Status of Women Action Group Program

The purpose of this workshop was to start a conversation about what can be done about inequality, continued wage disparity in women and men's wages, and too many jobs without a living wage. Many in our community are experiencing these problems first hand. At the workshop, members of the WCC, the Status of Women Steering Committee, and other non-profit folks experienced in working on economic disparity issues met to discuss what is working and what more we can do. Five tables of three to six people brainstormed and shared ideas in an energizing environment. From that meeting, we established goals and voted on our priorities. Things are already popping! See the list of proposed actions below:

### **Immediate actions:**

1. Ask Sherrod Brown to be a speaker at Second Annual Woman's Economic, Mental and Physical Health Expo on Fountain Square on May 29<sup>th</sup>.
2. Support Councilman P.G. Sittenfeld's Resolution 32 -2014 that formally expresses the Mayor and City Council's support for raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10, proposed in the Congressional Harkin-Miffler bill. The City has a website where businesses that support a wage of \$10.10 can be listed.

### **The actions with the most votes:**

1. Support the Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center's Wage Theft Prevention Petition to City Council to pass an ordinance. This concerns employer "thefts" – such pervasive practices as depriving workers of tips, deducting the cost of uniforms from

wages, not paying day laborers for their time traveling and waiting for an assignment., being paid less than the minimum wage, being shorted hours, being forced to work off the clock, not being paid overtime, or not being paid at all

- A. Going to City Council to advocate with the Workers Center and ask our collaborative agencies to join us.
- B. Circulating the petition at the Fountain Square Event on May 29<sup>th</sup>
2. Lobby the State Assembly to consider more than a \$10.10 minimum wage. Set up soap box and board at the Fountain Square event with handouts about how to "take the challenge of living on minimum wage for one week." Also set up a website to report progress and challenges and share results with City Council.
3. Work to redefine "poverty" as "self-sufficiency" at the federal level by using Change.org to develop a petition.
4. Write grants for developing a YouTube presentation about economic disparity to use at the Fountain Square event. The presentation would explain why a living wage is in everybody's best interest; what living on a minimum wage buys (pictures of housing, groceries, no car)
5. Post the presentation on social media like YouTube, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.)
6. Support and advocate for worker cooperatives (point-of-sale places) supported by the Interfaith Workers Center
7. Support the Ohio Fair Housing Act.

Since the meeting, the WCC Board has voted to support the Interfaith Workers Center Wage Theft Petition as a Club and as individual members. Volunteers are working on the YouTube video to show at Fountain Square. It truly is an action-oriented group from the Status of Women Committee driving this project.



Melissa Rowland and  
Jill Bley

Dot Christenson, Col Owens, CJ Piece,  
Cassandra Barham and Cindy Rowland



Susan Noonan

## Smithson and Atwell Speak on “Mental Health: It’s Everybody’s Issue”

Woman’s City Club offered this program as background for our National Speaker forum, *Running from Crazy: A Life Journey with Mariel Hemingway*, in April. Leaders of two leader mental health organization described local programs and gave us information about mental and substance disorders.

Elizabeth Atwell, Executive Director of the regional Mental Health America (MHA) spoke about her agency’s role in addressing mental health challenges in the community. They provide education about mental illness to practitioners, lay people and law enforcement; advocacy to help people obtain the services they need; and advocacy at all levels of government for funding and enlightened policies. They also train people to engage in peer support with people with emotional problems.

A new program is Mental Health First Aid, an original concept funded in part by the Interact for Health Foundation to help people observed in the community as having emotional

difficulties. “First Aid” providers (individual lay people) receive eight hours of training on risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help. More information at <http://www.mhankyswoh.org/mentalhealthfirstaid>. Liz hopes this training becomes as common as training in CPR and first aid.

Our second speaker, Dr. William Smitson also discussed the many programs offered by his agency, Central Clinic, which he directs, including some new approaches to helping heroin users. He also gave us a short course on brain development, the importance of children’s early years for stimulation and nurturing in a safe environment. Too many children don’t get this, don’t form attachments with their caregiver and even experience trauma, and fear can arrest their development. He talked about s program that encourages mother – baby attachment, such as infant massage.

~ Sarah Gideonse

## Owens and Urbanik on “Conquering Unemployment” (Sadly, not yet conquered!)

The audience gathered to hear two leading experts in Cincinnati address an ongoing challenge of our “recovery” – continuing unemployment and underemployment with too many jobs being created with lower wages and too many jobs without qualified workers. As president of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College Dr. Odell Owens oversees the leading post-secondary institution in the community that is training people for skilled jobs, offering over 100 degree programs and certificates. Janice Urbanik is director of Partners for a Competitive Workforce, a tristate collaborative focused on meeting employer demand by growing the skills of our current and future workforce.

Dr. Owens gave us dramatic statistics about unemployment and training and described some recent initiatives of Cincinnati State. They include dual enrollment arrangements for high school students; a STEM academy for high school students; and flexible training of workers for the anticipated boom in transportation, warehousing and distribution jobs in the region.

Ms. Urbanik’s organization increases the impact of its partners-- businesses, workforce investment boards, chambers of commerce, secondary and post-secondary educational institutions, service providers and philanthropic funders when they come together to coordinate all of the region’s workforce efforts under a common umbrella, set joint priorities, and track their progress. A major accomplished is the support of career pathway training in priority industries: health care, advanced manufacturing, and instruction.

The following week, at the **monthly City Conversations**, Tim Kraus told us about a grass root initiative interested in alternative economics called Economics of Compassion (see <http://econofcompassion.org/>) This group “continues to promote and support local examples of this new and more just and compassionate way” -- ones in which workers and owners share benefit, in which the community is enhanced and not harmed—ones marked by justice, community and relationship. One example is the Interfaith Business Builders, Inc., whose recent venture is “Community Blends,” a co-op coffee shop in Evanston that features fair trade products.

~ Sarah Gideonse



## In Memoriam Carolyn Briese, 1936-2014



We were sad to learn that Carolyn had passed away soon after being honored at Feist Tea on December. Carolyn was born to first generation Swedes from Minnesota. She was raised in Minnesota by her mother, after her father died when she was six, and attended the University of Minnesota, graduating with a degree in Journalism. She married Frank, a photographer. After they adopted her two sons, Carolyn was a stay-at-home mom and spent her free time involved in civic activities, both social and political. Frank's work took the family to Denver, Miami, and Norwich in upstate New York and later on to Cincinnati. As a mother, Craig tells us, Carolyn made sure the children were exposed to progressive ideas.

Carolyn's son Craig remembers his mother as a humanitarian. She was a member of Saint John's Unitarian Universalist Church because of the social causes the members support. A friend to the environment, she supported many environmental groups, and she enjoyed the outdoors having spent many years as a Girl Scout. Carolyn and Frank went on many canoe trips and loved cross-country skiing and hiking. She was an avid birder.

A lover of art, Carolyn supported theatre, symphonies, and ballet. She and Frank collected pottery, focusing on Inuit art. She followed current events, politics, and women's issues—reading the *New York Times* every day and listening to morning news on NPR.

A longtime member of Woman's City Club, she served on the Board and managed the Education Award program for several years—heading a committee to encourage young women to write essays and then to pick the winners. We remember her high-quality contributions, her warmth and kindness, and her welcoming ways with new members.



## S. Arthur Spiegel, 1920-2014

Judge Arthur Spiegel, husband of our beloved Louise, was an extraordinary gentleman. Involvement in civil rights cases in Cincinnati brought him to the attention of President Jimmy Carter, who appointed him in 1980 to the

[United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio](#). He had a remarkable career on the bench, issuing rulings in favor of prison reform and gay rights; to restrict entrapment; and to resolve cases involving police use of force. Although he took senior status, he continued to making rulings until last month.

Friends, colleagues, and family remark on Art's extraordinary engagement with life, his humor, and his sense of adventure. As Dan Horn remarked in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, he was a sitting judge who couldn't sit still. As a marine in World War II, he flew a single engine plane on scouting missions in the Pacific theatre and continued to fly for many years. He took up painting, producing lovely landscapes, and he wrote books.

Art's *Collected Works* speaks of the importance of Louise in his life: "Louise, from my earliest memories, was the girl, woman, wife, companion, and friend I wanted to share my life with. ... None of [my accomplishments] would have been possible without the support, encouragement, love, needling, and good humor of Louise. Much of the same could be said of Louise's contributions to Woman's City Club!

The mission of Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati is to educate, empower, and engage the citizens of Greater Cincinnati to participate together in promoting the common good.

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We envision a just and sustainable community where all citizens are engaged as informed stakeholders in the shaping of our shared future. Committed to promoting diversity and inclusiveness, the organization reaches out to collaborate with other community organizations in the city and work toward shared goals.

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## Calendar of WCC Events

**Tues, 2-17-15 Public forum/ City Conversations Program with Cathy Roma on her choral work in prisons. Held at the First Unitarian Church**

**Fri. 3-6-15**  
**Centennial Celebration Dinner**  
At the Historic Netherland Plaza, Downtown

**March 17th** (tentative date) City Conversations panel program on women's history with Deborah Meem, Chair, Woman's Gender and Sexuality Studies at UC and WCC historians Rachel Powell and Andrea Kornbluh. To be held at the Stowe House.

**Thur. 4-23-15:**  
**National Speaker Forum**  
**Maribel Hemingway "Running from Crazy—a Life Journey with Maribel Hemingway"** 7:30 at Music Hall downtown

**May 14th:** Annual Shakespeare and Justice Lecture by Michael L. Cioffi, Adjunct Professor at UC College of Law and attorney with Blank Rome LLP, in collaboration with the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's production of Shakespeare's Henry V. Michael Cioffi will again sponsor a wine and cheese reception before the lecture

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Seasongood Luncheon.

**May 29<sup>th</sup>:** Status of Women event on Fountain Square.

### WCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

For the latest schedule of Committee Meetings, check our Website Calendar at [womanscityclub.org](http://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/](http://cincinnati-oh.gov/council/).

This e-Bulletin, together with emailed Weekly Updates and our website at [www.womanscityclub.org](http://www.womanscityclub.org), keeps our membership connected. The next issue will appear in March. Deadline for copy will be February 25st, (word limit 250 words).



Sarah Gideonse, Managing Editor.  
Jeanne Nightingale, Assistant Editor.  
Nancy Sheckler, Layout Editor.



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