

January 2013

*Lighting  
the way  
since 1915*

January  
GREEN  
TIPS

From  
Mary  
Gerson



**Things never to buy:**

- **Styrofoam cups** - these never biodegrade.
- **Paper towels** - these waste forest resources, land fill space, and your money! Use cloth.
- **Bleached coffee filters** - chemicals used in bleaching process contaminate ground water.
- **Plastic forks & spoons** - disposable plastic utensils are not biodegradable nor recyclable.

~ Mary Gerson

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# The Bulletin

Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati



## FEISTY WOMEN IN FINE FORM AT WCC'S THIRD ANNUAL FEIST-TEA

The 2012 Feist-Tea Fundraiser was more than a chance to honor three feisty WCC members who do more to make our community a better place than any of us could have imagined. The laughter, sharing, and insights we each gained from hearing some of the behind-the-scenes activity of these ladies created gales of laughter resulting in many conversations during the social time following the presentation. *Continued on page 2.*



2012 Feisty Woman **Jane Anderson.**



2012 WCC Feist-Tea Honoree **Cassandra Barham** is introduced by Marge Davis.



Louise Spiegel and Susan Noonan.



2012 Feisty Woman  
**Alice Schneider.**



Louise Spiegel hugs  
Cassandra Barham.



The power behind the party,  
the force behind the Feist:  
co-chair Ruth Cronenberg.

**Photos by Harriet Kaufman** except as otherwise noted.





Feist-Tea ladies certainly have a sense of humor as illustrated by Jane Anderson's acceptance speech.



WCC President Jeanne Nightingale raises a toast to Alice Schneider, Jane Anderson, Cassandra Barham, Louise Spiegel, and Ruth Cronenberg at the 2013 Feist-Tea.

## Feist-Tea, Continued from page 1

Jane Anderson, Cassandra Barham, and Alice Schneider each have a history of making things happen and removing obstacles for others in our community. The history of WCC is peppered with stories of women who would shake their fist and demand justice and change in our community. They would be proud. Following in their footsteps, Alice, Jane, and Cassandra encourage us all to follow in their footsteps and continue the mission of WCC.

We are greatly appreciative for all the support given us by our friends at Barrington of Oakley. Many thanks to the dedicated committee who made this happen: Jo-Ann Huff Albers, Jill Bley, Marge Davis, Mary Gerson, Susan Noonan, CJ Pierce, Doreen Quinn, Barbara Thompson, Future Vincent-Hicks, Ruth Cronenberg.

See video tributes to Jane, Cassandra, and Alice on our website. [www.womanscityclub.org](http://www.womanscityclub.org). Click on Membership.

This is a fun group to work with. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Ruth Cronenberg 891-5163.

~ Ruth Cronenberg, Co-Chair Feist-Tea



Doreen Quinn, 2010 Feist-Tea Honoree who became a committee member, is greeted at the event by WCC President Jeanne Nightingale.



Alice Schneider enjoys a laugh with Susan Noonan as Susan tells some of the many stories of Alice's Feisty methods of getting things done.



It was a happy family event for Cassandra Barham. Her family members show they are as proud of her as she is of them! (This photo compliments of Jeanne Nightingale.)



It was a day to celebrate past Feist-Tea honorees, too—like Amy Katzman, Feisty Woman 2011.



**Robin Wright**  
**NATIONAL SPEAKER 2013**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013 AT 7:30 PM**  
**PLUM STREET TEMPLE, 720 PLUM STREET**  
**DOWNTOWN**

**BUY TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS**  
**NOW**

The 2013 WCC National Speaker Forum is only two months away, so it's time for members and sponsoring organizations to buy tickets and purchase sponsorships for the exciting opportunity to hear journalist, distinguished Middle East scholar and foreign policy analyst Robin Wright.

Robin Wright's accomplishments are impressive and her topic timely. You can view her full bio at our WCC website: [www.womanscityclub.org](http://www.womanscityclub.org).

Wright will address the timely topic :

**"U.S.  
Intervention:  
When is  
Enough Really  
Enough?"**

Note that our National Speaker event returns this year to **Plum Street Temple**, which previously hosted the event for many years. This familiar location has recently had an upgrade to its sound system, which will enhance the experience of hearing Robin Wright in this beautiful and historic venue.

The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. with the separately-ticketed private dessert reception to follow immediately after the talk.

WCC's National Speaker event offers Cincinnati an excellent opportunity this year to benefit from the knowledge of a seasoned journalist and Middle East expert who frequently serves as a commentator on major news programs. Wright recently appeared on NPR's Diane Rehm Show just days after the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi that killed her friend, U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens.



**SEASONGOOD GRANT**

This year, Woman's City Club is the proud recipient of a \$2000 grant from the Murray and Agnes Seasongood Good Government Foundation. The grant supports the presentation of the National Speaker event featuring Robin Wright on March 14, as well as the ongoing work of the Woman's City Club.

**WE NEED MEMBER  
SUPPORT FOR THIS  
MAJOR FUNDRAISER**

In November, the National Speaker Committee sent out letters to WCC members and friends outlining sponsorship levels for this event, which is both the club's primary fundraising event of the year, as well as a significant opportunity for the community.

Members are encouraged to not only purchase their own tickets, but to contact others who may wish to support the event, and organizations that may wish to sponsor. Tickets may be purchased by mail or online through PayPal on the club's website.

Sponsorships provide Forum lecture tickets and reception tickets, as well as a listing in the event program. Sponsorships levels include Sponsor, at \$135, which provides one VIP lecture ticket and one reception ticket; Patron, \$270 for two VIP lecture tickets and two reception tickets; Benefactor, \$500 for four VIP lecture tickets and four reception tickets; Underwriter, \$1,000, for eight VIP lecture tickets and eight reception tickets; and Angel, \$1,250, for 10 VIP

lecture tickets and 10 reception tickets.

The cost of tickets for the Forum only tickets starts at \$35. In addition, members who sell five lecture tickets to non-members will receive one free lecture ticket and one free reception ticket. Members and friends unable to attend may also make tax-deductible donations of any amount.

**BUY TICKETS ONLINE**

This year again we have added the ability of WCC supporters to purchase National Speaker tickets online. You can go to the National Speaker tab on the WCC web site ([www.womanscityclub.org](http://www.womanscityclub.org)) and choose the level at which you want to purchase. When you choose your level, for example a Benefactor level at \$500, the "buy now" button will take you to a PayPal site where the order will be processed. You must have a PayPal account for this to work. To open an account, all you need is an email and password and a credit card which PayPal keeps on file. Follow directions to register for PayPal when you click on "buy now."

~ Joni Sullivan  
 National Speaker Committee





## WCC COMMITTEES GET TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Committees are where the real action takes place in our club—and the Board is trying to move more of the energy of the club to the committee level to engage more members in the work of the club.

Please check the committee list at the front of your directory and find one whose work calls to you. You won't regret it! Working with the feisty women of WCC is the best way to get to know them and get involved in the club.

*Pictured here: The National Speaker Committee hard at work. (Does it still count as work when you're having that much fun?)*

## NEWS FROM CAAG

The Catalyst for Achievement Action Group (CAAG) is seeking additional tutors for its highly effective multisensory literacy program for kindergartners in Rothenberg and Winton Hills Academies.

Helping a child learn to read is one of the best contributions a volunteer can make – if a child can read by the end of third grade, his chances for finishing school and leading a productive life are greatly enhanced.

Kindergarten is an important beginning. And you can help!

A volunteer tutor works with the same young child for an hour once a week during the school year, following an individualized curriculum developed by Linda Wihl, a local literacy specialist. Linda provides a brief advance training. Tutoring occurs at noon at Rothenberg on Tuesdays; at 11 at Winton Hills.

If interested, please contact Linda Wihl at her club email: [L.Wihl@womanscityclub.org](mailto:L.Wihl@womanscityclub.org).

Another way to contribute: Rothenberg Academy's new Resource coordinator is asking WCC members to gather hygiene products for the boys and girls.



*Linda Wihl, developer of the CAAG method, with a student.*

So far, she has identified as needs:

- deodorant
- tampons
- shampoo
- body wash
- soap.

People able to contribute these items may bring them to the WCC office (103 Wm. H. Taft Rd).

*~ Sarah Gideonse,  
Co-Chair CAAG and  
VP Civic Engagement*

# A word from the President



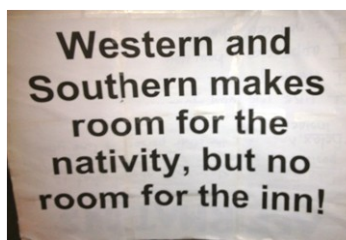
## Greetings and Happy New Year –

Once again WCC ended the year in high spirits with a festive December fundraising event as we raised our cups of tea to three feisty honorees. Thank you, Ruth and your committee, for making this a success. And congratulations, Jane, Cassandra, and Alice. You renew our resolve as we move into the New Year.

December's forum featuring Alice Skirtz and her stories of the hapless fate of the urban poor in our city was indeed sobering. These accounts form a largely unseen part of the broader history of housing policies and, as Alice notes, the general abandonment of civic responsibility. But we also learned from Alice about the significance of WCC as a positive force in the shaping of this history. She credits WCC for taking a leading stand against the rages of economic development that crushed the urban poor. For this we can be genuinely proud. (See Beth Sullebarger's article on page 6 of this issue.) Alice told me later that she had dug deep into the archives to uncover these

hidden facts of WCC history.

On Christmas Eve, WCC members and supporters of Anna Louise Inn participated in a demonstration at Krohn Conservatory's crèche scene (funded by Western & Southern) to protest the Financial Group's fight



against this century-old shelter for women.

Plans are underway for 2013 – new programs, membership salons, and the formation of a Centennial Committee to plan our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to assist

author Rachel Powell as she begins her research for Vol. 2 of *Lighting the Way*. Please let me know if you would like to be part of that planning.

In honor of National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, WCC will present a forum this Tuesday, January 15, to learn how to mobilize community response to what has become known as modern day slavery. (See flyer attached to the end of this bulletin.)

And don't forget to mark your calendars for March 14 and buy your tickets to hear our National Speaker, **Robin Wright**, distinguished journalist, Middle East scholar, and foreign policy analyst. Her credentials are impressive and her topic is timely,

Sincerely,

*Jeanne Nightingale*

## Membership Matters

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CONTINUES MONTHLY DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Woman's City Club continues to pilot 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.

**January's Program:** 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. See Flyer at the end of this Bulletin.

**February's Program:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton Street, Cincinnati, OH 45219. WCC member **VANESSA SPARKS** will present a program about her work with children in the Mohawk neighborhood of the West end. Vanessa has developed multiple projects including civic field trips, art classes and a community garden to encourage leadership, self-respect and creativity among the youth of her neighborhood. This year she was honored as a Cincinnati Museum Center's DIFFERENCE MAKER 2012.

#### Forget to renew your membership for 2012-13?

Go to [Womanscityclub.org](http://Womanscityclub.org) and follow the simple directions! If you are not online or need a registration form, contact the WCC office at 513-751-010.

**Need further information?** Check the online calendar for weekly updates, or contact Mary Wells via her club email at [m.wells@womanscityclub.org](mailto:m.wells@womanscityclub.org). We look forward to greeting each one of you!

~ Mary Wells, Membership Chair



Mary Wells





## MEMBER PROFILE: DAN ZAVON

Dan Zavon is not the only man who is a member and supporter of Woman's City Club, but he is definitely in a small minority. This doesn't bother him at all. As a stay-at-home dad for 14 years, Dan says he has "gotten used to being the only man in the room in a lot of situations."

He admits to being somewhat proud of doing things that are unexpected or going against the norm. Today his passion for Proportional Representation as a method of electing Council and Mayoral elections puts him again in the minority. Cincinnati used this system from 1925 to 1957, and there have been three attempts to reinstate it via the ballot. Proponents of P.R. say it is the fairest way to elect people because minorities are capable of being represented.

Dan first joined WCC in the late '80s. "WCC seemed to be interested in the same issues I was: fairness of process, treating people with respect and justice." At the time, he was also involved with the League of Women Voters, the First Unitarian Church and the local ACLU.

*WCC seemed to be interested in the same issues I was: fairness of process, treating people with respect and justice."*

In WCC, Dan has served on the Nominating Committee multiple times and has given his time to volunteering in the office.

He has been a volunteer math and reading tutor at North Avondale Montessori for six years, where his two daughters and a son attended school, and he has just been hired as a paid math tutor there. "I think I have figured out techniques that help with one-on-one tutoring. And I like that I can make a difference."

~ Leslie Cannon



## LIKE! WCC FACEBOOK

Facebook (FB) is a social networking service that has the power to communicate with a much larger group of people, easily, regularly, and continually. FB makes it easy to reach out. People don't have to be motivated enough to join a committee or ask to be put on a list. In addition, FB helps WCC publicize its name to a wider network.

**How it works:** Individuals "friend" the Woman's City Club on FB. To "Friend" or to "Like" means that you have established a connection with Woman's City Club's FB page so that postings to Woman's City Club's page automatically show up on your FB page where you can see them whenever you check your own FB page.

Please help us by "friending" or "liking" Woman's City Club on FB, posting information and comments about your Woman's City Club experiences. It's easy to stay informed of civic life through FB posts and links. To keep informed about WCC's activities, you need to "friend" Woman's City Club FB page.

**How to do it:** Log onto your FB page (given that you have joined FB), type Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati in the search bar – when our chapter's FB page pops up, click "Like" beneath the FB icon.

Some very informative links are posted on the page to help you stay informed of the topics that interest you. We hope you'll share that news with your FB friends.

This is the way our club will continue to serve our community - by making important and interesting information readily available to members and yet-to-be members.

For a training session, call me, Alice Scheneider, or Marty Harrington in the WCC office.



December's WCC forum was a presentation by Alice Skirtz on her new book *Econocide: The Elimination of the Urban Poor*.

Speaking to an audience of 50 at the St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church, Skirtz informed us – somewhat to our surprise – that “without the extraordinary work of the Woman's City Club in the 1960s, we would not have an Anna Louise Inn.”

In fact, around the same time Washington Way was built, “the Club worked to save Lytle Park, the Taft Museum, the Lincoln statue, and Guilford School.” Skirtz went on to credit WCC “for bringing us the earliest notions of historic designation – first for Lytle Park area and the Dayton Street area of West End.” But in the process, she added, WCC lost its clubhouse at 528 East Fourth Street, and other women's institutions were also eliminated – the Catholic Women's Club, the Cincinnati Business Women's Club, the Fontbonne and the Fenwick residences.

Skirtz, who has devoted forty years of her life to social work, conceived the title of her book after observing parallels between genocide and how Cincinnati's economic development and

housing policies have impacted the urban poor in our community.

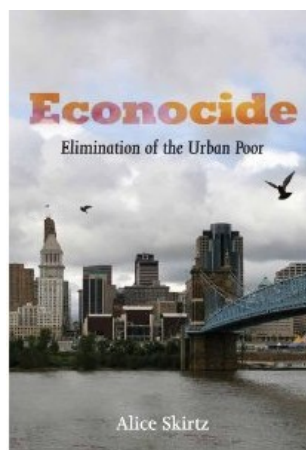
Her concern is for those among us who experience intermittent or intractable episodes of economic poverty and rejection and are repeatedly at risk of exclusion from the community through removal of their housing from the market, dismantling of economic assistance programs, and elimination or relocation of social services. While Cincinnati has some significant public and private life-saving services ranging from income assistance to shelter and emergency services, they are vulnerable to change. Trends beginning with welfare reform and extending to gentrification of old neighborhoods and recent economic development reflect a relentless policy roller-coaster.

Skirtz illustrated her point with a long list of such policies, from 1995 to the present, including the 1995 ordinance against panhandling; the drive to relocate the Drop Inn Center (DIC) shelter from 12th Street and “the homeless” from Washington Park; demolition of Laurel Court and Lincoln Homes and replacement with federally backed Hope VI “mixed-income” townhouses,

## *SKIRTZ SPEAKS ON CITY POLICIES ON URBAN POOR AND UNEARTHS STORIES OF WCC'S ROLE IN REFORM*

*“...[W]ithout the extraordinary work of the Woman's City Club in the 1960s, we would not have an Anna Louise Inn.”*

resulting in a net loss of 1200 subsidized housing units; a 2001 City ordinance forbidding use of federal funds for affordable housing in OTR; zoning restrictions to limit location of social services passed in reaction to CityLink, a “social services mall” in the West End; eviction of tenants from 18-



20 single-room-occupancy units at 1316-1318 Race Street for redevelopment by 3CDC; renovation of Washington Park resulting in removal of a swimming pool and basketball hoops against neighborhood wishes; redevelopment by 3CDC of the Metropole Apartments as the 21c boutique hotel resulting in the loss of 230 subsidized housing units from downtown; and the City's approval in 2012 of 3CDC's

request to use HUD 108 loan funds to move the City Gospel Mission, DIC, and a new YWCA from OTR.

Skirtz further noted WCC's involvement in Cincinnati's leadership in municipal planning. In 1925 Cincinnati published the first city plan in the nation and established the City Planning Commission as part of a national movement to reform city government. Since WCC was “at the birthing,” Skirtz urged us to “read our Club's history and recognize that without WCC's leadership Cincinnati probably would not have had an independent authority nor skilled public servants who functioned without political appointment–until 2003.”

Responding to Skirtz's presentation, **Tom Dutton**, Director of the Miami Center for Community Engagement in Over-the-Rhine, put her book in context and emphasized its importance.

The evening concluded with lively and informative discussion. See our website for a video recording of program.

~ Beth Sullebarger,  
VP Programs



## 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. Committed to promoting diversity and inclusiveness, the organization reaches out to collaborate with other community organizations in the city and work toward shared goals. See [womanscityclub.org](http://womanscityclub.org) for more information.*

## Calendar of WCC Events

**Tuesday, Jan 15**

**HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING 101**

7:00 pm  
First Unitarian Church,  
536 Linton Street

**Wednesday, Jan 23**

**WCC Board Meeting**

6:30 pm  
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian  
Church

**Thursday, March 14,  
2013**

**NATIONAL SPEAKER  
2013**

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

Robin Wright, Middle East  
expert, speaks to the topic:

**"U.S. Intervention:  
When is Enough  
Really Enough?"**

**Monday, Jan 21**

**MARTIN LUTHER KING,  
JR DAY**

8:00 am  
Breakfast honoring King  
Legacy Award winners  
including WCC member Cathy  
Roma at the Freedom  
Center. Reservations 513-  
333-7706.

**Tuesday, Feb 19**

**WCC Monthly  
Discussion:  
VANESSA SPARKS,  
ACTIVIST FOR  
CHILDREN**

7:00 pm  
First Unitarian Church,  
536 Linton Street

### 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.

Make a huge  
difference to our  
community, one  
child at a time. See  
**"News From CAAG"**  
on page 4 of this  
issue.



The e-Bulletin, together with the Weekly Updates and News From Our Network, keeps our membership connected.

The next issue will appear in **March, 2013**. Deadline for copy is **February 20, 2013** (word limit 250 words.)

- Jeanne Nightingale Managing Editor.

- Marty Harrington Layout Editor.



# Woman's City Club presents Human Trafficking 101

Tuesday, JANUARY 15, 2013  
7:00—8:30 PM

First Unitarian Church  
536 Linton Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45219

Call 513.751.0100  
for more information

Speakers **Erin Meyer**, Manager, End Slavery Coalition Cincinnati, and **Pamela Matson**, FBI Special Agent, 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.

Woman's City Club ~ 103 William Howard Taft ~ Cincinnati, Ohio 45219  
[www.womanscityclub.org](http://www.womanscityclub.org)

