

Lighting the fire, leading the way,
since 1915

THE BULLETIN

August 2018

GREEN TIPS FOR SUMMER

Changing is not always easy,
But it's the right thing to do.

Ways to reduce your carbon footprint:

1. Plan to combine driving trips.
2. Take your sports bottle with you. It saves on plastic and keeps you hydrated.
3. Eat local to save shipping costs and to lessen pollution.
4. Go to your local farmers' market. Bring your own reusable bag and small bills.
5. In drought conditions, water trees and shrubs (your grass will come back).
6. Switch to plants that will survive our changing climate.

~ Mary Gerson

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Letter from the President

In one of those silly but irresistible Facebook quizzes currently making the rounds, I was given the title Guardian of the Cosmic Revolution, which I so enjoyed. It suits me much better than the kindly Angel of Magnificent Compassion and other possibilities, as it describes pretty well what I have been about my entire adult life in both my volunteer and professional work. And it has made me smile as I learn about the new responsibilities I have taken on as president of Woman's City Club.

We WCC members like to think of ourselves as feisty women (we are!), and we are known for *Stirring the Pot* (as I named our Centennial cookbook). We may not yet have achieved cosmic stature, but looking over our 103-year history, I think we can lay fair claim to being revolutionary: we fought for women to have a voice and a vote; we cleaned up city government; we've stood for racial equality and justice from forums addressing diversity and racism in the 1980s to the Collaborative Agreement; we actively work for immigration rights, inclusion, and diversity across Greater Cincinnati. I am proud to be asked to serve as Guardian of all the good things we have accomplished and all the good ideas we put forth in our Mission in Motion discussion at the Annual Meeting in June.

And WCC is already very much in motion to implement our mission to Educate, Empower, and Engage in the 2018 – 2019 program year. The National Speaker Forum Committee, thrilled with the great response to Martha Raddatz's appearance in May and the financial success of the Forum (it netted \$13,165, despite the

challenges of rescheduling), has made its short list of speakers for 2019 and is negotiating with the top choice's agent. The Program Committee has already put on the Price Hill Art Walk and planned programs for September and October. Thriving Cincinnati will present the Women's Expo on Fountain Square on September 28. In this Bulletin you can read about these and much more!

I invite every member of WCC to be as active as possible this year. Note all the program and committee dates in your calendar so you don't miss anything. Tell your friends about WCC—consider giving them a copy of our cookbook or our history book—and encourage them to join. Take a look at the Committees list on our website (under *About WCC*) and send an email to WCC@WomansCityClub.org to sign up for the ones that interest you. Use your skills and talents in your own unique way to work with WCC to make Greater Cincinnati a truly great city for everyone who lives or works here.

Be part of the continuing revolution!



~Janet Buening

The Monthly *e-Bulletin* keeps us connected with our membership, our network and our community. The next issue will appear September 1. The deadline for submissions and committee reports will be Wednesday, August 24.

~ Editorial Board: Jeanne Nightingale, Sarah Gideonse, Jo-Ann Albers, and Anne Skove

MEMBER PROFILE: Arzell “Papazell” Nelson

Dedicated civil rights advocate, determined community activist, mentor, family man, and faithful attendee at Woman’s City Club events, **Arzell Nelson** stands out in any setting.

Arzell, once more, is a celebrated musician, composer and playwright. He has written five musicals and more than 300 songs. His earliest compositions were recorded during the mid ‘70s in New York City at Columbia Records. Accepting the coveted *Karmaveer Puraskar* award in 2011 in New Delhi, he said, “I believe that the promotion and fostering human relations/civil rights is more important now than ever before. I am committed to the advancement of a just and peaceful society. It is indeed an honor to have been selected for this award. I will keep doing my best with my art, music and human relations work to give back to society to the best of my ability and human capacity.”

Karmaveer Puraskar is a national award created in 2006 for Social Justice & Citizen Action. The award is instituted by iCONGO – Indian Confederation of NGOs – to recognize individuals who have been pivotal for being and leading the change beyond their personal daily lives and business as usual by being committed on individual levels to work for social justice issues with proactive citizen action.

Arzell retired in 1998 as executive director of the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission in 1998, after 25 years of service. He was charged originally by **Virginia Coffey**, his boss, to do whatever he could “to keep kids off the streets.” During CHRC years, he received the Key to the City of Cincinnati by three different Mayors. **Governor George Voinovich** of Ohio recognized him twice with proclamations for civic leadership and promotion of cultural diversity. And **President Bill Clinton** wrote two letters of

appreciation for services rendered. “I’m satisfied,” he said upon his retirement, “I’m like a cup that has been filled with wine and my cup runneth over. Maybe I’ll think about running for office. By nature, I’m an activist, and I’m about changing society for the better. I’ll talk to some people and see how I can become significant to the city and make contributions to it.” He is most proud of three accomplishments during his tenure: Helping start the Back on the Block Program that provides night-time recreation to keep young people out of trouble; creating Community Relations Monitors, who help police large crowds and facilitate relations between officials and young people; and promoting cultural diversity throughout the city, including playing a part in Cultural Diversity Day with the Cincinnati Reds.

A few of his other awards are the Berry/ Gottschalk Award of Bridges for a Just Community; the Theodore Berry Leadership Award and Mark of Excellence Award of Community Action Agency; the Mark of Excellence Award of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators; the A.C. Makapehko Award of the Ukraine Department of State; the Multicultural Award of the Miami Purchase Association; and the Ohio Valley Jazz Festival’s Kool Jazz Award for his original musical, *Little Boy Jazz*, which was performed in the Playhouse In the Park/Marx Theater. Nelson’s wife, Cynthia, is his greatest supporter along with his son and daughter, Craig Boyd and Monica Mackey.

~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers



Four-Year Council Terms Back on the Ballot

On August 1, Cincinnati City Council voted to ask citizens again whether we should change the length of council member terms: should we go back to 2-year terms, or stagger the current 4-year terms so that there would be a city council election every 2 years?

Council approved a motion from Councilmember **Greg Landsman** that voters approve a Charter change from the current straight 4-year terms – with voting for all 9 council members – to 4-year staggered terms beginning with the general election in November 2021.

To achieve staggered terms, 5 members would be elected to 4-year terms and 4 elected to 2-year terms. There would be council elections thereafter every 2 years. Landsman took this action because Vice Mayor **Chris Smitherman** had been circulating petitions to return to 2-year terms. Landsman stated that voters should be given a choice, however, so he proposed that 2-year terms also be included on the ballot.

In 2012, members of Woman’s City Club along with representatives of other civic organizations did extensive research on 4-year terms. The research provided then Councilmember **Laure Quinlivan** with

the pros and cons of 4-year terms and four-year staggered terms. Of the cities we surveyed, most had already moved to some form of 4-year term. Nationally, 85% of those cities staggered those 4-year terms. WCC’s recommendation at the time was for staggered terms. It is unclear why council members chose not to work out the details of staggering terms, so voters were only given the choice of 2 or 4-year terms. In 2015, a Charter review committee convened by Mayor **John Cranley** also recommended a change to staggered terms, but no action was taken.

Responses to a 2016 study done by WCC member **Sue Wilke** and Citizens for Civic Renewal Executive Director **Jeffrey Stec** from community leaders and city council to assess the effects of 4-year terms on city governance, also showed preference for staggered terms. A number of other changes to the Charter will also be on the ballot in November. WCC members are encouraged to pay close attention to and be informed about these important Charter changes that affect city governance.

Submitted by Sue Wilke, Civic Engagement Committee



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC, MENTAL, AND PHYSICAL HEALTH EXPO 2018

On Fountain Square

Friday, September 28, 11:00 am—1:30 pm

Join us at the Expo:

- Sponsor an agency table for \$25. Contact the WCC office at 513-751-0100 or email wcc@womancityclub.org for more information.
- Listen to speaker Cathy Bailey and others on women's economic, mental, and physical health.
- Gather information from agency tables.
- Dance with the PONES flashdancers!



WOMAN'S
CITY CLUB
OF GREATER CINCINNATI



Thriving
CINCINNATI

REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING 2018

"Mission in Motion"

With a theme of Mission in Motion, WCC's 2018 Annual Meeting, held on June 21, wrapped up another successful year of programs and events and generated many great ideas for the 2018-19 program year.

Outgoing president **Nancy Walters** opened the meeting by thanking the board and members who all work so hard on behalf of WCC and provided such strong support in her year as president. Nancy will now be serving WCC as Vice President, Administration.

Financial advisor **Roger Smith** was not able to attend, but we briefly reviewed the working budget for FYE 2019 and agreed we would find a way to avoid deficit spending. Jeff Dey presented an excellent slide show that highlighted the accomplishments of the year, including our programs, Feist Tea, National Speaker Forum, and Seasongood Luncheon. Rina Saperstein conducted a review of WCC's adherence to the Strategic Plan that included specific examples of goals set and achieved.

Incoming president **Janet Buening** thanked WCC for entrusting leadership of the club to her, and promised to do her best to "keep stirring the pot in the year ahead." She then introduced the new officers, the board members, and committee chairs, giving each the opportunity to make any needed announcements about their committees.

Mission in Motion filled the second hour of the meeting.



Janet Buening and Nancy Walters
Photo by Harriet Kaufman

This mission-centric broad topic discussion replaced the committee-work brainstorm of recent years. It not only kept the focus on the three pillars of our mission statement—Educate, Empower, Engage—but also encouraged a richer, deeper discussion since ideas did not need to fit neatly into a committee box. **Amy Katzman** facilitated for Education, **Susan Noonan** for Empower, and **Shannon Isaacs** for Engage. Comments flowed freely and enthusiastically, from suggestions for new collaborations to topics for programs to specific ways to be better listeners and more engaged with our community. All comments were recorded in detail on chart paper, and these will serve as the basis for discussion and planning at the board retreat in August.

The Annual Meeting was a microcosm of everything that makes WCC a strong and active organization as it enters its 104th year of service to Greater Cincinnati: good people, good food, good energy, great ideas!

~ Janet Buening, WCC President

Woman's City Club invites members and friends to
A Late Summer Gathering for Good in support of
GIRLS WITH P.E.A.R.L.S. Cincinnati

Purpose. Empowerment. Attitude. Responsibility. Leadership. Service

Noon, Wednesday, August 22, 2018

Venice on Vine, 1301 Vine St., Cincinnati, OH 45202

Join us for lunch with friends at the terrific Venice on Vine restaurant downtown!

At the same time, you may want to contribute items listed below to the young ladies in the wonderful Girls with Pearls program.

Girls with Pearls Cincinnati is a program for underserved elementary and middle school-aged girls in several CPS schools, works to keep a girl in school, help her dream big, and empower her to plan for her future and the goals she wants to achieve. It provides the girls with a safe space to talk about and work through issues like self-esteem, their bodies and body image, sexuality and healthy relationships, as well as the challenges of growing up in inner city neighborhoods.

The girls each receive their own strand of imitation pearls designating their membership in the group. PEARLS is also an acronym for the program's values: Purpose, Empowerment, Attitude, Responsibility, Leadership, and Service.

In addition to award-winning pizza, customers may order salads and sandwiches.

RSVP – Marge Davis-321-6835

or Sarah Gideonse – 871-6927, Sarah.Gideonse@fuse.net

Tamie Sullivan, who founded the first program in Rockdale Academy, asks for donations of a few items the girls need as the new school year begins:

Journals

Planners (weekly calendars)

Purses with cross-body straps

large enough to hold a phone and a few personal care items

**We hope that many members and friends can come to lunch, but if not, please leave donated items in the box outside the WCC office,
103 Wm. H. Taft Road 45219.**



ORSANCO MOVES TO “WATER DOWN” ITS WATER QUALITY STANDARDS



The Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission, known as ORSANCO, is a multi-state commission charged with protecting the Ohio River. It sets Pollution Control Standards for industrial and municipal waste water discharges to the Ohio River and tracks certain dischargers whose effluent can seriously impact water quality. To keep pace with current issues, ORSANCO strives to review the standards at least every three years.

At their June meeting, the commissioners from the federal government and eight states along the Ohio voted 14-to-6 to move forward with an industry-backed proposal to lower its water pollution control standards for industrial and municipal wastewater discharges into the river. Since 1948, ORSANCO has been Ohio’s bulwark keeping protective pollution control standards for the Ohio



River. Now, topping the list of most polluted rivers in the country, the Ohio River is at a critical juncture. The drinking water for millions of people who depend on it is at grave risk.

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW! The cutoff for public comment is **MID-NIGHT, AUGUST 20**. The ORSANCO commission will make the final decision in early October. **Contact ORSANCO at pcs@orsanco.org and tell them to say NO to eliminating pollution control standards for the Ohio River!**

For more information, go to: www.orsanco.org/programs/pollution-control-standards.

~ Jeanne Nightingale, Chair Environmental Action

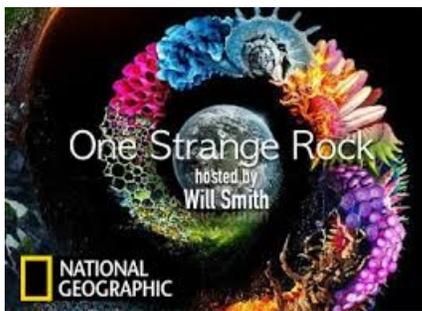
In addition to providing drinking water to 5 million people, the Ohio River is known as a “working river” because of the hundreds of industrial and wastewater treatment plants along its 981 mile route. Photo: Garden City Hiker / flickr

CHANGING COURSE

Saturday, AUGUST 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

St. John’s UU Church, 320 Resor, Clifton

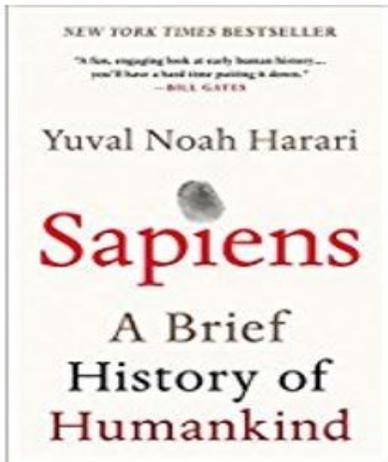
ONE STRANGE ROCK



First in a 10-part cinematic event series that explores the fragility and wonder of planet Earth. Episodes delve into monumental events such as genesis, cosmic violence, human intelligence, oxygen, and survival versus destruction.

Co-Sponsors: Woman’s City Club of Greater Cincinnati, League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, Cincinnati Women’s Political Caucus, Citizens’ Climate Lobby, St. John’s UU Green Sanctuary Partners.

NEXT WOMAN'S CITY CLUB BOOK DISCUSSION



We will continue discussion of:

Sapiens **A Brief History of Humankind**

By Yuval Noah Harari

10 am, Saturday, September 22, 2018

Home of Jo-Ann Albers

9609 Iris Drive, West Chester 45241

For directions and to RSVP, call 513-759-0229

Or email her at Joann.albers@wku.edu

Please join us for a second conversation about the fascinating history of mankind, *Sapiens*. Members and friends not able to attend our July meeting are welcome and encouraged to attend. Much to talk about!

From a renowned historian comes a groundbreaking narrative of humanity's creation and evolution. Dr. Yuval Noah Harari begins about 70,000 years ago with the appearance of modern cognition. From examining the role evolving humans have played in the global ecosystem to charting the rise of empires, *Sapiens* integrates history and science to reconsider accepted narratives, connect past developments with contemporary concerns, and examine specific events within the context of larger ideas. (Adapted from Amazon write-up.)

PUBLIC EDUCATION TOWN HALL

Saturday, September 15, 10 am to noon

Location TBA

This forum will share the "Reinvestment Report" of the national Alliance to Reclaim our Schools (AROS), to be released September 5. The national report demonstrates how over the past 13 years the federal government has shortchanged public schools by \$580 billion dollars, and this figure does not even include underfunding occurring at the state and local levels. The report also addresses how policy decisions to not fund public education have harmed our schools.



The Town Hall aims to educate candidates on public education funding and the public on how their vote for candidates affects their local public schools. The Town Hall will offer legislators potential policy solutions and offer the candidates and the public a "Public Education Pledge" to commit to shared values to support public education.

After the presentation ends at 11:30, there will be an opportunity for the public to meet the candidates and for candidates to share what they have learned and what they will commit to if elected.

Similar events are being held throughout the country, with a goal to impact the agendas of political candidates at every level, but ours will focus on issues specific to Cincinnati and Hamilton County. The forum is cosponsored by Woman's City Club and a local coalition led by the Cincinnati Educational Justice Center, a chapter of AROS.

I Pledge...

THE ALLIANCE
TO RECLAIM OUR SCHOOLS
reclaimourschools.org

#WeCHOOSE
EDUCATION EQUITY. NOT THE
ILLUSION OF "SCHOOL CHOICE"

I, _____

will vote on November 6, 2018,
because I care about the following issues:

- A Moratorium on Funding for New Charter Schools and Vouchers
- Full Funding for Programs Targeting Under-Served Students
- Policies that Make Wealthy Individuals and Corporations Pay Their Fair Share

In addition to voting, I will:

- Encourage my family, friends, and neighbors to vote
- Share how public education is on the ballot this November

I am an Education Justice Voter.

📍 Address: _____

🏠 City: _____ Zip: _____

☎ Phone: _____

✉ Email: _____

I Am a:

Student

Parent

Community Member

Educator

Organizer

Activist

I Pledge...

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- 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

Monday, August 6, 6:00 pm: Program Committee meets in the WCC meeting room.

Tuesday, August 7, 4:00 pm: Finance Committee meets in the WCC meeting room.

Wednesday, August 8, 6:00 pm: Membership Committee meets in the WCC conference room.

Saturday, August 18, 9:00 am-1:00 pm: WCC Leadership Retreat. Home of Susan Noonan, 8181 Lakeshore Drive, West Chester.

Friday, August 24: WCC office closed.

Saturday, August 25, 6:30-8:30 pm: Changing Course: "One Strange Rock." St John's Unitarian Universalist Church, 320 Resor, Clifton.

Tuesday, August 28, 5:30 pm: Communications Committee meeting. Meet at Lydia's on Ludlow.

Saturday, September 15, 10:00 am-noon: Public Education Town Hall. Location TBA. See page 6 for more information.

Saturday, September 22, 10:00 am: Book Club meets at the home of Jo-Ann Albers. See page 6 for more information.

Friday, September 28, 11:30 am-1:00 pm: Womens' Economic, Physical, and Mental Health Expo, Fountain Square.



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/.



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



Like us on Twitter
[@womanscityclub](https://twitter.com/womanscityclub)

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Managing Editors: Jeanne Nightingale, Sarah Gideonse, Jo-Ann Albers, and Anne Skove