### **Origins of the National Speaker Forum**

***The club’s annual fund-raising National Speaker Forum brings to the community nationally-known women who speak on topics of current interest*.**

Each spring, Woman’s City Club invites a nationally known woman leader to speak to our community at its Annual National Speaker Forum. The event has become a time-honored tradition in the Greater Cincinnati area over time, drawing thousands of people to the events.

The Forum has become a fundraising event, enabling the Club to fulfill its ongoing mission: to educate, empower and engage the citizens of Cincinnati to participate as active stakeholders in promoting the common good. Each year, we invite citizens and organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area to support and cosponsor the event so that we can continue to provide the public leadership and civic education programs so important for our area.

The Status of Women Committee, under the leadership of Mary Wells in 1993, established the National Speaker Forum as an annual event. WCC and 28 co-sponsoring organizations brought Lani Guinier (now a tenured professor at Harvard Law School) to Cincinnati for the event. She spoke about “her version of civil rights, as opposed to conservative opponents’ views” to a sold-out venue. This forum surpassed the organization’s initial fundraising expectations and netted a large profit. Subsequent speakers and their topics are listed below.

-- from "Lighting the Fire, Leading the Way" by Rachel Powell