

#### 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](http://www.womanscityclub.org), to learn more about us and how to join.**

Action Tank  
Applied Information Resources, Inc.  
Charter Committee  
Christ Church Cathedral  
Cincinnati Development Fund  
Cincinnati Federation of Teachers  
Cincinnati /Hamilton Co. Public Library  
Cincinnati NOW  
Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus  
Cincinnati Association

# THE BULLETIN

## MARCH 2022

### RENOWNED CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND HISTORIAN **DR. MARY FRANCES BERRY**

TO HEADLINE

### WOMAN'S CITY CLUB'S ANNUAL NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM AND FUNDRAISER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 ~ 7:30 PM

MEMORIAL HALL, CINCINNATI

**Woman's City Club is proud to present DR. MARY FRANCES BERRY as guest speaker at its annual National Speaker Forum and Fundraiser. Dr. Berry is a distinguished historian and one of the most visible and respected activists in the cause of civil rights, gender equality, and social justice over the past four decades. Her topic will be**

**"Race, Protest & Politics: Where Do We Go from Here?"**

As member and chairperson of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, Dr. Berry led the charge for equal rights and liberties for all Americans over the course of four Presidential administrations. A trailblazer for women and African Americans alike, she has also had an illustrious academic career.

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.



**Tickets are available through Memorial Hall: Call 513.977.8838 or order online:**

<https://www.memorialhallotr.com/cincinnati-shows/womans-city-club/>

#### MANY THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS AND OUR COSPONSORS (to date)

Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal  
and National Underground Railroad  
Freedom Center

Greater Cincinnati Foundation  
Union Savings & Guardian Savings Bank  
U.C. Office of Equity, Inclusion & Community

Contact Center  
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio  
Friedman Gilbert + Gerhardstein  
Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House  
GLSEN  
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office  
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
League of Women Voters Cincinnati Area  
National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

Ohio Association of Colored Women's Clubs  
and Youth Affiliates  
SBN Consulting  
U.C. Department of Women's, Gender  
and Sexuality Studies/ Friends of Women's  
Studies  
Urban Appalachian Community Coalition  
Xavier University Edward B. Brueggeman  
Center for Dialogue  
YWCA Greater Cincinnati



## WCC EMBRACES ACTIVISM!

## President's Message

**As spring takes hold and Covid-19 subsides, WCC is alive with several exciting initiatives. Two concern the function of our city government. Our January forum about the National Civic League report with recommendations for balancing the relationship between the Mayor, City Council and the City Manager is resulting in coordinated advocacy among WCC, Action Tank, and the Charter Committee, particularly in regard to Executive Sessions. City Council has already implemented a number of recommendations in the NCL report such as ethics training and Mayor Pureval has effectively stopped using the pocket veto of Council initiatives.**

Our February forum about “The Park Board: Time for a Refresh?” has also spurred follow up discussion among the speakers and WCC about what changes might help the Park Board function better. These could include a change in the structure or in qualifications for Park Board Commissioners. Refresh, Part 2, will be held on Zoom in mid-May to gather more feedback from the community about next steps.

WCC is also highlighting our environment with a two-part series on the Ohio River Watershed presented by our Environmental Action Group in March and April. Part 1 will use the occasion of World Water Day, March 22, to focus on something essential to life that we typically take for granted—water! We are so very fortunate to

have Cathy Bernardino Bailey, the Director of the Greater Cincinnati Water Works, on our board, and she has arranged for two top GCWW staff to share how they keep our drinking water safe from threats like PFAS that come from upstream.



Part 2 of our watershed series, “Who Speaks for Nature?” will offer a new legal strategy for protecting our water and natural environment from the emerging new threats of industrial pollutants. Participants from the Community Environmental Defense Fund (CELDF), Citizens for Rights of the Ohio River Watershed (CROW), and the Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition will explain how environmental laws are no longer adequate and what to do about it.

We are deeply gratified that the work of the Environmental Action Group has received \$3,000 in support from MadTree Brewing through the company's participation in 1% for the Planet. Cathy tells us that MadTree and Cincinnati's other breweries use a huge amount of water from GCWW and all parties concerned keep constant tabs on the quality of water used to make Cincinnati beer. Enjoy some and thank the GCWW!

*~ Beth Sullebarger*



## MARCH/APRIL PUBLIC FORUM

### THE OHIO RIVER WATERSHED: HOW TO KEEP IT HEALTHY

#### A TWO - PART SERIES

#### **PART 1: GREATER CINCINNATI WATER WORKS - ENSURING GOOD WATER QUALITY FROM SOURCE TO TAP**

**Tuesday, March 22  
7 pm via Zoom**

To register :

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/277156972967>

Cincinnati water has a great reputation for being clean and safe. It even tastes good! Yet we hear of threats to its quality – from lead in pipes, PFAS chemicals arriving from upstream, and chemicals unregulated by the EPA leaching in. And most of its water comes from the Ohio River, which remains polluted.

On World Water Day March 22, WCC invites the public to hear from the Greater Cincinnati Water Works about how they address such threats to our health. GCWW is our local water utility, responsible for the safety of Cincinnati's water. It treats, tests, and supplies more than 43 billion gallons a year to more than 1.1 million people in our region.

#### **Presenters will be**

**Jeff Swertfeger,**  
Superintendent, GCWW  
and

**Bruce Whitteberry,**  
Assistant Superintendent, GCWW



#### **PART 2: WHO SPEAKS FOR NATURE?**

**Tuesday, April 19  
7 pm**  
(virtual or in-person TBA)

**The forum will look at a new legal strategy for protecting our water and natural environment from the emerging new threats of industrial pollutants.**

Since human beings' very survival depends on a healthy ecosystem, the proponents of the Rights of Nature, now a worldwide movement, argue that just as human rights have been increasingly recognized by law, so should nature's rights be recognized and embodied in human ethics and laws. Today, communities, people, and even governments are recognizing that there is a need to make a fundamental shift in humankind's relationship with the natural world by placing the highest protections on nature through the recognition of legal rights. This "new" approach is in fact rooted in the ancient world view of the Indigenous peoples of this land who regard streams, lands, and forests as a sacred heritage and a living legacy.

The panel, including a representative of Community Environmental Defense Fund (CELDF), a member of the Citizens for Rights of the Ohio River Watershed (CROW), and a member of the Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition, will explain how today's environmental laws are no longer able to protect the world's major ecosystems.



## FEBRUARY FORUM SUMMARY

### THE PARK BOARD: TIME FOR A REFRESH?

Our February forum, *The Park Board: Time for a Refresh?* attracted an active audience of over 80 people, indicating a high level of interest in factors affecting our beloved parks system. The event was informed by a 77-page report entitled “Cincinnati’s Park Board: A History” by Dr. Alyssa McClanahan, commissioned by Preserve Burnet Woods (PBW), a non-profit organization founded in 2018 to protect the nearly 90-acre Burnet Woods, and funded by the Stephen H. Wilder Foundation.

Serving as moderator, Dr. David Stradling, Zane L. Miller Professor of History, University of Cincinnati, introduced the discussion by explaining how concerns about recent proposals to build in Burnet Woods led Clifton neighbors to create PBW and seek a better understanding of the workings of the Park Board. Dr. McClanahan presented a brief history of the Park Board, describing its structure as an independent commission vs. being part of the city administration and noting how the board members, appointed by the mayor, have evolved from exclusively wealthy white men over a century ago to a more diverse group today.

Steve Schuckman, who directed planning, design and construction for the Cincinnati Park Board from 1990 to 2021 and authored the 1992 and 2007 Park Master Plans, said there could be value in requiring areas of expertise on the part of the Park Commissioners similar to the Urban Forestry and Historic Conservation boards. He fiercely defended the need for the Park Board to remain independent and distinct from the Recreation Commission. He noted that in the past, the Park Board, particularly Marian Lindberg, resisted proposals to sell or dispose of park land.



Frank Russell, Director of the UC Community Design Center and the Niehoff Urban Studio and Park Board member from 1994 to 2006, agreed that the Park Board should remain independent to the extent that it can be. He confirmed that the Board’s makeup has become somewhat more representative of the community, with the caveat that the mayor typically appoints individuals who will assist the mayor’s re-election. He noted that the Park Board has never been a working board, and it rightly needs to depend on the expertise of the staff.

The Q&A and chat revealed the concerns of the attendees, including that recent action by the Board has been to deliberately discard the expert opinions of their paid staff, and as exemplified by Burnet Woods, the Board seems to make all decisions on an ad hoc basis; i.e., If someone wants to build a restaurant or a private limited-use building in a prime location, the Board considers it. On the other hand, someone said park styling needs to allow for diversity of needs. Some locations need more developed parks and some need more natural ones.

There was a great deal of interest in a follow-up forum to further the discussion and consider future actions. This will take place in mid-May, and all are invited.

~ Beth Sullebarger  
President





# THE ANNUAL AGNES B. SEASONGOOD LUNCHEON AND PRESENTATION OF THE WCC MARIAN A. SPENCER EDUCATION AWARDS

## SAVE THE DATE!

SPEAKER:

**BARBARA A. TURNER, CRCP**  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
OHIO NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES



**FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022 ~ 11:30-1:00 PM**

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL  
4554 LAKE FOREST DRIVE ~ BLUE ASH

The Seasongood Luncheon is an annual event in honor of Agnes B. Seasongood (1890-1982), a WCC member, benefactor, and community activist. We are happy to announce that this year's luncheon and education awards presentation will take place in person after two years!

Each year, WCC invites a local woman leader, often the first woman in her role, to speak. This year we are pleased to present Barbara A. Turner, CRCP, President & CEO of Ohio National Financial Services. She is Ohio National's 11th president and the first woman and person of color to serve in this role since its founding in 1909.

Woman's City Club uses the occasion of the Seasongood Luncheon to present \$1,000 education awards to promising senior high-school women to further their educational goals.



*Photo from Cincinnati Enquirer*

The education awards are named the Marian A. Spencer Education Awards in honor of the civil rights activist and past president of WCC.

**Event Price: \$55**

**All profits benefit the Education Awards Fund.**

Expect invitations in your mailbox closer to the event.



## WCC MEMBER PROFILE

**IRIS ROLEY, a driving force in the effort to improve criminal justice in Cincinnati, is the first WCC non-member to be selected as one of our Feisty Women under new nomination rules. She was honored on December 5, along with Barbara Myers and Aurelia Candie Simmons, as a 2021 Feisty Woman.**

A founding member of the Cincinnati Black United Front, Iris and CBUF are plaintiffs' representatives in the Class Action Lawsuit against the City of Cincinnati, the FOP, and the police in 2001. This lawsuit birthed the historic Collaborative Agreement, the Memorandum of Agreement, and currently the Collaborative Refresh. These agreements were with the Cincinnati Police Department and the City. Iris became CBUF's project manager on the Collaborative Agreement and its Refresh.

In nominating Iris for the Feisty Woman honor, Jan Seymour said, "As a result of her efforts, she has been invited to share her expertise in many other cities looking to improve police practices. Like many activists working for the rights of the oppressed and disenfranchised, she has endured malignant accusations and even threats against her family, but she has never given up. She has done all this as a volunteer!"

Iris has an important new job: She was hired last month by the City to "bring the community voice directly to the City Manager."

Mayor Aftab Pureval said at the time, "Ms. Roley has been and will continue to be an essential partner in the city's commitment to accountability, accessibility, and

community-based problem solving. We are grateful to have her support in this critical work."

Iris's five main functions are to provide consultation and trainer services for general operation of the City Manager's Advisory Group (established in 2008), to engage stakeholders through community listening sessions on key topics — such as the community impact of violence and community-police relations, to review the role of the human relations division of the manager's office, to provide advice and facilitate community engagement in the hiring of a new police chief, and to help orient the city's newly hired Collaborative Agreement Sustainability Manager.

In a WVXU Radio interview, Iris said she and the City Manager "will do a lot of community engagement especially around the impact of violence in our community, youth engagement, issues of policy, public safety, community/police relations, community problem-solving, and training. All of these things, again, are the goal and principles of the Agreement."

Iris is a native Cincinnati and lives in Pleasant Ridge. She is the wife of Jesse Roley, mother of three, and grandmother of five and has been called "a godmother of a movement." She is a partner of RoSho Awards & Graphics, the only Black-owned engraving company in the region.



*~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers*



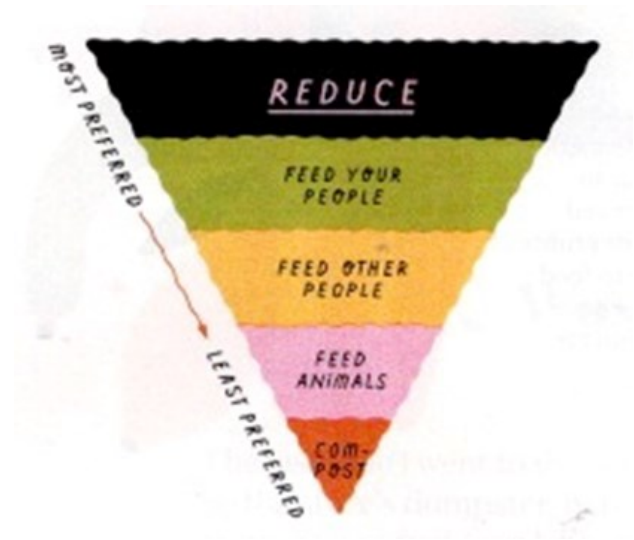
## FIVE STEPS TO ZERO WASTE

**In 2015, the USDA and the EPA set a goal to cut food waste in half by 2030. They introduced an inverted pyramid that shows better uses of excess food. End goal: Not a crumb ends up in the landfill.**

**1. REDUCE:** Stop buying more than you can eat. Plan your menus and know how much you can freeze and store. Pro tip: Never shop hungry.

**2. FEED YOUR PEOPLE:** And stretch your food. Cook up some soup from leftover veggies. Make French toast, croutons, or bread crumbs from old loaves. Bought too many apples? Turn them into apple sauce. Better yet, apple pie!

**3. FEED OTHER PEOPLE:** Too much food = not enough guests. Abundance is an opportunity to share the wealth. Bumper crop of tomatoes? Throw a pizza party. Take leftovers to a homeless shelter. *Food waste is a sin of privilege.*



**4. FEED ANIMALS:** If you don't live near a farm, contact your local agricultural extension office for opportunities to donate scraps to farm animals. Backyard chickens are great recyclers of leftovers: Today's oatmeal is tomorrow's fresh egg!

**5. COMPOST:** When excess food is composted, its nutrients can be recycled into the soil. Composting also precludes the production of methane from rotting food in landfills.

*Adapted from Sierra,  
Magazine of the Sierra Club*

*~ Jeanne Nightingale, Chair  
Environmental Action Group*

#### 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)  
Christa Zielke (2021-2024)

## CALENDAR

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MARCH/APRIL PUBLIC FORUM: A TWO PART SERIES

**TUESDAY MARCH 22, at 7 pm via Zoom:**

**Part 1: Greater Cincinnati Water Works - Ensuring Good Water Quality from Source to Tap**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 19, at 7 pm (Virtual or in-person TBA)**

**Part 2: Who Speaks for Nature?**

#### NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, AT MEMORIAL HALL

Featuring civil rights leader and historian DR. MARY FRANCES BERRY (See page 1 for details.)

### WCC MEETINGS

**Book Club:** Saturday, March 19, 10 am

**Communications Committee:** Tuesday, March 29, 5 pm  
Committee meets monthly on last Tuesday.

**Program Committee:** Monday, April 11, 6:30 pm  
Committee meets monthly on second Monday.

**Social Justice Action Group:** Thursday, April 14, 6:30 pm

**Book Club:** Saturday, April 16, 10 am  
Details TBA



**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/](http://cincinnati-oh.gov/council/).

The monthly *Bulletin* keeps us connected with our membership, our network, and our community.  
Deadline for submission to the April issue will be announced.



Woman's City Club Cincinnati



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