



WOMAN'S  
CITY CLUB  
OF GREATER CINCINNATI

*Lighting the way  
since 1915*

# THE BULLETIN

July/August 2016

Highlights from

## 2016 Annual Meeting

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We had a busy, successful year. On Wednesday, June 29, nearly fifty Woman's City Club members reflected on the many accomplishments over the past year at the annual meeting and began plans for the future. Over the past year, WCC had eight excellent and informative forums, intimate and lively City Conversations by the membership committee, "Thriving Cincinnati" presentations addressing wage inequities, stimulating monthly book discussions, an elegant Feist Tea honoring four City Club members, a successful National Speaker Event featuring Isabel Wilkerson, a Seasongood Luncheon featuring a timely discussion about water quality, monthly Changing Course: Local Solutions to a Global Crisis environmental presentations, and an annual expo on Fountain Square bringing together 26 community organizations.

[Continued on page 3](#)



### GREEN TIP:

If you have not yet gone paperless with bills both receiving and paying, it may be something to consider. You save by not needing to buy checks or postage to send checks.

Once I receive notification that a bill is due, I can go online and pay the bill and designate the date I want it paid. This has helped me not to forget about the bill that is sitting in my pile of stuff.

Also, you are saving on paper, which saves trees. My bank helped with my initial set up since I can be technologically challenged.

-Mary Gerson

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 July.

The deadline for copy will be **August 17, 2016**  
(strict 250 word limit).

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

“We will continue to *Educate to inform. Inform to engage. Engage to empower. Empower to influence.*”

### THAT WAS THEN

I was reviewing a report from 2011 about Woman’s City Club.

#### WCC AT CRITICAL CROSSROADS (from 2011):

- ☐ Projected deficit and insufficient funds to support day to day club operations.
- ☐ Declining membership.
- ☐ Declining attendance at club functions.

#### THIS IS NOW In 2016:

- ☐ Increasing membership
- ☐ Revenue stable and increasing
- ☐ Increased attendance at WCC events
- ☐ New project-“Thriving Cincinnati”

This year we had a very busy and productive year. There were eight excellent and informative forums, intimate and lively City Conversations by the membership committee, “Thriving Cincinnati” presentations addressing wage inequities, stimulating monthly book discussions, an elegant Feist Tea honoring four City Club members, the successful National Speaker Event featuring Isabel Wilkerson, Seasongood Luncheon featuring a timely discussion about water quality, monthly environmental presentations in the Changing Course: Local Solutions to a Global Crisis series, and the Annual Expo on Fountain Square involving many community organizations.

However, this list of activities does not capture the energy and involvement of our members and the community in Woman’s City Club. WCC possesses a collaborative spirit and exemplifies the courage



**Alice Schneider**

to lead and to be the catalyst in bringing important as well as controversial issues to educate and inform the area citizens. We address disparities, relevant current event topics, environmental issues, race relations, legislative topics, mental health, women’s issues, child education, and the justice system. We will continue to educate to inform. Inform to engage. Engage to empower. Empower to influence.

-Alice Schneider, President



This year’s Seasongood Luncheon featured Cathy Bailey, Cincinnati Water Works’ first woman director, who spoke on a very timely topic, “We are Headed Unleaded.” And indeed CWW is—it wants to reassure

## ANNUAL SEASONGOOD LUNCHEON

### CATHY BAILEY

citizens that providing and maintaining safe drinking water to customers is the number one priority.

Ms. Bailey described a comprehensive and community friendly program for addressing concerns about lead contamination in our drinking water. CWW wants to make sure that all buildings and households know the status of their

water or have a way to determine its safety.

In general, Cincinnati drinking water is safe, because unlike Flint, Cincinnati uses a treatment process called lead corrosion control that minimizes the chance that lead can be picked up from home plumbing.

-Sarah Gideonse

# There will be no City Conversations in the months of July and August

## Meetings will resume on September 19th at 7pm

*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 18-35)

### Annual Meeting Continued from page 1

Linked In; and are even working on a Wikipedia page.

program Ideas, WCC's values, and financial stability. These responses will be compiled to create a plan that the WCC board will review and implement for the upcoming year. With your help and support, we hope to keep the momentum.

-Alice Schneider



The meeting began with a delicious potluck dinner provided by the members. After dinner, President Alice Schneider contrasted the progress of the club this year with a report from 2011. In comparison to the gloomy report in 2011, WCC has since increased its membership, stabilized its finances, and increased attendance at its forums. Indeed, last year's income was \$68,896; expenses were \$67,499.

Planning for the future. Indeed in the past year we successfully furthered our mission. After reporting on the past year's performance, WCC turned its attention to the future. The membership broke into four groups to discuss the following issues: member engagement ideas,



On May 17th WCC tutoring group was honored as a recipient of a United Way Community Service Award in the category "Improving Our Accountability and Effectiveness." On another front, our social media has taken off—we now have nearly 400 followers (or likes) on Facebook; our Twitter account is growing; we have a YouTube account for WCC videos; we use Google and



# Virginia Felson 1914-2016

Long-time Woman's City Club member Virginia Felson passed away June 30 at the age of 101. Ginny served on the WCC board in the late 70s and continued to belong. She attended our 90th birthday party, proudly announcing that she was also 90.

Ginny was married to the late Dr. Benjamin Felson and leaves her four sons, Steven, Marcus, Richard, and Edward. She is also survived by eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Memorial services took place at Rockdale Temple July 10. Memorial contributions may be made to Camp Joy (Camp-Joy.org) or Hospice of Cincinnati (HospiceofCincinnati.org).

- See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/cincinnati/obituary.aspx?pid=180532877#sthash.E8joTuYH.dpuf>



Virginia Felson



## Thriving CINCINNATI

### - Inclusion in a Changing Economy

On June 17, 2016, over 60 attendees gathered with local experts Janice Urbanik, Partners for a Competitive Workforce; Cheryl Brackman, Workforce Training at Cincinnati State; William Thomas,

the opportunities and challenges for Inclusion in our changing economy.

Moderator Maurice Harris of Pushpop Media invited participants to then join a table discussion about current work to promote economic inclusion, what the future holds, and how we can help address continuing disparities. Each table was joined by career pathway training practitioners: LaVerne DeArmond of Advanced Manufacturing Training Services at the Community Action Agency; Bob Flisik of Brilliant Networks; Vickie Payton of Children's Hospital, and Alecia Braddock with Construction Connections at the Urban League. Urban League of Greater Cincinnati is collaborating on this program. The information provided by our experts was invaluable and we hope will be used by many of the attendees.



Look for our next Thriving Cincinnati Gathering in October!



Mortar – Building Communities through Entrepreneurship and Pete McClinden, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO as they responded to questions about what they saw as



-Susan Noonan

# KINDERGARTEN LITERACY TUTORING PROGRAM CELEBRATES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR



Woman's City Club-sponsored kindergarten tutoring program celebrated another year of children's progress at its annual field trip to Joseph-Beth Booksellers in May. Led by Linda Wihl, developer of the Making Sense of Language Arts tutoring curriculum, and volunteer tutors, the children selected books (up to \$20 worth) to read during the summer. Then all adjourned to Bronte's Bistro for a delicious brunch. This year at Winton Hills Academy, WCC members Sarah Gideonse, Alice Perlman, Fran Turner, Nancy Lu Walters and Linda Wihl tutored, along with three recruits of Harriet



Kaufman and volunteers from St. Bernard's Church and the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC). 100% of the students at Winton Hills made significant improvement in letter and word skills and expressive ability.

At Rothenberg the following WCC members tutored: Mary Anne Berry, Sarah Gideonse, Harriet Kaufman, Helen O'Neal, Hera Reines, Jean Sepate, and Linda Wihl with other volunteers. Attendance and mobility greatly affect achievement of Rothenberg kindergartners. We began the year with 13 students and ended with 8. Still, all the students available for post testing made significant improvement in letter and word skills.

## **HOW TO GET INVOLVED:**

Over the years, WCC members and friends, as well as the Nabama Foundation, have contributed wonderfully to the funding of this successful program, in addition to in-kind contributions. This year we are grateful for a generous donation from Kathryn Shahani.

However, the foundation grant is no longer available, and our funds will soon be depleted. We again turn to our Woman's City Club friends and ask for donations. Costs per year are \$2200 to \$2500 to serve about 30 kindergartners, depending on occasional contributions from other sources. The cost of administration, tutoring, and supervision are all

in-kind. All contributions support the children – test booklets, curriculum materials, the field trip, etc.



WCC members and friends interested in tutoring and wishing more information: Contact Linda Wihl – 513-477-3428 or [makingsenseoflanguagearts@gmail.com](mailto:makingsenseoflanguagearts@gmail.com)



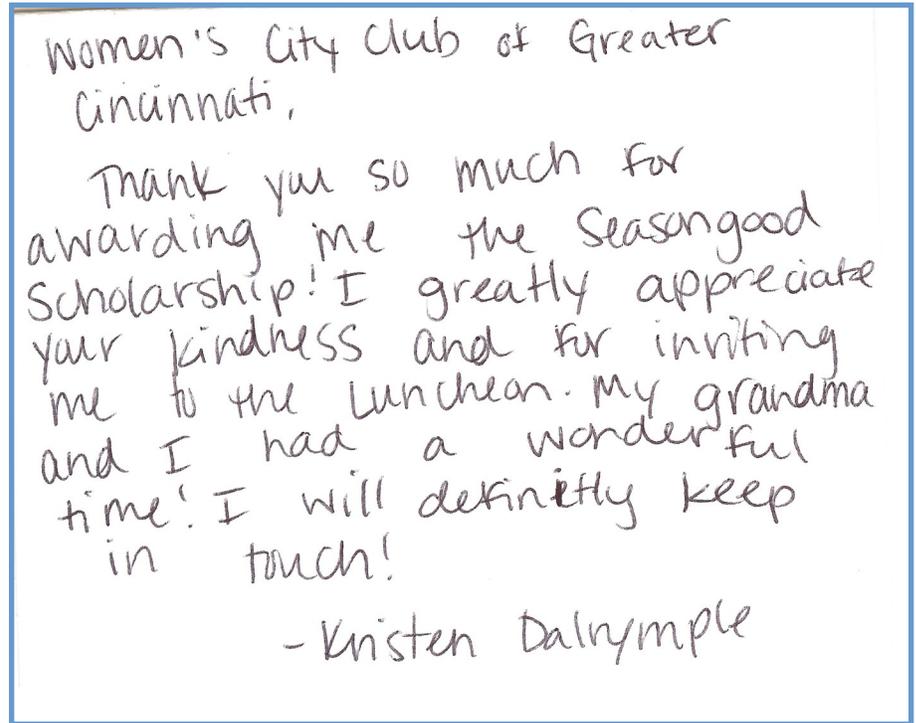
To contribute to the tutoring program, make checks out to Woman's City Club, with "tutoring" on memo line. Mail to WCC, 103 Wm. H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45219

-Sarah Gideonse & Linda Wihl

# Seasongood Education Awards UPDATE

## Kristen Dalrymple: Milford High School

Kristen's essay reflects on how education creates empowerment. On this principle, in 2014, she established a non-profit called Children for Change. "Children for Change teaches elementary students how to be an influence in our society... Students partner with local nursing homes, a South African orphanage, the local fire and police departments and homeless shelters." As a result, her non-profit program has "won two prestigious awards. At the beginning of her Senior year she was selected to be a NCAM ambassador and was honored in Washington, DC. She is also on track to earn the Presidential Community Service Award.



Thank You from Kristen Dalrymple

## Status of Women Annual EXPO on Fountain Square



On July 1, 2016, the Third Annual Status of Women's Economic, Mental and Physical Health Expo on Fountain Square began the Fourth of July weekend – celebrating the theme, "We All Belong" and "Going from Surviving to Thriving"! State Representative Denise Driehaus gave an informative presentation on human trafficking with her usual enthusiasm and energy!

Following Denise, Chara Jackson,

Executive Director of the Urban League shared information on the economic state of women in our region, and finally Ray Nandyal, local coordinator of the We ALL Belong Organization, told us about his difficult experiences as an immigrant and how he became involved in community organizing. Of course, we wanted to end on an uplifting note and again had our incredibly talented Flash Dance friends, PONE!

Of special value are the agencies who exhibited information on economic, physical and mental health on tables around the stage. Thank you all so much for taking the time to share information about your agencies and programs with us.

In the center of the square, Melissa Rowland (our very own office manager and WCC member) exhibited her fascinating "Perceived Value" mannequin, which drew much attention and picture taking! Each year, our Expo becomes bigger and better!



-Susan Noonan

## Member Profile: Harriet Kaufman



**Harriet Kaufman**

Harriet Kaufman, WCC's practically official photographer, came to the Woman's City Club with a mission.

"I joined WCC in 2002 because I was looking for allies to support the implementation of the Collaborative Agreement," she said. "Ruth Cronenberg had just agreed to be board chair. I found a group of people in WCC who would join me to support the Agreement."

Harriet spearheaded the WCC Collaborative Agreement Action Group. "We created several programs, educational events, etc., to support its implementation," she said. "The Collaborative Agreement with Federal Court oversight lasted five years. After that, the tutoring program became our focus as an outgrowth of our effort to change thinking from 'those people' causing problems to 'our kids' who are our future. The committee's name changed to reflect the change of focus."

(Recently the Collaborative Agreement is being used as an example as Ferguson, Missouri, and Baltimore, Maryland, formulate their response to the deaths of young black men at the hands of police

officers.)

Harriet has a BA in English from the University of Minnesota and earned an MA in religion at Miami University in Oxford. She and her husband, Ben, moved to Cincinnati in 1967 so he could study at Hebrew Union College.

She was surprised to be honored at the 2013 Feist Tea but didn't let that laurel slow down her WCC activity. Her latest effort is Thriving Cincinnati.

"Susan Noonan called me to ask if I'd co-chair a committee with her to figure out a way to honor Louise Spiegel's values of developing the civic sector in Cincinnati where all voices are heard, and options and choices for young black men are developed," she said.

When the Thriving Cincinnati effort started, the committee was called the Louise Spiegel Committee. Harriet still uses that title on her computer for this work. "We joined with the Status of Women Action Group committee for two reasons: We thought that the groups that were part of the first Expo would be a good place to start for a community conversation to figure out what a Thriving Cincinnati would look like and 2) because the Expo was in need of support. This blending of committees and purposes continues to confuse/vex/puzzle people who want clarity and consistency. I guess the important thing for me is that the Louise Spiegel Committee began as a separate entity -- at least in my mind and understanding -- and joined the Status of Women only after several months' work.

Asked what Thriving Cincinnati hopes to accomplish, Harriet said, "I can only tell you what I hope will happen. I cannot predict or

direct it, since it will evolve from participants' choices. I hope for two things to happen through Thriving Cincinnati: 1) that people will understand that all parts of our community must thrive if the community is to thrive; no part can be neglected or left out. 2) that we provide avenues for people to have one-on-one conversations, form relationships and find allies to address pressing issues in our community."

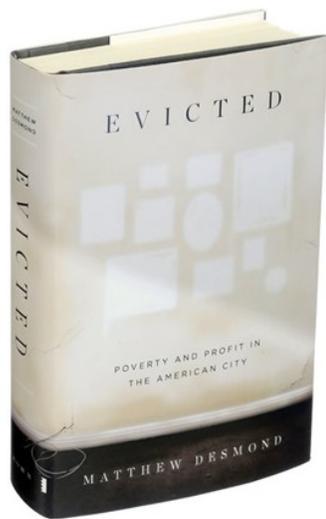
The latest conversation was the public forum on June 17 on Inclusion in a Changing Economy.

Most meetings of the Thriving Cincinnati subgroup of the Status of Women Action Group have been held at Harriet's home, where her homemade bread, soup and apple sauce are special treats.

The group members also get to enjoy Harriet's wood, stone and metal sculptures that she created after taking workshops from Walter Driesback through the Art Academy's community education program.

-Jo-Ann Albers





# WCC Book Club to discuss **EVICTED: Poverty and Profit in the American City**

September 17, 10 am

Home of Erna Olafson

1553 Oak Knoll Drive, North College Hill

Please RSVP: eolaf@yahoo.com or 513-521- 3625

“Evicted,” written by Harvard sociologist Matthew Desmond, is a hybrid of ethnography and policy reporting about the tragic lives of the two thirds of impoverished families forced to find housing in the private market. The housing is sub-standard, unhealthy, too costly, and unstable, as families are regularly evicted if una-

ble to pay the rent. “If incarceration had come to define the lives of men from impoverished black neighborhoods,” Mr. Desmond writes, “eviction was shaping the lives of women. Poor black men were locked up. Poor black women were locked out” – millions each year. The New York Times quotes William Julius Wilson praising “Evicted” as “a call to

action on par with Michael Harrington’s ‘The Other America.’”

In the next year WCC’s Book Club plans to meet every other month on the third Saturday, at 10 pm at a member’s home. We will announce titles for November 2016 and January 2017 meetings shortly.

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## SAVE THE DATE: August 8, 2016

### 11:30 at Venice on Vine

**Please join CAAG Tutoring Committee** for our annual lunch to support Rothenburg School. Lunch will be at 11:30 at Venice on Vine, one of our city’s most socially conscience restaurants. We ask that you consider bringing much needed school supplies for the students and for use in the class rooms. Suggested items include: mechanical pencils, ball point

pens, crayons, colored pencils, 2 pocket 3 pronged folders, games, puzzles, coloring books, paper towels, Kleenex, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, Not only does this event give WCC members an opportunity to give back, but it also gives us the chance to relax and catch up!

RSVP Marge Davis 321-6835



### Items needed:

mechanical pencils

ball point pens

Crayons

colored pencils

2 pocket 3 pronged folders

games

puzzles

coloring books

paper towels

Kleenex

Clorox wipes

hand sanitizer



# 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

### Save the Date:

**Monday Aug 8, 11:30AM**  
Lunch at Venice on Vine  
1301 Vine St

**Saturday Sept 17, 10 am**  
Book Club Discussion "Evicted"  
Home of Erna Olafson  
1553 Oak Knoll Drive

**Monday Sept 19, 7pm**  
City Conversations  
First Unitarian Church  
536 Linton Street

Have a great summer!  
See you in the fall.

Remember to renew  
your membership!



Watch for the next meeting of  
Thriving Cincinnati in October 2016

### 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/).



Like Woman's City Club Cincinnati on Facebook to keep up with the latest news and commentary.

The e-Bulletin, together with the Weekly Updates and News from the Network, keeps our membership connected. The next issue will appear in July. Submit articles to [wcc@womanscityclub.org](mailto:wcc@womanscityclub.org) with the subject line "WCC bulletin" (Strict word limit 250 words).

Liz Shockey, managing editor