



WOMAN'S
CITY CLUB
OF GREATER CINCINNATI

*Lighting the fire, leading the way,
since 1915*

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 – 2021

JUNE 2021

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.

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

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

WCC is deeply grateful to **Marge Davis** and **Hera Reines**, whose board terms have concluded, for their years of dedicated service, and in November 2020 said both farewell and congratulations to **Charmaine McGuffey** who left the board when she was elected Sheriff of Hamilton County.

WCC thanks **David Siders** and **Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney** for serving a second board term (2021-2024) and **Marcia Togneri**, who was re-elected for a one-year term (2021-2022). We welcome three new board members—**Sherri Adams-Davis**, **Aurelia Candie Simmons** and **Christa Zielke**—elected to their first term (2021-2024).

OFFICERS 2021-2022

President	Beth Sullebarger	VP Programs	Jeff Dey
VP Administration	Sharon McCreary	Secretary	Anne Buening
VP Civic Engagement	David Siders	Treasurer	Marcia Togneri
VP Membership	Cathy Bailey	Past President	Janet Buening



NEVERTHELESS, WCC PERSISTED!

WCC's past program year was a challenging one, to say the least. Our community experienced dark days due to the pandemic, racial strife, and economic hardship. As I began my presidency, it was impossible to predict how WCC would fare in the coming months. Like so many non-profits, WCC was challenged to keep functioning. We could no longer meet in person, and we had to postpone beloved events such as Feist Tea, the Seasongood Event, and our National Speaker Forum.

Looking back now, I'm pleased and proud to say that, nevertheless, WCC persisted, and even thrived. Much of this was due to the WCC board, committee chairs, and member support. We quickly adapted our meetings and programs to Zoom, expanding our attendance exponentially. We continued to address issues such as affordable housing, police-community relations, voting rights, and environmental threats. We also formed a new Social Justice Action Group.

Our special events—the Feist-Tea, National Speaker Forum, and Seasongood Event—were wonderful, even on Zoom! The Seasongood Event (minus the traditional luncheon) was a heartwarming online gathering featuring

an inspiring talk by Elizabeth Pierce, the first woman President and CEO of the Cincinnati Museum Center. It was very gratifying to see the young women who received the WCC & Michael Ramundo Memorial Education Awards.



Financially, WCC did much better than expected, ending the year with a small surplus. WCC was buoyed by an upswing of members, our successful events and Annual Fund drive campaign, and a PPP loan. The icing on the cake was that our investment portfolio unexpectedly soared by \$42,000.

The following pages are a testament to how WCC thrived during the past year. For me, personally, and I'm sure for many of you, WCC provided an essential lifeline during a period of extreme isolation to a community of members who care about civic issues and about each other. This was especially true of the WCC Book Club. I am so grateful for WCC and all of you!

~ **Beth Sullebarger, President**

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE



One of our unexpected challenges during the past year was the departure of Anne Skove, our valued office manager for several years. Due to COVID19, Anne had to focus on her family, with an elderly mother at home and two sons attending

school online while her husband, employed in the health field, lodged outside the home for safety reasons.

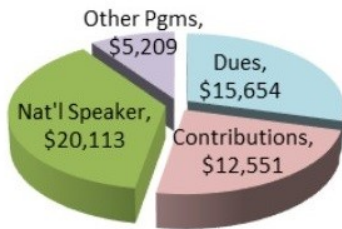
We quickly sprang into action and formed a Search Committee with **Janet Buening, Michelle Dillingham, Alice Schneider, and Beth Sullebarger**. The happy result was the hiring of **Donna Tukel**, our devoted and talented Communications Manager, semi retired from a long career as a designer of architectural interiors. WCC is now benefitting from her creative skills. We are also most grateful to Linda Wihl for filling in for a month in between managers to keep our office running smoothly.

~ **Helen O'Neal, VP Administration**



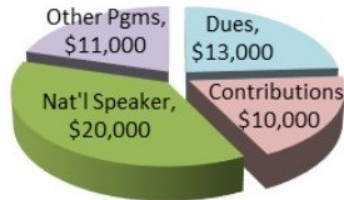
BUDGET — FY 2021 ACTUAL AND FY 2022 PROJECTED

Year Ending 5/31/21
(Actual*)

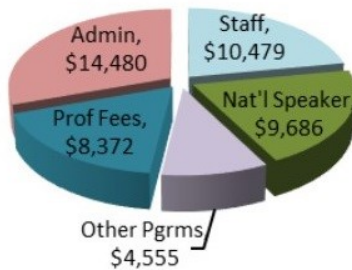


Income \$ 53,527*

Year Ending 5/31/22
(Budget**)



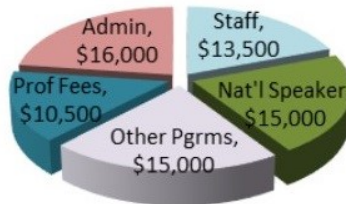
Income \$ 70,000**



Expense \$ 47,572

Net \$ 5,955*

* Operations only, excluding net income on our investment portfolio of \$42,036.



Expense \$ 70,000

Net \$(16,000)**

** Operations only, excluding net income on our investment portfolio of \$16,000.

FINANCE RECAP FOR 2020-2021

Despite the disruption and uncertainty of the last year, from a financial perspective, WCC had a good year, and is positioned for growth going forward.

WCC finished our 2020-2021 program year with a net gain of almost \$6,000, which was **\$17,000 better than the \$11,000 loss we budgeted**. Income fell \$1,200 short of plan, with Programs \$6,000 short, but Member Dues and our PPP grant made up most of this difference. The National Speaker forum on May 18 netted over \$10,000 because it was held on ZOOM, saving travel, lodging, venue and reception costs.

Remarkably, expenses were \$18,000 below budget. Personnel was \$4,000 less because of the pandemic and temporary vacancy of the office manager position, and National Speaker costs were less, as noted above. Expenses of the Seasongood event were deferred to next program year.

Outside of core Operations, our investment portfolio gained an incredible \$42,000 (at least on paper).



For those interested, more financial details, including our annual IRS Form 990, are available upon request.



2020-2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

Programs		Income	Expense	Net
National Speaker	May-21	\$ 20,113	\$ 9,686	\$ 10,427
Seasongood Banquet	Jun-21	845	0	845
Seasongood Scholarships	Jun-21	4,000	6,000	(2,000)
Feist-Tea Luncheon	Feb-21	4,025	221	3,804
Status of Women Expo	(Not Held)	0	0	0
Continuing Funds	5/31/20 Balance	Income	Expense	5/31/21 Balance
Thriving Cincinnati	\$ 7,552	\$ 0	\$ 181	\$ 7,371
Spencer Statue	77,704	7,527	25,682	59,549
EAG (CAAG) Tutoring	3,903	530	3,000	1,433

WCC Finance Team 2020-2021

Treasurer
Marcia Togneri

Accountant/Bookkeeping
Roger Smith, CPA,
Non-Profit Executive Services

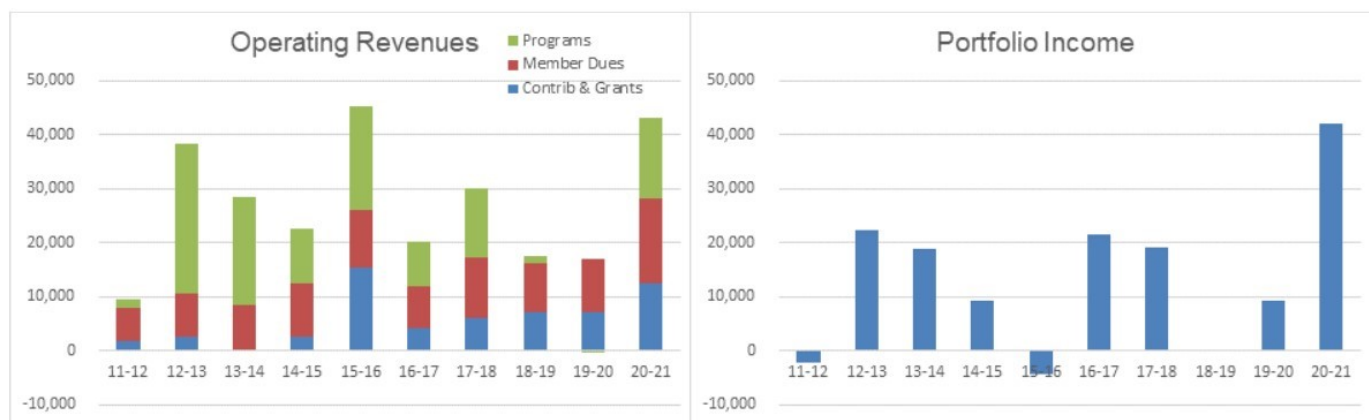
Investment Advisor
Kathy Hamm,
Principled Wealth Advisors

Office Manager
Anne Skove (thru Oct-2020)
Donna Tukul (from Nov-2020)

Finance Committee
Janet Buening
Michelle Dillingham
Carole Donnelly
Barbara Elleman
Susan Noonan
Jeanette Rost
Alice Schneider
Rina Saperstein
Beth Sullebarger
Marcia Togneri, Chair

Strategic Assessment of WCC Funding

The WCC Finance Team manages our financial affairs on a constant basis, monitoring activities, making payments and prudently investing our funds. In addition, we strategically assess the sources of our revenues (see charts below) and strive to ensure the reliability of our overall funding. With appropriately diversified sources of funds, we will enhance our ability to anticipate our revenues each year and to better plan events, initiatives and overall cash flow. In our efforts to do so, we periodically expand or reportion our “mix” of revenue sources. If you have any suggestions in this regard, please feel free to contact any member of our Finance Team.





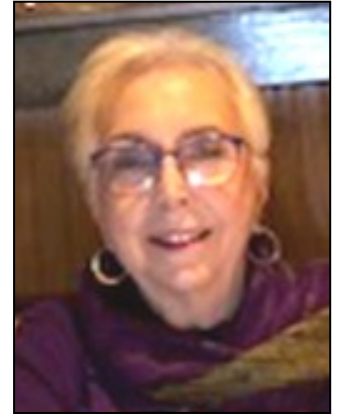
CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO WCC'S SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT FUND

While we proudly honored our past at the Centennial Gala in 2015, six years into our second century of advocacy, activism, engagement, and community service Woman's City Club wants to ensure a strong future through 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 fund is intended to sustain WCC for its next 100 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 me via the WCC office, 513-751-0100.

~ *Marcia Togneri, Treasurer*



WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS ~ Robert Ingesoll



2020 ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE THIS YEAR YOUR SUPPORT MATTERED MORE THAN EVER

WCC is deeply grateful to the members and friends who contributed to the 2020 Annual Pledge Drive! In the midst of the pandemic, you generously contributed \$7,285, exceeding the budgeted \$7,000 and allowing us to continue our programs, increase our community engagement, and keep the office running even though most of our fundraising events were cancelled or postponed.

Vasso Apostolides ~ Mary Asbury ~ Mike Brown ~ Janet Buening ~
Dot Christenson ~ Marge Davis ~ Nancy Dawley ~ Michelle Dillingham ~ Carole Donnelly ~
Barbara Elleman ~ Anne Fierst ~ Sarah Gideonse ~ Jeanne Golliher ~ Jane Ruwet Hopson ~
Edna Keown ~ Rachel Kinnison ~ Linnea Lose ~ Michael Maloney ~ Barbara Myers ~
Susan Noonan ~ Helen & Wendell O'Neal ~ Mary Owens ~ Francie Pepper ~ Rina Saperstein ~
Alice Schneider ~ Catherine Schick ~ Janice Seymour ~ Beth Sullebarger ~ Beverly Thomas ~
Marcia Togneri ~ Nina and Howard Tolley ~ Donna Tukul ~
Mary Wells ~ Susan Reid Wilke ~ J.M. Yacher



THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL FEIST-TEA

A VIRTUAL EVENT BRIMMING WITH GENUINE JOY AND SO MUCH FUN



Laurie Frank

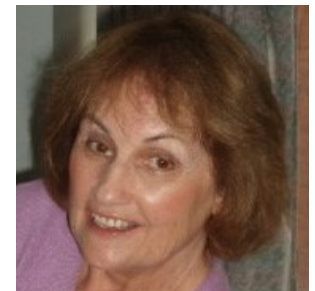
The 11th Annual Feist-Tea celebration and fundraiser, held as a virtual event on Sunday, February 28, 2021, was a lively, interactive, and relaxed celebration of this year's feisty honorees as well as previous honorees, past presidents, and new WCC-members. The Tea opened with a trip down memory lane—a slide show of past Feist-Tea events followed by a photo collection of past presidents dating back to 1915—and a warm welcome from Membership Vice President Cathy Bailey to 24 new WCC members. Three remarkable and feisty WCC members, who embody the club's mission to educate, empower, and engage, were honored during the event:

Deborah Allsop, the Executive Director of Families Forward (formerly Children Protective Services) who served on the Wyoming City School Board for more than 17 years and has been recognized as a YWCA Career Woman of Achievement and one of the 2019 Enquirer Outstanding Women of the Year.



Deborah Allsop

Carole Donnelly, who holds a PhD in Speech Pathology, was a professor at the University of Cincinnati supervising Speech and Pathology majors in field experiences; was elected president of regional and state Speech Pathology organizations; and has served WCC in many ways including on the board and as chair of the National Speaker Forum Committee.



Carol Donnelly

Stephanie Stoller, a pharmacist who worked with her husband first in running a family apothecary and then in building a business selling supplies to drugstores by mail-order, also served for 44 years on the Blue Ash City Council; is active in many organizations including Cincinnati, Women's Political Caucus, and the League of Women Voters; and served WCC on the board and numerous committees.



Stephanie Stoller

Feist-Tea Committee members were **Jo-Ann Huff Albers**, **Marge Davis**, **Jeff Dey**, **Joy Haupt**, **Helen O'Neal**, and **Beverly Thomas**. Special thanks also go to **Harriet Kaufman** and **Wendell O'Neal**, who took many of the photos used in the slide presentation.

WCC is deeply grateful for all who attended and supported the Tea and the honorees. Donors who gave \$50 or more were sent a gift of the official Feist Chai Tea. The income from the event—all donations, as there is no charge to attend the Feist-Tea—was \$4,025, exceeding the proceeds of recent years. Your generosity, in honor of these remarkable women and the mission and vision of the WCC, serves to support the ongoing work, programs, and operations of the Woman's City Club.

~ Laurie Frank, Chair



NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM 2021

WITH AUTHOR DENISE KIERNAN

After postponing the National Speaker Forum twice because of the coronavirus pandemic, we finally held a successful virtual event with award-winning and best-selling author **Denise Kiernan** on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. She presented an excellent program on Zoom to an audience of nearly 100. We followed this presentation with a Zoom VIP reception in which guests could speak directly with Kiernan.

Her presentation—"Generations of Grace: Inspiring Women Who Shaped American History"—drew from her new book, *We Gather Together: A Nation Divided, A President in Turmoil, and a Historic Campaign to Embrace Gratitude and Grace*, as well as her previous works. Kiernan outlined the changing roles of women from the Civil War through modern times. She gave a very personable and engaging talk over Zoom.



Alice Schneider



In lieu of a catered reception, WCC offered a free copy of *We Gather Together* with an autographed book plate to donors who contributed \$140 or more. We distributed about 24 books.

Janet Buening secured a grant of \$2,000 from the Seasingood Foundation to open up the National Speaker Forum to individuals and organizations that would benefit from hearing this presentation but would not be able to attend without free or highly subsidized tickets. WCC deeply appreciates their support.

Despite all the postponements and change of format, the event generated a surplus for WCC. The expenses came to approximately \$9,686 (mostly Kiernan's fee of \$8,000), and the income was \$20,113, which produced a net of \$10,427. WCC is grateful for the generosity of our loyal cosponsors and donors who stayed with us through all the changes. We also salute the staff of Memorial Hall, who notified ticket holders with each postponement and assisted us with contact information as we transitioned to the virtual event.

Much thanks to the committee members for all their excellent teamwork on the 2021 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, Beth Sullebarger, and Mary Wells.**

~ Alice Schneider, Chair



THE AGNES B. SEASONGOOD EVENT A NEW APPROACH TO AN ANNUAL TRADITION

This event is named in honor of Agnes B. Seasongood, a longtime member and active leader in Woman's City Club. When Agnes died in 1982, she left a large bequest to WCC that the Club used to hold regularly scheduled luncheon forums with a featured speaker.



Elizabeth Pierce

After the last disbursement of this bequest in 1984, the Woman's City Club initiated a special forum in honor of Agnes. It has become an annual event and tradition, usually a luncheon at a hotel, and now includes awarding the **WCC & Michael Ramundo Memorial Education Awards**, scholarships given directly to promising senior high school women to further their educational goals. These young women are selected based on a written essay, teacher recommendations, and fulfillment of application requirements.

This year's event was a virtual evening program, and all but one of the awardees were able to attend with a parent or guardian. Each girl told us of her plans for college and a future career. They are all incredibly motivated, bright, and involved in their communities.

Our motivating Keynote Speaker was Elizabeth Pierce, President and CEO of the Cincinnati Museum Center. She encouraged the girls to focus on what they want to do and never give up on that goal. Ms. Pierce also invited the girls to visit the Museum Center as her guest, since many had not been since their visit to the Children's Museum!



Susan Noonan

THE 10 AWARD RECIPIENTS THIS YEAR WERE:

EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Lydia Dill ~ Turpin High School,
Cincinnati

Elle Faris ~ Lloyd Memorial High School,
Erlanger, KY

Janielle Gray ~ Princeton High School,
Cincinnati

Riley Mock ~ Lawrenceburg High School,
Lawrenceburg, IN

Georgina Osa ~ Northwest High School,
Cincinnati

AWARD RUNNERS-UP

Kennedy Ashley ~ Wm. Henry Harrison H.S.
Harrison, OH

Kristy Feldman ~ Colerain High School,
Cincinnati

Anna Hamann ~ Seton High School,
Cincinnati

Brooke Hunn ~ St. Ursula Academy,
Cincinnati

Kiley Ingram ~ Kings High School,
Kings Mills, OH

Thank you to WCC and Beverly Thomas for the WCC & Michael Ramundo Memorial Education Awards of \$1,000 to each of five seniors. This year five runners-up each received a \$200 award, thanks to the generosity of Ms. Thomas.

I also thank the Seasongood Event committee members for their outstanding work—**Marge Davis, Anne Fierst, Alice Schneider, Leslie Spencer, Stephanie Stoller, and Mary Wells**—and the Education Awards team, **Beverly Thomas, Sharon McCreary, and David Siders**. To join the committee, please email snoonan@fuse.net.

~ Susan Noonan, Chair



WCC EDUCATES, EMPOWERS, AND ALWAYS ENGAGES

Civic engagement has been the hallmark of Woman's City Club since its founding in 1915. Our mission — then and now — is to educate, empower, and engage all citizens to participate in the common good. Our 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.

Here is a summary of how WCC acted on its values in 2020-2021:

CIVIC COLLABORATIONS

WCC is a leader in bringing together civic organizations for activities as needed, and continues to partner with Cincinnati, LWVCA, Urban League, Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative, Cincinnati Bar Association, Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus, Invest in Neighborhoods, Community Shares, Action Tank, Cincinnati Educational Justice Coalition, and others to present forums that explore a wide range of important issues.

CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT AND CIVIC LITERACY

Education about and endorsements of electoral/legislative issues are key to achieving WCC's mission. During the past year, WCC Civic Engagement and the Education Action Group created informational one-pagers, statements of support, or endorsements on the following issues: House Bill 186/Senate Bill 191 to allow easier access to absentee ballots; HB 13 Broadband Expansion; support of Cincinnati Public School's 2020 Renewal Levy; support of Asian Americans via the Midwest USA Chinese Chamber of Commerce statement; and critical amendments to HB 294, the Ohio Election Security and Modernization Act. We prepared a statement in support of the Fair School Funding Bill in HB 110 (budget bill).

EQUITY AND JUSTICE

In response to the killing of George Floyd and the national racial unrest that followed, Civic Engagement contributed to writing and distributing "**Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati's Statement on the Murder of George Floyd and the Injustice Impacting People of Color in the United States**" in June 2020. To ensure an ongoing commitment to increase civic engagement to this issue and other injustices and inequities, WCC established the new Social Justice Action Group, under the leadership of VP for Civic Engagement David Siders. (*see p. 10 for more information about this action group*).

A THRIVING CITY OF THE FUTURE

The proposed amendment to the City Charter to fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, on the May 2021 ballot, called attention to the current critical lack of affordable housing in Greater Cincinnati. Civic Engagement contributed to the development of a two-part series of virtual programs on affordable housing and the varying perspectives on the Charter Amendment/Affordable Housing Trust Fund (*see p. 15 for details*). We also contributed to writing "**Woman's City Club Calls for City Action to End the Affordable Housing Crisis in Cincinnati,**" a statement for public distribution.

~ David Siders, VP for Civic Engagement





SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

If one part of the community cannot thrive, we all cannot thrive.

In support of social justice activism in our community, in June 2020 WCC established a new Social Justice Action Group (SJAG). This group will address inequities due to systemic poverty, racism, and classism. It will present forums 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 by these inequities.

WCC has folded its Thriving Cincinnati project into the work of the SJAG, which will collaborate with other social justice groups in Greater Cincinnati to advocate for legislation and offer opportunities for education and connection with others.

Community need drives the priorities of the SJAG. If one part of the community cannot thrive, we all cannot thrive.

- Livable wages and affordable housing
- Voting rights
- Racial justice and criminal justice reform
- Equitable access to health care
- Education

The SJAG Steering Committee members include **Beth Sullebarger, Harriet Kaufman, Susan Noonan, Jan Seymour, Kathleen Hebbeler, Debbie Davidson, Jo-Ann Albers, Kayla Bradham, Sarah Gideonse, and David Siders.**

Current action steps focus on supporting the work and amplifying the missions of social justice-driven community organizations such as stakeholders moving affordable housing forward, the Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative, the Urban League's

new Social Justice Policy Center, The Heights, and Black United Front's Leaders of the Free World.

Next steps include:

- scheduling a public information-sharing session
- working on the web and social media presence of SJAG, including converting the Thriving Cincinnati website to SJAG
- determining how SJAG and WCC's Program Committee will both intersect and act independently
- defining how SJAG will function so it amplifies rather than overlaps the work of other community social justice groups
- confirming that the SJAG be responsible for developing WCC involvement at public activism events (with safety protocols during the pandemic, and a bold presence at activism events post pandemic).

Help is needed to grow the SJAG! We are seeking assistance with web development, social media skills, and event planning, as well as your commitment to equity and justice for all. **If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact David Siders at dbviders@gmail.com.**



~ David Siders,
VP for Civic Engagement



EDUCATION ACTION GROUP TEACHING CHILDREN, TOUCHING LIVES

Sarah Gideonse chairs this action group, which has the goal of supporting public school children's achievement and helping children at risk succeed. Our work this year was greatly affected by the COVID-19 epidemic that closed schools and meeting places.

Our major project in recent years has been a volunteer and funding commitment to a multi-sensory kindergarten literacy program in two Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) elementary schools. Under the leadership of **Linda Wihl**, and using her ***Making Sense of Language Arts*** (MSLA) curriculum, tutors worked with individual children weekly throughout the year to help them begin to read, write simple words, expand their vocabularies, and understand stories, so they could become strong readers by the end of third grade. That is a primary predictor of their staying in school and succeeding with learning. Over the years the program has shown to be a highly effective intervention with the children.

Sadly, for both children and tutors, this program has been in abeyance since mid-March 2020, when schools closed because of the epidemic. In the meantime, Linda, with **Harriet Kaufman**, a member of the MSLA board, found an experienced contractor, Jennifer Dunn, CEO of Bunifu e-Learning. Together they worked to digitalize the program for use for distance learning that will still engage young people and their tutors. To implement, tutors will need training, a computer, and willingness to practice new skills.

Over the years, WCC, foundations, and individuals donated money to support the tutoring program. In April 2021 the WCC board voted to approve transfer \$3,000 of these funds to MSLA to help pay for the digitalization. Linda is upbeat: "Our hope is the impact of this will go far beyond what we have been able to accomplish" with in-person training in a few high-poverty Cincinnati schools.

The Education Action Group also advocates for education. On the group's recommendation, the WCC board endorsed the November 2020 CPS ballot issue to renew a levy that in part funds the Preschool Promise and the Fair School Funding Bill before the Ohio State Assembly.

Although unable to hold our traditional Gatherings for Good at Venice on Vine, we were able to continue support of the Contact Center by gathering donations of Christmas gifts to sell at modest cost to the families it serves.

~ Sarah Gideonse, Chair



Sarah Gideonse



Linda Wihl



Harriet Kaufman

A Creative Way to Support WCC and *Making Sense of Language Arts*

An accomplished sculptor and photographer, Harriet Kaufman began experimenting with collage while staying home during the pandemic, creating unusual shapes, combining unusual colors, and using space and form in unusual ways. She has transformed 32 collages of birds into outlines to make *The Odd Coloring Book* for children and adults of all ages and abilities.

Proceeds from the sales of the book will be divided equally between WCC and Linda Wihl's MSLA, to help cover the cost of converting it from an in-person tutoring program to online distance learning tools. Each copy is \$10. To purchase, please visit our website or call the office and come by to pick one up.





ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

Action Groups

WCC's Environmental Action Group focuses on environmental and climate justice issues. We seek to ensure a better quality of life for all in a just and equitable way while living within the limits of our supporting ecosystems.

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*

The Environmental Action Group generally works in collaboration with the **League of Women Voters Cincinnati Area's** (LWVCA) Natural Resource Committee and the **Sierra Club Miami Group** on ongoing projects that help green the urban environment and elevate eco-awareness. This year we contributed to the League's study pages—*Rethinking Recycling*—which we made available throughout the city. We organized WCC's public forum on *Threats to our Drinking Water*. We lobbied to repeal Ohio HB 6 in order to restore and enhance Ohio's sustainable energy goals.

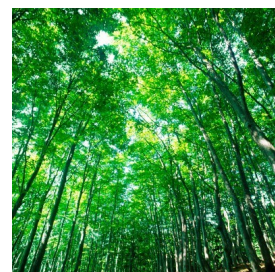


Other activities include supporting **Communities United for Action** in their campaign to secure fair sewer rates, and working with the new **Green Umbrella Impact Team** called *Faith Communities Go Green* that seeks to mobilize their moral voice to create a more sustainable future and to reduce the risk of catastrophic climate change.

Our monthly series of community conversations – ***Changing CO₂urse: Local Solutions to Global Crises*** – has been curtailed due to COVID-19, but we continue the work on reducing plastic pollution in our city and in our world. WCC is one of the partnering organizations of **Past Plastic Cincinnati**, which has successfully campaigned for a City ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags. This has been unfortunately put on hold due to state legislation that would regulate such municipal bans. To push legislators to enact a statewide ban, we are working with other cities across Ohio, and we continue to strategize at our regular virtual meetings, in collaboration with **Ohio Past Plastic** and **The Ohio River Guardians**, to take the fight to the petrochemical industry at both state and national levels.

We welcome WCC members to join this task force. If you are interested, please contact Jeanne Nightingale at jnightingale@fuse.net. The group meets virtually every fourth Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

~ Jean Nightingale, Chair





STATUS OF WOMEN ACTION GROUP

The Status of Women Action group, chaired by **Susan Noonan** and **Jill Bley**, was established to address a range of women's empowerment issues. This vital group held forums on a range of relevant topics and started the WCC Book Club to read and discuss books on women's issues.



It's major outreach in recent years has been the annual **Women's Economic, Physical, and Mental Health Expo** on Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati, presented in conjunction with Thriving Cincinnati. This event gave agencies and organizations that support women a public venue in which they could promote their services and connect with potential clients at a lively lunchtime event in the heart of the city, complete with noteworthy speakers and the popular Pone dance troupe. In 2019, 27 agencies filled the tables in the Square.

The September 2020 Expo was cancelled due to the restrictions put in place to control the COVID-19 outbreak.

It is likely that the Expo will not be able to take place this year either, as 3CDC, which manages the Square, has not yet given approval for a large gathering and there won't be enough time to organize and promote the event.

It is possible that the Status of Women Action Group may join with WCC's new Social Justice Action Group, to be part of the larger conversation about equity and justice. Further consideration and discussion will take place before that decision is made.

~ *Susan Noonan, Co-Chair*

THRIVING CINCINNATI



Louise Spiegel

Thriving Cincinnati was inspired by the vision of **Louise Spiegel**—and generously funded by her—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 recent years on youth in Cincinnati Public Schools and their options for training to move from surviving to thriving.



In 2020 Thriving Cincinnati hoped to focus on uncovering the gaps in the services available to youth ages 16-24 and to renew social media and website efforts, but it was hampered by closures of schools and restrictions on social service agencies. The group has now decided to come under the umbrella of WCC's new Social Justice

Action Group, which closely aligns with its mission—a dynamic and thoughtful change that should help increase Thriving's outreach and effectiveness.

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 AN UNUSUAL BUT EXCITING YEAR OF PROGRAMS

During a year like no other, the Woman's City Club presented forums of both high quality and extensive impact – mostly through Zoom meetings and webinars. When we weren't hosting programs of our own, we were participating in, co-hosting, and sponsoring partner organizations' programs in the community. Topics ranging from voting rights, the Collaborative Agreement refresh, the work of the Ohio Justice and Policy Center (OJPC), drinking water and other environmental issues, affordable housing, and the complex Cincinnati mayor's race were addressed.

VOTING RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY

On August 26, 2020, the Centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, **Katherine Durack, PhD**, a retired Miami University professor, presented a



Katherine Durack

program on the critical yet forgotten role Ohio played in the fight for woman's suffrage. She explained how the woman's rights movement in the U.S. has deep roots in the abolitionist movement and connections to Cincinnati, including Woman's City Club. **Catherine Turcer**, Executive Director of Common Cause Ohio,

discussed the obstacles to voting that we are facing today. There were many questions from a very engaged online audience.

Informed and inspired by this earlier than usual first program of the year, Woman's City Club members participated in the **Walk the Vote** event on October 18, 2020, with our partner organization, the **Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative**. The walk began at Norwood Plaza and then proceeded up Montgomery Road to the Board of Elections office, where many participants delivered completed ballots. It was a much needed escape from Zoom and into the community!

CINCINNATI'S COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT/OJPC

Woman's City Club was fortunate it could present **Iris Roley** and **Al Gerhardstein** of the Black United Front together with Executive Assistant Police Chief **Terri Theetge** in a webinar on the history, progress, and

current status of Cincinnati's Collaborative Agreement. Moderated by **Susan Noonan**, they shared ideas about how Woman's City Club and others can become a part of furthering the Collaborative Agreement Refresh.

During WCC's October 28, 2020 forum, 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 urging participants to become "champions for justice" by supporting their work to reform the system.

The May program, "A Conversation with **Gabe Davis** of the Cincinnati Citizens Complaint Authority," was a follow-up to the September forum on the Collaborative Agreement Refresh. It took place on May 10, 2021. Mr. Davis is the executive director of the Cincinnati Citizens Complaint Authority (CCA), a key component for carrying out the Collaborative Agreement. He talked about the new energy he has brought to the CCA's leadership, the fundamentals of how it is currently working, and its latest activities. There were many questions from our members and other participants, resulting in a lively discussion.



Iris Roley



Gabe Davis

(continued on next page)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

THREATS TO OUR DRINKING WATER

On November 17, 2020, **Jeanne Nightingale** organized a program entitled “Threats to Our Drinking Water” with **Mary Aguilera** of the Environmental Network of the Ohio Poor People’s Campaign and **Kelly Yagatch** and **Kelsy McNaul** of Ohio Beyond Dirty Fuels Campaign.

HOLIDAY SAMPLER

As a reward (or a break) in the action of a very busy year, WCC presented a just-for-fun Holiday Sampler on December 16, 2020, for its members. While still held on Zoom, it was a much-needed chance to share stories, recipes, crafts, and more.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

David Siders led a program entitled “Filling the Gap: Successful Initiatives in Affordable Housing,” on Thursday, January 21, 2021, which included **Liz Blume** of the Xavier University Community Building Institute, **Mary Burke-Rivers** of the Over-the-hine Community Housing, **Alisa Berry** of Cornerstone Renter Equity, and **Mary Delaney** of Lower Price Hill (LPH) Thrives. They discussed the many issues of affordable housing and gave concrete examples of programs in the community that are working, as well as the associated challenges.

David Siders also led the second affordable housing program entitled “Perspectives on the Charter Amendment,” on Thursday, February 18, 2021, that included **Kathy Schwab**, **Dot Christenson**, **Matt Strauss** and **Peg Fox**. They discussed the issue of the Affordable

Housing Trust Fund. It was a balanced program and people truly appreciated the quality of the discussion. We had such good response that the program was allowed to run over a bit to continue the lively Q&A.



Matt Strauss

CANDIDATES NIGHT / JUDICIAL FORUMS

The “Creative Candidates Night—Cincinnati Mayoral Primary” on March 31, 2021, was a big success and well attended. In addition to those who participated on Zoom, many more people watched on Facebook Live. It was a tribute to our ability to actively collaborate with other organizations, both old and new, along with an impressive list of sponsors.

Woman’s City Club participated in the Judicial Forums on September 29 and October 1, 2020, which were well attended and very informative. In addition to WCC, these forums were sponsored by the Cincinnati Bar Association, the League of Women Voters, the Urban League, and Cincinnati.

LOOKING FORWARD

While we expect to begin engaging in person in the months ahead, we have gotten very proficient in presenting online forums and understand the value and expanded outreach of this format. The future will feature WCC programs that can be experienced in person or remotely. We’ll have to raise the bar once more to meet the new technical challenges of hybrid programs, but we are more than a match for this!



**~ Jeff Dey,
VP Programs**



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE KEEPING WCC CONNECTED AND INFORMED

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 WCC membership on important issues; promotes the Club, our public forums and other events and activities; and strives to attract new members—through our website, monthly Bulletins, weekly Updates, social media, flyers, and press releases and articles. These communications were particularly important in a year when none of our activities took place in person.

This year active members included **Sarah Gideonse**, chair, **Jo-Ann Albers**, **Jaime Bitzenhofer**, **Patty Kelly**, **Jeanne Nightingale**, **Susan Noonan**, **Alice Schneider**, **Beth Sullebarger**, **Donna Tukel**, and **Janet Walsh**.

The committee continued to carry out its various tasks despite the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic:

WCC WEBSITE

We updated the website pages as needed. Alice Schneider remained our go-to person for web expertise. We welcome suggestions from the members and friends about how we can continue to make the WCC website informative and easily navigable.

BULLETIN

Sarah Gideonse gathered and copyedited articles for the Bulletin. Our new Communications Manager **Donna Tukel** learned Publisher quickly and was able to take over laying out the issues. **Janet Buening** used her publishing expertise to help produce a polished and readable newsletter. Janet Walsh and Patty Kelly reported on our forums, preparing wonderful articles about them for the Bulletin. Jeanne Nightingale

contributed monthly Green Tips and articles about environmental issues.

PUBLICITY

The committee promoted our online events, wrote press releases, prepared and distributed flyers, put articles in the Bulletin, and posted on online calendars, our Facebook page, the Greater Cincinnati Politics Facebook group, and more. This year, the *Cincinnati Enquirer* posted several of our press releases in their Hometown section. We rely heavily on Susan Noonan, with her vast network of contacts, to help get the word out.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Alice Schneider and **Rina Saperstein** helped maintain an active presence on the WCC Facebook page. 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 and other items to Alice Schneider, as well as sharing WCC postings on your own pages.

The committee's goal for the coming year is to recruit additional members with communication skills and a passion for communicating about WCC. Skills we can use: writing, editing, taking photos, social media, and graphic design ability. Occasional or longer-term contributions are welcome!

Please contact Sarah Gideonse for more information:
sarahgideonse@
womanscityclub.org



~ Sarah Gideonse, Chair



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REACHES OUT

In 2020-2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, Woman's City Club sought ways to engage with existing members and to attract new members. WCC has had many successes this past year despite the pandemic challenges and was able to grow membership from 147 in 2019-20 to 201 in 2020-21! We also welcomed new life members Deborah Allsop, Janet Buening, Beth Sullebarger, Emily Thobe, and Beverly Thomas.

The Membership Committee met regularly and now looks forward to implementing strategies that will engage existing members to participate on committees, attract new members, diversify membership, and foster activities that will allow members to grow and build new relationships through WCC.



Cathy Bailey,
VP Membership

Time to Renew Your Membership

Woman's City Club has a long and proud heritage of 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 2021-22 program year, you can do so TODAY, online at www.womanscityclub.org or by mailing a check payable to WCC to: 103 Wm. Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, OH 45219.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Supporter Membership	\$ 55
Household Membership	\$ 75
Feisty Membership	\$ 150
Engaged Membership	\$ 300
Inspired Membership	\$ 500
Lifetime Membership	\$ 1,000
Pay what you can	Adjustable

WCC would like to recognize members who contributed at higher dues levels.
Thank you for your generous support!

LIFETIME

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

INSPIRED

Francie Pepper
Hera Reines
Burt Roehr

ENGAGED

Mary Wells

FEISTY

Jane Anderson	Rina Saperstein
Annie Faragher Bennet	Wilda Dee Shaffer
Dot Christenson	Catherine Shick
Jeffrey Dey	Roger Smith
Carolyn Eagen	Marcia Togneri
Susan Noonan	Nina & Howard Tolley
Alice Perlman	



WCC BOOK CLUB

WCC Activities

The Woman's City Club's Book Club, organized by Sarah Gideonse, is open to all WCC members who want to be part of a lively conversation on interesting books. Before the COVID-19 pandemic we met bi-monthly in members' homes, but then transitioned to meeting online and monthly, as we all expected to have more time to read! A great benefit of meeting by Zoom is our ability to attract many more participants, in part because of the convenience but even more due to the timeliness of the book selections.

We encourage members to attend according to their availability and as the books interest them. We do request an RSVP if you are planning to attend. Look for book selections in the weekly Update and the Bulletin. Here are the books discussed this year:

July 2020 — *Gods of the Upper Air: How a Circle of Renegade Anthropologists Reinvented Race, Sex, and Gender in the Twentieth Century*, by Charles King, is a history of cultural anthropology starting with Franz Boaz and later with his students Margaret Mead, Zora Neale Hurston, and Ruth Benedict at Columbia University.

August 2020 — *How to Be an Anti-Racist*, by Ibram Kendi, weaves a combination of ethics, history, law, and science with the author's personal story to reorient the concept of racism.

September 2020 — *On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal*, by best-selling journalist Naomi Klein, makes the case for a legislative proposal that would address climate change and "rampant" inequality.

November 2020 — *Piecing Me Together*, by Renée Watson, is a powerful young adult novel about an African-American girl striving for success in a world too often trying to prevent it.

December 2020 — *Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America*, by W. Caleb McDaniel, winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize, about a freed slave living in Cincinnati who was re-enslaved and then after the Civil War returned to successfully seek justice.

January 2021 — *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson, which views racism, historically and in the present, through the lens of caste.

February 2021 — *Reimagining Capitalism in a World on Fire*, by Harvard professor Rebecca Henderson, presents strategic approaches to preventing the planet's destruction and society's destabilization by establishing equitable and sustainable free-market capitalism.

March 2021 — *As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice from Colonization to Standing Rock*, by Dino Gillis-Whitaker, a history of Native People's continuing resistance to environmental injustice.

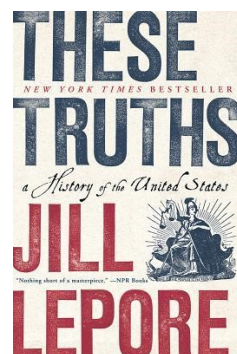
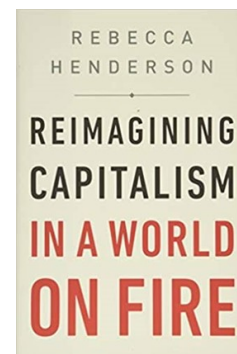
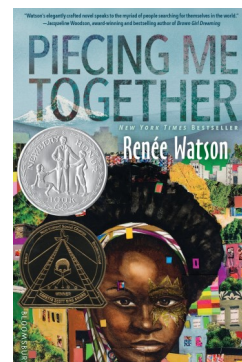
April 2021 — *The 1619 Project* podcasts by *The New York Times* staff, which aimed to reframe our country's history by placing the consequences of slavery at the center of our national narrative.

May 2021 — *These Truths: A History of the United States*, by Jill Lepore, places truth itself—a devotion to facts, proof, and evidence—at the center of the nation's history. The book club has read two sections, and will read the remaining two parts during this summer.

At each discussion, 9 to 25 people tuned in. Regular attendees included Janet Buening, Dot Christenson, Rachel Foster, Sarah Gideonse, Lynn Hamamoto, Joy Haupt, Judith Johnson, Amy Katzman, Harriet Kaufman, Irene Moore, Shirley Maul, Jeanne Nightingale, Erna Olafson, Nikki Orlemann, Jan Seymour, Beth Sullebarger, Marcia Togneri, and Donna Tukel.

For more information, please contact SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org.

~ Sarah Gideonse





STATUE OF MARIAN SPENCER FROM DREAM TO REALITY



Marian Spencer

Finally, the statue of Marian A. Spencer is a reality. Commissioned by the Woman's City Club, the statue has been installed and was unveiled on Sunday, June 27, 2021, at the Smale Riverfront Park. This is Cincinnati's first statue of a named woman, and Marian is the perfect person to break the barrier.

Ms. Spencer achieved many firsts. She was the first female president of the local NAACP, the first African American woman elected to Cincinnati City Council, and first African American woman to serve as Vice Mayor of Cincinnati. She led the successful effort to desegregate Coney Island and the Cincinnati Public Schools. She was a founder of Housing Opportunities Made Equal and co-founder of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Marian provided decades of leadership to the Charter Committee, NAACP, the University of Cincinnati, Woman's City Club, and many other organizations.

Marian Spencer stood up fearlessly for what she believed was right and challenged us to
BE SMART, BE POLITE, VOTE AND KEEP ON FIGHTING.

She was an extraordinary woman of grace and dignity who spent her life working for equality and justice, acting on her belief that each of us has the ability to make the world a better place.

The sculptors of this beautiful and important statue are Tom Tsuchiya and Gina Erardi. Tom is well known for his work, including the bronze statues of the Cincinnati Reds players at the Great American Ball Park.



Marian A. Spencer Statue Committee

Alice Schneider, Chair
Dot Christenson
Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Arzell Nelson
Susan Noonan
Brewster Rhoads
Aurelia Candie Simmons
Mary Wells



~ Alice Schneider, Chair

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

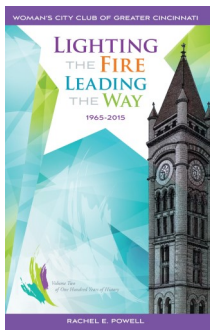
NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The 2020-2021 Nominating Committee consisted of at-large members **Alice Schneider**, **Susan Noonan**, and **Emily Thobe** and board members **Sharon McCreary** and **Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney**. WCC thanks them for their excellent work on the 2021 slate of Board and Nominating Committee members.

WCC BOOKS ARE GREAT SHOWER, HOSTESS, GRADUATION GIFTS

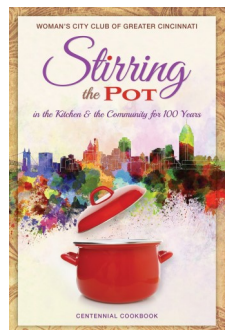
SHOP FROM THE COMFORT AND SAFETY OF YOUR HOME WITH A **SPECIAL SALE**
OFFER ON WCC'S COOKBOOK AND HISTORY BOOK.

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 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!** Order online at WomansCityClub.org, by sending an email to wcc@womanscityclub.org, or by calling 513-751-0100.



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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[@womanscityclub](https://twitter.com/womanscityclub)