

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

THE BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2021

NOVEMBER FORUM

TEACHING THE TRUTH: OUR KIDS DESERVE IT

Thursday, November 18, 7-8:30 pm
via Zoom-[REGISTER HERE](#)

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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Woman's City Club welcomes new members. Visit our website, www.womanscityclub.org, to learn more about us and how to join.

Last June two bills were introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives that prohibited a list of so-called “divisive concepts” in Ohio schools and universities receiving public funds. Written as part of the nation-wide campaign against the teaching of “Critical Race Theory (CRT),” the bills’ overall intent is to censor and restrict education about racism, sexism, gender identity, history, current events, and action civics (active civic engagement.) (See details on page 6.)

As these bills, if passed, could undermine the ability of schools to provide truthful and complete education about our history and current affairs, WCC invited three panelists carrying out this work to give their perspectives at a forum on November 18.



PANEL



Dr. Hasan Jeffries

Hasan Jeffries, PhD, Associate Professor, Ohio State University, our lead panelist, is an advocate of teaching young people “hard” history – telling the truth about what has happened. He will discuss the bills from that perspective. Professor Jeffries teaches courses on the history of the civil rights and Black power movements. He is the author or editor of books on these subjects and how to teach them accurately and effectively.

Alpacino Beauchamp, Principal of Roberts School, CPS, will discuss the challenges schools face in trying to teach a multicultural, inclusive education.



Alpacino Beauchamp



Lanisha Simmons

Lanisha Simmons, Curriculum Team, Cincinnati Public Schools. She will describe the curriculum review and enhancements taking place in partial response to CPS’ new anti-racism policy.

As usual, this forum is free and open to the public. The audience is welcome to ask questions and make comments.

COSPONSORS



URBAN LEAGUE
OF GREATER SOUTHWESTERN OHIO



THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

For more than 100 years, WCC has promoted civic engagement in our community. Our mission—to educate, engage and empower—is critical to making our democracy work.

WCC was instrumental in the passage in September by Cincinnati City Council of an ordinance, introduced by Council Member (and WCC board member) Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, asking the City Manager to develop a new citizen engagement policy. For more background on the ordinance for “A Community Engagement Program and Policy,” see Jeanne Nightingale’s article, “Putting the Unity back in Community,” on page 5.

It remains to be seen how the city manager will respond in terms of process and specific provisions, but the success of the ordinance reflects the recognition that the public needs to be involved and respected when it comes to decisions that impact our community. This includes individual citizens, neighborhood councils, and community organizations

such as Woman’s City Club. It is expected that WCC will be represented in a task force to help the city manager move forward with a plan.

Another reflection of civic engagement is voter participation. As we approach Election Day on November 2, WCC supports the active engagement of individuals in voting. Despite unique challenges to voter registration and voting created by the pandemic, the 2020 national election featured the largest increase in voters between two presidential elections on record with 17 million more people voting than in 2016. In 2020, 67% of all citizens aged 18 and older reported voting, up 5 percentage points from 2016. (www.census.gov).

This is a positive trend for our democracy and one that we hope will persist. To that end, WCC will continue to provide forums to educate citizens about candidates for city council, mayor and judicial positions, as well as ballot questions



such as the city charter amendment known as Issue 3.

WCC’s board also recently endorsed a request made by the Greater Cincinnati Voters Collaborative, of which WCC is a member, asking Metro to provide fare-free transport for voters. **If you believe in civic engagement and voter participation, here are two things you can do: volunteer to help voters with rides to the polls and donate to our Annual Fund so WCC can continue its work.**

~ Beth Sullebarger

CALLING ON MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO SUPPORT THE 2021 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Do you value everything WCC does and everything it stands for? Do you count on WCC for excellent programs on issues that affect our community, effective civic partnerships, and a vision for a positive future for Greater Cincinnati? Then vote “YES” for WCC by making a donation to the Annual Fund Campaign.

Please give as generously as you can to keep WCC strong and viable in this challenging time. Membership dues alone cover only about 20% of our annual operating budget. We do a lot with a little, but we have fixed costs for rent, telephone and internet service, office equipment, printing and postage, as well as our annual education awards. We rely on a volunteer working board and our paid staff—part-time Communications Manager Donna Tukel and Business Manager Roger Smith—but **we also depend on you to give!**

The easiest and fastest way to donate, on a one-time or monthly basis, is through our website at <https://womanscityclub.org/donate/>. You can also mail a check to Woman’s City Club or call our office at 513-751-0100 on M-W-F from 10 am to 2 pm to donate by credit card. You can set up a recurring e-gift through your banking institution or credit card, or work with your financial advisor to explore other ways to support WCC. WCC is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your donation is tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

Your support will allow WCC to continue to **Light the Fire** of equity and opportunity and **Lead the Way** forward to a just and sustainable community where all citizens are engaged in shaping our shared future.



THE 12TH ANNUAL FEIST TEA CELEBRATION



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

1:30 pm ~ Refreshments

2:00 pm ~ Program

Kennedy Heights Arts Center Annex
6546 Montgomery Road
Cincinnati, OH

**HOORAH! THE 12TH ANNUAL FEIST TEA WILL
TAKE PLACE AS AN IN-PERSON EVENT!**

Please join us as we gather for an elegant tea to honor several exceptionally feisty individuals. The goal for this year's annual event is threefold:

~ To celebrate Woman's City Club ~
*its civic engagement and
feisty and dedicated members*

To recognize all past presidents and honorees
who have served and supported WCC across the years

To honor feisty individuals
*who embody the mission, vision, and spirit of WCC
and have contributed greatly to WCC or the
Greater Cincinnati Community*

New this year, Woman's City Club members were invited to nominate people to be honored at the Feist Tea. Also, one of the honorees could be a non-member of WCC whose significant contributions to WCC and/or Greater Cincinnati align with WCC's mission.

A selection subcommittee, including Feist Tea Committee and WCC Board members, met at the end of October to select this year's Feist Tea honorees.

In keeping with our 12th Anniversary celebration, Woman's City Club hopes ALL past Feist Tea honorees will attend and be recognized at this year's event.

PLEASE NOTE: Feist Tea is a free event, but we welcome your donation in honor of our 2021 honorees. A virtual invitation will be emailed to members and posted by mid-November. In addition, health and safety protocols/requirements for this event will be included with the event invitation.

Feist Tea Committee:

Laurie Frank, Committee Chair
Jo-Ann Huff Albers
Marge Davis
Jeff Dey

Invitations and more information will be emailed in November after the honorees have been selected. We look forward to seeing everyone on December 5.



WOMAN'S CITY CLUB OF GREATER CINCINNATI OPPOSES CINCINNATI ISSUE 3 CHARTER AMENDMENT

WCC is strongly opposed to Issue 3 on the November 2nd ballot, which proposes a package of eight revisions to the City Charter. Issue 3 brings together too many unrelated actions, and some could lead to undesirable and unintentional consequences. While some of the amendments could be beneficial, such as abolishing the mayor's pocket veto, others would be detrimental.

For example:

- Lowering the salary compensation for council members by nearly 30 percent from \$65,000 to \$46,000 would make it harder to sustain diversity of representation on Council with participation by members of all income levels. Only candidates who can secure other complementary employment would be able to serve.
- Requiring city council to approve all litigation undertaken by the City or its officials puts an enormous and unwieldy administrative burden on city council and also undermines the authority of the City Manager.

Despite the amendment's being billed as an anti-corruption measure, nothing in the amendment would have prevented

or made illegal any of the actions leading to last year's charges that three Council members were engaged in pay-to-play schemes trading favorable votes on development deals for money or campaign donations.

Because disparate elements are bound together in one Charter amendment and it is not possible to support just the beneficial ones, WCC opposes the entire Issue 3 initiative.



Founded in 1915, Woman's City Club (WCC) is a non-profit corporation that promotes responsive government through issue analysis, education, advocacy and civic participation. To learn more about its history, members, mission, values, and current activities, please visit the website at: www.womanscityclub.org.



WOMAN'S CITY CLUB SUPPORTS PASSAGE OF PROPOSED CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ORDINANCE

Statement presented to Cincinnati City Council, September 15, 2021

Woman's City Club strongly supports passage of the Civic Engagement Ordinance introduced by Cincinnati City Council Member Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney. The ordinance asks the City Manager to develop a community engagement plan for the City of Cincinnati with participation from citizens, community councils, and community organizations.

Woman's City Club embodies the principles of civic engagement that we have espoused since our founding in 1915, when courageous public-spirited women were uniting in their fight to secure the right to vote. For over a century, we have sought to educate, engage and empower citizens to shape public policy and initiatives in Great Cincinnati.

The move to develop a more meaningful plan for citizen engagement in Cincinnati government is long overdue.

Woman's City Club work on the Cincinnati Engagement Action Plan began in 2013, with the active involvement of WCC's Civic Engagement Committee. The principles of equitable engagement that were drawn up were anchored in *Plan Cincinnati*, adopted by City Council in 2012, particularly in its LIVE segment: "To Build a Robust Public Life."

Many of those principles are spelled out in the new proposed ordinance: City Council's vision to be a thriving city where all are engaged as empowered participants in shaping our shared future, its mission to strengthen the culture of citizen engagement in Cincinnati by providing opportunities for all to participate in meaningful and proactive ways in the city's decision-making process. This proposed ordinance is a move to advance our city's shared purpose and generate new options for the city of Cincinnati.



PUTTING THE UNITY BACK IN COMMUNITY

September 15, 2021: Cincinnati City Council unanimously passed a new City Ordinance – “A Community Engagement Program and Policy.” We thank Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney for her leadership in the Neighborhoods Committee and for championing this historic CE Ordinance.

Woman’s City Club was one of the first leading civic organizations to endorse the *Strength in Unity* proposal to create a flourishing culture of sustained citizen engagement here in Cincinnati.

An engaged public who feels invited to the table contributes to a structure of belonging and ownership; recognizes the fundamental right – and responsibility – of all citizens at the grassroots level to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives; increases community connectivity; helps to develop human resources; elevates under-served communities; grows trust in government; and enhances the democratic value of our government.

A little history: The principles of civic engagement were anchored in *Plan Cincinnati*, a comprehensive community engagement plan drawn up by a dedicated grassroots group of citizens in 2009 and adopted by City Council in 2012. To implement its goals, a steering committee called the Citizen Engagement Action Team (CEAT) was formed in January 2013. The initial team included **Sue Wilke, Peter Hames, Sarah Gideonse and Jeanne Nightingale**. Members of CEAT conducted research on the status of Civic Engagement in 16 peer cities and produced a document including statements of CE Mission & Vision, Policy & Principles for Cincinnati: *“Strength in Unity – A Proposal to Create a Flourishing Citizen Engagement Culture in the City of Cincinnati.”* The proposal was endorsed by resident volunteers representing 29 neighborhoods and civic organizations to move the city quickly forward. CEAT members met regularly over two years

in the City Manager’s office with the manager’s staff and representatives of the Human Resources and Planning Departments.

Championed by Council member Kevin Flynn, the initiative received formal support in September 2014 with the approval of the CE mission & vision statements (Council Motion 201401166) and the adoption in early 2015 of a Policy and Principles Motion (Council Motion 201500222). Council later backed this motion by adopting CE policies & principles (Administrative Regulation 69) to guide the Administration in establishing a CE media infrastructure in the day-to-day business of the city.

One of CEAT’s recommendations – as yet unrealized – is the creation of a CE Advisory Council of representative neighborhood voices (chosen by “open appointment”) to serve as a liaison between the City Manager and the broader community on citywide issues. The idea would be not only to model and showcase the practice of CE; it would also serve to cultivate a notion of collective responsibility for shaping the policies that govern the communities in which we all live.

The current Ordinance requires our City Manager to convene – within 60 days of passing the CE Ordinance – an initial Public Engagement Session accountable to the Neighborhoods Committee. The goal of this session is to kick off a process for developing CE principles & policies. We are urging our City Manager to formally invite representative members of all community councils, as well as civic organizations active in promoting citizen engagement, to have a seat at this Public Engagement Session.



Motto for the City of Cincinnati: *Juncta Juvant: “Strength in Unity”*

~ Jeanne Nightingale,
Past Chair of Civic Engagement





WOMAN'S CITY CLUB OPPOSES OHIO HOUSE BILLS THAT PROHIBIT THE TEACHING OF "DIVISIVE CONCEPTS"

Woman's City Club strongly opposes two bills pending in the Ohio House of Representatives: Sub HB 327 ("The Promoting Education Not Indoctrination Act") and HB 322 ("Regards the teaching of certain current events, race, and sex"). WCC is a civic organization that has worked for 106 years to promote social, economic and environmental justice through education, advocacy, and service, championing the rights of those facing inequities. These bills move us backward.

Part of the nationwide campaign against "Critical Race Theory (CRT), the House bills do not use that term and include some inarguable prohibitions. Their overall intent, however, is to censor and restrict education about racism, sexism, gender identity, history, current events, and action civics. They would also undermine anti-racist initiatives in response to police killings of Black people. Together they impact all places of learning in Ohio that receive any public funds, including universities.

The bills prohibit the teaching, discussion, advocacy for, and use of curriculum, standards and instructional materials using "divisive concepts." As examples: The U.S. or an individual is fundamentally racist, sexist or oppressive (consciously or unconsciously); an individual, race, or sex

bears responsibility for actions committed in the past or should feel guilt or psychological distress; and meritocracy or a hard work ethic are racist or sexist or created by members of a particular race or sex to oppress members of another race or sex.

If enacted, the bills would not permit the history of past racial discrimination against Black people such as school segregation, prohibition of inter-marriage, voting, or serving on juries to be taught in our classrooms as systemic or structural racism, orchestrated and facilitated by government, according to the Ohio ACLU. Instead, they must be taught only as "deviations from, betrayals of, or failures to live up to the founding principles of the United States."

WCC agrees with other opponents that Sub HB 327 and HB 322 infringe on local control and academic freedom of schools and other educational institutions by restricting what and how they can teach these concepts as they relate to race and identity. Lastly, the legislation is too subjective to lend itself to fair enforcement, and penalties for infringements are very severe.

Grassroots opposition is effective! We urge the public to contact their legislators in the Ohio General Assembly, especially the House State and Local Government Committee about their concerns. The League of Women Voters has helpful information on how to do so at [LWVO Honesty in Education Advocacy Page](#), [House State and Local Government Committee](#), and [Find Your Legislator](#).

~ Sarah Gideonse





CINCINNATI BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES UNITED ON ANTI-RACISM INITIATIVES

All six candidates vying for seats on the Cincinnati Board of Education in the November 2 election expressed strong support for Cincinnati Public Schools' equity initiatives and newly expanded African-American studies curriculum in the face of potential state legislation that could curtail or ban classroom discussion of systemic racism.

The two incumbents and four potential board newcomers running for four seats in the nonpartisan race shared their stances during a Sept. 2 virtual forum organized by [The School Board School](#). Cosponsors included the Woman's City Club, All-In Cincinnati, Cradle to Career Cincinnati, Education Matters, the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, and the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati and Southwest Ohio.

School board meetings and races in some communities in Greater Cincinnati and across the nation currently are polarized over Critical Race Theory (CRT), the concept that entrenched beliefs, policies and practices systemically disadvantage black and brown people, resulting in disparities in health care and educational attainment, higher rates of police interactions and incarcerations, real estate redlining, and lower appraisal rates of comparable house values for minorities vs. non-minorities. Two bills introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives – HB 322 and HB 327 – reject the idea that racism can be systemic and would prohibit, among other things, teaching “divisive concepts” and assigning “fault, blame or bias” to any race or sex.

In contrast, all Cincinnati school board candidates strenuously oppose the legislation's attempt to control curriculum and policy in the 36,000-student district, whose “majority minority” enrollment is about two-thirds African-American.



[Pamela Bowers](#), a 25-year mental health professional who joined the board in 2019, noted that Cincinnati Public Schools is the first district in Ohio to adopt an [anti-racism policy](#), which the board unanimously approved in January 2021. “CRT basically shines a light on systemic racism” and “the social injustice that

is in our face,” said Bowers, a member of the Board's Student Achievement Committee. She said the district's anti-racism and equity policies and African-American history and culture curriculum are examples of ways in which the board is

upholding its responsibility to support diversity and “make sure we are committed to having our students learn the truth.”

Attorney [Brandon Craig](#), Assistant Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access at the University of Cincinnati, said he would seek out collaborations with community partners to “bring in what students need” to help them better understand that the history of minorities in America is part of America's history. Regarding the state bills, he said, “We need to fight back with facts. This is not about some archaic system or theory, this is reality, this is facts, what happened.”



[Gary Favors](#), a 23-year classroom teacher in CPS, agreed that the state bills “don't reflect truly what our kids and families need,” but noted the district also falls short in some areas of equity and diversity. In particular, he believes CPS needs to do a better job hiring more African-American males – especially in elementary

schools where white women make up the majority of the teaching staff. “We don't have the diversity in our ranks that we need,” he said.

[Dr. Kareem Moffett](#), an adjunct math professor at Cincinnati State Technical Community College who previously worked with CPS students through the federally funded GEARUP college access program in partnership with the University of Cincinnati, said that equity, in her view, did not mean that all schools and students receive identical resources but rather that district support is equitable in response to different needs. She said she believes that CPS would be up to any challenges presented by the state bills “if we stay true to what we do in our district to provide an equitable education at all levels for our kids and marry that with our anti-racism work.”



(Continued on page 8)



CINCINNATI BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES UNITED ON ANTI-RACISM INITIATIVES (CONTINUED)

Incumbent **Mike Moroski**, a former K-12 educator elected in 2017 who works as Policy and Partnership Manager at Cradle Cincinnati, said he would recommend legal action, if necessary, to fight the state legislation. "The board's role is to stand strong for our kids ... we're going to tell the truth and empower kids," he said. Moroski added that one of his top goals is to ensure adequate resources for CPS's first Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, which was created as part of the district's anti-racism policy.



Mary Wineberg, a CPS classroom teacher and gold medalist in the 4 x 400 meter relay in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, said resisting the state bills was vital to supporting the district's students. "It's about making sure the kids don't have barriers, making sure that we are making all things possible," she said. "I'm a firm believer in sticking to what we believe and standing up for our students."



Other questions posed by forum moderator Jasmine Coaston, Senior Director of Community Engagement for the Urban League, centered on enhancing parent/community engagement, the best ways to measure student success, the biggest obstacles facing the district, and accountability for the impact of spending \$280 million in pandemic stimulus funding. A recording of the entire forum as well as a guide to the candidates are posted on the School Board School's [election resources](#) webpage.

~ Janet Walsh



CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES RESPOND TO QUESTIONS ABOUT POLICING AND RACE

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio, and the Woman's City Club invited the public to two livestreamed forums on September 9 and 14 to hear Cincinnati City Council candidates present their views on policing and race.

While many issues are facing City Council, the issue of policing and race was seen as an important benchmark of how the candidates view their role and our community's future.

Over five hours, 28 candidates presented themselves on Facebook to respond to three questions from Desiree Futel, Vice President for Voter Services of the League of Women Voters. She asked them first to introduce themselves and share their vision for the Cincinnati Police Department. In the next

question, she asked the candidates how they would address the circumstance that police are being asked to respond to social, community and health problems that may be beyond their role or training. Finally, candidates were asked to respond to the issue identified by Cincinnati police data about racial disparities in police use of force against civilians. The City's population is 42% black, yet 75% of police use-of-force incidents are against African Americans.

Challenging questions, indeed, and the candidates endeavored to rise to the occasion. Some candidates are current incumbents (three appointed, one elected) or have served in the past on Council, and several have run for office previously. Although the majority have no previous elected experience, most have had significant political and community involvement and have thought about the issues presented. Some have party endorsement; some do not. The biggest challenge for voters, of course, is to sort through 35 candidates to decide who gets their vote. These forums were designed to help.

People missing the forums, or wanting to refresh their memories, can view them on YouTube. Spoiler alert: The Collaborative Agreement, community-oriented policing, and building trust between police and communities were common themes. Find the links at: <https://womanscityclub.org>.

~ Sarah Gideonse





ANALYZING ISSUE 3 ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT: PAST AND PRESENT EFFORTS TO AMEND THE CITY CHARTER

The November ballot will ask the Cincinnati electorate to vote on whether to support Issue 3, comprising a package of eight “anti-corruption” amendments to the Cincinnati Charter. The issue, initiated by candidate for City Council Tom Brinkman, was a result of a petition drive. Prompted by this proposed amendment and to help voters understand it, WCC brought together a panel of local experts on city government for an October 18 forum to discuss the pros and cons of each of the proposed amendments in the context of a 2015 report by the Charter Reform Task Force.

The panel was moderated skillfully by **Dot Christenson**, longtime WCC and Charter Committee member, civic leader, and author of *Keep on Fighting: The Life and Civil Rights Legacy of Marian A. Spencer*. She commented on Issue 3, mentioning that eight of nine current Council members opposed it, then introduced the panelists.



Carolyn Miller, a longtime member of the League of Women Voters and the Cincinnati Association, served on the Charter Review Committee established in 2013 at the urging of Kevin Flynn, a Council member, with its report issued in 2015. The committee was charged with identifying obsolete and unclear language (much subsequently corrected) as well as unintended consequences of the 1999 amendments that instituted a stronger mayor. Some of the report recommendations eventually resulted in voter approval: changes in election dates and allowing Council to meet in executive session to discuss personnel matters. Another, the elimination of the mayor’s pocket veto, did not happen but is among the amendments proposed in Issue 3.



Jerry Newfarmer served as city manager in Cincinnati, 1990-1993, and other cities, and is now CEO, Management

Partners. He also chairs the Seasongood Good Government Foundation, which recently funded a study of Cincinnati government by the National Civic League. Newfarmer took the audience through each proposal in Issue 3. The first, that Council approve all lawsuits, he said would overwhelm Council because it would include enforcement of zoning codes, of which there are 600 a year, and misdemeanor arrests, likely leading to as many altogether as 10,000 lawsuits a year – a virtually unmanageable number.



The second amendment would reduce Council Member salaries to the median family income. Proponents contend that serving on Council should be a part-time job, that having another source of income would reduce chances of corruption. Opponents say a lower salary would make it harder to sustain diversity of representation and the higher salaries enable people of all income levels to run. Miller pointed out that the mayor’s salary would also be lower because it is tied to Council salaries.

The third amendment requires candidates for Council and Mayor to be residents of Cincinnati for a year prior to running. This provision is not seen as problematic.

The four and fifth amendments concern the method for filling a vacancy when a Council Member leaves during his/her term for whatever reason. One eliminates the current system of having the Council Member designate one or more members to select his successor; the other, that the successor would be the next highest vote getter(s) in the past election. Again, opponents point out that the next person could be of a different party, altering the party balance on Council, or not available; this may be true of others next in line, assuming there are others. Miller pointed out there are other ways to choose replacement that could be less problematic.

(continued on page 10)



ANALYZING ISSUE 3 ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT: PAST AND PRESENT EFFORTS TO AMEND THE CITY CHARTER (CONTINUED)

The sixth amendment eliminates the practice of the Mayor using the pocket veto; he can choose not to include a Council-proposed legislation on the agenda for Council meetings. The amendment requires the Mayor assign legislation to a committee and advance legislation to the full Council agenda within 30 days. Newfarmer argued that Council could do the same when they establish the Council rules as the beginning of the term.

The seventh places individual liability for Mayor and Council Members for certain violations of open meeting or public record laws – clearly an allusion to the “Gang of Five” incident when five Council Members exchanged text messages discussing how to keep the city manager and potentially regain power from the mayor. The impact isn’t clear, but people might choose not to run. Also of concern is that it can be enforced by any citizen.

The last amendment allows for the recall of a mayor and election of a replacement should the recall succeed. While most other Ohio cities have a recall provision, they generally have a higher bar for petitions. Including a new election as part of the recall likely would require voters to choose from more than two candidates, and the new

mayor would be elected by less than 51 percent of the votes.

Lively discussion among the panelists in response to audience-member questions and comments ensued. To one question – would any part of Issue 3 have prevented or made illegal any of the actions leading to last year’s charges that three Council members were engaged in pay-to-play schemes trading favorable votes on development deals for money or campaign donations – the answer was no. Christenson concluded with the observation: The main problem with Issue 3 is that it is an all-or-nothing proposal.



The report of the National Civic League study in response to issues of corruption in City Government (mentioned by Newfarmer) can be accessed at:

<http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Cincinnati-Report-Final.pdf>



SUPPORT WCC AND OTHER CHARITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY SHARES OF GREATER CINCINNATI!



Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati is our region’s only federation of charities offering membership to social/economic justice organizations, environmental causes, and animal welfare agencies. Serving the tri-state for 25 years, they work to create a just, equitable, healthy tomorrow.

Community Shares accomplishes this by raising funds for member charities through coordinated annual workplace giving campaigns, advocating for public policies important to our member charities, and training member charities on nonprofit excellence while offering them networking opportunities.

As a member of Community Shares, Woman’s City Club received \$851 last year. It really does help, especially if you earmark your gift to us through this direct link: <https://www.ipledgeonline.org/wcc/>

You can also give to other member charities, or even write-in any favorite charity not associated with Community Shares. You may pay pledges via checks or cash using a paper pledge form you may print out from the Community Shares website at <https://www.cintishares.org/s/2021CSpledgeForm11x17.pdf>.

Thanks for your support of Community Shares and WCC!



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

The Firebrand and the First Lady

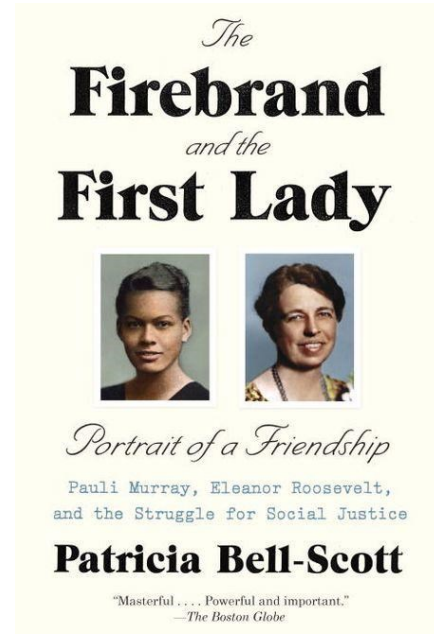
By Patricia Bell-Scott

Saturday, December 11 at 10 am
via Zoom

*A significant new exploration of the important
friendship between two activist crusaders
in advancing the cause of civil rights for
Blacks and women.*

The Baltimore-born black lawyer Pauli Murray (1910-1985) and first lady Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) exchanged more than 300 letters during their lifetimes, met occasionally, and worked in tandem on issues of social justice. This is the first proper study of their friendship. Bell-Scott has sifted through their correspondence for evidence of their evolving ideas on Black-white issues and how each took the measure of the other while working doggedly to bring down social and professional barriers.

Eleanor had tirelessly promoted integration despite the public caution that her husband demonstrated. She first met Murray in 1933 as a college graduate attending a pilot facility for struggling unemployed women that Eleanor had sponsored. Murray would go on to get advanced law degrees and work as deputy California



attorney general and, later, as a professor. All the while, Murray idolized Eleanor ("the most visible symbol of autonomy and therefore the role model of women of my generation") and frequently wrote to her—or to the president—sending her a copy of the letter.

She laid out in no uncertain terms the plight of the African American, especially in the South. From getting anti-lynching legislation passed to pressuring institutions of higher learning to integrate, the two women bolstered or chided each other candidly in their letters involving issues that Eleanor referred to in her newspaper column. With generous excerpts from the letters, Bell-Scott shines a bright light on this significant relationship.

-The Kirkus Review, November 2015

Professor emerita at the University of Georgia, Patricia Scott-Bell is the author of *Life Notes: Personal Writings by Contemporary Black Women*; *Flat-footed Truths: Telling Black Women's Lives*; and *Double Stitch: Black Women Write about Mothers and Daughters*. She was a co-founding editor of *SAGE: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women* and of the National Women's Studies Association and a former contributing editor to *Ms. Magazine*.



Patricia Scott-Bell

The Firebrand and the First Lady is available in multiple formats from booksellers and the public library.

The book club, which continues to meet via Zoom, invites all members to participate. Friends may join in, depending on space availability. **To RSVP, receive the Zoom link, or ask questions, email: SarahGideonse@womancityclub.org.**



GREEN TIPS

10 WAYS TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE

Remember: Small shifts in consumption habits have huge impact.

1. Make your own cleaning products. (See recipe on right.)
2. Be water-wise. Just .4% of Earth's water is fresh.
3. Order seeds for your winter garden.
4. Support renewable energy.
5. Unplug electronics.
6. Speak up to promote environmental justice.
7. Reduce food waste. Opt for organic.
8. Use Cincy Recycling & Reuse Hub at 911 Evans Street (513-538-3798).
9. Plant a tree this fall!
10. Use dish towels and cloth napkins instead of paper products.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING TIP



STEP 1: MAKE THE CONCENTRATE



FILL A MASON JAR WITH CITRUS PEELS, THEN COVER WITH VINEGAR LET THIS INFUSE FOR 2 WEEKS

STEP 2: STRAIN + MIX



AFTER 2 WEEKS, STRAIN AND COMBINE 1/2 CUP OF CONCENTRATE WITH 2 CUPS OF FILTERED WATER. BOTTLE AND USE!

NOTE: DON'T USE ON NATURAL STONE OR TILE

 ONETREEPLANTED

RECIPE FOR CLEANING SOLUTION

~ Jeanne Nightingale, Chair
Environmental Action Group

We live in a beautiful city. It's a good reason to take care of the environment.





THE 2022 NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM

NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM

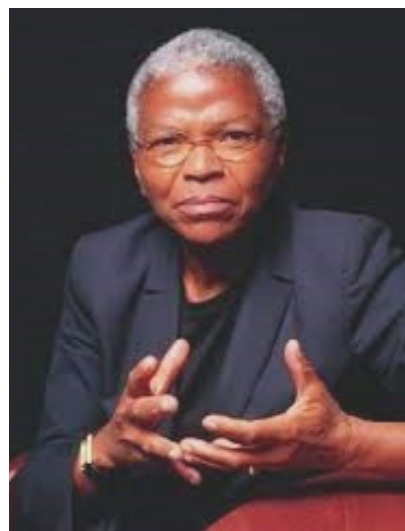
MARY FRANCES BERRY to speak on RACE, PROTEST & POLITICS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

As previously announced, Woman's City Club's National Speaker, Mary Frances Berry, will appear at Memorial Hall on Wednesday, April 6, 2022. The topic of her speech will be "Race, Protest & Politics: Where Do We Go from Here?"

She believes that we must continue the work because success is not inevitable and someday the change will come. Indeed, she adds, "With the new administration, there is still much to do if the same old white supremacy, white privilege, racist capitalism, gender disparity, politely called inequality and discrimination, are to be defeated."

Dr. Berry is a professor, writer, lawyer, and activist, perhaps best known to the public for her service as member, then chair, of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. She is the author of many books, of which the most recent is "History Teaches Us to Resist: How Progressive Movements Have Succeeded in Challenging Times." It examines the successful tactics of movements that ended the Vietnam War,



"Each generation has the responsibility to make a dent in the wall of injustice."

jumpstarted government response to the AIDS epidemic, championed the Americans with Disabilities Act and advanced civil, women's and LGBTQ rights—all of which she was a part.

Woman's City Club's book club plans to read and hold a discussion of the book. Look for an announcement in the weekly update during the winter.

*The speakers bureau describes her as a moving speaker who makes history come alive. Dr. Berry believes that **each generation has the responsibility to make a dent in the wall of injustice.** She continues to speak boldly for those who can't speak for themselves and motivates all of us to take action. Her clarion call challenges everyone to stand up, to stand tall, and to never give up the fight.*

Watch for invitations to the event in early winter.

*~ Alice Schneider, Chair
National Speaker Forum Committee*



WCC MEMBER PROFILE



Crista Zielke, a new Woman’s City Club board member, is proof of how easy it is to become involved in the important work of WCC.

A friend who is a member encouraged her to join. “That was approximately a year and a half ago,” she said. “I’m still learning a lot about the organization and finding ways I can participate and contribute. I’m also excited about meeting and getting to know other board members.”

A ‘near native’ of Cincinnati, Zielke grew up in Montgomery, moved to Clifton, lived in Walnut Hills for about 15 years and recently moved into a historic home she and her partner Kevin Worthinton bought last fall in Spring Grove Village. “The house has plenty of projects to keep us busy!” she said.

She attended the University of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky University, earning a bachelor’s degree in English with a minor in public policy. “I worked in the nonprofit sector for around 15 years, primarily in the arena of arts and media with a focus on fundraising, membership programs,

and marketing” she said, “and then changed careers to work in real estate which I continue to do today.” Before beginning to volunteer in WCC activities, Zielke’s volunteer activities included adult literacy tutoring, volunteering with various arts organizations, and helping with fundraisers over the years as both paid staff and volunteer.

While getting acclimated to WCC she started participating in the communications committee and membership committee. “Recently I was asked to help advise on social media strategies and content,” she said. In past years, she attended speakers events and panels hosted by WCC.

She believes WCC can really make a difference in Cincinnati life. “I think one of WCC’s strengths is in its capacity to educate Cincinnatians on the importance of participating in local politics/ decision-making and providing valuable information on topics impacting us locally/regionally,” she said. “I heard someone recently share information that only 20% of eligible voters vote in local elections, and other sources have cited that number as low as 15%. I believe WCC is uniquely positioned to help push those numbers up in our area and help Cincinnatians understand the importance of participating in and influencing decisions/votes that have a big impact on our community.”

When she isn’t working, “some of my favorite things to do are seeing movies, enjoying time outside biking or walking, seeing live music and theater, attending arts events...and during the pandemic I started sewing (not terribly well, but I enjoy it),” she said.

~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Beth Sullebarger, *President* (2021-2022)
Sharon McCreary, *VP Administration* (2021-2022)
David Siders, *VP Civic Engagement* (2019-2022)
Cathy B. Bailey, *VP Membership* (2021—2022)
Jeff Dey, *VP Programs* (2016-2022)
Marcia Togneri, *Treasurer* (2020-2022)
Anne Buening, *Secretary* (2017-2023)
Janet Buening, *Past President* (2019-2022)

BOARD MEMBERS

Sherri Adams-Davis (2021-2024)
Michelle Dillingham (2020-2023)
Amy Katzman (2016-2022)
Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney (2021-2024)
Helen O’Neal (2021-2024)
Jan Seymour (2020-2022)
Aurelia Candie Simmons (2021-2024)
Beverly Thomas (2017-2023)
Christa Zielke (2021-2024)

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEIST TEA: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, AT THE KENNEDY HEIGHTS ART CENTER

**NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022, AT MEMORIAL HALL
FEATURING CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER AND HISTORIAN DR. MARY FRANCES BAKER**

WCC MEETINGS

All meetings are online, via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

National Speaker Committee: Monday, November 1, 4:30 pm in person
For more information, contact aliceschneider@womanscityclub.org.

Membership Committee: Wednesday, November 3, 5:30 pm
Committee meets monthly on first Wednesday.

Program Committee: Monday, November 8, 6:30 pm
Committee meets monthly on second Monday.

WCC Board Meeting: Monday, November 22, 7:00 pm
Board meets every other month on fourth Monday.

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



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/.

The monthly *Bulletin* keeps us connected with our membership, our network, and our community. Our next issue will appear in mid December. Deadline for submissions and committee reports is November 15. Please submit all material as they are ready to Sarah Gideonse at sarahgideonse@womanscityclub.org