

OUR MISSION: Woman's City Club is committed to building a strong Greater Cincinnati community through educating, empowering, and engaging all citizens to participate in promoting the common good.

OUR VISION: We envision a just and sustainable community where all citizens are engaged as informed stakeholders in the shaping of our shared future.

OUR VALUES: Collaboration — Citizen Empowerment — Lead Constructive Lives — A Thriving City of the Future.

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WCC programs usually are intended to educate, empower, and engage, but for our December 16 Holiday Sampler we are adding a fourth verb—entertain!

Since we have not been able to hold any of our in-person social events in 2020—our Seasongood Luncheon, members picnic and tour, Feist-Tea—and because our programs have dealt with such serious issues this year it is time to lighten up and brighten up the holidays with an evening of friendship and frivolity, featuring the sometimes hidden talents of some of our members:

- Janet Buening will start us off by sharing a beverage recipe that has enlivened many of her family holiday parties. (recipe on p. 3)
- Jeff Dey will dazzle with his prowess in creative napkin folding, a skill guaranteed to up your table décor game.
- Harriet Kaufman will teach even the most artistically challenged among us how to make a beautiful collage.
- Anne Buening will demonstrate ways to go green by creating seasonal decorations using natural, found materials. (more info on p. 3)

And throughout the evening we will have Holiday Show & Tell, giving everyone the opportunity to share a treasured object or picture and the cherished story or memory it evokes.

Plan now to join us on December 16. The meeting opens at 6:30 pm. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wccs-holiday-sampler-tickets-130975592523> to receive the Zoom link. All WCC members and friends are welcome.

Please BYO beverage and snacks. To participate hands-on, see page 3. Silly headgear and holiday attire encouraged. Cheerful countenances and joyful spirits mandatory.



GRATITUDE LEADS TO GREATER GOOD

As I write this, it is just days after Thanksgiving and I have much to be thankful for—family, friends, good health, comfortable home, and meaningful work. Lately I have become more aware of the power of gratitude. Thanksgiving is celebrated on one day per year, but we would all be better off if we celebrated it every day.

Through his research, psychologist and author Robert Emmons has discovered scientific proof that when people regularly practice cultivating gratitude in their lives, they experience a variety of measurable benefits—psychological, physical, and social—such as lesser symptoms of loneliness and depression and better sleep. Family, friends, and others who surround them consistently find that people who practice gratitude seem noticeably happier and more pleasant to be around.

Feeling grateful can also cause a positive ripple effect. A gift makes you feel valued by others and can motivate you to pay it forward—like the person who buys coffee for the next car at the fast-food drive-in, motivating the next person to do the same and setting off a chain reaction. People who feel grateful are more likely to help others and do things that do not benefit them in the moment but bring gains down the line. You are increasing the likelihood that you will receive help when you need it in the future, even though at present it's costly to you.

I am grateful for Woman's City Club, which connects me with others who strive to be informed about our community and work toward the common good. WCC offers all its programs online for free, thanks to our members who support us and speakers who share their



expertise without compensation. The pandemic has limited our ability to hold fundraising events that help cover our operating costs, so I hope you will express your gratitude by contributing generously to our Annual Fund to keep WCC strong and effective. We would be so grateful!

~ Beth Sullebarger

WCC's 2020 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Do you love the programs, the activities, the civic partnerships, the vision for a positive future for our community? WCC is your club, and this year more than ever, it needs your financial support. The mandatory closures and crowd restrictions put in place to control the coronavirus pandemic have forced us to cancel or postpone all our 2020 fundraising events and will likely continue well into 2021. While we have adapted successfully to using online technology to continue our free programs and even extend our outreach and attendance, we have not been able to hold our National Speaker Forum, Seasongood Luncheon, or Feist-Tea—the events we rely on to pay the salaries of our indispensable part-time staff; to cover the costs of our rent, telephone and internet service, office equipment, printing and postage; and to support our kindergarten tutoring program and annual education awards.



Our 2020 Annual Fund Campaign kicked off on Giving Tuesday and will run through January—but donate now for 2020 tax deductions. **Please give as generously as you can to keep WCC strong and viable in this challenging time.** Membership dues alone are not enough to sustain us. You can donate [here](#) with a one-time or monthly gift. You may also mail a check to Woman's City Club at 103 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati OH 45219, or call our office at 513-751-0100 on M/W from 10am until 2pm and Friday 9:00 until noon to make a donation via credit card. WCC is a 501(c)3 organization, so all donations are tax-deductible.

Your support will allow WCC to continue to **Light the Fire and Lead the Way.**



WOMAN'S CITY CLUB HOLIDAY SAMPLER

We hope you will join us on December 16 for our Holiday Sampler. Here is the recipe we will be demonstrating that night, and information about what you need for the winter décor craft.

Also you will want to have on hand a cloth napkin to fold along with Jeff Dey's instructions. Harriet Kaufman will give a demonstration on making a collage. To create your collage along with her you will need a sheet of paper or card stock, tissue paper in various colors, scissors, and a gluestick.

Santa's Little Helper

Jeanne Rehling Golliher's adaptation of a popular Christmas cocktail.

1 (750 ml.) bottle red wine (a Zinfandel is good)
1 cup orange juice
¼ cup cinnamon schnapps
1 (16.9 oz.) can of dry hard cider
(Strongbow™ is good)
a generous squirt of agave nectar, to taste
1 large orange, sliced into rounds or half rounds

Mix all liquid ingredients in large pitcher, stir to mix, and add the orange slices. Chill until serving, preferably 2 hours ahead, but not more than 4, or the orange peel may start to make the punch bitter. Serve on the rocks. Garnish with an orange slice, if desired.

Yield: 1 pitcher

~ Janet Rehling Buening

Natural Winter Decoration Craft

Every year during the holiday season, my family traditionally goes to the Krohn Conservatory. My favorite activity has always been seeing the large tree just inside the front entrance that is decorated with ornaments and garlands made from things found outside—dried plants, pinecones, seed pods, grasses, sticks, feathers...the list is endless. As the years have gone on and I became an inveterate crafter, more and more I found myself looking at that tree and saying to myself, "I could make that." And at our Holiday Sampler I will—and so can you.

Explore your yard, go on walks through the neighborhood or through a park. Gather what you can find: pinecones, sweetgum balls, seed pods from maple trees, dried decorative grasses, milkweed pods, acorns, walnuts, interesting sticks, and anything else I haven't thought to list.

An important note! If any of the objects (like pinecones or acorns) might harbor bugs you will need to kill these unseen inhabitants before they infest your home. Preheat your oven to 200°F. Arrange your findings on a rimmed tray lined with parchment paper and bake for at least 45 minutes. If you keep things in the oven longer, frequently check them to avoid burning.

Most of the other supplies depend on the type of decoration you want to make. Do you want to arrange things into a natural wreath, create a 3-D animal or gnome, or glue things on a support for a flat arrangement? Think about what you might want to do. I can also help you think of things to make (email me before Dec. 16 at arbuening@yahoo.ie). Pinterest is also a good place to search for inspiration.

Supplies:

Your bounty from the great outdoors
Glue gun or craft tacky glue or any strong glue that is not watery
Sharp scissors
Ribbon or string if you want to make a hanging decoration
A piece of cardboard cut in a 2–4 inch circle, square, or diamond (for flat arrangements)
Scraps of fabric or felt



~ Anne Buening



WCC's NEW SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

In support of social justice activism in our communities in 2020, WCC has established a new Social Justice Action Group (SJAG), chaired by David Siders, WCC Vice President of Civic Engagement. The Social Justice Action Group addresses inequities due to systemic poverty, racism, and classism.

This action group will present opportunities and resources to educate and empower WCC members and the public on the resulting issues that create barriers to people in our communities who are disproportionately impacted. WCC has folded its Thriving Cincinnati project into the work of the SJAG, which will collaborate with other social justice groups, provide opportunities to advocate for legislation, and offer opportunities for education and connection with others.

Community need drives the following priorities of the SJAG: racial justice and criminal justice reform; voting rights; livable wages and affordable housing; equitable access to healthcare and education. If one part of the community cannot thrive, we all cannot thrive.



Watch for an information session coming soon.

~ David Siders, VP for Civic Engagement

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT JUSTICE AND BUILD COMMUNITY

Following Woman's City Club's recent program featuring David Singleton, Director, and Sasha Naiman, Deputy Director, of the Ohio Justice and Policy Center about reform of the criminal justice system, WCC's board endorsed the recommendations put forward by OJPC. These recommendations are based on the principles that all people deserve safety and justice and that communities have the right to hold criminal-legal systems accountable to the people they serve. These values—safety, justice, fairness, accountability, and community power—are crucial to the success of our democracy and our society.

The recommendations offer clear, concrete ways for local law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and local governments to work toward these common values and build trust with the community. The recommendations reflect a longstanding effort in Cincinnati to improve policing and to ensure that people of all races and backgrounds are treated fairly. While recent events have exposed and underscored problems in our legal system, borne largely by people of color, there are ways to ensure equitable, effective criminal justice in the future.

Recommendations endorsed by the WCC Board of Trustees at its November 23, 2020 meeting:

- *Apply laws and policies fairly to all people. Reduce racial disparity in the criminal-legal system—including arrests, convictions, and sentencing.*
- *Offer warnings first and problem-solve for constructive, creative solutions while policing. Commit to understanding why reducing arrests and citations produces better outcomes for the community.*
- *When a situation necessitates criminal charges by police, cite-and-release rather than arrest, wherever possible.*
- *Address the pandemic as an issue of public health, not of criminality.*
- *Revive the Citizen Complaint Authority (CCA) and the City Managers Advisory Group (MAG) and empower these groups to fulfill their work.*
- *Review use-of-force policies, conduct/repeat trainings for officers about responding in ways that protect the safety and health of officers and community members and hold officers accountable for policy violations.*
- *Improve policing data collection, analysis, and evaluation capabilities—including tracking by race. Create data-driven policies collaboratively with police and the community to ensure accountability in law-enforcement activities.*

~ Beth Sullebarger



WCC BOARD VOTES TO ENDORSE DEMANDS OF THE FAIR SEWER RATES COALITION

At its November 23, 2020 meeting, the WCC Board heard a presentation from the Fair Sewer Rates Coalition and voted to endorse the recommendations the group is making to the Hamilton County Commissioners, which is the rate-setting authority for the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD). The Coalition—a partnership of Communities United for Action (CUFA), the Sierra Club Miami Group, and the League of Women Voters—is working for equity and fairness in the sewer rate structure.

THE BACKGROUND – WHY SEWER RATES ARE UNFAIR

Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati are under a federally mandated Consent Decree to improve the obsolete combined sewers that spew 8 billion gallons per year of untreated sewage and stormwater into the waterways. The Consent Decree sewer fixes, estimated to cost about \$4 billion, are largely funded through sewer rates and bonds.

The burden of the cost of sewer renovation falls largely on residential rate payers, whose fees are governed not by the increasing costs of improving the antiquated combined sewer system but by a surcharge on the amount of water used in each home, due to MSD's archaic rate structure that is based on water usage. But it is stormwater runoff that overwhelms the combined sewers, causing overflows into the waterways and basement backups that plague residents all over Hamilton County. Since 65 percent of the wastewater MSD currently treats is storm water runoff, it doesn't make sense to charge the bulk of the sewer rate based on water usage.

Exacerbating the problem of inequitable rates is the 20 percent automatic discount given to big users (i.e., businesses, industry), which shifts the cost of storm water runoff to residential ratepayers, who pay an estimated \$17 million per year in stormwater fees. The subsidy for bulk users comes in the form of a base rate structure (roughly \$40/month) that systematically results in overcharging nearly half of all other users! And while the majority of ratepayers are actually subsidizing the big users, there are no assistance programs for the ratepayers who are in actual need, such as low-income homeowners and renters, seniors, persons with disabilities, and those experiencing temporary hardships.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

WCC's Board of Trustees voted to endorse the following:

We are recommending the Hamilton County Commissioners, as the rate-setting authority for the MSD, make the following changes to our sewer rate structure:

1. *Reduce base rate charges immediately.*
2. *Eliminate the bulk rate discounts for large users that creates a disincentive to reduce water conservation.*
3. *Fund the Consent Decree with impervious surface charges and other stormwater-related fees.*
4. *Implement financial incentives for stormwater abatement for all property owners*
5. *Work to expand Customer Assistance programs for those in need.*

Individuals can voice their support by signing a petition to support the demands of the Fair Sewer Rates Coalition here: https://www.cufacincy.org/support_fair_sewer_rates

CUFA will keep Woman's City Club updated on future actions its members can take to support the Fair Sewer Rates Coalition.



~ Jeanne Nightingale,
with information provided by the Fair Sewer Rates Coalition



WCC FORUM UNDERSCORES NEED TO REFORM OHIO'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Leaders of the Ohio Justice and Policy Center (OJPC) spotlighted Ohio's high incarceration rate and the barriers faced by former prisoners to rebuilding their lives during Women's City Club October 28 virtual forum, urging participants to become "champions for justice" by supporting their work to reform the system.

Noting that the population of Ohio's prison system, which was built for 38,000 inmates, has swelled to 45,000 despite pandemic-related releases, OJPC Executive Director David Singleton stressed at the October 28th forum that the burden of mass incarceration unconscionably falls on African Americans by disproportionately large margins.

Blacks make up 12 percent of Ohio's population but 46 percent of the state's prison population. "That's shameful," said Singleton "and we can do better."

Singleton and OJPC Deputy Director Sasha Naiman discussed the center's legal and policy priorities, which are aimed at expanding fair prison release opportunities; creating "clean slate" policies, including records expungement for those who have served sentences; ending the death penalty; and reforms to policing such as curbing no-knock raids. Recently, OJPC has been working with Cincinnati officials and police to enhance the effectiveness of the City's 18-year-old Collaborative Agreement to improve policing.

Naiman called upon forum attendees to lobby for five pending state bills that are "nearing the finish line" but also running out of time for passage in the current two-year Ohio General Assembly period:

- Senate Bill 256, ending the sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole for juveniles
- Senate Bill 3, reclassifying lower level drug felonies to misdemeanors
- House Bill 1, expanding use of judicial intervention in lieu of conviction
- House Bill 136, ending the death penalty for people who are severely mentally ill
- House Bill 263, reducing employment restrictions, such as licensing barriers, for people with criminal records.

Naiman said that advocating for passage via calls and social media is one way that forum attendees could become "advocates for justice" by improving Ohio's criminal justice laws. Singleton encouraged them also to become connected via the center's [website](https://www.ohiojpc.org) (<https://www.ohiojpc.org>), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, and to explore opportunities "to listen to people who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system."

~ Janet Walsh

In a recent update message, Naiman emphasized again the urgency of community advocacy for these important reforms. She believed that SB256 was on track, despite the tight timeline. She hoped that by the end of the first week in December HB 136 will have passed through the Ohio General Assembly and gone to Governor DeWine for his signature. (It has passed by the Senate.) HB263 will be slightly amended (in good ways, she anticipated) and will likely be voted on in committee the same week. OJPC was happy that the Chairman of the Workforce Committee, Senator McColley, would likely schedule it for a vote, and Naiman said we still need to encourage all the Senators (of the committee and the whole Senate) to vote yes.

~ Sarah Gideonse



David Singleton



Sasha Naiman



WCC's NOVEMBER PUBLIC FORUM – THREATS TO OUR DRINKING WATER

Listening to WCC's November public forum on "Threats to our Drinking Water," on November 17 via Zoom, many of us were alarmed to hear about the growing dangers impacting the Ohio River—the source of drinking water for millions in our region. While we have known that our river has become one of the most polluted in the country due to decades of irresponsible industrial usage, it seems we have been kept in the dark about potential exposure to new undisclosed chemical and radioactive toxins poised to poison the Ohio Valley watershed—that is, if the proposed Appalachian Petrochemical Hub is built upriver north of Pittsburgh.



Mary Aguilera

Our speakers, **Mary Aguilera** of the Ohio Poor People's Campaign and statewide organizer for the Buckeye Environmental Network, and her two colleagues, **Kelsey McNaul** and **Kelly Yagatcich**—both regional environmental organizers for the Climate Reality Project—are all very troubled that the 5 million people who get their drinking water from the Ohio River have so little or no understanding about these threats and that they have little recourse to protect the river. They are also concerned about the use of radioactive "brine," i.e., fluids from fracking waste to de-ice our roads, the barging of oil and gas down-

river with its potential spills, and the deadly fracking waste that is being shipped to Ohio for storage in the state's injection wells.

Growing industrial pressure has resulted in a weakening of regulatory protections as evidenced by ORSANCO's 2019 shift in policy when the interstate commission representing eight states voted to make Ohio River Pollution Standards voluntary, most likely in anticipation of the proposed hub. The petrochemical industry, Mary says, would likely turn the "rust belt" into the "plastic belt." Small plastic pellets that are produced from "cracked" methane, called nurdles (used to seed the production of single-use plastic), will be released into the river without any consequence. The contaminants include chemical additives, such as ethylene glycol, naphthalene, and sulfuric acid—all toxic to human health. The hydrocarbon molecules of many of these substances mimic those in our own endocrine system, impacting human development and causing cancer. Even though we are told that we have one of the best water systems in the area, not all the chemicals that are in the water are tested, so we really have no idea how clean our water really is. Indeed, the chemicals that will be released into the Ohio River are not covered by the Clean Drinking Water Act!

Although industrial pollution impacts all of us up and down the river, industry has routinely preyed upon the low-income communities to create sacrifice zones. Facilities are often intentionally placed in communities that have no resources to fight back, and they are at the mercy of elected officials who sell out their communities, putting profit over the well-being, particularly in Appalachian towns.

(continued on next page)



Kelsey McNaul



Kelly Yagatcich



(WCC's November Public Forum on Threats to our Drinking Water—continued)

Now we know. So what do we do now?

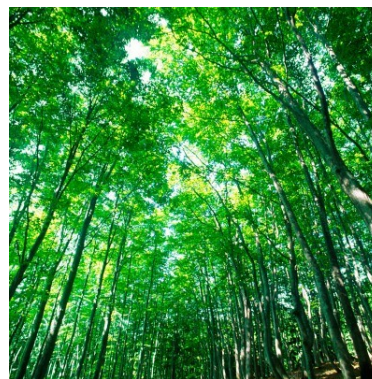
1. Create awareness of these threats by scheduling *Story of Plastic* screenings and discussions.
2. Watch more in-depth presentations and valuable discussions in the A- Z Tackling Impacts of Plastic Group on thecampaignnetwork.org.
3. Join local resolutions to support a living river, not petrochemicals, and the draft resolutions on brine spreading and water protection in the works. Join Ohio River Guardians to find out more about next steps of taking such resolutions to City Council and County Commissioners.
4. Stay up to date in real time with the issues and sign these petitions: <http://bitly.com/THREATSTOOHIOWATER>
5. Write a letter to the editor. Efforts are underway to coordinate topics for submission.
6. Pass a single-use plastic ordinance. Join new efforts to address HB 242 that banned local bans and bring this to other communities in Ohio.
7. Learn more about the contaminants in our river by watching the documentaries *Dark Waters* and *The Devil We Know*. (Netflix)
8. If you missed WCC's public forum, watch it now on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_yRRhqQLG0&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=WomansCityClub

~ Jeanne Nightingale

Green Tips from Jeanne Nightingale

8 Tips for an eco-friendly holiday, saving money while you save the planet:

1. Choose eco-friendly gifts like reusable drinking water bottles, solar flashlights, reusable straws, compost bins, homemade bread or cookies, or a gift membership to the Cincinnati Zoo.
2. Make your own wrapping paper, or better: hide unwrapped presents and hold a scavenger hunt for kids to find them. (Waste fewer trees and save space in landfill.)
3. Buy energy-saving lead-free LED holiday lights.
4. Replace plastic trinkets with healthy-snack stocking stuffers, supporting local family farmers who grow sustainable produce.



5. Get a pesticide-free tree at an organic tree farm, or better: buy a plantable tree you can grow in your yard or nearby park.
6. Invest in socially responsible mutual funds such as newalternativesfund.com, impaxassetmanagement.com, or Calvert's Global Water Fund.
7. Offset your holiday travel using Terrapass.com, CarbonFund.com or Carbonify.com.
8. Make a gift to the planet this year by donating to green projects in developing countries. <https://onlineshop.oxfam.org.uk/shop/oxfam-unwrapped/charity-gift-card/super-seeds-ou1025ml>. Or adopt a Green Turtle at the World Wildlife Fund.



STATUS ON TWO HOUSE BILLS IN COLUMBUS

House Bill 6

Ohio's controversial energy-bailout legislation at the center of the bribery scandal is getting some new attention this week. Lawmakers in both chambers are discussing bills that would either repeal or alter House Bill 6, but it would continue to subsidize coal and nuclear facilities through a new customer surcharge. Starting in January, House Bill 6 would require ratepayers to pay approximately \$1 billion over the course of six years for subsidies that FirstEnergy had sought for two Ohio nuclear plants. There are several bipartisan routes for potential HB 6 repeal, one of which, House Bill 798, would delay subsidies for one year.

Opponents of HB 6 says the bill guts the state's clean energy programs, which is a move in the wrong direction. The League of Women Voters supports full repeal of HB 6 because "it is based on manipulation and corruption of the electoral and legislative process, misinformation, and misleading assumptions that unfairly disadvantage Ohio residential and business ratepayers." The League would like to "formulate a comprehensive 21st century energy policy for Ohio that is forward-looking, restores public trust and confidence in the legislative process, and provides guidelines for a secure energy future in Ohio." The Ohio Environmental Community (OEC) opposes HB 798 because it fails to repeal HB 6 in full, and instead affirms the nuclear and coal bailout and the state's rejection of renewable energy and efficiency standards. "HB 6, the product of a corrupt legislative process," they say, "will still likely go into effect, and it is bad policy that will hurt Ohioans." Touting this bill as a simple one-year delay is misleading. Rather, it sets the stage for Energy Harbor to begin collecting the subsidy on January 1, 2022 instead of January 1, 2021.

House Bill 242

HB 242 was signed into law by Governor DeWine in early October. It temporarily bans the regulation of plastic containers in all Ohio municipalities. The law has a sunset clause that prohibits local governments from imposing taxes and fees on the sale, use, or consumption of auxiliary containers for 12 months. The passage of this law effectively delays Cincinnati's new ordinance to ban plastic, which would have gone into effect on January 1, 2021. In response, Past Plastic Cincinnati is considering new options such as working with other cities across Ohio to push for a statewide ban and working with other citizen groups to leverage consumer purchasing power as a way of stopping the production of plastic at its source.

~ Jeanne Nightingale



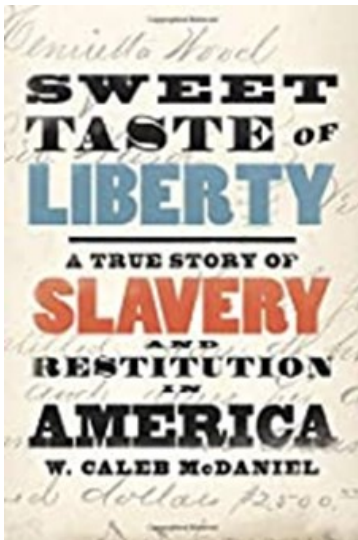


WCC BOOK CLUB

Sweet Taste of Liberty:
A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America

By W. Caleb McDaniel

Saturday, December 19, 10:00 am



In December, the WCC book club will meet virtually to discuss *Sweet Taste of Liberty* (2019), this year's winner of the Pulitzer Prize in History. It is the story of Henrietta Wood, a freed slave living in Cincinnati, who was kidnapped and re-enslaved and how, returning to Cincinnati at the end of the Civil War, she sought justice. There are court scenes and a veritable villain, Zebulon Ward, a deputy sheriff who colluded in her abduction and became wealthy as the "keeper" of multiple state prisons using convict leasing schemes.

The book is 240 pages, a suitable length for busy holiday readers, and available in several formats through Joseph-Beth Booksellers, various online sources, and the Public Library. The book version is available only for in-library use at the present time, in the Main Library downtown.

The book club, which now meets via Zoom, invites all members to the conversation. For more information and to RSVP to receive the Zoom link: Sarah.Gideonse@fuse.net

BOOK CLUB REPORT:

NAOMI KLEIN'S *ON FIRE: A CASE FOR THE GREEN NEW DEAL*

On Fire—read in the WCC book group in October—is a collection of Naomi Klein's public speeches and essays that chronicle a decade of climate change on the planet and our struggle to tackle the crisis. The Canadian author frames the ten critical years with two major calls to action: Al Gore's call for a Marshall Plan for the Earth in 2009 and the introduction of the Green New Deal in 2019. Her essays delineate in chronological order two parallel narratives that are in collision course, or, as she puts it, "in lethal dialogue." These seemingly incompatible stories will (and must! she insists) converge ultimately to create what she sees as an intersectional solution that will bring transformative change. Greta Thunberg gives her the title: "We must behave as if our house is *on fire*, because it is!" This new generation is our salvation, Klein says optimistically. They too are *on fire*!



From the first years of the industrial revolution, as the prevailing narrative reads, we have been following a course of economic progress based on runaway growth, overproduction, over extraction, and profligate consumption, as if there is no limit to the Earth's resources. Human civilization advances but at the cost to many lives, particularly lives of brown and black people in nations mostly located in the global South, humans treated as "raw capitalist assets." As we compete over limited resources, the gap between rich and poor grows, and impoverished nations are sacrificed to the benefit of the enriched few. This linear economy creates, and thrives on, a growing scarcity of resources.

The counter-narrative reads: The Earth is the only planet we have, and its resources are limited. Nature's assets must be protected so future generations can continue to benefit from the Earth's life-sustaining abundance. This account proposes a circular economy based on creative abundance where waste is a sustainable resource. It is a story of social mobilization that redresses discrimination and injustice, exploitation of land and people. Klein is optimistic that this narrative will ultimately lead to a defining moment of transformative change. The proposed Green New Deal can mitigate these discords, she argues, not one dispute at a time, but at the same time since they are intricately bound. Forging a path to a healthier planet will guarantee healthcare for all, unionized jobs, restorative justice, and the rights for indigenous peoples and all marginalized groups.

The pandemic, as Klein observes in a later essay, is like "a ruthless detective." It exposes the seismic shift we are undergoing. "But at the same time," she says, "the virus is a call to rewrite our imagination. Our chances of winning a livable future will be based on an ethic of caring for each other and for the planet."

~ Jeanne Nightingale



DAVID SIDERS

David Siders and the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library are nearly synonymous. A 31-year library employee, he became the “face” of the library as its civic engagement coordinator.

“I strategically plan how the library provides new resources based on community needs assessment, with a focus on supporting traditionally underserved communities,” he said. “My work builds partnerships with community organizations to help meet individual and family needs.”

A native Cincinnati, Siders lived with his family in Mt. Washington until his parents bought a historic farm in Clermont County along the Little Miami River to escape the bustle of increasingly busy suburbs. “Growing up, my family and I marveled over the indigenous Native American relics we found and treasured on our farm,” he said. “I have come to love and deeply appreciate both rural and urban life.”

Siders was “honored to be gifted a WCC membership by WCC Board Member Beverly Thomas several years ago to celebrate his role as library civic engagement coordinator. “I always admired the history, legacy, and ongoing justice work of the WCC,” he said recently.

An animal rights person who advocates for rescue animal adoption and has volunteered at animal shelters over the years, he is a bachelor “loving life in my historic Downtown Cincinnati apartment building along with my two cats — Buffy and Teddy.”

Siders has participated in WCC’s strategic and planning sessions and was recently appointed Vice President of Civic Engagement. “I was hooked on WCC events when I initially attended a ‘get to know your judicial candidates forum’ in collaboration with the League of Women Voters, and I greatly valued the forums with Ohio Justice and Policy Center’s criminal justice reform advocacy.”

Believing WCC can make differences in Cincinnati, he said, “As its legacy demonstrates, WCC has been, is, and will be at the forefront of social change, education, and empowerment in our region. ...Looking ahead, our newly formed Social Justice Action Group will collaborate to support and further the social justice, antiracism, anti-classism, and health and community well-being efforts of our region that the SJAG intends to advocate for.”

He is also on the boards of the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition and the Ohioana Library Association. Siders’ current focus at the library is to develop resources on workforce development in partnership with Cincinnati Works and others, public health services such as free COVID-19 testing at our libraries across the county in partnership with UC Health and The Health Collaborative, blood donation drives with Hoxworth Blood Center, and more as community needs change because of the pandemic.

~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers

WCC MEMBER CHARMINE MCGUFFEY ELECTED HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF

Charmaine McGuffey has broken another glass ceiling! Congratulations to one of Woman City Club’s own who has become the first female Sheriff of Hamilton County. She not only will oversee the Justice Center as she did before, but the many Sheriff’s Deputies who patrol not only Cincinnati, but all of Hamilton County. It is an immense job for anyone and we know she will handle it with aplomb. Her platform for becoming the Sheriff of Hamilton County from day one has been “accountability, transparency and reform” and we are confident that she is the right leader to assure that happens.



Photo by Harriet Kaufman

Because of her new responsibilities, Charmaine regretfully had to resign from the WCC Board, and we will sorely miss her, but can continue as a member. WCC wishes Charmaine well in her new position as Sheriff of Hamilton County.

~ Susan Noonan



HAMILTON COUNTY COURTWATCH REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

In October, the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC), together with cosponsors the League of Women Voters and Woman's City Club, issued a report summarizing the findings of its CourtWatch project conducted in 2019 and the first part of 2020. "The purpose of the project was to understand municipal court and offer suggestions that may improve the local court system and those that it serves—defendants and the community."

Trained volunteers from the cosponsors and the community observed the courtrooms of the criminal case docket of Hamilton County Municipal Court judges, tracked the observations through a checklist, and with that information offered suggestions and next steps in a report. CourtWatch was suspended in spring 2020 due to closure of courts in the face of the COVID 19 epidemic.

Data analysis focused on racial and gender differences in charges and outcomes, such as sentences and continuances. The descriptive data included the judge's insightful—and sometimes eye-opening—comments about their work, including its challenges, and the project as well as the observers' important impressions. The report ends with a lengthy list of conclusions, recommendations, and suggestions for further research.



~ Sarah Gideonse

CINCINNATI'S FIRST PUBLIC STATUE OF A NAMED WOMAN MARIAN SPENCER'S STATUE TO BE INSTALLED IN EARLY 2021



Sculpting and erecting a statue for Smale Riverfront Park has been a little more complicated than just creating the statue and putting it up. Right now the statue is pretty much finished and ready. However, installing it has turned out to be more complicated.

First of all, a permit from the City was needed and obtaining one took longer than expected. Then we had to hire a construction company to prepare the site. In preparing the site, HGB Construction Co. will remove the pavers, pour cement for the concrete foundation, and then drill holes upon which the statue will be set.

Once these steps are complete, Maggard Design will engrave the text and donor names on the adjoining wall. The text will quote Marian's words:

"BE SMART, BE POLITE, VOTE, AND KEEP ON FIGHTING."

Once all is prepared at the site, the foundry will deliver the statue to the site and sculptor Tom Tsuchiya and helpers will fit it into place. We are looking to have the statue installed by the beginning of January, 2021. We hope to be able to hold a dedication on Marian's 101st birthday, June 28, 2021, if the pandemic has abated by then.

~ Alice Schneider, Chair,
Marian Spencer Statue Committee

Executive Committee

Beth Sullebarger, *President* (2020-2021)
Helen O'Neal, *VP Administration* (2018-2023)
David Siders, *VP Civic Engagement* (2019-2021)
OPEN, *VP Membership*
Jeff Dey, *VP Programs* (2016-2022)
Marcia Togneri, *Treasurer* (2020-2021)
Anne Buening, *Secretary* (2017-2023)
Janet Buening, *Past President* (2019-2022)

Board Members

Marge Davis (2019-2021)
Michelle Dillingham (2020-2023)
Amy Katzman (2016-2022)
Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney (2019-2021)
Sharon McCreary (2020-2023)
Hera Reines (2018-2021)
Janice Seymour (2020-2022)
Beverly Thomas (2017-2023)

Calendar of WCC Events

Wednesday, December 16, 6:30 pm:

Holiday Sampler—a festive program for WCC members and guests, on Zoom.

Saturday, February 27, 2021:

Feist-Tea, honoring feisty WCC members.

Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 7 pm:

National Speaker Forum with Denise Kiernan at Memorial Hall.



CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

For an updated list of City Council sessions and committee meetings, go to the City website at cincinnati-oh.gov/council/.

WCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Monday, December 14, 6:30 pm:
Program Committee meets online.

Saturday, December 19, 10 am:
WCC Book Club meets online.

Monday, December 28, 7 pm:
WCC Executive Committee meets online.

Monday, January 4, 6:30 pm: National Speaker Forum Committee meets online.

Monday, January 11, 6:30 pm: Program Committee meets online.

Monday, January 25, 7 pm:
WCC Board meets online.



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

The monthly *Bulletin* keeps us connected with our membership, our network, and our community. Our next issue will appear in January 2021. Deadline for submissions and committee reports TBA. Please submit all material as you have it to Sarah Gideonse at Sarah.Gideonse@fuse.net.