



Lighting the fire, leading the way,
since 1915

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

JUNE 2020

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.

CONTENTS

- Board Members.....1
- Budget for FY2020-21.....2-3
- Second Century Fund.....4
- Annual Pledge Drive.....4
- Feist-Tea.....5
- National Speaker Forum.....6
- Seasongood Luncheon.....7
- Civic Engagement.....8
- Education Action Group.....9
- Environmental Action Group.....10
- Status of Women Action Group.....11
- Thriving Cincinnati.....11
- Program Committee.....12-13
- Communications Committee.....14
- Membership Committee.....15
- Book Club.....17
- Introducing the New President.....17
- Nominating Committee.....18
- WCC Book Sale.....18

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 2019-2020

President	Janet Buening (2018-2022)
VP Administration	Helen O’Neal (2018-2020)
VP Civic Engagement	Renee Hevia (2019-2022)
VP Membership	Anne Buening (2017-2020)
VP Programs	Amy Katzman (2016-2022)
Secretary	Jeff Dey (2016-2022)
Treasurer	Rina Saperstein (2014-2020)
	Marge Davis (2019-2021)
	Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney (2019-2021)
	Charmaine McGuffey (2019-2022)
	Hera Reines (2018-2021)
	Alice Schneider (2014-2020)
	David Siders (2019-2021)
	Beverly Thomas (2017-2020)

As this program year draws to a close, WCC sincerely thanks **Rina Saperstein** and **Alice Schneider** for their years of dedicated service on the board, and says a sad farewell to **Renee Hevia** who is leaving our board to head up GLSEN.

We welcome **Beth Sullebarger**, our new president, and three new board members: **Michelle Dillingham** and **Sharon McCreary**, elected to their first term on board (2020-2023); and **Marcia Togneri**, appointed to fill an unexpired term (2020-2021). We thank **Anne Buening**, **Helen O’Neal**, and **Beverly Thomas** for returning to the board for a second term (2020-2023).

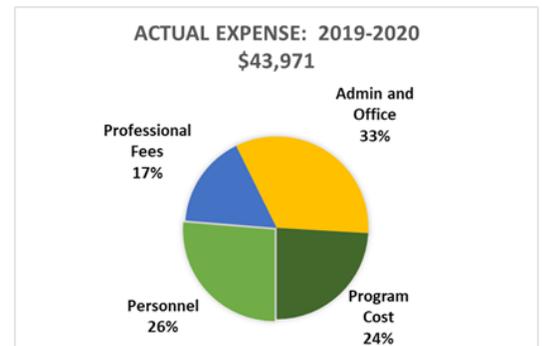
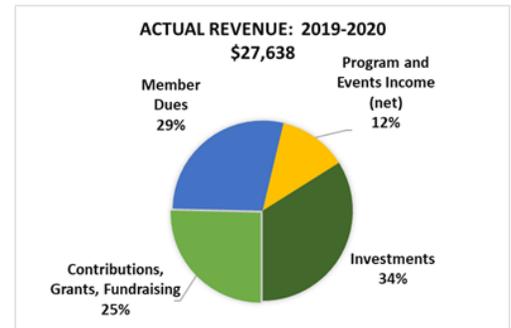
Officers for 2020-2021:

President	Beth Sullebarger	VP Programs	Jeff Dey
VP Administration	Helen O’Neal	Secretary	Anne Buening
VP Civic Engagement	David Siders	Treasurer	Marcia Togneri
VP Membership	OPEN	Past President	Janet Buening



Budget & Finance

WCC Finance & Budget	ACTUAL 2018-2019	ACTUAL 2019-2020	BUDGET 2020-2021
Revenue			
Contributions, Grants, Fundraising	6,988	7,011	11,000
Member Dues	9,060	7,842	12,400
Program and Events Income (net)	8,966	3,406	10,550
Investments	201	9,379	2,000
Total Income	25,215	27,638	35,950
Expense			
Personnel	13,359	11,557	14,870
Professional Fees	7,867	7,225	8,000
Admin and Office	14,533	14,600	14,610
Program Cost	12,311	10,588	5,950
	48,070	43,971	43,430
Grand total NET	(22,855)	(16,333)	(7,480)

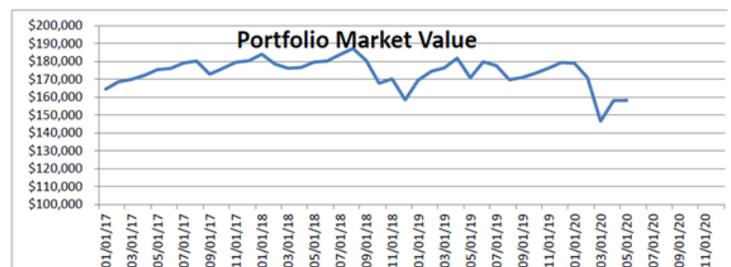


ASSETS as of May 31, 2020	
WCC Checking (PNC)	\$ 2,453
WCC Paypal	\$ 1,370
Spencer Statue Fund	\$ 77,604
Investment: Commonwealth Prin	\$ 158,199
National Speaker Prepaid Income	\$ (2,578)
Prepaid Dues	\$ (1,520)
Liabilities/payables	\$ (632)
	\$ 234,896
Restricted Funds account balance	
Education (CAAG)	\$ 3,903
Spencer	\$ 77,604
Thriving Cincinnati	\$ 7,416
2nd Century Fund	\$ 42,462
	\$ 131,385

DRAWDOWNS FROM INVESTMENTS

Withdrawn from investments for general operations

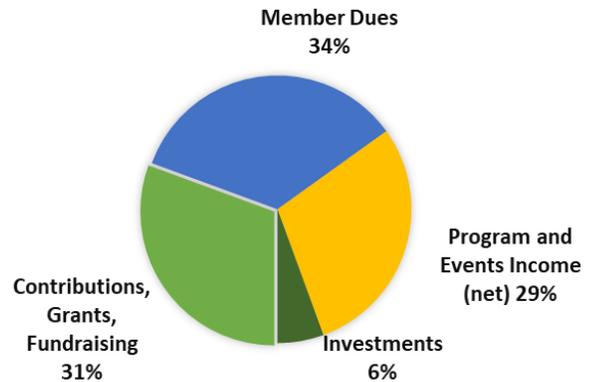
2016-2017	\$5,000
2017-2018	\$15,000
2018-2019	\$6,500
2019-2020	\$17,000



WCC BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	2019-2020	2020-2021
REVENUE		
Con Contributions from Individuals	165	200
Pledge Campaign	6125	7000
Businesses/Grants	33	3500
Community Shares (net)	421	100
Book Sales, other items sales	267	200
Membership	7,842	12,400
Program and Events		
Education Action Group Donations	150	500
Thriving Donations & Grants		1000
Status of Women Donations & Grants	950	500
National Speaker (net)	0	3900
Feist Tea & Seasongood (net)	2306	4650
Net Investments	9,379	2,000
Total Income	\$ 27,638	\$ 35,950
EXPENSE		
Pers Wages	10740	13600
Taxes, workers comp	817	1020
Staff Development		250
Professional Fees		
Accountant	6000	6000
Accounting Review		1500
Payroll Fees	855	500
Database Contractor/Web Contractor	370	0
Admin		
Banking, Merchant Fees , Other	282	400
Dues,Subscriptions, fees, licenses	555	1050
Insurance	2158	1100
Postage and Shipping	850	650
Printing, Copying, Supplies	1698	1250
Rent	4654	4800
Copier	1167.6	1200
Telephone, Internet and Cable	1490	1650
Website	1667	450
Office Furnishings, Paint		1500
Membership Support	79	560
Program Expenses		
Program Facilities/Other	3200	500
Education		500
Environment		0
Thriving	391	1000
Status of Women	997	950
Civic Engagement		0
Scholarships	6000	3000
Total Expense	\$ 43,971	\$ 43,430
Grand total NET	\$ (16,333)	\$ (7,480)

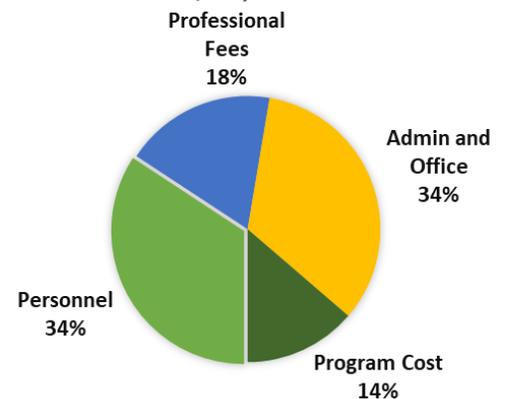
BUDGET: 2020-2021

\$35,950



BUDGET: 2020-2021

\$43,430



WCC Finance Team

Treasurer 2019-2020:

Rina Saperstein

Treasurer 2020-2021:

Marcia Togneri

Accountant/Bookkeeping:

Roger Smith, CPA,
Non-Profit Executive Services

Investment Advisor:

Kathy Hamm, Principled Wealth Advisors

Office Manager:

Anne Skove

Finance Committee:

Janet Buening, Carole Donnelly, Barbara Elleman, Susan Noonan, Jeanette Rost, Alice Schneider, Rina Saperstein, Marcia Togneri



CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO WCC'S SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT FUND

WE RISE BY
LIFTING
OTHERS

- Robert Ingersoll

While we proudly honored our past at the Centennial Gala in 2015, five years into our second century of advocacy, activism, engagement, and community service Woman's City Club wants to build for its future with the Second Century Endowment Fund. Begun with the appreciated proceeds of an historic gift of \$30,000, originally referred to as the Seasongood Fund, this



Marcia Togneri

fund is intended to sustain WCC for its next one hundred years.

We will continue to grow this fund through planned giving, bequests, donations, and investment proceeds. If you support WCC now with your dues, contributions, and time, please consider making the Second Century Fund part of your will or estate planning.

For information about making a gift to the Woman's City Club Second Century Endowment Fund, please contact WCC Finance Committee member Rina Saperstein or incoming Treasurer Marcia Togneri.



Rina Saperstein

2019 ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE — THANK YOU FOR HELPING WCC GROW

WCC is deeply grateful to the members and friends who contributed to the 2019 Annual Pledge Drive! Your support, totaling over \$6,000, allowed us to continue our programs and start new endeavors.

Anonymous ~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers ~ Louise Bangel ~ Cassandra Barham ~ Janet Buening ~ Heather Rae Byer ~ Marge Davis ~ Nancy Dawley ~ Carole Donnelley ~ Barbara Elleman ~ Sarah Gideonse ~ Lynn Hamamoto ~ Jane Ruwet Hopson ~ Barbara Jennings ~ Michael Maloney ~ Barbara Milon ~ Laverne Mitchell ~ Jim Neil for Sheriff Committee ~ Susan Noonan ~ Mary Osterbrock ~ Francie Pepper ~ Alice Perlman ~ Burton Roehr ~ Pamela Jo Rosengard ~ Hera Reines ~ Jeanette Rost ~ Amanda Russell ~ Alice Schneider ~ Janice Seymour ~ Stephanie Stoller ~ Terry Susskind ~ Beverly Thomas ~ Sarah Thorburn ~ Marcia Togneri ~ Howard and Nina Tolley ~ Frances Turner ~ Janet Walsh ~ J.M. Yacher ~ Dan Zavon



FUN AND FUNDRAISING AT THE TENTH ANNUAL FEIST-TEA



Nearly 70 people attended the Tenth Annual Feist-Tea on December 8, 2019. Held once again at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center Lindner Annex, it was determined that this venue is such an appropriate and inviting space that we will reserve the space for the December 6, 2020, Feist Tea. Venice on Vine catered the food that was abundant, nicely presented, and very tasty.



At this event we honored four feisty WCC members:

Mary Asbury, Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati; **Ethel Guttenberg**, advocate for sensible gun laws; **Arzell Nelson**, former Executive Director of the Cincinnati Human Relations Council; and **Future Vincent-Hicks**, retired teacher and civic activist. WCC's Vice President for Membership, **Anne Buening**, also recognized new members in attendance.

The income from the event—all donations, as there is no charge to attend the Feist-Tea—was \$3,571 (up from the previous year) and expenses were \$1,311 (down from the previous year), giving us a profit of \$2,260. All proceeds from this event were used to support three of the six \$1,000 educational awards given this year through WCC's Agnes Seasongood Education Awards Program.

Feist-Tea Committee members were **Jo-Ann Huff Albers**, **Marge Davis**, **Jeff Dey**, **Joy Haupt**, **Helen O'Neal**, and **Beverly Thomas**. Special thanks are given to **Anne Skove**, WCC Office Manager, and **Janet Buening**, WCC President, who served as the event's emcee.

~ *Laurie Frank, Chair*



Mary Asbury was introduced by Sarah Gideonse.



Left to right: **Helen O'Neal** introduced **Future Vincent-Hicks**; **Susan Noonan** introduced **Arzell Nelson**; and **Ruth Cronenberg** introduced **Ethel Guttenberg**.



NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM 2020

Woman’s City Club had planned to present award-winning and best-selling author Denise Kiernan for the 2020 National Speaker Forum on Monday, March 30, 2020, at Memorial Hall. With more than 20 cosponsors and many individual patrons at all levels in support, a \$2,000 grant from the Seasingood Foundation, and strong early ticket sales, we looked forward to a very successful event. However, our plans were upended by the coronavirus pandemic. We have rescheduled Kiernan’s appearance for September 16, 2020. But it is still questionable whether that date will work as the State of Ohio may still not permit large crowds to assemble in the fall. We will try to be flexible and adjust our plans to the situation.



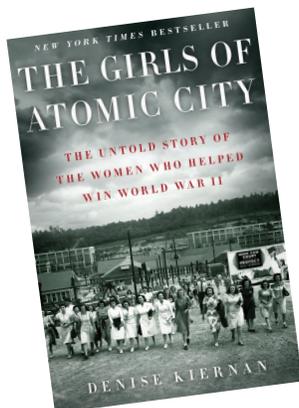
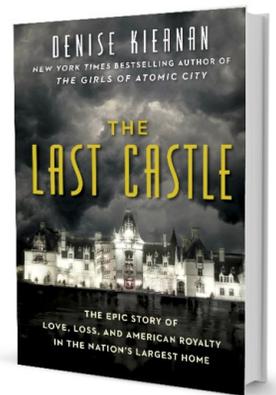
Alice Schneider



If Denise Kiernan does appear, her topic promises to be intriguing and of the moment in this Year of the Woman — “Grit & Grace: Feminist Inspiration from the Gilded Age to the Atomic Age.” A lively and engaging speaker, Kiernan will offer a unique look at periods of American history that have influenced what our country is today. She will address the changing roles of women from the 1870s into modern times, and the impact of this change.

Kiernan’s talk will draw on her two best-known books. *The Last Castle: The Epic Story of Love, Loss, and American Royalty in the Nation’s Largest Home* (2017) tells the epic story behind the Biltmore estate in Asheville, North Carolina, and the legendary Vanderbilt

family during America’s Gilded Age. *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II* (2013) traces the story of the women working on the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, who unknowingly helped to create the fuel for the world's first atomic bomb.



Much thanks to the committee members for all their excellent work on the 2020 National Speaker Forum:

Jane Anderson, Janet Buening, Dot Christenson, Marge Davis, Carole Donnelly, Sarah Gideonse, Barbara Myers, Jeanne Nightingale, Susan Noonan, Jeanette Rost, Kay Smith-Yount, and Mary Wells.

~ Alice Schneider, Chair



SEASONGOOD LUNCHEON 2020

The Seasingood Luncheon is held each year to honor the memory of a true pioneer in Woman's City Club and in Cincinnati history, Agnes Seasingood. She was a champion for women and the disenfranchised in Cincinnati, improving jail conditions and becoming a founding member of Talbert House, and a longtime member of WCC. Her bequest to WCC in 1982 allowed the club to hold weekly Forums with local informative speakers for years. After the last disbursement of the bequest, the club initiated an annual spring luncheon in honor of Agnes Seasingood.



Susan Noonan



Elizabeth Pierce

The 2020 Seasingood Luncheon was scheduled for May 16, 2020 at the beautiful Summit: A Dolce Hotel. The hotel offers free parking, delicious food, and we can bring our own sound system! Unfortunately, as with every other event scheduled since March, we had to cancel the luncheon this year. Our scheduled speaker was Elizabeth Pierce, CEO of the Cincinnati Museum Center. But do not despair—she will be our speaker at the 2021 Seasingood Luncheon, and she is truly inspiring!

A highlight of the luncheon each year is the awarding of educational awards to female high school seniors who submit winning essays on "finding your voice and making it heard." We are mailing the checks to our six winners this year, and hope some of them can attend next year's luncheon to be honored then. The recipients and the high schools they attend are:

Aissatou Barry (Taft) wrote about volunteering and her involvement in groups for young women, such as Girls in STEM and Women Writing for a Change, in her adopted city of Cincinnati. She is fluent in four languages.

Graciela Grunkemeyer (Beechwood) told us the story of her mother and her Abuelo Hector. She advocates for Latino students in Northern Kentucky and is the first student at Beechwood to be recognized by National Merit as a National Hispanic Scholar.

Madison Kimber-Crutcher (DePaul Cristo Rey) wrote about her mother's struggle with kidney disease. She plans to go into nursing, and currently co-ops through DePaul Cristo Rey at Mercy Health.

Emma Krebs (West Clermont) wrote about challenges faced by women (including herself) pursuing a medical degree. Not only does she have the highest GPA in the history of her school, she also volunteers at the library, local hospital, Camp Cardiac, and a church group, and tutors students during her lunch bell.

Dailey Moore (Taylor) wrote about being a self-advocate while living with a hearing impairment. She has traveled to Japan as a summer exchange student. She plans to attend the University of Cincinnati in the fall.

Anastasia Pohlgeers (Campbell County) describes herself as "bent, not broken," after her experiences in foster care. Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear recognized her as "a resilient, brave, and intelligent young woman when she spoke in the capitol rotunda for Children's Advocacy Day."

Congratulations to these six wonderful, talented young women! And extra special thanks to Beverly Thomas for her increased contribution this year of \$3,000 in honor of her late husband, enabling us to give six awards. The proceeds from WCC's Feast-Tea also support the education awards.

Thanks to the Seasingood committee members as always for their outstanding work: **Marge Davis, Alice Schneider, Anne Fierst, Stephanie Stoller, Mary Wells, Beverly Thomas, Leslie Spencer.** To join the committee, please email snoonan@fuse.net.

~ Susan Noonan, Chair



WCC EDUCATES, EMPOWERS, AND ALWAYS ENGAGES

Woman’s City Club’s civic engagement activity brings our members and the community together to enact our values: Collaboration – Citizen Empowerment – Civic Literacy – Equity and Justice – Children and Youth on Positive Trajectories – A Thriving City of the Future. Over time, and for various projects, our level of contribution may vary: some activities we LEAD with our members and resources; some activities we SUPPORT through encouraging member participation and participating as a group; and some activities we CONNECT with, working to provide members and the public with information about issues and service activities led by other groups.



Renee Hevia

Civic Collaborations: WCC is a leader in bringing together civic organizations for activities as needed, coordinating with Cincinnati, Cincinnati Women’s Political Caucus, LWVCA, Urban League, Cincinnati Bar Association, Cincinnati Educational Justice Coalition, Invest in Neighborhoods, Community Shares, and others to present forums that explore issues. This year we also joined with the Sierra Club in a letter writing campaign to save boreal forests.

Electoral/Legislative Issue Education and Endorsements: On October 17, 2019, WCC, the Cincinnati Bar Association, LWVCA, Urban League, and the Community Police Partnering Center cosponsored the Hamilton County Judicial Candidate Forum called “Who Are You to Judge?” For the November 11, 2019, ballot WCC endorsed Issue 1 (Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation); Issue 6 (Great Oaks Career Campuses Levy); Issue 9 (Children’s Services Levy); Issue 12 (City Charter amendment for Executive Session); and Issue 13 (City Charter amendment for Campaign Finance). For the March 17, 2020, ballot (changed to mail-in voting only, through April 28, due to the COVID-19 pandemic) WCC endorsed Issue 7, the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) Sales and Use Tax of 0.8% for 25 years to improve public transportation in our city and county. Issue 7 passed.

Neighborhood Development: With the guidance of the Civic Engagement team, the WCC Board drafted a position statement, in line with our mission and vision, to support tax abatement reform. This was sent to City policy makers, members of the Port Authority, and the leadership of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber.

Women in Civic Service, Boards, and Elected Office: On September 28, WCC cosponsored a free nonpartisan workshop about women running for office or serving as a civic leader with Appointed, LWVCA, Cincinnati Women’s Political Caucus, the Junior League of Cincinnati, and Invest in Neighborhoods. Workshop speakers were Dr. Kareem Moffitt, Patricia Stewart-Adams (School Board/Schools); Christine Fisher, Tammy Sullivan (State and Local elected office); Vicki Jackson, Sue Byron (Neighborhoods); Holly Hankinson, advocacy director of Appointed, and Jalisa Harris of the Regional Planning Commission (Civic Boards and Commissions); and Mackey McNeill of the Matriots, a nonpartisan political action committee seeking to elect more women to public office in Ohio.



Anne Buening, VP Membership, and new member **Rachel Kinnison** display the WCC banner and the signs made for the 2020 Cincinnati Women’s March on January 18.

~ Renee Hevia, VP for Civic Engagement



EDUCATION ACTION GROUP — A NEW NAME AND RENEWED FOCUS FOR CAAG

Marge Davis and **Sarah Gideonse** co-chair this group, which supports public school children’s achievement and helps children at risk succeed through out-reach activities and a strong kindergarten tutoring program.

An expanded committee met twice in 2019 to consider ways to revitalize the group’s work, to generate greater participation from WCC members, and to consider changing its name. The name Catalyst for Achievement Action Group had been chosen because it had the same acronym letters as the original action group formed to implement the Cooperative Agree-



Sarah Gideonse

ment, but over time this title proved difficult to remember and explain. To more clearly identify the mission and purpose of this action group, the members decided to change the name from the unwieldy CAAG to something more transparent: the very simple and direct Education Action Group. However, the premature school closings prevented the renamed group from implementing ideas for expanding its work and the committee.



Marge Davis

This year the Education Action Group hosted two *Gatherings for Good* lunches at Venice on Vine, one to provide school supplies for Girls with Pearls and the other for gifts for the Contact Center’s Holiday Market.

Led by **Linda Wihl** and using her ***Making Sense of Language Arts*** curriculum, the Education Action Group provided support to the Tutoring Program at Winton Hills Academy until the schools closed in March. **Sarah Gideonse, Harriet Kaufman, Dee Shaffer, Beverly Thomas, and Fran Turner** served as tutors and **Helen O’Neal** as a sub this school year. They made a difference in the lives of these children, even within a very short time span due to a beginning delay and then COVID-19.

Linda Wihl reports on this year’s tutoring experience:

“The 2019-2020 school year was an extremely difficult challenge. Our program year started much later than usual. The opening of a new school nearby that drew students from Winton Hills had lowered the number of incoming students. Almost half of the incoming students we were able to test had average or better literacy skills, far from the days of 15% or fewer and a great witness to the value of Preschool Promise. However, other students showed significant need for intervention. The principal was hesitant to commit to our program until teachers began rallying for us, and one of the secretaries drew attention to the District “Report Card,” which showed that Winton Hills was one of only three Cincinnati Public Schools in low-income neighborhoods to receive a B or better score for the previous year. This improvement was for K–3, coinciding with the years we have offered the after-school program. The principal allowed us to begin tutoring in mid to late October.



Linda Wihl

“The students assigned to participate in the afterschool program this year, most starting school later in the year themselves, had significant challenges, many emotionally, and required not only education, but counseling. (We so informed school counselors). We had lost some tutors due to the late beginning, but those who remained rose to the occasion and provided both tutoring and caring support. By the time we were able to do midyear testing of the 8 children in the after-school program, they already showed significant improvement, as did the 12 children in the in-school program.

“Thank you for your continued support of *Making Sense of Language Arts* and the children and families we serve. Know I am very grateful for the vision and action taken by the women of Woman’s City Club to make this a better world for all!”

~ **Linda Wihl & Sarah Gideonse**



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

WCC's Environmental Action Group, chaired by **Jeanne Nightingale**, continued to sponsor Changing CO₂urse programs at St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church, to advocate for fair sewer rates and for maintaining ORSANCO's protective pollution control standards, and to keep on top of an array of issues.

Mary Gerson retired after many years of writing the Green Tips the for Bulletin. Jeanne has taken on that role.

Group members gathered with other activists at Cincinnati City Hall on September 20, 2019, to join millions of school students around the world to march in the Climate Strike initiated by Sweden's Greta Thunberg. This strike was intended to raise awareness about climate change and advocate for aggressive environmental policy actions such as the Green New Deal just before a United Nations climate summit.



If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled, or composted, then it should be restricted, redesigned, or removed from production.

- *Pete Seeger,*
Folk Singer &
Social Activist

In October the Environmental Action Group successfully petitioned the WCC board to endorse a letter being sent by the Natural Resources Defense Council to Procter & Gamble and other companies, encouraging them to reduce the use of pulp from Canadian boreal forests in the production of their toilet tissue brands and replace half of virgin fiber with recycled and low-impact alternative fiber by 2025.

Woman's City Club is one of the partnering organizations of **Past Plastic Cincinnati**, a coalition that includes, among others, the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters,

Enright Ridge Urban Ecovillage, UC Leaders for Environmental Awareness (LEAP), Community Earth Alliance, Vegan Earth, and Citizens' Climate Lobby. This coalition educates the community about the harm caused by single-use plastic by distributing reusable bags at local markets, parades, and fairs; and lobbying our City Council members to ban single-use plastic from groceries, restaurants, stores, and pharmacies. Representatives went to Cincinnati City Council to speak in support of the ban.



Pictured *L to R* at hearing in City Hall: Pinky Kocoshis, Loa Bennett, Mary Gerson, Jeanne Nightingale, Susan Namei, David Terry, Sally Cosco, Brian Garry, Pete Cosco, Kevin Hengehold.
Photo by Nikki Orlemann.



STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP



Join us
on
Fountain Square
11:30 am—1 pm
on Friday,
September 11,
2020
for the
7th Annual
Women's Expo

The Status of Women Action group, chaired by **Susan Noonan** and **Jill Bley**, addresses a range of women's empowerment issues. It organizes and presents, along with Thriving Cincinnati, the annual **Women's Economic, Physical, and Mental Health Expo**



Nicole Armstrong, founder and CEO of Queen City Certified, spoke on gender equity in the workplace.

on Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati. This year's Expo is scheduled for **Friday September 11, from 11:30 – 1:00 pm**, and we have our fingers crossed that outside gatherings will be allowed by then.

In 2019, for our Sixth Annual Expo with the theme "Pennies on the Dollar: Equal Pay for Equal Work," we had 27 agencies at tables supplying important information for women, and we will strive to have as many in 2020. The PONE dancers will be invited again—they are such a happy way to end the program! This event is becoming known, respected, and anticipated annually by our social service agency partners and the public.

Committee members include **Jo-Ann Albers, Marge Davis, Sarah Gideonse, Joy Haupt, Harriet Kaufman, and Melissa Rowland.**

~ Susan Noonan, Co-Chair



Michelle Thoman from UC Health, president of the Registered Nurses Association, spoke on workplace issues nurses face in the hospital.

THRIVING CINCINNATI



Louise Spiegel

Thriving Cincinnati is an Action Group inspired and funded by the vision of **Louise Spiegel** to gather information, exchange best practices, and create and collaborate on programs working toward self-sufficiency and decreasing poverty. Chaired by **Susan Noonan** and **Harriet Kaufman**, it focused in 2018-19 on youth in Cincinnati Public Schools and their options for training to move from surviving to thriving.

In 2019-20, Thriving Cincinnati had to cancel a program and monthly meetings, so has been inactive. In 2020 we hope to focus on uncovering the gaps in the services available to youth 16-24, and to renew social media and website efforts. Members include **Jo-Ann Huff Albers, Jill Bley, Mike Brown, Ed Burdell, Sarah Gideonse, Brennan Grayson, Melissa Rowland, CJ Pierce, and Marge Davis.**

~ Susan Noonan, Co-Chair





PROGRAM COMMITTEE COLLABORATES, ENGAGES, AND EDUCATES

This report takes virtual participation to new heights since I was unable to attend or preside over any meeting after October 31, 2019. Clearly the Program Committee did great work without me.

First on the WCC calendar was the Woman’s Expo, an event focusing on women’s health in its sixth year on Fountain Square. Held on September 27, 2019, this event was spear-headed and organized by **Susan Noonan** doing her usual remarkable job. On September 28, Women’s City Club cosponsored a nonpartisan workshop on “Women Appointed and Elected.” On October 3, WCC cosponsored with the Junior League a program introducing Cincinnati Public School Board Candidates.

This election season WCC again cosponsored, with the League of Women Voters, the Urban League, and the Cincinnati Bar Association, a panel of Judicial Candidates in a pro-



Amy Katzman

gram titled, “Who Are You to Judge?” The October 17 program included both sitting judges and candidates, and even judges running unopposed spoke to a packed house at the Urban League.

A salon focusing on Maria Longworth Storer was held on October 24 at the lovely North Avondale headquarters of the cosponsoring Cincinnati Catholic



Women’s Association—an organization that Storer founded. A book coauthored by Constance Moore and Nancy Broermann provided a fresh, personal look at this Cincinnati icon and was the basis for this edifying presentation. The attendees were graciously wined and dined by our hosts.

WCC had the honor of playing an important role in a major civic undertaking, the creation of a statue of Marian Spencer. On November 13, WCC presented “Public Art to Celebrate a Cincinnati Heroine.” WCC members **Dot Christenson** and **Alice Schneider** highlighted why Marian Spencer was so beloved and deserving of recognition and

explained WCC’s role in facilitating the fund-raising for this tribute. Tom Tsuchiya, the sculptor, and Gina Erardi, his apprentice, described the sculpture and the process of its creation. Jenny Ustick, Assistant Professor in the School of Art at UC’s DAAP, showed slides of large scale public murals she has designed, and spoke about the “relationship between craft and democracy”: how visual language can be used to symbolize freedom or change or revolution, or to honor



Jenny Ustick

individuals who have contributed greatly to society, as is the case with the statue of Marian Spencer, who broke barriers of race and gender.



Tom Tsuchiya and Gina Erardi

PROGRAM COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

Committee Reports

The January 15, 2020 program, “Beyond the Books – What’s Next at the Library,” allowed WCC to give one of the first public introductions of the Public Library’s new facilities master plan. **David Siders**, WCC’s VP of Civic Engagement and the Library’s Civic Engagement Coordinator, gave his boss a



David Siders

gracious introduction. Paula Brehm-Heeger, the Library’s Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Director, then unveiled to the attendees the Library’s ambitious plans for renovations and new construction at the Main Library and all the branches. WCC president **Janet Buening** had served on the Library’s Community Advisory Council for the plan, representing Woman’s City Club, and was eager to share with club members the results of a year of meetings, brainstorming, and collaboration.



Paula Brehm-Heeger

Finally, the eagerly awaited February 20 program on bail reform followed up a program WCC had presented several years before on sentencing reform. “Perspectives on Pre-Trial Bail” included four panelists: Dr. Ebony



Ebony Ruhland, PhD

Ruhland from the University of Cincinnati, who gave a structural overview of the bail system; Julie Wilson of the Hamilton County Prosecutor’s Office; criminal defense attorney, William R. Gallagher; and Stephen JohnsonGrove, strategy director of the Ohio Transformation Fund. Many perspectives were presented and passionately discussed. The standing room only crowd included a number of judges and elected officials. Senator Cecil Thomas, who has legislated on bail and sentencing reform, was present and actively participated in the discussion.



Julie Wilson



William R. Gallagher



Stephen JohnsonGrove

Programs planned for April and May have gone the way of every other pre-COVID-19 assumption. Stay tuned.

~ Amy Katzman, VP Programs



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CONNECTS AND INFORMS

The purpose of the WCC Communications Committee is to ensure effective internal and external communications about Woman's City Club activities, enhance the Club's profile in the city, and provide a public platform for the civic voice. The committee educates the public and the membership on important issues; promotes the Club, our public forums, and other events and activities; and endeavors to attract new members through our website, monthly Bulletins, weekly Updates, social media, flyers, press releases, and articles.

This year's active members include **Sarah Gideonse**, chair, **Alice Schneider**, **Janet Walsh**, **Patty Kelly**, **Susan Noonan**, and **Jo-Ann Huff Albers**. **Melissa Rowland** is an ex-officio member and the consultant on social media.



Sarah Gideonse

The committee continues to carry out a wide array of tasks:

WCC Website: We completed a major revision of the WCC history page, thanks to **Jeanne Nightingale**, and renewed the membership page with descriptions of WCC committees. Alice Schneider remains our go-to person for expertise. We welcome suggestions from members and friends about how we can continue to make the website easily navigable and informative.

Bulletin: Sarah Gideonse took over the role of gathering and copy editing articles. **Janet Buening**, with her publishing expertise, continued to work with our office manager **Anne Skove** to produce a very polished and readable newsletter. As reporters at our events, Janet Walsh and Patty Kelly contributed excellent articles. Check out the Bulletin regularly.

Publicity: The committee promoted all programs and events, writing press releases, preparing and distributing flyers, posting on social media calendars and the Greater Cincinnati Politics Facebook group, putting articles in the Bulletin, etc. We rely heavily on Susan Noonan, with her vast network of contacts, to help get the word out.

Social media: Anne Skove, Alice Schneider, and **Rina Saperstein** helped maintain an active presence on the WCC Facebook page, Twitter, and LinkedIn, as well as Next Door Digest. 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, as well as sharing our postings on your own pages.

The committee continues to try to recruit additional members with communication skills, and that is a goal for the coming year. 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 also welcome! Please contact Sarah Gideonse for more information.

~ Sarah Gideonse, Chair



Like Woman's City Club
Cincinnati on Facebook



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



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REACHES OUT

Woman’s City Club is currently flourishing with more than 200 members, of which 28 joined us this year. If this year’s new member count seems low, please remember that the National Speaker Forum, postponed due to the coronavirus shut-down, usually brings us a large amount of new members. We also sign up new members at our monthly programs, which have been suspended since March, and at the Seasongood Luncheon, which was cancelled.



Jeff Dey, Membership Co-chair

Over the past year Membership hosted a series of WCC 101 programs that provided a personal opportunity for current members and people interested in joining WCC to learn more about our mission, find ways to get involved with our committees and action groups, and volunteer to assist with large events. We also organized special members-only events that allowed us to get to know each other better in a social setting. The members’ picnic held at Ross Park in September was very successful and we hope that we can do it again this year, pending Gov. DeWine’s reopening proclamations. Also well-attended was the special members-only tour of the exhibition *Women Breaking Boundaries* at the Cincinnati Art Museum presented by **Anne Buening**, WCC’s VP of Membership and Curatorial Assistant



of European and American Paintings, Sculpture, and Drawings at the museum. We hope that next year we can bring more fun programs for our members and continue to grow WCC.

~ **Anne Buening, VP Membership**

Time to Renew Your Membership

Woman’s City Club has a long and proud heritage in promoting a just and sustainable community. We hope you will continue to be part of this dynamic organization—one that initiates community conversations, educates the public about current issues, and moves citizens to action to promote the common good. If you have not yet renewed your membership for the 2020-21 program year, you can do so TODAY, online at www.womanscityclub.org or by mailing a check payable to WCC to:

103 William Howard Taft Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45219.

Basic	\$55
Household	\$75
Sustaining	\$150+
Lifetime	\$1,000
Pay what you can	Adjustable

WCC would like to recognize those who are Lifetime and Sustaining members. Thank you for your generous support!

Lifetime

Joyce Asfour	Jeanne Nightingale
Mary Ellen Ashley	Lori Nuckolls
Jenny Broh	Mary Osterbock
Janet Buening	Mary Beth Owens
Marjorie Davies	Rita Sanders-Parks
Marge Davis	Ann Schloss
Barbara Elleman	Alice Schneider
Sarah Gideonse	Kathryn Shahani
Joy Haupt	Louise Spiegel
Connie Hinitz	Nancy Lu Walters
Suzanne Joiner	Linda Wihl
Lois Jolson	Dan and Shou Zavon

Sustaining

Deborah Mariner Allsop	Francie Pepper
Jane Anderson	Alice Perlman
Jeffrey Dey	Helen Rhoad
Carolyn Eagen	Rina Saperstein
Rhonda Holyfield-Mangieri	Wilda Dee Shaffer
Ariel and Huxley Miller	Roger Smith
Susan Noonan	Beverly Thomas
	Mary Wells

STATUE OF MARIAN SPENCER — FROM DREAM TO REALITY



Within days of Marian Spencer’s death on July 9, 2019, four members of Woman’s City Club—**Dot Christenson, Alice Schneider, Susan Noonan, and Mary Wells**—had committed to commissioning a bronze statue of this extraordinary woman who was a City Council member and Vice Mayor, civil rights champion, former WCC president, and most of all their dear friend. Within weeks they had a design from sculptor Tom Tsuchiya and a prime location in Smale Park. On October 11, 2019, the Spencer Statue Committee held a press conference on that site to

publicly announce the project, display the clay model, and ask for community support. County Commissioner Denise Driehaus spoke of the ways Marian inspired women to get involved in government. City Council member David Mann told stories of her warm demeanor but firm convictions when she served on Council. Students from Winton Hills Academy who wrote the book *Marian Spencer: A Light in the Darkness* were delighted to see that the statue would include children.

Early in 2020, the Statue Committee had reached their goal: enough money to produce and install the statue and to endow a fund to maintain it. Few things happen so quickly in Cincinnati. This is truly a tribute to the determination and hard work of the Statue Committee and the love and respect Marian Spencer earned by her lifetime of fighting to make the Greater Cincinnati community a more just and fair place for everyone.



Left to right: Sculptor Tom Tsuchiya, assistant sculptor Gina Erardi, Statue Committee chair Alice Schneider (at podium), NAACP Vice President Joe Mallory, students from Winton Hills, Council member David Mann, County Commissioner Denise Driehaus.



Helen O’Neal, Dot Christenson, and Susan Noonan with Tom Tsuchiya at Essex Studios in January.

work of art that will stand for decades, telling Marian’s story and inviting all who pass by to come near, hold her open hand, and complete the circle of love.

Work on the statue was progressing on schedule and a gala celebration was planned for the installation on June 28, which would have been Marian’s 100th birthday. But then the state-mandated closures to control the spread of the coronavirus shut down Essex Studios and Tsuchiya was not able to finish the work on time—and it is not yet possible to safely hold a large public gathering. Both the installation and the celebration have been delayed until later this summer, at a date yet to be set. But still, we count this project a great success on many levels: the first statue of a named woman to be placed in a public location in Cincinnati, and a beautiful

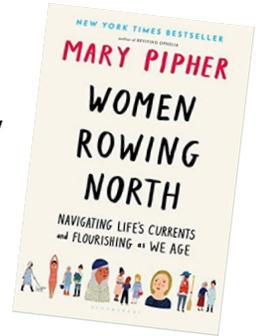


~ Janet Buening

BOOK CLUB

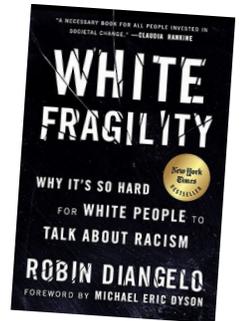
Chaired by **Sarah Gideonse**, the WCC Book Club, open to all WCC members, normally meets every other month on a Saturday morning in a member's home for a lively and thoughtful discussion. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the group is now successfully meeting via Zoom, with registration required to receive the link to the meeting. Books read this year:

August, 2019 – Mary Pipher's ***Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing As We Age***. Some of us also read ***Elderhood: Redefining Aging, Transforming Medicine, Reimagining Life***, by Louise Aronson.



October, 2019 – ***White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism***, by Robin Diangelo. This book has reappeared on the best-seller list as concerns about systemic racism once again challenge the country.

January, 2020 – two books by investigative reporters who successfully documented Harvey Weinstein's sexual abuse of women: ***She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement***, by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, reporters for *The New York Times*; and ***Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies, and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators***, by Pulitzer Prize-winning Ronan Farrow of *The New Yorker*.



March, 2020 (cancelled, then held by Zoom in April) – ***The Last Castle, the Epic Story of Love, Loss, and American Royalty in the Nation's Largest Home***, by Denise Kiernan, WCC's 2020 National Speaker, and ***Spying on the South: An Odyssey Across the American Divide*** (1919), by the Pulitzer-prize winning historian Tony Horwitz.

May, 2020 – ***The Overstory: a Novel*** by Richard Powers.

The club encourages members to attend according to their availability and interests. We have attracted some new members since last year because of the book topics. Frequent attendees include **Beth Sullebarger, Jan Seymour, Erna Olafson, Jeanne Nightingale, Harriet Kaufman, Shirley Maul, Sarah Gideonse, Joy Haupt, Jo-Ann Huff Albers, Nikki Orlemann, Harriet Matthey, Lynn Hamamoto, and Marcia Togneri**. Others attend when a book is of particular interest to them.

~ Sarah Gideonse

WCC WELCOMES A NEW PRESIDENT



Beth Sullebarger is a historic preservation consultant based in Glendale, Ohio. Her credentials include an M.S. degree from Columbia University and 40 years of experience. Over the years, she has worked in state and local government, non-profit and private sectors, and led the Cincinnati Preservation Association as executive director from 1996 to 2003.

Beth joined WCC 30 years ago after moving to Cincinnati from New York City and joining the Cincinnati City Planning Department. The club was important to her in finding a community of like-minded people in her new hometown who cared about civic issues, good government, and quality of life. Over the years, she has served several terms on the WCC board.

Her other civic involvements include chairing the Stephen H. Wilder Foundation and serving on the Glendale Planning and Historic Preservation Commission. In the past, she was a member

of the Cincinnati Historic Conservation Board, Cincinnati Association, Citizens for Civic Renewal, Over-the-Rhine Foundation, and Leadership Cincinnati. She has also appeared in documentaries on Cincinnati parks and sacred spaces, seen on public TV.

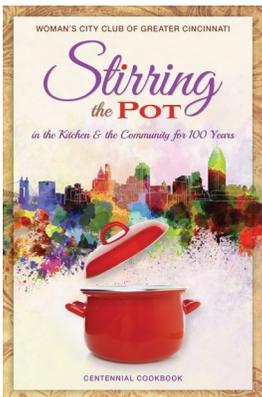
- Our Mission:** Woman's City Club is committed to building a strong Greater Cincinnati community through educating, empowering, and engaging all citizens to participate in promoting the common good.
- Our Vision:** We envision a just and sustainable community where all citizens are engaged as informed 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.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

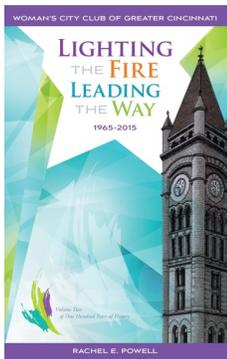
The 2019-2020 Nominating Committee consisted of at-large members **Sharon McCreary**, **Stephanie Stoller**, and **Emily Thobe** and board members **Hera Reines** and **Beverly Thomas**. WCC thanks them for their excellent work on the 2020 slate of Board and Nominating Committee members.

For 2020-2021, the at-large members are **Alice Schneider**, **Stephanie Stoller**, and **Emily Thobe**; board members are **Sharon McCreary** and **Hera Reines**.

WCC BOOKS ARE GREAT SHOWER, HOSTESS, GRADUATION GIFTS



Shop from the comfort and safety of your home with a special sale offer on WCC's cookbook and history book. *Stirring the Pot in the Kitchen and Community for 100 Years* is an excellent choice for cooks of all abilities and interests — the perfect wedding shower present or a welcome hostess gift that will be remembered far longer than a bottle of wine. *Lighting the WCC Fire, Leading the Way* is a great choice for anyone who wants to know more about the



accomplishments of Woman's City Club since 1965 or is interested in local or women's history.

Each book usually sells for \$20, but from now until August 31 you can **buy either book for just \$10.00!** Order online at WomansCityClub.org, by sending an email to wcc@womanscityclub.org, or by calling 513-751-0100.

All proceeds from the sale of WCC books help fund our operational costs.

Most of the headshots and event photos used in this report are courtesy of Harriet Kaufman and Wendell O'Neal.

WCC is deeply grateful for their generous gift of their time and professional skills.



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