

THE 2019 AGNES B. SEASONGOOD LUNCHEON

Green Tips for May



Farmers markets are about to begin for the season.

Shopping at farmers markets supports our local economy and agriculture

Produce will be fresher and tastier, Cut long-distance travel and excess packaging.

So come prepared:

- ◆ Bring your own reusable bags.
- ◆ Bring small bills.
- ◆ Take a moment and chat with people.
- ◆ Enjoy the experience!

~ Mary Gerson



Left to right: Khaila Washington, Lizbeth Amoncendes, Mikaela Wormely, Education Committee chair Beverly Thomas, Perri Wedlock, and Claire Tinkler.

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On Friday, May 3, more than 60 women and men – WCC members, guests, and supporters – along with the Education Award recipients and their families gathered at the impressive Summit: A Dolce Hotel for the 2019 Annual Seasongood Luncheon.

Our speaker was **Kristin Shrimplin**, the CEO of Women Helping Women, whose mission is preventing sexual violence and empowering women. Her presentation – “Pay Attention to Your Path: It Is Your Purpose” – inspired all of us, but especially the 5 high school senior women who were each receiving a \$1,000.00 Education Award!

Shrimplin spoke powerfully to them about the importance of living intentionally and “choosing their path” so they can reach their goals. She shared stories about her own life choices, returning often to a phrase that has encouraged her on her journey: “You are enough.”

Shrimplin also talked about the current environment regarding sexual harassment and violence against women. She ended her presentation by calling us all to action by volunteering for many roles in Women Helping Women programs.

Let’s do it!

~ Susan Noonan

WOMAN’S CITY CLUB SALUTES THE 2019 EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- Lizbeth Amoncendes** — Dixie Heights High School
- Claire Tinkler** — Highlands High School
- Khaila Washington** — Northwest High School
- Perri Wedlock** — Walnut Hills High School
- Mikaela Wormely** — Shroder High School

Of Poems, Pitchers, and Planning



*The pitcher cries
for water to carry
And a person for
work that is real.*

- Marge Piercy,
"To Be of Use"

An event I look forward to each year is the annual Seasongood Luncheon, at which many of our current members gather to honor our past – especially Agnes B. Seasongood herself, one of WCC's most generous and distinguished members – and to help set five senior high school women, our Education Award winners, on a path into their future.

As I looked around the dining room on May 3 at this year's luncheon and saw all the WCC members and supporters, the award recipients and their families, and Kristin Shrimplin, our speaker, I thought of the closing lines of one of my favorite poems, "To Be of Use," by Marge Piercy: "The pitcher cries for water to carry, and a person for work that is real."

I was keenly aware that I was in a room filled with doers and makers, all committed to just this kind of work.

Woman's City Club has certainly spent its 2018-19 program year doing work that is real – and has had real impact: our monthly programs on a wide range of topics, often presented in collaboration with other organizations reach and teach hundreds of people; Thriving

Cincinnati works for equity in all aspects of our community; our in-school tutoring program for kindergarteners makes a significant difference in their future educational success; National Speaker Forum brings us major figures who inform us on timely and challenging topics; the Feist-Tea celebrates the achievements of members whose work has touched many; the Women's Expo on the Square promotes economic, mental and physical health; our Environmental Action group works to protect our planet and to promote awareness; Book Club encourages thoughtful literary conversation; and our outreach programs to the Contact Center and others offer welcome support.

We have one more opportunity for our membership to come together to do work that is real, and really important: our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 5, from 6 to 8:30 pm, in the Geier Room at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church. We need YOU to be there, to evaluate what we did over the past year and to plan what we will do. In many ways, this is our most important meeting of the year because it is your opportunity to voice your opinion, share your ideas, identify



new endeavors, and shape WCC's future direction. In WCC every member all year long is invited in – you are always encouraged to get involved, join a committee, share your time and talent, and I am always eager to hear from you. But coming to the annual meeting is having a good seat at the big table – you are a part of the larger, decision-making conversation.

To paraphrase a line from *Hamilton*, my new favorite musical: "You want to be in the room where it happens."

Please plan now to come to the Annual Meeting, to weigh in on the "what's next" for WCC and ensure that we continue to do work that is real.

~Janet Buening

Join Us for WCC 's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 5

Calling all current, new, and potential members! Please make it a priority to attend WCC's annual meeting on Wednesday, June 5, in the Geier Room at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church. We begin at 6 pm with a potluck dinner; the business meeting begins at 6:30 pm (but dinner will be available throughout the evening). This is our time to review the 2018-19 program year, install new board members and officers, and plan for 2019-20 and beyond. We need all your honest comments and new ideas!

The Annual Report will be sent to members prior to the meeting. Please review it and bring it with you on June 5.

Scenes from Our Seasongood Luncheon



Lizbeth Amocendes



Claire Tinkler



Kristin Shrimplin



Perri Wedlock



Khaila Washington



Mikaela Wormely



RACHEL CHUNG TO SPEAK ON

“SEX CRIMES: SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN ALL-WOMEN SHAKESPEARE PRODUCTIONS”

MONDAY, MAY 20, 7 PM

HOME OF HERA REINES IN HYDE PARK

FOR ADDRESS AND TO RESERVE A PLACE ON THE
WAITING LIST: WCC@WOMANSCITYCLUB.ORG
OR 513-751-0100

WCC invites members and their friends to a “salon,” an intimate gathering, to hear scholar Rachel Chung talk about her doctoral thesis on sexual violence in all-women productions of Shakespeare plays.

The topic could not be more pertinent, as our local treasure, the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company (CSC), will be presenting the “Season of the Woman” next year, the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage. CSC will be re-gendering the title character in *Hamlet* as a woman, and presenting plays with women as leading characters, by women, and on women’s issues.

Rachel Chung, a PhD candidate at the University of Edinburgh in English Literature, will be in town visiting and agreed to share her work. She is finishing a research fellowship in the Department of English Literature at Harvard.

Chung has also earned her MS in narrative medicine and BS in applied mathematics from Columbia University. While in New York, Chung worked as a director, writer, and designer for student and regional theatre

companies, eventually leading her to change career paths from engineering and medicine to the arts and academia. However, Chung hopes to incorporate her background in the sciences into her work in literature and theatre.

Because the event takes place in a home, attendance is limited. We are already at waitlist capacity. Members will have priority.



~ Sarah Gideonse

Encouraging New Members at WCC 101



The Membership Committee, president Janet Buening, and long-standing members welcomed seven new members to Woman’s City Club at the second WCC 101 held on April 29. During the program we learned about the remarkable talents these ladies are bringing to our club and how they hope to participate in making our mission statement a reality for Greater Cincinnati. Those of us who have been with WCC for a while now were able to offer advice and suggestions on how everyone could become involved with the committees, action groups, and programs that best suited each person.

While WCC 101 is an informational session geared toward new members, it is also open to WCC members who want to learn how to become more involved. The Membership Committee is planning the next WCC 101, which will be held in August. Stay tuned for more information!

~ Anne Buening, Membership VP



WCC WAKES UP EARLY FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION ON IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



Left to right:
Mark Curnutte,
Diana Maria Lara,
Dan Sarell, and
Mir sada Kadiric

At the 2019 National Speaker Forum in April, Helen Thorpe shared stories and photos about the people she wrote about in *The Newcomers* and *Just Like Us* and helped us understand both the struggles and successes of finding refuge, friendship, and hope in a new country. But we wanted to know more about the newcomers to our own community, the people who are telling their stories, and how we can help welcome them. So on May 11, a sunny Saturday morning, WCC hosted its first Saturday Session Coffee and Conversation, with an extraordinary panel of speakers, to learn more about the refugees and immigrants in Greater Cincinnati.

Diana Maria Lara, who introduced Thorpe at the Forum, is a former TV reporter and fierce advocate for social justice in the local Hispanic community. She spoke about her experiences growing up between two cultures and languages, speaking with humor and passion about what it was like to be “the other.” Lara then gave the mic to her husband, **Mark Curnutte**, an award-winning reporter for *The Cincinnati Enquirer* and *USA Today*, who has written many powerful stories about the refugees and immigrants starting new lives in our area. Curnutte told how a request to assist Bernard Pastor, a young DREAMer being detained in Butler County, led him to tell that story, which was picked up nationally and helped to secure Pastor’s release. He refers to his wife as his “secret weapon” — and though this was the first time they spoke together on a panel, with their combined skills and means of access they regularly work together in many ways on behalf of newcomers in our region.

Mirsada Kadiric, board president of RefugeeConnect, related her devastating and inspiring personal story about losing her father to a concentration camp in Bosnia, being sent to a concentration camp with her mother but escaping and making her way by night, without papers or possessions, across borders to safety, then moving to the U.S. as a teenager, and finally finding her voice in college. Now a successful business woman, she has written a book about her experiences and serves as a mentor to young refugees. She told us of the work being done by RefugeeConnect and encouraged us to volunteer in any way we can to help.

Dan Sarell, director of Mission Advancement for Catholic Charities (the largest provider of services to immigrants in our area), spoke about the work being done through the agency’s Su Casa Hispanic Center, Refugee Resettlement, and Immigration Legal Services that is making a difference in so many lives. But the facts and figures he shared were both depressing and disturbing — Catholic Charities was prepared to welcome 450 legally entering refugees in 2017, but that changed dramatically under the new administration. In 2018, Catholic Charities resettled only 126 refugees in Greater Cincinnati. Our city is ready to welcome the stranger, but our federal government is no longer letting them come in. Still, Catholic Charities offers many volunteer opportunities for those who want to support the people who are building new lives here.

The event was engaging, well-attended, and well-received. Thanks to everyone who rose and shone with WCC!

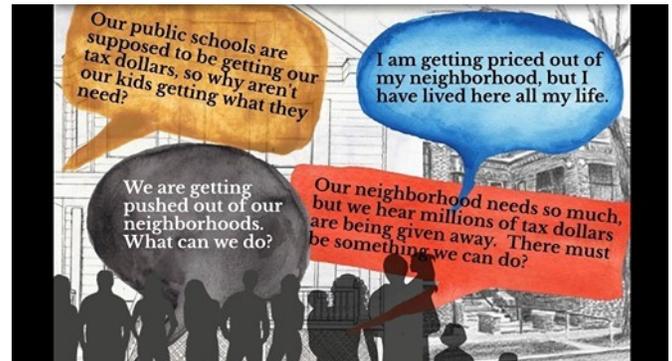


“A Community Call to Action for Fair Tax Abatements” NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND TAX ABATEMENTS

On April 17 the third program in a series focusing on the City of Cincinnati’s reauthorization of the 1999 tax abatement agreements took place at the Madisonville Recreation Center. Another large and vocal crowd came out for “A Community Call to Action for Fair Tax Abatements,” cosponsored by Woman’s City Club, the Cincinnati Educational Justice Coalition (CEJC), and many other organizations who are advocating for their constituencies on the issues of fair taxation. If you were not able to attend the meeting, you can watch the entire program at www.facebook.com/OFTunion/videos/1589686071176270/.

Action steps recommended at this meeting include attending the events sponsored by CEJC, joining the task force it is organizing to work for change, and attending City Council meeting and budget hearings. Up-to-date information about all of these is posted regularly on the CEJC Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CincinnatiEducationalJusticeCoalition/.

Another important action step is to encourage communities to consider implementing the Equitable Development Rubric developed by the Peaslee Neighborhood Center, or develop something comparable that works for the



community. The Peaslee Rubric is based on the assumption that taxes, zoning, and public land belong to the taxpayers and exist for the public good – so if public subsidies are used, the city needs to carefully evaluate the kind of return they are getting. The rubric scores development projects on their contribution to equity across class and race and recommends that only developments that help achieve public goals around equity should be offered tax incentives. For detailed information on this rubric, please visit the website at peasleecenter.org/rubric-intro/.

Woman’s City Club encourages all citizens to stay informed on this important issue and to continue working for fair property tax policies that help all Cincinnati neighborhoods thrive.

~ Janet Buening

Connecting Qualified Women to Civic Boards

Appointed, a non-partisan initiative of Women’s Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, identifies opportunities for women to serve on civic boards and commissions, and empowers them to seek a seat at the table. Appointed provides support and training opportunities, and listings of available openings. Civic boards are public entities in which members are appointed by a government entity, usually an elected official. The appointed members are volunteers, doing a public service for their community. Women represent 51% of the population in the Cincinnati region but hold less than one-third of civic board seats, and 32% of our civic boards have no female representation at all. Women of color are even more deeply underrepresented. Signing up for Appointed takes five minutes; as vacancies arise, Appointed will keep you informed about board vacancies around the region.

This May, openings include: Hamilton County Rural Zoning Commission, Hospital Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals (Deadline for those is **May 22**). The City of Cincinnati has over a dozen city manager-appointed boards ranging from Tax Incentive Review Council to Sidewalk Board of Appeals, and another group of boards appointed by the Mayor. Appointed also offers a listing of boards for other jurisdictions from Addyston to Wyoming. For details on all of these possibilities, contact hankinsonh@gcfdn.org.



~ Rina Saperstein,
VP Civic Engagement



CHERYL MEADOWS

"I joined Woman's City Club because I believe in the mission of WCC and the value of educating and engaging the public on various subject matters," said Cheryl Meadows.

"Also, I am impressed with commitment of the WCC board. These woman work diligently on programs and events. I admire their dedication and hard work. I have not been as engaging on the board as I would've liked to be, no excuses. However, I will always try to support WCC and its events because I believe in what WCC does in the community."

As a young professional, Meadows often attended monthly meetings of the Woman's City Club on McMillan Street to learn about "happenings" in the city. "One woman who caught my attention was Marian Spencer, because she was quite active in WCC and a woman of color. She inspired me, and I wanted to emulate her," Meadows said.

A native of Cincinnati and described as "a City Hall insider" when she was appointed executive director of the Cincinnati Human relations Commission, Meadows had graduated from Withrow High School, earned a BA in sociology from Tennessee State University and an MA in community planning from the University of Cincinnati. In 1992 she was honored as a YWCA Woman of Achievement.

She had two stints of employment with the City of Cincinnati. Her first, which lasted 31 years, included being a city planner, assistant to the city manager for Human Services, Department of Neighborhood Services director and Employment and Training Division director.

When she retired from the city the first time, Meadows became the Lincoln Heights village manager for five years and then was rehired by Cincinnati as director of the Human

Relations Commission. She retired from that post in January 2012.

Of the club's value, Meadows said, "The Woman's City Club is making a difference by educating and engaging the community. An educated public is vital for the good of the country.

"WCC has been rejuvenated and is doing good work in the community by providing interesting forums to educate and engage the public. In addition, the WCC has been making a concerted effort to bringing in a younger generation of women to continue carrying the torch, which is vital for the continuation of the organization."

Meadows' family includes her son, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren.

She enjoys traveling and volunteering in the schools and community. Her hobbies are reading, traveling, and tutoring elementary age students in the schools.



~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers

Jeff Dey Honored by Kennedy Heights Arts Center

Woman's City Club's secretary **Jeff Dey** was honored on Founders Day at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center on Sunday, May 5. Dey was given its highest award, the Kennedy Award for Leadership, for his extraordinary work in establishing and growing the Center. Dey has supported the Center in ways large and small, as a board member and as a volunteer. He is particularly beloved for the pies he contributes to dinners and fundraisers.

Photo: Jeff Dey with Ellen Muse-Lindeman, Kennedy Heights Arts Center executive director.



WCC Makes News on Environmental Action



In its April 26 issue, *Cincinnati Magazine* named Woman's City Club's Environmental Action Group as one of five organizations who work year-round to ensure Cincinnati stays clean and beautiful. Mention was made of WCC's work to advocate for LEED-certified schools, to fight against frack-waste injection wells, to organize a town hall discussion with the League of Women Voters on the city's sewer system, and to present its series of films and guest speaker events to raise community awareness on local and global environmental issues.

The four other organizations named are Green Umbrella, Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, and Center for Conservation. WCC should be very proud! But it is now incumbent upon us as committed stakeholders to remain vigilant and promote actions that maintain our city's environmental resilience and quality of life.

On Earth Day, WCC's Environmental Action Group joined the Past Plastic Coalition to commandeer a booth at Summit Park and distribute reusable bags designed by Kroger. Names were collected in support of our proposed ban against plastic single-use bags. The *Cincinnati Business Courier* ran a pulse poll that day showing that 62% would be happy to see their store ban plastic bags. Only 30% find plastic bags too convenient to give up. Thanks to fracking, the petrochemical giants are poised to make the toxic consequences of America's plastics boom much, much worse.

Earlier in the month, we joined with Earthcare Leadership at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church to screen the film *From Paris to Pittsburgh*, which celebrates American cities that are demanding and developing real solutions to climate change. **Larry Falkin**, Cincinnati's director of environment and sustainability, spoke on our city's dedicated response to the challenge. As the weather grows more deadly and destructive, we aren't waiting for Washington to act! Indeed, Cincinnati should be proud of its unprecedented commitment, accomplishments, and recognition for local sustainability efforts that have saved the city money over many years. Bloomberg Philanthropies, in fact, picked the Queen City as one of seven in the latest round of American Cities Climate Challenge to win \$2.5 million grant for renewable power generation equipment.

Despite these heroic efforts, however, Cincinnati's budget proposal for the coming year oddly seeks to cut the position of director of the Office of Environment and Sustainability! Eliminated also would be funding for Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance that incentivizes energy-efficient improvements, and for the Urban Agriculture Program that makes city land available for community gardens. The budget would even cut funding for Keep Cincinnati Beautiful! These cuts greatly undermine our efforts to build neighborhood quality of life and environmental resilience.

We must speak out against these cuts! Please consider attending these upcoming budget hearings to make your voice heard.

Wednesday, May 29, at 6 pm. LeBlond Recreation Center, 2335 Riverside Drive, 45202.

Monday, June 3, at 6 pm. UC Innovation Hub, 2900 Reading Road, 45206

Tuesday, June 4, at 6 pm. MadCap Theater, 3064 Harrison Avenue, 45211.

~ Jeanne Nightingale, Chair, Environmental Action



OHIO RIVER VALLEY WATER SANITATION COMMISSION

Make Your Voice Heard - KEEP OUR RIVER CLEAN!

We need ORSANCO to Protect Our Drinking Water

And Enforce Its Pollution Control Standards

Speak Out at Upcoming Commission Meeting – June 6, 2019 at 9 am

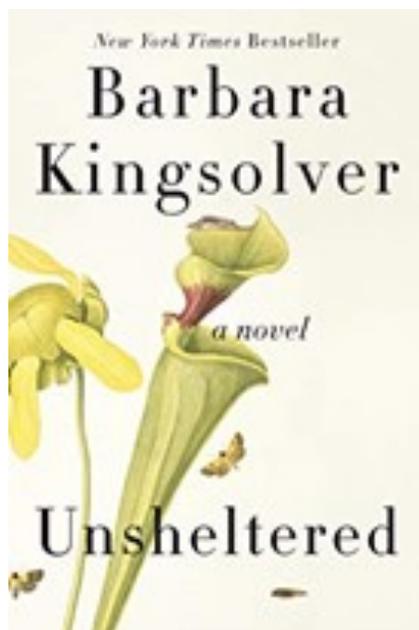
Public Commentary Session

Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront—Covington, KY

WCC BOOK CLUB: *UNSHELTERED*, BY BARBARA KINGSOLVER

Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10 am

Meet at the home of Shirley Maul in Mariemont



In her new novel, Barbara Kingsolver finds resonances between the Victorian era’s attitudes towards science and our own. *Unsheltered* is the story of two families in two centuries. It begins on the eve of the 2016 presidential election, when Willa, a freelance journalist whose family has fallen on hard times, discovers that the inherited house they’ve moved into has a “nonexistent foundation.” Hoping to enlist restoration help from a historical society, Willa traces the origins of the house to Thatcher Greenwood, a science teacher who lived there in the 1870s, and his neighbor, a real-life woman biologist named Mary Treat, whose research supported Charles Darwin’s theory of the origin of species. Just as Darwin’s theory challenged the Victorian belief in the Judeo-Christian creation story, so too, in Willa’s era, does global warming challenge prevailing stories about the future of civilization. — adapted from an *Amazon Book Review*

All members and friends are welcome, but RSVPs are appreciated:
wccbookclub@womanscityclub.org.

News From Our Network

Women in Civic Service and Elected Office? TRY SCHOOL BOARD SCHOOL!

School Board School is a six-month program that prepares any aspiring school board members with the skills, experiences, network, and mindsets needed to be ready to serve as effective school board members and education advocates.

Want to know more? Attend a School Board School information session on:

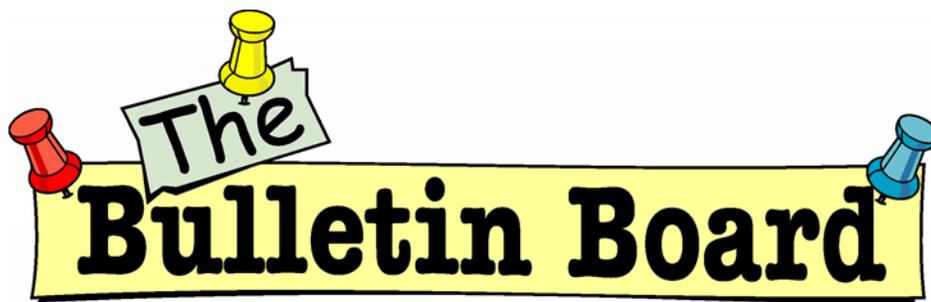
- May 21, 6 pm, at People’s Liberty (1805 Elm Street)
- June 5, 6 pm, Junior League (3500 Columbia Parkway)

Applications are open through June 24.

RSVP to an info session, APPLY, or NOMINATE someone great at: www.schoolboardschool.org.



Image by Naomi Bokhout



The Bulletin Board

COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUÉS



Communications Committee

Help get the word out about our wonderful Woman's City Club and what we are doing!

- ◆ We post regularly to Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. We suspect many of our members have great ideas for information and links about issues and events related to WCC's mission that would engage the public and spark interest in WCC. **Help us achieve vibrant social media by suggesting Facebook items to Alice Schneider.**
- ◆ Facebook users: kindly **share events and other items on the WCC Facebook page** and invite your friends.
- ◆ **Volunteer for our committee.** Come to our meetings and share your communication ideas. Our meetings are usually the last Tuesday of the month. Skills we can use: a passion for communicating about WCC, writing, editing, taking photos, social media, and graphic design skills to design flyers for our events. Occasional or longer-term contributions are welcome! Contact Sarah Gideonse for more information.
- ◆ **Recommend friends and colleagues sign up to receive the monthly Bulletin** (womanscityclub.org/media/bulletin/)

The next meeting will be May 28 at Lydia's on Ludlow.

~ Sarah Gideonse



Membership Committee

Contact Anne Buening, VP for Membership, if you have any questions or ideas to share or wish to join the committee.

~ Anne Buening



National Speaker Forum Committee

Following our well-received event featuring Helen Thorpe on April 3, the committee met to review the year. The event, despite accolades for the speaker, was less successful as a fundraiser. The committee still recommend that the club present a National Speaker Forum next year because of its important contribution to community education and dialogue.

~ Sarah Gideonse



Thriving Cincinnati

The committee is presenting a series of gatherings to showcase alternative routes that our young people have to prepare to join the workforce and earn a good living. The TC Committee's updated brochure is available through the WCC office.



Program Committee

Monday, May 20, 7-9 pm, Rachel Chung will speak about "Women, Violence, and Shakespeare." Meet at the home of Hera Reines.

- 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 – Lead Constructive Lives – A Thriving City of the Future.

Calendar of WCC Events

Saturday, May 18, 10 am: WCC Book Club meets at the home of Shirley Maul.

Monday, May 20, 7-9 pm: Rachel Chung speaks about "Women, Violence, and Shakespeare." Meet at the home of Hera Reines. Please contact the WCC office to be added to the waiting list.

Wednesday, June 5, 6:30 pm: WCC Annual Meeting. Meet in the Geier Room at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church.

Friday, September 27: Women's Expo on Fountain Square.

Membership renewal letters will be going out soon.

WCC accepts renewals online throughout the year:

womanscityclub.org/membership/

You may also pay your dues at the Annual Meeting on June 5.



WCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 29, 6:30 pm: Board meeting in the WCC conference room.

July 24: Executive committee meeting.

August: Board retreat. Date TBA.

September 25, 6:30 pm: Board meeting in the WCC conference room.

October 23, 6 pm: Executive committee meets in the WCC conference room.

November 20, 6:30 pm: Board meets in the WCC conference room.

For the latest schedule of WCC meetings, check our calendar at womanscityclub.org.



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

CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

For an updated list, go to the City website at cincinnati-oh.gov/council/.



Like us on Twitter @womanscityclub

The Monthly e-Bulletin keeps us connected with our membership, our network, and our community. Our next issue will appear in June. Deadline for submissions and committee reports Monday, June 10. *Please submit all material to the WCC office.*

Managing Editor: Jeanne Nightingale. Editorial Team: Sarah Gideonse, Jo-Ann Huff Albers, Anne Skove, Janet Buening.