

November 2012

*Lighting
the way
since 1915*

**November
GREEN
TIPS**

**From
Mary
Gerson**



When you stop for coffee in the morning, bring a reusable mug from home. Refills are cheaper and you eliminate trash.

Save old coffee grinds & paper filters for indoor/outdoor plants or add to compost.

Use a reusable filter for your coffee pot.

Certified organic coffees are more eco-friendly, because they are grown and processed without toxic chemicals and are harvested in ways that protect the ecosystems.

~ Mary Gerson

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The Bulletin

Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati



2010 Feisty Lady Marion Spencer shared some life stories with WCC members and friends

OUR THIRD ANNUAL FEIST-TEA

**Saturday, December 1
1:30 pm**

Mark your calendar for December 1, 2012 for the Third Annual WCC Feist-Tea honoring feisty members of WCC.

Join some of WCC's Feistiest Women and Louise Spiegel, Queen of the Feisties, for the 2012 Feist-Tea Fundraiser Dec. 1 2012 at 1:30 at Barrington of Oakley. Last year's Tea was fun and festive with much laughter and reflection.

This year we are delighted to honor Jane Anderson, Cassandra Barham, and Alice Schneider, all with extremely feisty reputations! Come hear their stories, have tea (or maybe a glass of wine) and spend some social time with other WCC members.

Don't Miss it!

Invitations will soon be in your mailbox if they are not already there. RSVP quickly on the card included with the invitation - a limited number of reservations can be accepted. Questions? Call the WCC office at 513-751-0100 or Ruth Cronenberg at 513-891-5163.

CAAG KEEPS ON COURSE



See page 4



Turning our sights to the holiday season, we look forward to gathering a little closer to honor our own and to celebrate the work of the Club. On the first day of December, we will raise our cups of tea to honor the women we admire as we work towards fulfilling our mission. This year we will honor **Jane Anderson, Cassandra Barham, and Alice Schneider**. This is always such a festive occasion, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Our Fall programs have been wonderfully successful thanks

to Program Chair Beth Sullebarger and her committee. Our premier screening of a documentary produced by Cincinnati-based filmmaker Andrea Torrice and featuring the Daoud family, owners of Gold Star Chili, drew a large crowd at the CET studios. This film is part of a series on Arab American Families to be shown on successive Tuesdays in November on Think TV (Ch. 14).

The townhall debate on 4-year council terms drew broad public interest thanks to the organization of Sarah Gideonse, Chair of Civic Engagement. The WCC Board had voted to endorse this extension from 2 to 4 year terms proposed by councilwoman Laure Quinlivan, drawing on the findings of a non-partisan study led

by Sue Wilke with members of WCC and the Rookwood Group (see full report in this issue.) We feel far better equipped to stage these public forums now that we own our own PA system, thanks again to generous funds provided by Judge Art Spiegel.

In December, we look forward to hearing Alice Skirtz speak about her book *Econocide*, and in January, we will bring citizens together to engage in a public conversation around human trafficking. (See announcements in this issue).

Both these programs will be enhanced by follow-up discussions at our regular monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm (see below). Last month we discussed issues of immigration and were enlightened by the personal experiences of two

teenagers, Jose and Heyda. The November meeting will be on affordable housing with Alicia Townsend, and in January, we will address issues of human trafficking.

In order to shift Club energy from the Board to the broader membership, the Board voted to try holding their meetings every other month, enabling Board members to devote more time to committee work where most the Club's work is accomplished. Holding regular membership meetings supports our endeavor to engage all our members in the life of the club. Thank you all for being willing to try some new ideas in order to build our capacity and energize our membership.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Nightingale

Membership Matters

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE HOSTS MONTHLY MEETINGS

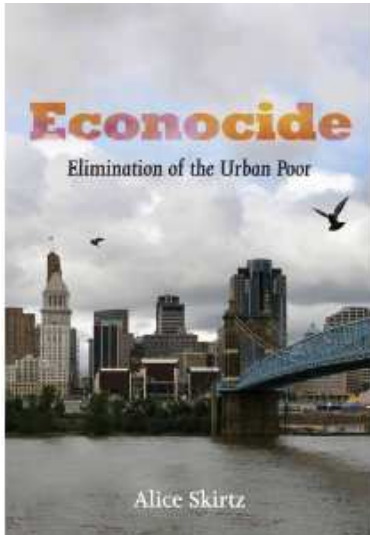
Woman's City Club has been piloting regular monthly membership meetings this year. These meetings – **the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm** – are intended to offer our membership a venue where we can meet, get to know each other better, and share concerns around timely issues. We will try to coordinate our discussions with topics scheduled for the Club's public forums.

Upcoming dates and topics are:

- **Tuesday, November 20** at the Mt. Auburn Presbyterian in the Geier Room. The topic will be "**LOW COST HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS**." Elizabeth Brown of HOME (Housing Opportunities Made Equal) and Alicia Townsend and Ki-Afi Ra Moyo from Affordable Housing Advocates will lead the discussion. Location: Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church, the Geier Room. Free and open to the public. See *attached flyer for more details*.
- **Tuesday, January 15, 2013** at First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton Street Cincinnati, OH 45219. Topic will be **HUMAN TRAFFICKING 101**, with presentations by Erin Meyer, Manager End Slavery Coalition Cincinnati, and Pamela Matson, Special Agent FBI.



Mary Wells,
Membership Chair



Program For December, 2012 ALICE SKIRTZ ON *ECONOCIDE: ELIMINATION OF THE URBAN POOR*

Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm

Location: St John's Unitarian Universalist Church
320 Resor Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45220

Econocide tells the story of how Cincinnati's pursuit of economic development and housing policies have forsaken the urban poor in Cincinnati.

Alice Skirtz, PhD/LISW-S, has more than 40 years of social work experience working with programs that serve poor people – homeless shelters, family services, emergency assistance, adult and child day care, and teen parent residential services.

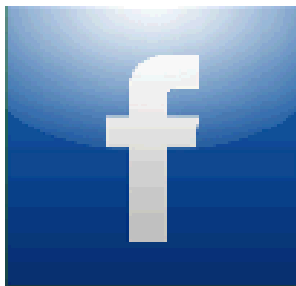
Discussion of the book will show how we as a community have used legislation and the administration of public policy to privatize public assets and displace people who are perceived as undesirable because they lack economic power and privilege.

*“You cannot
read her book
without tears
coming to
your eyes at
some point
....”
David Mann*

“Alice Skirtz documents in impressive detail the tensions in Cincinnati between development and business interests on the one hand and the desperate needs of the poorest and most vulnerable in our community on the other hand. She brings the perspective of a social worker who walked the talk for many years attempting to address the problems of Cincinnati's homeless.

“Alice is also a scholar who has done a masterful job of converting her Ph.D. dissertation into a very readable, even gripping account of events in Cincinnati over the last forty years. You cannot read her book without tears coming to your eyes at some point and without wondering why a supposedly enlightened society cannot better balance the needs of the least among us with overall economic health and viability. You will ask yourself why we cannot do better.”

David S. Mann
Former Mayor of Cincinnati OH
Former U.S. Congressman (D-OH)



FACEBOOK WORKSHOP WITH ALICE SCHNEIDER SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 1:00 PM

This is a very basic workshop to learn about Facebook. We are encouraging all our members to join Facebook to help advertise our mission and our activities. We will use a projector for this presentation, but bring your own laptop if you wish.

The workshop will cover....

- Signing up/posting/sharing
- Uploading pictures
- How Facebook can help our organization
- Helping build an audience for our organization
- Security settings

Location: League of Women Voters
3rd floor Conference Room
Mt Auburn Presbyterian Church,
103 Wm Howard Taft Road.

RSVP to Alice's new WCC address:
A.Schneider@womancityclub.org.



LUNCH AT VENICE ON VINE & BENEFIT FOR CONTACT CENTER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

12:00 NOON

It is getting close to Holiday time - so it is time for lunch at Venice on Vine. We also use this event to provide items for the Contact Center to use for inner city holiday needs.

Meet at **Venice on Vine, 13th & Vine**, on November 29th at Noon. You may already know that Venice on Vine is a non-profit job-training pizza restaurant in Over-the-Rhine.

Please let us know you are coming so Venice on Vine will know how many to expect. Contact the office at 513-751-0100, or email R.Cronenberg@womancityclub.org.

If you would like to bring items to donate for **Contact Center's Holiday**, they can use any children's gift type items, young adult lotions and creams, kitchen or household gifts, or any small gift to make the holiday brighter.

Hope to hear from you and see you there. ~ Ruth Cronenberg



LITERACY TUTORING PROGRAM FOR KINDERGARTNERS ENTERS 5TH YEAR UNDER WCC

In mid-October, twenty-eight promising (and lucky!) kindergartners enrolled in the WCC-sponsored multi-sensory literacy tutoring program. Developed and spearheaded by Linda Wihl, specialist in reading for challenged children, the program continues to help children learn sounds, improve vocabulary and comprehension, and begin reading. It began originally at the Winton Hills Academy and then was launched five years ago at Rothenberg Preparatory Academy with WCC contributions of funds and manpower. Tutors come from the Club, the

community, and this year, from UC, whose undergraduate volunteers call themselves the "Bear Cat Buddies." (We love them!)

We are very grateful to the many WCC members and friends who have generously contributed to the program over the years. The Nabama Foundation is helping support this program for the second year through the efforts of Mary Ann Berry, so Linda and her team can focus on working with the children and develop and strengthen the curriculum without worrying whether enough funds are available to cover all the expenses.



WCC's Catalyst for Achievement Action Group (CAAG), which organizes the program, has also brought additional resources to Rothenberg during this period. Harriet Kaufman and CJ Pierce ran art classes. We were able to help our former Resource Coordinator Helen O'Neal in various ways - collecting items for the school "store," for example, and serving as resources for school events.

This year the new Resource coordinator is asking WCC members to gather hygiene products for the older Rothenberg boys and girls and so far has identified the following needs: deodorant for boys and girls, tampons, shampoo, body wash, and soap. Those who are able to contribute these items may bring them to the WCC office (103 Wm. H. Taft Rd).

*~ Sarah Gideonse,
Co-Chair Civic Engagement*

Program For January, 2013 HUMAN TRAFFICKING 101

With Guest Speakers:

ERIN MEYER, MANAGER END SLAVERY COALITION CINCINNATI
PAMELA MATSON, SPECIAL AGENT FBI

Tuesday, January 15 at 7:00 pm

First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton Street Cincinnati, OH 45219



Erin and Pam will train us how to recognize and report human trafficking in our area. Come learn about what a local coalition is doing to mobilize community response, organize victim services, implement best practices, train law enforcement, and enact legislation and policy.

This January Program has been scheduled to coincide with *National Human Trafficking Awareness Week*, when there will be a host of other events scheduled throughout the week. The WCC forum will be combined with our monthly membership discussion. Members are invited to stay afterwards to explore opportunities to volunteer with End Slavery Cincinnati. See the note at the end of this article about further WCC plans.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery that occurs globally, both overseas and here in Cincinnati. It operates very much under the radar and exploits men, women, and children using force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of commercial sex or labor.

Human traffickers can be found anywhere – from the management at your favorite local restaurant, to the 'Escort Services' advertisements online. Human trafficking victims can be anyone – from the person harvesting your apples, to your daughter's friend at school. Human traffickers prey on individual's vulnerabilities and human trafficking victims

can be foreign nationals, U.S. citizens, men, women, adults, and children.

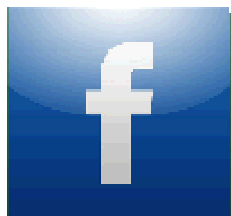
NOTE: The WCC Human Trafficking 101 program has been scheduled to coincide with **National Human Trafficking Awareness Week**, when there will be a host of other events scheduled throughout the week. The WCC forum will be combined with our monthly membership discussion.

Members are invited to stay afterwards to explore opportunities to volunteer with End Slavery Cincinnati. [We will also be arranging a special membership tour of the Freedom Center's exhibit: *Invisible: Slavery in the 21st Century*—watch your Weekly Update e-newsletter for further details.](#)

If you suspect you have information regarding a human trafficking situation or you are in contact with someone in need of resources and support, call:

[Greater Cincinnati Human Trafficking hotline, 513-800-1863, or National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 888-373-7888.](#)

Both are available 24 hours a day, are confidential, and have access to tele-interpreters.



WHY USE FACEBOOK?

Having our Woman's City Club fan page on Facebook can increase our volunteer base and help our members do the advertising of our organization's mission for us. Best of all, using Facebook is free so the cost is only in how much time we each choose to invest.

Facebook Pages are easy to set up and easier to maintain than a web site or blog. They also give us a direct communications channel to the people whom we serve or whom we want to reach with important messages about our organization. Among those people are members of the younger generation who might not see our publicity in other venues. And when one person interacts with our Facebook Page, that action can be seen by dozens or even hundreds of their Facebook Friends giving our organization an instant and exponential reach beyond our own contacts.

Facebook also has the potential benefit of having our entire network of friends in the one place, so we can easily announce new activities, campaigns, and events to our constituency without having to email a large group of people - and risking the effects of the spam filter's black hole.

~ Alice Schneider

NATIONAL SPEAKER 2013

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013 AT 7:30 PM

PLUM STREET TEMPLE, 720 PLUM STREET DOWNTOWN

Our speaker for the 2013 National Speaker Forum will be **Robin Wright**, distinguished scholar and foreign policy analyst. She will address the topic

“U.S. Intervention: When is Enough Really Enough?”

This is an issue that will define the next decade when transformations in the

Middle East will present major policy challenges for the Western world.

Robin Wright is currently a United States Institute for Peace Senior Fellow and Wilson Center Distinguished Scholar. Her projects explore the new trends in the Islamic world, the Arab revolts, the rise of political Islam, and the counter-jihad against extremism.

During her fellowship, Wright has worked on three books:

“Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion Across the Islamic World” (2011)

“The Iran Primer: Power Politics, and U.S. Policy” (2010)

“The Islamists are Coming: Who They Really Are” (2012)

Wright has reported from more than 140 countries on six continents for *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Sunday Times of London*, *CBS News* and *The Christian Science Monitor*. She won the National Magazine Award for *The New Yorker*. She has also written for *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *TIME*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign*



Affairs, Foreign Policy, The International Herald Tribune and many others. Besides a long career in journalism, Wright has been a fellow at the Brookings Institution, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Yale, Duke, Stanford, the University of California at Santa Barbara, and the University of Southern California. Wright received her M.A. and B.A. from the University of Michigan.



Laure Quinlivan, Jeff Berding, and Kevin Flynn

This well-attended townhall forum held on October 15 about Issue 4 – extending City Council terms from two to four years—was successful and exciting for a number of reasons.

First, there were the last minute changes in the panel members arguing against issue 4. Former Council member Jeff Berding represented the Chamber of Commerce, and Kevin Flynn, president of the Charter Committee, replaced previously scheduled councilman PG

Sittenfeld. Councilwoman Laure Quinlivan and Reverend Damon Lynch, Jr. argued in favor of Issue 4 as planned.

Second, THREE television stations showed up to tape the proceedings for the late evening news and an Enquirer reported attended!

Third, the panelists argued their cases strongly in true debate style – each side wanted to win and to persuade the audience, those sitting in the Geier Room and those in the

TOWNHALL FORUM ON ISSUE 4 DRAWS LOCAL MEDIA

television community, of the validity of their arguments.

The panelists made many good points. Laure Quinlivan and Rev. Lynch argued that the longer term would enable Council members to master their jobs, build coalitions to pass legislation, focus on issues more in depth, and generally concentrate on their work for three years before being faced with fundraising and running for reelection. Jeff Berding and Kevin Flynn claimed that the proposal reduces Council accountability since it robs the electorate of the opportunity to vote Council members out every two years, if they disapprove with their decisions, and elect members they believe to be more responsive. The Charter Committee, as Mr. Flynn

reported, opposes such piecemeal changes to City Charter and plans to launch a more comprehensive Charter reform initiative.



Reverend Damon Lynch, Jr.

Cosponsoring this townhall forum with WCC was AIR, Inc., the Cincinnati Association, Citizens for Civic Renewal, and the League of Women Voters.

~ Sarah Gideonse,
Co-Chair Civic Engagement

Rachel Carson:

Celebrating 50 years of *Silent Spring*

Carson: Celebrating 50 years of *Silent Spring*

Before there was an environmental movement, there was one brave woman and her very brave book.

When I tell young people that this is the 50th anniversary of the book *Silent Spring*, they say they never heard of the author or her book. Yet Rachel Carson forever changed the course of history!

Carson (1907-1964) earned her master's degree in marine biology from Johns Hopkins University. Her book focuses attention on the decline of bird populations related to chemical pesticides and herbicides. She famously argued that the "contamination of man's total environment" by chemicals that accumulate in the tissues of plants, animals and humans, actually alter our genetic structure, thus

presenting the first scientific claim that man-made pesticides may cause cancer in humans.



Industry fought back, labeling her as a crazy hysterical woman who loved birds and bunnies.

But the public read her book and President John F Kennedy listened. Federal and State investigations were launched to verify her claims. Carson's well documented book empowered people to organize grassroots movements against toxic pollution resulting from

chemicals routinely sprayed on communities. Scientists were forced to acknowledge they had limited understanding of the unintended consequences detrimental to public health. *Silent Spring* resulted in an environmental movement that continues today. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established in 1970 for federal oversight and protection was an outcome of pressure from grassroots environmental groups. The tasks of pesticide regulation and food safety inspection were transferred to the EPA from the Department of Agriculture balancing the benefits of chemical crop treatment with its risks. Carson's job is, however, not finished. Chemical pollution is the third-ranking cause of species extinction in the U.S. after habitat destruction and the influx of alien species. Rachel Carson herself died of cancer in 1964.

Last month some of us had the pleasure of

hearing a lecture by Sandra Steingraber, the "Rachel Carson" of our time. In her books, *Living Downstream* and *Having Faith*, she powerfully combines scientific understanding with poetic expression(as did Carson) to explain the perils we face daily and the lack of public policy to safeguard the healthy development of children. Every parent needs to read her book *Raising Elijah* to learn how to protect their children from the hidden toxins that cause asthma and autism. I hope you read it!

The battle between the environmentalist and the exploiter is not over. We continue poisoning our air, water, soil, and altering the climate systems upon which we depend for survival. Carson and Steingraber are true heroes, each demonstrating that the vision of one can provide leadership for many.

~ Joanne Gerson, Cochair
Environmental Action
Group



Email Your Officers

Sometimes we want to give out contact information for club purposes without disclosing someone's personal contact information—especially if the publication will be accessible on the internet.

The solution? We gave our officers and Committee Chairs their own WCC email addresses in the following format: (FirstInitial).(Lastname)@womanscityclub.org

Thus, for example, our illustrious president can now be reached at J.Nightingale@womanscityclub.org. That address will actually just forward the mail to Jeanne's personal account, without us having had to give a stranger her information.

Members and friends who know Jeanne's personal address can just as easily keep using it. The mail will all up in the same email inbox.

Thanks Alice Schneider for setting this up!



Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati

103 William Howard Taft Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

Phone: 513-751-0100

Fax: 513-751-0100

wcc@womanscityclub.org

www.womanscityclub.org

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

Calendar of WCC Events

Saturday, Nov 17

FACEBOOK Workshop with Alice Schneider

1:00 pm
League Conference Room,
3rd floor,
Mt Auburn Presbyterian
Church

Tuesday, Nov 20

WCC Monthly Discussion: LOW COST HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS.

7:00-8:30 pm
Geier Room,
Mt Auburn Presbyterian
Church

Wednesday, Nov 28

WCC Board Meeting

6:30 pm
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian
Church

Thursday, Nov 29

LUNCH at VENICE ON VINE (benefit Contact Center)

12:00 noon
Venice on Vine
Vine & 13th Street

Saturday, Dec 1

Annual FEIST-TEA Fundraiser

1:30 pm
The Barrington,
Oakley, 4855 Babson
Place, Oakley, OH 45227

Tuesday, Dec 11

ALICE SKIRTZ ECONOCIDE

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

Tuesday, Jan 15, 2013

WCC Monthly Discussion: HUMAN TRAFFICKING 101

7:00 pm
First Unitarian Church
536 Linton Street

Thursday, March 14, 2013

NATIONAL SPEAKER 2013

7:30 pm
Plum Street Temple,
720 Plum Street downtown

Volunteer Opportunities

Be a part of WCC's
history project,
**A CENTURY OF
WOMEN.**

Record oral histories;
search existing
records; assist
historian Rachel
Powell. Contact
Jeanne Nightingale.

COMMITTEE WORK

Work and authority
within the club is
devolving from the
board to committees.
Find one that
interests you!



The e-Bulletin, together with the *Weekly Updates* and *News From Our Network*, keeps our membership connected. The next issue will appear in **December**. Deadline for copy is November 25, 2012 (word limit 200 words.)

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

WHAT DOES “AFFORDABLE HOUSING” MEAN?

EXPLORE COMMON MYTHS AND CRITICAL ISSUES IN CINCINNATI

WOMEN'S CITY CLUB

MT. AUBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Date:

November 20, 2012

Time:

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Location:

Mt. Auburn Presbyterian
Church

Address:

103 William Howard Taft
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

Join the discussion!

The Affordable Housing Advocates (AHA) produced a 2011 Housing Report and launched a public education and awareness campaign to help us understand who needs affordable housing in Greater Cincinnati. Join us to learn more!

Speakers:

Elizabeth Brown is the Executive Director of Housing Opportunities Made Equal. HOME is a nonprofit agency which enforces fair housing rights and works to build stable, integrated communities. Elizabeth serves as a board member for AHA.

Alicia Townsend has been with the Cincinnati Development Fund for 6 years as a Community Lender focusing on affordable and community revitalization projects. Alicia is an AHA board member and has been the chair of the Public Education and Awareness Committee since its creation 2 years ago.

Ki-Afi Ra Moyo is a marketing consultant for the Affordable Housing Advocates. Ki-Afi Ra produced advertisements, PSAs and an educational video for AHA's public education and awareness campaign.