

April 2013

*Lighting  
the way  
since 1915*

**April  
GREEN  
TIPS  
From  
Mary  
Gerson**



*Here are a few of my newer  
water-saving suggestions:*

*I keep a bucket by the shower  
to collect water while the  
temperature is warming.  
(I then use it on plants  
indoors or outside.)*

*I turn off the water while  
lathering my hands as I  
do when brushing my  
teeth.*

*When rinsing out the coffee  
pot, I will reuse the water  
on plants. Coffee grounds  
are great for your plants.*

*I have stopped buying any  
plastic water bottles. On  
our recent vacation I took  
a sports bottle ~~with me~~  
which was my constant  
companion. Our tap  
water is actually purer  
than many commercially  
bottled waters.*

*~ Mary Gerson*

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# The Bulletin

Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati



Woman's City Club is pleased to present Terry Garcia Crews, who will be the featured speaker at our annual Agnes Seasongood luncheon April 12 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Ms. Crews is the first Hispanic CEO and general manager of Metro, Greater Cincinnati's transit system. Her topic, "Connecting our Community," addresses the good things that are happening in Cincinnati on the transit front. The event takes place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5901 Pfeiffer Road in Blue Ash.

With more than 20 years in the transit business, most recently heading the transit system in Austin, Ms Crews was appointed to her present position in November 2010. She and the Metro are creating a comprehensive regional transit plan with short-term and long-term service improvements, working with OKI, Agenda 360, Vision 2015 and other transportation partners. At Cincinnati Metro she is responsible for a 347-bus fleet and 844-employee work force that provide about 17 million rides per year on Metro and Access buses.

The annual luncheon honors Agnes Seasongood, a founder and benefactor of Woman's City Club. See [womanscityclub.org](http://womanscityclub.org) for more information.

*~ Susan Noonan, Chairperson, Seasongood Committee  
Email Susan at [Seasongood@womanscityclub.org](mailto:Seasongood@womanscityclub.org).*

## GET YOUR TICKETS NOW SEASONGOOD LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2013

**TERRY GARCIA CREWS  
CEO OF METRO TRANSIT SYSTEM  
"CONNECTING OUR  
COMMUNITY"**

**... with reinstated  
Education Awards**

*~ See Page 4*

Seasongood Luncheon price is \$40  
New Members Only: Luncheon + WCC 2013-14 Membership \$75!

**EXTENDED DEADLINE: RSVP by Wednesday, April 9 at 2:00 pm:**

- by phone at 513-751-0100
- by email at [wcc@womanscityclub.org](mailto:wcc@womanscityclub.org)
- online at WCC's website [www.womanscityclub.org](http://www.womanscityclub.org).

Please indicate your meal preference:

Chicken Marsala, Salmon with Citrus Sauce, or Vegetarian

# Middle-East Expert Robin Wright Enlightens at National Speaker Forum

Appearing diminutive at first against the majestic beauty of the soaring ornate ceiling of Plum Street Temple, the 2013 National Speaker Forum lecturer Robin Wright soon had her audience forgetting their surroundings while hanging on every word of her accounts of life and politics in the Middle East.

An award-winning journalist, author and currently senior fellow at both U.S. Institute of Peace and the Wilson International Center, Wright spoke March 14 on the topic, "U.S. Intervention: When is Enough Enough?" She offered her perspectives gained from covering the Middle East since the 1970s as well as her research and writing of three books on the subject.

She is passionate and knowledgeable and shared information about changes in the Middle East that provided a glimpse into the lives of people in these multi-faceted cultures in the age of the Internet and technology, demonstrating more nuance and complexity than even the best news coverage is able to communicate.

As usual with the Forum, the audience questions were thoughtful and insightful, and Wright's gracious responses added to the richness of the lecture. *Continued next page*





Following the talk, VIP reception guests found Wright to be personally engaging and willing to answer further questions while enjoying the dessert, fruit and cheese reception.

Signed copies of her three books were available at the book table handled by the Book Nook of Madeira. The book titles are:

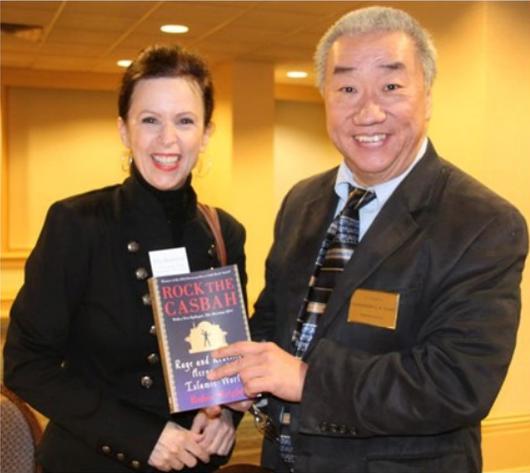
- *The Iran Primer: Power, Politics and U.S. Policy* (2010);
- *Rock the Casbah*;
- *Rage and Rebellion Across the Islamic World* (2011); and
- *The Islamists are Coming: Who They Really Are* (2012).

Woman's City Club sold 335 tickets for the event, our major annual fundraiser. Final results are still being tallied.

The 2014 National Speaker Forum is scheduled for March 14, 2014, with CNN's Candy Crowley as our featured speaker.

~ Joni Baker, National Speaker Committee Member

**Photos by Brewster Rhoads, WCC member**





The first days of Spring have arrived, or is it summer? "Everything is blooming most recklessly; if it were voices instead of colors there would be an unbelievable shrieking into the heart of the night!" (Rilke)

The April issue of the Bulletin always illustrates how "recklessly blooming" we are at Woman's City Club. No sooner is the National Speaker Forum behind us

than we look forward to the Seasongood Luncheon.

Journalist Robin Wright impressed us with the depth of her understanding of the Middle East, the complex dynamics of its emerging democracies, and the limitations of US power to shape change there. Now we look forward to welcoming Garcia Crews who will tell us about creating a comprehensive regional transit plan here in Cincinnati, "Connecting our Community."

At the luncheon we will once again be presenting the WCC Education Awards under the leadership of CJ Pierce.

We reviewed essays from sixteen high school students addressing the topic suggested by Louise Spiegel: "Growing into Citizenship: Trusting My Voice."

Membership has organized an April meeting around two books authored by WCC members, Vivian Klein and Dot Christenson. (See calendar.) New members are especially welcome to network with us and find out how to become more engaged in WCC's work.

Environmental Education is bringing together civic and faith-based communities for monthly discussions on the economics of being environmentally conscious: "Changing CO<sub>2</sub>urse: How can we live more simply – and

more richly – on earth?" Civic Engagement is participating in a collaborative research project to assess models of citizen engagement in comparable cities in the U.S. so we can design a better one for Cincinnati.

Finally, WCC has formed a new Centennial Committee to plan our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2015. We met for the first time to brainstorm ideas for programming in the year 2014-2015 to celebrate our historical accomplishments and to shape a vision for the next century. If this project interests you, please join us!

*Jeanne Nightingale*

## REINSTATEMENT OF WCC Education Awards

This year, after a three-year hiatus, I am pleased to announce that Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati is able to offer our Education Awards due to private contributions dedicated for this program. We thank those who donated funds to make the Education Awards possible again this year.

As we have in the past, we are offering 3 awards of \$500.00 each to 3 female graduating high school seniors. The topic of the one-page essay was suggested by Louise Spiegel: "Growing into Citizenship: Trusting My Voice and Making it Heard."

The essays are already coming in and we expect to choose our winners soon. The students will receive their awards at our Agnes Seasongood Luncheon on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on attending to congratulate our students and hear our speaker Terry Garcia-Crews.  
~ CJ Pierce



CJ Pierce  
Seasongood Committee Member

### UPDATE!

Our scholarship winners have been selected! They are:

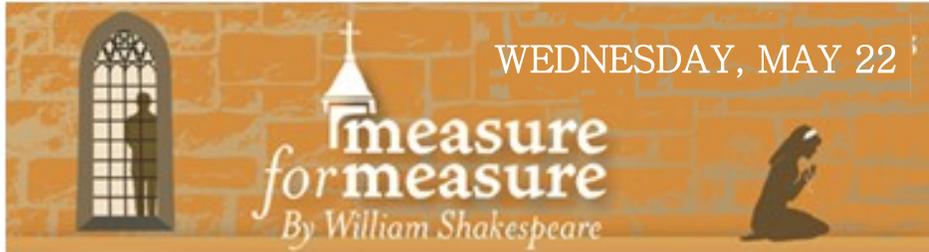
- **Rebecca Kahn** of Wyoming High School, who wrote about the power of uniting voices to speak up for justice;
- **Larissa Pearson** of Woodward Career Technical High School, who wrote about young people inspiring and influencing their peers;
- **Ayrien Grissom** of Colerain High School, who wrote about actions speaking louder than words.

We hope that all three young women will be able to attend the Seasongood luncheon on Friday (see page 1). Please attend yourself and take the opportunity to meet them!

# WCC Programs for the Spring Months

## “Building a Just and Sustainable Community”

Woman’s City Club’s programs and forums bring citizens together from diverse perspectives to engage in public conversations around issues of concern to the community. Each year, we stage a series of educational programs to raise awareness on community issues featuring a balanced panel of knowledgeable speakers. WCC offers varied venues for members to meet and explore mutual interests, promote advocacy and collaborative action.



### WCC ANNUAL SHAKESPEARE EVENT

FEATURING MICHAEL CIOFFI, LECTURER

Wednesday, May 22, at 5:30 pm

Location: Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, 719 Race St

Woman’s City Club and the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company present *Measure for Measure* by William Shakespeare preceded by a lecture by Michael Cioffi entitled “Measuring Law, Justice and Morality in *Measure for Measure*.” Mr. Cioffi is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Cincinnati College of Law and a partner in the law firm of Blank Rome LLP. Mr. Cioffi has lectured on the topic of justice and William Shakespeare both in the United States and internationally. *Measure for Measure* offers themes of allegiance, romance, betrayal, honor and redemption. This special cultural opportunity takes place on May 22nd at the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, 719 Race Street, downtown.

It begins at 5:30 with a wine and cheese reception. Mr. Cioffi’s lecture follows at 6:00. The performance of *Measure for Measure* begins at 7:30.

Admission is \$32; season tickets will be honored. Persons with questions or seeking to RSVP as a season ticketholder should call the office at (513) 751-0100. One may pay online at [womanscityclub.org](http://womanscityclub.org) or send a check payable to the Woman’s City Club, 103 Wm. H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45208.

This event is presented by the WCC and the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company in collaboration with Blank Rome LLP and Monteverdi Tuscany ([www.monteverdituscany.com](http://www.monteverdituscany.com)).

~ Lori Nuckolls

### ACCESS TO CIVIL JUSTICE,

Tues, June 18  
12:00 noon

Location:  
Cincinnati Bar Association,  
225 E 6th St., 5th floor

Panel discussion, co-sponsored and hosted by the Cincinnati Bar Association. Bill Dowling of the Ohio Bar Association will speak for half-an-hour, followed by two representatives of Legal Aid in Ohio who will each speak for fifteen minutes, and Q&A. Bring a brown bag lunch.

### APRIL’S MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION

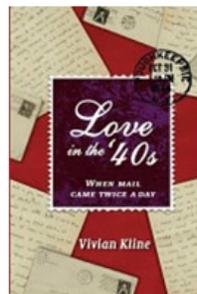
#### WCC BOOK AUTHORS

Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00 pm

Location: First Unitarian Church

Free & Open to All—You Need Not Be a Member to Attend

This coming Tuesday, April 16, at 7pm in First Unitarian Church, WCC will hold a presentation and discussion of two books authored by members of WCC. **Vivian Kline** and **Dot Christenson** will both read passages from their work, tell the story of what led them to their subject and answer our questions. The evening’s presentations and discussion will be moderated by **Michelle Watts**, V.P. of Community Engagement, *Bridges for a Just Community*.



Vivian Klein’s book is an memoir of her early life, entitled *Love in the 40’s When Mail Came Twice a Day*. It has been published by Create Space and is currently available at Kindle and Amazon.

Dot Christenson’s book is a biography of one of our most illustrious WCC members - “*Marian Alexander Spencer: African American Feminist, Tireless Crusader, Leader of Change for Nearly a Century*.” The

book was written after a series of Dot’s interviews with Marian. The book is not yet ready for publication.

Dot’s presentation will be aided by a true expert on the topic: **Marian Spencer** herself.

~ Mary Wells, Membership Chairperson

# “BEFORE IT’S TOO LATE!” What Does That Mean?

In his recent State of the Union address, President Obama said, “For the sake of our children and our future, we must do more to combat climate change; we must act before it’s too late.”

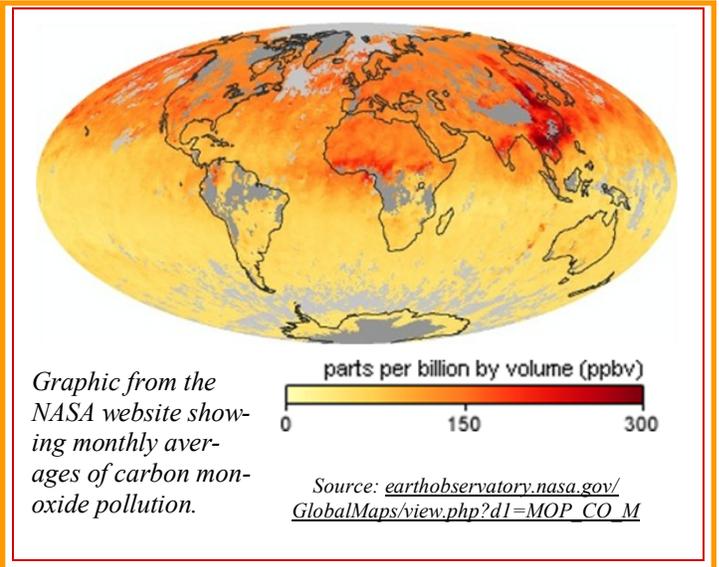
The President is referring to what scientists call a tipping point of no return. The concept of a tipping point is illustrated by pushing a ball up a hill to the top of the hill and then sending the ball over the top, the tipping point. At that point the ball now rolls unassisted down the hill, gaining momentum as it goes.

A recent scientific study proved beyond doubt that the rapid global climate change we are currently experiencing is caused by human activity, warming the earth to temperatures not reached in the last 11,000 years since the evolution of the human species. The main cause of global warming is use of fossil fuels; coal, oil and natural gas, that when burned release CO<sub>2</sub>,

methane and other gases into the atmosphere trapping heat in the same way a greenhouse traps heat. Thus gases released from fossil fuels are commonly called “greenhouse gases.”

When the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reach a certain level, a tipping point of no return is reached. Humans will not be able to reverse the release of new greenhouse gas emissions because the earth will release CO<sub>2</sub> and methane gases buried in the oceans and permafrost through feedback loops, self-perpetuating cycles that further increase global temperatures. NASA Scientist, Dr. James Hanson states “the planet will become like Venus, hot and uninhabitable unless we take immediate and drastic action to stop using fossil fuels. The gas and oil industry will soon put the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane into the atmosphere to a level so high that a climate tipping point of no return will be reached.”

Dr. Hanson writes, “There is still time to act and avoid a worsening climate, but we are



wasting precious time.” Natural systems that have protected the planet from dire climate change are eroding. If they erode enough due to human activity a new global climate will commence that will not support human life on the planet. The major systems scientists monitor are: loss of forests including the Amazon Rain Forest, loss of the cooling white reflective surfaces due to melting of Arctic and Antarctic and Greenland ice and glaciers, rising ocean temperature and melting of permafrost releasing millions of tons of methane gas.

The solution to mitigate climate change is to switch to renewable sources of energy such as wind, solar and

hydroelectric power that do not release greenhouse gases. European countries have quickly moved from fossil fuels, to renewables sources of energy. In order to wean this country off its addiction to fossil fuels we must choose leaders and politicians that appreciate the urgency and necessity to switch to renewables, now, before we reach the tipping point of no return.

Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Learn more about our planet through the Woman’s City Club Sustainable Program series and the Earth Day event at Sawyer Point, Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, then make a plan and act before it’s too late!

~ Joanne Gerson

## CHANGING CO<sub>2</sub>URSE GLOBAL PROBLEMS, LOCAL SOLUTIONS

EVERY 4TH SUNDAY AT 7:00 PM  
LOCATION: ST JOHN’S UU, 320 RESOR AVE, CLIFTON

WCC Environmental Education Group is co-sponsoring a fourth-Sunday-of-the-month series of community conversations around films and speakers that address the **environmental crisis as a crisis of conscience**. How can we live more simply – and more richly – on earth? The series is being organized by the Green Sanctuary Team of St. John’s Unitarian Church, and meetings will take place at St John’s at 320 Resor Ave. in Clifton.

All civic organizations, churches, synagogues, meetings and mosques are invited to come together to consider the economics of environmental sustainability.

See the detailed schedule of events on page 7, under Civic Engagement item #4: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: ACTIVE ON MULTIPLE FRONTS

**1. CAAG:** Woman's City Club has continued to sponsor a multi-sensory language arts tutoring program for 26 kindergartners in two Cincinnati Public Schools, Rothenberg and Winton Hills Academies, through our Catalyst for Achievement Action Group (CAAG). The program, designed by Linda Wihl, is for children who can benefit from a weekly, one hour, one on one intervention focusing on learning the building blocks to reading, the skills of listening to and remembering stories, and vocabulary.

The program has an impressive track record. Most children end the school year at or above grade level in language arts. As usual for this time of year, this year's children are reading and writing simple words and many are able to read simple sentences and stories. A field trip to Joseph-Beth Booksellers will take place soon. This is an opportunity for the children to visit a bookstore with rich resources, select a few books to take home, and eat at a restaurant.

After years of financial

support by Women's City Club and its members and St. Bernard's Catholic Church, for the past few years the program has operated through grants from the Nabama Foundation.

**2. ROOKWOOD GROUP:** Woman's City Club is an active member of the Rookwood Group, which recently formalized its mission as: "a collaborative effort of nonprofit civic organizations committed to working together to improve citizen engagement in our city and region. Our goal is to provide carefully researched and discussed information regarding issues that impact the Greater Cincinnati community." In response to their concerns about the City's proposal to privatize its parking operation, for example, members gathered critical information, shared their concerns with Council and the City Manager, and continue to monitor developments. Last fall, as a "summative" activity for its research and reporting on four-year Council terms, members worked together to present a spirited debate on

the pros and cons of expanding Council terms. Currently we are considering different approaches to programming for the Council and Mayoral elections.

**3. CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT PROJECT:** Several WCC members are working with an ad hoc group to develop proposals for expanding citizen involvement in City decision-making. The process has involved gathering and analyzing information and models from cities throughout the country as well as models and analyses by professional organizations and scholars.

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION:** WCC will sponsor a monthly Sunday evening discussion -- *Changing CO<sub>2</sub>urse: Local Solutions to a Global Crisis* -- a series of films and speakers that address the environmental crisis as a crisis of conscience. Series location is St John's UU Church in Clifton.

The series was launched on March 24 with a public screening of the film RENEWAL. The documentary presents the stories of eight

different congregations of different faiths as they combat global warming and the devastation of mountaintop removal, promote food security and environmental justice, recycle and conserve, and teach respect for life on Earth. It shows that when multiplied by the power of community, we can each make a greater difference.

On **April 28**, we will watch the second half of RENEWAL.

On **May 26**, we will discuss the TRANSITION TOWN initiative, a small-scale local response to the global challenges of climate change, economic hardship, and shrinking supplies of cheap energy. This movement is happening in thousands of communities across the world.

On **June 23**, we will hear about the CINCINNATI UNION COOPERATIVE INITIATIVE based on the *Mondragon* worker-owned model that began in the Basque region of Spain after the Spanish civil war left the region devastated.

~ Sarah Gideonse

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### KEEPS US CONNECTED TO THE CLUB

The Membership Committee meets regularly every month for dinner at Max & Erma's to plan ways to engage our members and invite new members to join the Club.

In past months, WCC members gathered every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month to discuss various topics such as the impact of the Dream Act on children of local non-documented workers, low-cost housing & homelessness, the issue of 4-year terms, the problems centering on human trafficking in Cincinnati, Vanessa Spark's inspiring work with children in the West End and Over the Rhine, and last month, a post-forum discussion of National Speaker Robin's Wright's talk on US. Intervention in the Middle East: When Is Enough Really Enough?

See **page 5 of this Bulletin** for the Committee's current offering: a WCC BOOK AUTHORS' NIGHT on Tuesday, April 16.

**Forget to renew your membership for 2012-13?** Go to [Womancityclub.org](http://Womancityclub.org) and follow the simple directions! If you are not online or need a registration form, contact the WCC office at 513-751-010.

And if you would like to participate in membership planning, please contact Mary Wells, chair of the committee at her WCC email address: [membership@womancityclub.org](mailto:membership@womancityclub.org).

~ Mary Wells, Membership Chairperson



## Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

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www.womanscityclub.org



The mission of the Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati is to secure a more just and livable community for all. WCC programs educate, encourage, and equip citizens to play an active role in civic affairs.

## Calendar of WCC Events

### Friday, April 12

#### **SEASONGOOD LUNCHEON**

11:30 am  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5901  
Pfeiffer Road in Blue Ash

### Tuesday, April 16

#### **WCC Monthly Discussion: WCC BOOK AUTHORS.**

7:00-8:30 pm  
First Unitarian Church  
536 Linton Street

### Wednesday, April 24

#### **WCC Board Meeting**

6:30 pm  
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian  
Church, The Geier Room

### Sunday, April 28

#### **Changing CO<sub>2</sub>urse: Local Solutions to a Global Crisis Film: RENEWAL (part 2)**

7:00 pm  
St John's Unitarian  
Universalist Church, 320  
Resor Ave, Clifton

### Wednesday May 22

#### **Annual WCC SHAKESPEARE EVENT**

5:30 pm  
Cincinnati Shakespeare  
Company, 719 Race

### Sun May 26

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

7:00 pm  
St John's Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
320 Resor Ave

### Tuesday, June 18

#### **WCC Monthly Discussion: ACCESS TO CIVIL JUSTICE**

12:00 noon  
Cincinnati Bar Association,  
225 E 6th St., 5th floor

### Sunday, June 23

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

7:00 pm  
St John's Unitarian  
Universalist Church, 320  
Resor Ave, Clifton

### Wednesday, June 26

#### **WCC Board Meeting**

6:30 pm  
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian  
Church, The Geier Room

## LIKE! WCC FaceBook

FB makes it easy to reach out. People don't have to be motivated enough to join a committee or ask to be put on a list—they get the information you post, automatically.

It makes it easy to reach out; and it makes it easy to be reached, too. It's simple to stay informed of civic life through FB posts and links. Just "like" or "friend" the pages of organizations whose activities you want to follow.

We certainly hope that Woman's City Club will be one such page!



The *e-Bulletin*, together with the *Weekly Updates* and *News From Our Network*, keeps our membership connected. The next issue will appear in **June**. Deadline for copy is May 20, 2013 (word limit 250 words.)

- Jeanne Nightingale Managing Editor.  
- Marty Harrington Layout Editor.