



Dear ,

January 7, 2019

The Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati cordially invites you to join us in cosponsoring our 26th annual National Speaker Forum as we celebrate our 104th year as a leading civic organization in Cincinnati.

Our speaker this year is **Helen Thorpe**, an award-winning author, journalist, and radio commentator who emigrated to the United States with her Irish parents in 1965. Informed by this experience she has written three highly praised books about women, leadership, and immigration. *Soldier Girls* tells the stories of women soldiers in the Middle East. *Just Like Us* is about four Mexican girls coming of age in Denver. Her most recent book, *The Newcomers*, explores what it means to "be American," and presents her perspective on the issues of immigration, multiculturalism, and America's role on the global stage.

WCC's annual fundraising event will take place on **Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at 7:00 pm** in Memorial Hall, 1225 Elm Street in Over-the-Rhine. Helen Thorpe's topic is:

**Searching for Refuge, Friendship, and Hope:
Perspectives on Immigration — What Does It Mean to "Be American" Today?**

Woman's City Club is proud of its long service to the community and committed to continuing its mission to educate, empower, and engage the citizens of Cincinnati to promote the common good. The regionally recognized annual National Speaker Forum directly addresses this mission.

Your cosponsorship of the 2019 National Speaker Forum will help WCC continue to provide public leadership and civic education forums to the Greater Cincinnati area. Cosponsorship costs \$300 for eight lecture tickets and two private reception tickets, a substantially reduced price. Details are on the enclosed cosponsor form. A bio of Helen Thorpe is also enclosed.

Thank you for considering our request. We hope you will support us as a cosponsor—and look forward to seeing you at the Forum.

Sincerely,

Janet Buening, President, Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati

Woman's City Club

National Speaker Forum 2019

Helen Thorpe

"Helen Thorpe has taken policy and turned it into literature." – Malcom Gladwell

An award-winning immersive journalist known for the personal insights of her books and articles, Helen Thorpe was born in Irish parents, emigrated to the United States as a one-year-old, in Denver, Colorado. She graduated magna cum laude from received an MA in English literature from Columbia. Her appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Monthly*, *Slate*, *Westword*, *Chalkbeat*, and *5280*. Her radio aired on *This American Life* and *Sound Print*. She is also the three books, works of narrative nonfiction that document in a intimate way the lives of immigrants, refugees, and veterans of conflicts.



and profound London to and now lives Princeton and articles have *Texas* stories have author of human and foreign

Thorpe's first book, *Just Like Us: The True Story of Four Mexican Girls Coming of Age in America* (2009) won the Colorado Book Award and was named one of the best books of the year by *The Washington Post*. The Denver Center for the Performing Arts adapted the nonfiction book for the stage as a play.

Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War (2014) was named by *TIME* as the number one nonfiction book of the year. *The Boston Globe* called it "utterly absorbing, gorgeously written, and unforgettable." And *The New York Times* said: "Thorpe achieves a staggering intimacy with her subjects."

Thorpe's most recent book, *The Newcomers: Finding Refuge, Friendship, and Hope in an American Classroom* (2017), was described by *The New York Times* as "a delicate and heartbreaking mystery story" about 22 immigrant and refugee teenagers who learn English together in a single classroom that represents a microcosm of the global refugee crisis. Many arrive directly from refugee camps, some after having lost one or both parents. Thorpe follows the journeys of three families in particular—from Iraq, Burma, and the Democratic Republic of Congo—to illustrate what life is like in refugee-producing parts of the world and the challenges of assimilation into a new and very different country. As the *New York Times* adds, "Thorpe's book is a reminder that in an era of nativism, some Americans are still breaking down walls and nurturing newcomers, the seeds of the great American experiment."

Thorpe was nominated in 2018 for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, the only annual U.S. literary award that recognizes the power of the written word to promote peace.

Cosponsor Sign-Up Form

Yes, _____
(the name of your organization *exactly* as you would like it listed in the program)

would like to cosponsor the Woman's City Club's 2019 National Speaker Forum with Helen Thorpe at Memorial Hall, 1225 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine Cincinnati, on Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

Name of contact person: _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email: _____

The price of cosponsorship is \$300. That includes a listing in the event program, eight program tickets, and two tickets to the private reception with Ms. Thorpe. Total value of cosponsorship is \$520. Additional tickets may be purchased through Memorial Hall for \$40 each, \$10 for students. There is a convenient link for this on the WCC website at womanscityclub.org.

Thank you for your interest and support for this important event.

*Please complete this form and send with a check for \$300.00,
payable to Woman's City Club to:*

*Woman's City Club
103 William Howard Taft Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45219*

You may also pay online at womanscityclub.org

***To have your organization's name included in the Forum program,
we must receive your notification of cosponsorship and payment by March 5, 2019***

Questions? Please call the Woman's City Club office: (513) 751-0100