



WOMAN'S
CITY CLUB
OF GREATER CINCINNATI

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – 2022

JUNE 2022

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)
Vice President Administration	Sharon McCreary (2020-2023)
Vice President Civic Engagement	David Siders (2019-2024)
Vice President Membership	Cathy B. Bailey (2020-2023)
Vice President Programs	Jeff Dey (2016-2022)
Secretary	Anne Buening (2017-2023)
Treasurer	Marcia Togneri (2020-2022)
Past President	Janet Buening (2018-2022)

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

WCC is deeply grateful to Amy Katzman, whose board term has concluded, for her years of dedicated service. Likewise, we thank Jeff Dey, who completed two three-year terms ending in May 2022, but will continue as our Board President (which does not require board membership).

WCC thanks Cathy Bailey, Janet Buening, and Jan Seymour for serving a second or first full term on the board (2021-2024), and to Marcia Togneri for filling the remainder of an expired term ending in 2022.

OFFICERS 2022-2023

President	Jeff Dey
Vice President Administration	Sharon McCreary
Vice President Civic Engagement	Jan Seymour
Vice President Membership	Cathy B. Bailey
Vice President Programs	Janet Buening
Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Michelle Dillingham
Past President	Beth Sullebarger



WE DID IT TOGETHER!

As we emerged from the pandemic, Woman's City Club had an unexpectedly good program year in 2021-2022. This is thanks to a very dedicated and hardworking board, creative committee chairs, and our loyal members. We are also indebted to Donna Tukel, our Communications Manager, and Roger Smith, our financial services consultant, for all their behind-the-scenes support.

Our program committee, chaired by Jeff Dey, brought us forums that were well-attended thanks to Zoom technology and timely topics related to social justice, education, voting, and city government. Two programs on environmental issues attracted \$3,000 from a new corporate supporter, MadTree Brewing, through the 1% for the Planet program.

Civic engagement, another critical component of our mission, was chaired by David Siders. State initiatives kept us very busy on social justice and other issues. We urged the Ohio Redistricting Commission to draw fair maps and pushed back on destructive legislative proposals such as HB616, the "Don't Say Gay," bill, HB327 to restrict the teaching of American history and civics, and HB294 to restrict voting through limits on absentee ballot requests, drop boxes, and early voting. We advocated for Hamilton County to adopt new rules for Solid Waste to protect water and air.

All our special events exceeded expectation! Feist Tea 2022, headed by Laurie Frank, attracted a diverse audience of nearly 100 people honoring three wonderful Feisty women—Barbara Myers, Iris Roley, and Aurelia Candie Simmons. We also celebrated Sarah Gideonse as a devoted member for 50 years. Our National Speaker Forum presented historian and civil rights activist Dr. Mary Frances Berry who held an audience of 400 spellbound. Chaired by Alice Schneider, the event attracted a record number of cospon-

soring organizations and netted about \$15,000. This year's Seasongood Luncheon, chaired by Susan Noonan and Sharon McCreary, was also a big success! Our speaker Barbara Turner, the first woman and person of color to serve as CEO of Ohio National Financial Services, inspired the audience with her life story, and we presented \$1,000 Marian Spencer Education Awards to three promising young women.

Everything we do involves communication, and Sarah Gideonse, Communications Committee Chair, and her committee ensured that all our terrific programs and initiatives were made known to the public through an ever-expanding range of media, including Facebook, Linked In, Twitter, and Instagram. Look for more social media posts in the coming year, thanks to Patty Kelly, Donna Tukel, and Christa Zielke. Sarah also deftly managed our Book Club and its selections, which deepened our understanding of issues explored during the year.

To keep our organization humming and adapting, we updated our bylaws and commissioned a "Sustainability Audit," to help us strengthen WCC in the areas of organizational structure, membership, finance, fundraising, and volunteer management. The important thing is that we did all these things together! The following pages will further illuminate all the wonderful things WCC did this past year. After serving as president for two years, I am proud of all we have accomplished and excited about WCC's future as our new president, Jeff Dey, leads the way.



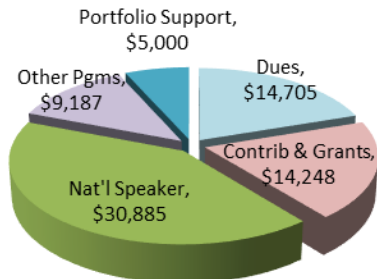
~ **Beth Sullebarger, President**



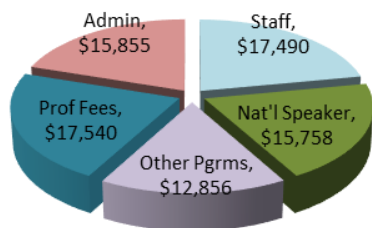
2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

ACTUAL

Year Ending 5/31/22



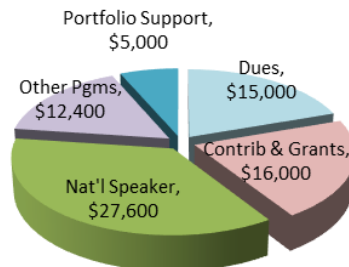
Income \$ 73,926*



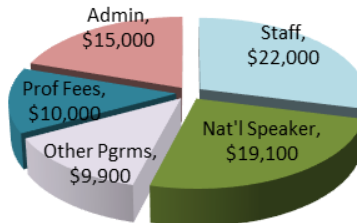
Expense \$ 79,499
Net \$(5,573)*

BUDGET

Year Ending 5/31/23



Income \$ 76,000 *



Expense \$ 76,000
Net \$ 0*

* Operations only; excludes portfolio income and special funds.

2021-2022 Finance Recap

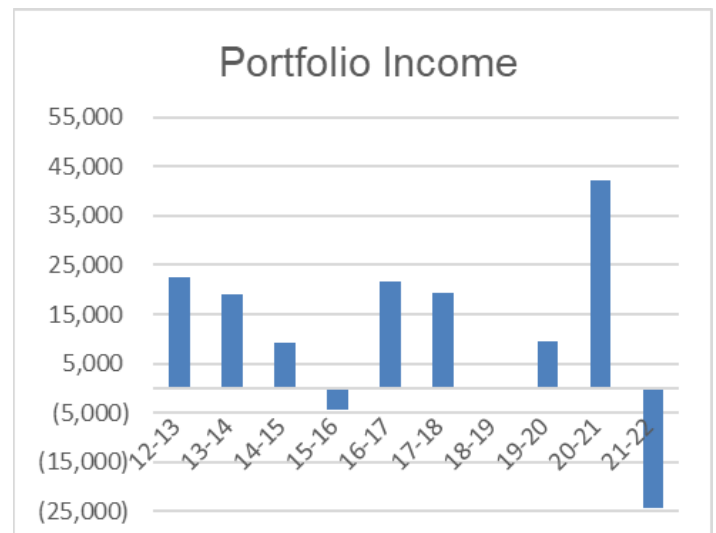
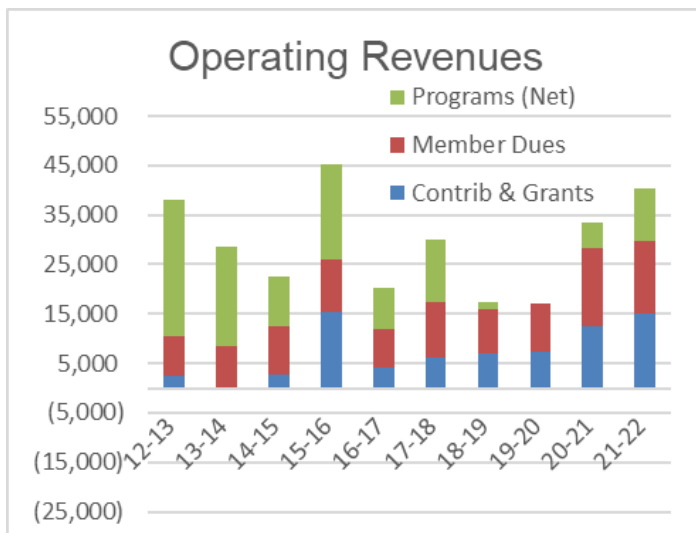
While our year had several fiscal challenges, we saw unexpectedly strong revenues. From a financial perspective, WCC is positioned for growth.

WCC finished our program year with a net loss of \$5,573, ***slightly better than the \$6,000 loss we budgeted***. Income was \$10,000 more than plan, with the bulk of this from our National Speaker event.

Expenses were \$9,500 over budget. Personnel was \$4,000 over due to needed support of operations and programs, and we purchased a Sustainability Audit (\$6,000 unbudgeted, but funded from our Second Century Fund).

Outside of our core operations, our investment portfolio took a wallop in April, leaving us down \$24,000 for the year (at least on paper).

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





2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

Programs

		<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Net</u>
National Speaker	Apr-22	\$ 30,885	\$ 15,758	\$ 15,127
Seasongood Luncheon	May-22	\$ 4,155	\$ 2,147	\$ 2,008
Education Awards	May-22	\$ 1,405	\$ 3,000	\$ (1,595)
Feist Tea	Dec-21	\$ 2,753	\$ 2,753	\$ -

Continuing Funds

	<u>5/31/21</u>			<u>5/31/22</u>
	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Spencer Statue	\$ 59,549	\$ 6,380	\$ 51,337	\$ 14,592
EAG Tutoring	\$ 1,433	\$ 425	\$ -	\$ 1,858

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 and strive to ensure the reliability of our overall funding. With appropriately diversified sources of funds, we enhance our ability to anticipate our revenues and better plan events, initiatives and overall cash flow. In our efforts to do so, we periodically expand or reportion our "mix" of revenue sources.

WCC Finance Team 2021-2022

Treasurer

Marcia Togneri

Accountant

Roger Smith, CPA
Non-Profit Executive Services

Investment Advisor

Kathy Hamm
Principled Wealth Advisors

Office Manager

Donna Tukel

Finance Committee

Janet Buening
Michelle Dillingham
Carole Donnelly
Sharon McCreary
Susan Noonan
Jeanette Rost
Alice Schneider
Rina Saperstein
Beth Sullebarger
Marcia Togneri (Chair)



CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO WCC'S SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT FUND

While we proudly honored our past at the Centennial Gala in 2015, seven 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 Second Century Endowment Fund, please contact Marcia Togneri via the WCC office, 513-751-0100.



Marcia Togneri, Treasurer



2021 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

WCC is deeply grateful to the members and friends who contributed to the 2021 Annual Fund Drive! You generously contributed \$8,198, exceeding the budgeted \$7,000 and allowing us to continue our programs and increase our community engagement.

Cathy B. Bailey ~ Mike Brown ~ Janet Buening ~ Marge Davis ~ Jeff Dey ~ Carole Donnelly
Barbara Elleman ~ Anne Fierst ~ Laurie Frank ~ Sarah Gideonse ~ Judy Green ~ Joy Haupt
Betti Hinton ~ Chara Jackson ~ Barbara Jennings ~ Edna Keown ~ Michael Maloney
Cheryl Meadows ~ Jeanne Nightingale ~ Susan Noonan ~ Helen & Wendell O'Neal
Marilyn Ormsbee ~ Mary Osterbrook ~ Francie Pepper ~ Alice Perlman ~ Pamela Rincones
Alice Schneider ~ Janice Seymour ~ David Siders ~ Aurelia Simmons ~ Beth Sullebarger
Marcia Togneri ~ Donna Tukul ~ Janet Walsh ~ Mary Wells ~ Christa Zielke



THE TWELFTH ANNUAL FEIST TEA ~ IN PERSON!

The Twelfth Annual Feist Tea celebration and fundraiser, held at the Kennedy Heights Art Center Annex on December 5, 2021, was a lively and interactive celebration of this year's feisty honorees as well as previous honorees, past presidents, and new members. As soon as the 90 attendees entered the banquet room, an air of celebration and genuine joy at gathering together again was evident. Opened with an enjoyable social hour, the afternoon Tea offered light fare catered by Venice on Vine, a memorable slide show compiled by Jeff Dey, reminding us of WCC's wonderful programs, activities, and members, as well as a warm welcome to new WCC members from Membership Vice President Cathy Bailey.

Three remarkable and feisty individuals who embody the club's mission to educate, empower, and engage were honored during the event. New this year, the nominating process incorporated wider input from WCC members and, for the first time, recognized individuals in the regional community who interact with, support, and partner with the WCC but who may not be WCC members.



Laurie Frank, Chair



Barbara Myers (L) with Jane Anderson

Barbara Myers, an active member of WCC for more than 20 years, serves on the National Speaker's Committee and is a past WCC board member. An advocate for civic engagement, she has been involved in political campaigns, was a member of the 1996 Electoral College, is a member of the Hamilton County Democratic Party's executive committee, and serves as treasurer of the Cincinnati Democratic Committee. A strong advocate for supporting women and women's issues, she is the chair of the Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus and has been active on the Ohio and National Women's Political Caucus, and multiple civic organizations. An avid art collector, she has also hosted several Art Salons in her home featuring women curators, gallery owners, and artists.

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 the feisty women under the new nomination process. A founding member of the Cincinnati Black United Front (CBUF), she and the CBUF were 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 the Collaborative Refresh. While completing all of this work as a volunteer, Iris was named CBUF's project manager of the Collaborative Agreement and its Refresh and is frequently invited to share her expertise nationally. In addition, she is a partner of RoSho Awards and Graphics, the only Black-owned engraving company in the region.



Iris Roley

(Continued on page 7)



THE TWELFTH ANNUAL FEIST TEA

Aurelia Candie Simmons, a new WCC board member, has contributed her expertise and knowledge of the community on the Marion Spencer Statue Committee and the National Speaker Committee. Candie retired from the IBM Corporation after 30 years and, locally, worked as a development relationship and community engagement specialist for the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati. An active volunteer, Candie is involved with multiple organizations. She was a three-term president of the Freedom Forum Ambassadors. Candie has received IBM management awards and volunteer recognition from Presidents Clinton and Obama, was named a 2004 Enquirer Women of the Year recipient and a *Cincinnati Herald Nefertiti* and recognized an Unsung Hero of City of Cincinnati.



Aurelia Candie Simmons

Feist Tea Committee members were Jo-Ann Huff Albers, Marge Davis, Jeff Dey, Laurie Frank, Sharon McCreary, and Ad Hoc member Beth Sullebarger. Special thanks also go to Harriet Kaufman and Wendell O'Neal who took many of the photos in the slide presentation, Donna Tukel, WCC Communications Manager, and Dennis Kinne and Mike Maloney who tended the beverage bar.

WCC is deeply grateful for all who attended and supported the Tea and honorees. The income from the event – all donations as there is no charge to attend the Feist Tea – was \$1183.56. 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
Feist Tea Committee**



(L-R) Barbara Myers, Aurelia Candie Simmons, Iris Roley



Honoring Sarah Gideonse for her 50 years with WCC



(L-R) Christa Zielke, David Siders, Beth Sullebarger

All photos above by Harriet Kaufman.



NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM 2022

MARY FRANCES BERRY, HISTORIAN & CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

In support of our mission to educate, empower, and engage, Woman's City Club presented on April 6, an excellent speaker with a message that our community needed to hear. Dr. Mary Frances Berry's wisdom, humor, and historical perspective engaged an enthusiastic and diverse audience of nearly 400 people when she spoke on "Race, Protest & Politics: Where Do We Go from Here?"

The National Speaker Committee chose Dr. Berry and her topic to follow up on programming WCC offered in 2021 and will continue to offer on race relations in Greater Cincinnati, the refresh of the Collaborative Agreement, and community-wide efforts to achieve racial justice and equality.

The National Speaker is a fundraiser—and we received \$6,000 in financial support from five corporate sponsors; \$10,800 from 36 institutional/organizational cosponsors; \$8,550 from four levels of individual patrons; \$4,900 in single-ticket sales; and \$300 in donations. Woman's City Club netted approximately \$15,000 after expenses.

Many thanks to the hard-working National Speaker Committee: Alice Schneider, chair, Jane Anderson, Janet Buening, Marge Davis, Carole Donnelly, Sarah Gideonse, Edna Keown, Barbara Myers, Jeanne Nightingale, Susan Noonan, Jeanette Rost, Aurelia Candie Simmons, Kay Smith-Yount, Beth Sullebarger, Mary Wells, and Donna Tukul. The committee is pictured below with Dr. Berry.



*~ Alice Schneider, chair
National Speaker Committee*



Front row, L-R: Marge Davis, Beth Sullebarger, WCC President, Mary Wells, Dr. Mary Frances Berry, Kay Smith-Yount, and Alice Schneider, Chair. Back Row, L-R: Edna Keown, Donna Tukul, Jeanne Nightingale, Sarah Gideonse, Aurelia Candie Simmons, Barbara Myers, Carole Donnelly, Susan Noonan, Jane Anderson, Janet Buening.

(Group photo by Steven Easley)



THE AGNES B. SEASONGOOD LUNCHEON & WCC MARIAN A. SPENCER EDUCATION AWARDS

Named in honor of Agnes B. Seasongood, a civic leader and longtime member and benefactor of Woman's City Club, this annual event features a speaker who is a female leader in our community and who may represent a first woman in her role.

Woman's City Club uses the Agnes B. Seasongood Luncheon to present \$1,000 education awards to promising senior high school women to further their educational goals. Their selection is based on a written essay and teacher recommendations. The education awards are named after our beloved Marian A. Spencer, the civil rights activist and past president of WCC.

The 27th Seasongood Luncheon/Marian Spencer Education Awards took place on May 20 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Blue Ash. It included a raffle of 15 creative gift baskets. Sixty people attended this event.

After a warm welcome and introduction from WCC president Beth Sullebarger, the Marian A. Spencer Education Awards were presented by Sharon McCreary to three amazing young women, Elizabeth Paige Burns, Katherine DiPaola, and Andrea Udosen (who was unable to attend). The two awardees present told us a little about themselves – amazing, civically active, young women!

Following the awards, Barbara A. Turner, CRCP, was our motivating guest speaker – her topic, “You Have the Power.” As the first woman and first person of color to lead Ohio National Financial Services, she had a story to tell about how she was able to become successful, coming from a modest background. It was an inspiring story.



All profits from the luncheon go toward underwriting the Education Awards, and this year we did well! Total income was ~\$4,090 and total expenses (minus printing/office) was ~\$2,147, so our net profit was nearly \$2,000—enough to fund two Education Awards. We also received \$1,500 of surplus funds from the Marian A. Spencer statue campaign to rename the Awards in her honor.

Thank you to the committee members, who worked so hard; to Donna Tukel, our office Communications Manager, who worked extra hours to get everything done; the men and women who contributed the fantastic baskets, and the Embassy Hotel for a wonderful experience.

The Luncheon Planning Committee included Susan Noonan, chair, Marge Davis, Anne Fierst, Alice Schneider, Aurelia Simmons, Mary Wells, Stephanie Stoller, and Leslie Spencer.

The Education Awards Committee included Sharon McCreary, chair, and essay readers Sherri Adams-Davis, David Edmundson, Sarah Gideonse, Helen O'Neal, and David Siders.

*~ Susan Noonan, chair
Seasongood Luncheon*



(L-R) Beth Sullebarger, WCC President; Susan Noonan, event chair; Elizabeth Paige Burns, award recipient; Katherine DiPaola, award recipient; Sharon McCreary, Education Awards chair

(Photographs above by Harriet Kaufman)



Andrea Udosen, Education Award recipient with Beth Sullebarger, WCC President



WCC EDUCATES, EMPOWERS, AND ALWAYS ENGAGES

Civic engagement has been the hallmark of Woman's City Club since its founding in 1915. 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

ACTIVITIES THIS PAST YEAR

- In Community Engagement's role in involving the community, arranged for the Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library to serve as a cosponsor with watch parties at two branch libraries with League of Women Voters volunteers.
- In Community Engagement's role in drafting WCC legislative positions, co-wrote WCC statements on HB 387: *Make changes to election laws* with Beth Sullebarger, and prepared Resources Page on HB 394 Voter Access Bill.
- Collaborated with the WCC Program Committee on planning the Cash Bail Reform program and the September City Council Candidates Forums.
- Added several organizations to WCC's list of affiliated organizations that we could collaborate with and cosponsor events.
- Supported and amplified the work of Citizen Engagement Advisory Task Force and its *Build a Robust Public Life and Strength in Unity: A Proposal to Create a Flourishing Citizen Engagement Culture in Cincinnati* within City Council and City of Cincinnati departments.
- VP served as WCC Liaison to Court Watch and Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati.
- Facilitated the Public Library's cosponsorship of the April 2022 National Speaker forum featuring Dr. Mary Frances Berry. The Library promoted the lecture at all its 41 locations and purchased additional copies of Dr. Berry's books and e-books. WCC cosponsored the public library's community conversation, "What can we learn from Dr. Berry" at the St. Bernard Branch Library on April 24, 2022. A robust conversation focused on grassroots activism in our own communities, their successes, how we followed Dr. Berry's advice to "see people" around us living with barriers and injustices, and how we plan to take action going forward.

*~ David Siders,
VP for Civic Engagement*





SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

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

The Social Justice Action Group addresses inequities due to systemic poverty, racism, sexism, and classism.

The action group presents forums and develops resources to educate and empower WCC members and the public about the barriers people in our communities face who are disproportionately impacted by inequities. The SJAG is responsible for developing WCC involvement at public activism events.

We collaborate with other social justice groups in the community and advocate for or against legislation, offer opportunities for education, and connect with others. Community need drives the following priorities, established by the SJAG steering committee in two winter vision and priorities meetings. SJAG focused primarily on the first two in 2022.

- *Livable wages & affordable housing*
- *Voting rights*
- *Racial justice & criminal justice reform*
- *Access to health care*

SJAG ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To support the work and help amplify the mission of social justice-driven community organizations and stakeholders, SJAG promoted educational opportunities sponsored by other organizations. As a call to action, SJAG encouraged attendance at activism events that promote and call for affordable and inclusionary housing policy change. For example, SJAG asked the Board to cosponsor two programs at Peaslee Neighborhood Center on inclusionary housing.

SJAG developed the concept of SJAG Spotlights on social justice organizations and activism opportunities in our communities for the WCC weekly Update and the Bulletin.

- Debbie Davidson wrote a spotlight on the Poor People's Campaign for the February WCC Bulletin on behalf of the SJAG
- David provided spotlights on Engage Cincy.
- Update spotlights were provided on Ukrainian Food Fest, information about the dangers of Ohio HB 616 -- the so-called "don't say gay or black" bill

prohibiting the teaching of certain concepts (and WCC opposition), and information about affordable housing events.

SJAG promoted volunteerism and support of Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative's efforts to engage communities in educating and registering voters and motivating them to vote.

- Developed logistics on how WCC/SJAG can engage community organizations and members in voter education. SJAG member Harriet Kaufman engaged in significant networking in the Price Hill area to learn where and when we can volunteer for voter engagement: community festival, library activities, school events, Price Hill Will events, etc.

NEXT STEPS:

- Focus on voter education: Plan an activism event with the Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative. SJAG members will volunteer for training about GCVC's new voter education packets and community outreach plans to increase voter registration and participation before the November 2022 election. SJAG members will also register voters in Price Hill in summer 2022 through the autumn 2022 election season.
- Continue to prepare spotlights on social justice organizations. Upcoming spotlights include one on the Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative and another on Santa Maria Community Services and its impact on the community.
- Determine web presence of SJAG: e.g., Update Thriving Cincinnati's Facebook page as a SJAG platform
- Determine SJAG's unique role -- how its work can avoid overlapping or duplicating the work of other community social justice groups but instead amplify them.

The Social Justice Action Group's steering committee members are Beth Sullebarger, Harriet Kaufman, Susan Noonan, Jan Seymour, Sarah Gideonse, Kathleen Hebbeler, Debbie Davidson, Jo-Ann Albers, Kayla Bradham, David Siders, Noel Beyer, and Lexi Hope.

*~ David Siders, chair,
Social Justice Action Group*



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 continued to be affected by the COVID-19 epidemic.

Our major project has been a volunteer and funding commitment to a multi-sensory kindergarten literacy program in Winton Hills Academy. Under the leadership of Linda Wihl and using her Making Sense of Language Arts (MSLA) curriculum, tutors had 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.

This year, no families opted for tutoring during the day, but 12 children participated in an afterschool program three days a week with the same curriculum. The program was available intermittently depending on public health advice. All but one of the children made good progress in different skill areas, some with significant gains. The principal did not want the program to use the online version developed last year, so some tutors chose not to participate for health reasons.

The Education Action Group supported last fall's Cincinnati Public School levy. It kept the WCC board, members, and friends informed in the weekly Update about Ohio House Bills 322, 327, and 616 and the bills' iterations and hearings; wrote testimony in opposition to send to legislators; and suggested actions the public can take. Like HB 322 and 327, HB 616 prohibits and restricts how race and racism identity are acknowledged, taught, and discussed in Ohio K-12 schools, but adds a focus on teaching about sexual orientation and gender. The bills are still in committee, in part because of widespread community opposition.



Sarah Gideonse



Linda Wihl

*~ Sarah Gideonse, chair
Education Action Group*





ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

WCC's Environmental Action Group focuses on environmental justice issues – the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, now and into the future, in a just and equitable manner, while living within the limits of supporting ecosystems.

We work in collaboration with other civic, neighborhood, and environmental organizations in the city to (1) educate the public and participate in actions and projects that raise eco-awareness, green the urban environment, and (2) advocate for equitable policies that protect air and water quality from the threats of industrial pollution.

The group organized the second in a series of WCC's public forums in the spring of 2022 devoted to the health of Cincinnati's drinking water: "Who Speaks for Nature?" The program was presented in collaboration with the Citizens for Rights of the Ohio River Watershed (CROW) and offered a look at a more holistic strategy for legally protecting our watersheds from industrial pollutants. Can we protect the Ohio River by giving it legal rights? WCC will continue its work with CROW to implement a Bill of Rights for the city establishing the legal rights of our communities to protect the health and safety of our local watershed.

Since 2012, WCC has been collaborating with 20 other civic and environmental organizations in Cincinnati, operating under the banner of the *Past Plastic Cincinnati Coalition* to reduce single-use plastic pollution in our city. We successfully lobbied City Council to pass a city ordinance in 2020 banning single-use plastic bags in Cincinnati. The ban is currently on hold due to the passage of Ohio House Bill 242, prohibiting all such municipal bans throughout Ohio. We are looking at strategies to reinstate Cincinnati's ban with the new city council in 2022. And we are sharing Cincinnati's road map statewide with other cities who seek to craft their own bans.



As consumers, we must call out the world's top polluters and make them – their markets *and* their consumers – answerable for the true cost to the planet.

WCC has been working in concert with the League of Women Voters' Natural Resource Committee. This last year, we organized a *Study Pages*: "Is it Time to Rethink Recycling?" We also presented a *Sierra Club* Inning on ways we can shift consumer culture away from single-use plastic as well as taking the fight to its source by leveraging consumer buying power to reduce the market for plastic.

In our meetings, we explore innovative alternatives to plastic packaging, bottles, straws, and Styrofoam, and consider current models for zero-waste shopping in a future circular economy.

What did we do before plastic? In August, WCC joined the coalition to present a program on "The Long & Short of the Plastic Problem" with films and a panel discussion. It was an opportunity to present Councilman Chris Seelbach with an award for his leadership in City Hall.



WCC also works with the League and Communities United for Action (CUFA) to promote affordable sewer rates. MSD's current base rate places an undue burden on lower-income households. We are also working with the Hamilton County Solid Waste Caucus and other groups who are fighting to hold Rumpke accountable for the environmental impacts resulting from its proposed expansion in Whitewater Township. WCC sent a statement to the Ohio EPA urging the agency not to approve of Rumpke's application for a permit to increase the Authorized Maximum Daily Waste Receipt (AMDWR) from 100 tons to 1,599 tons.

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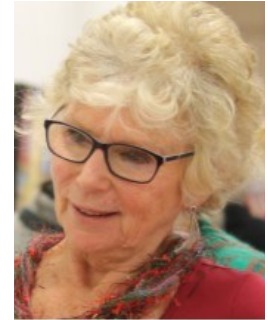


ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

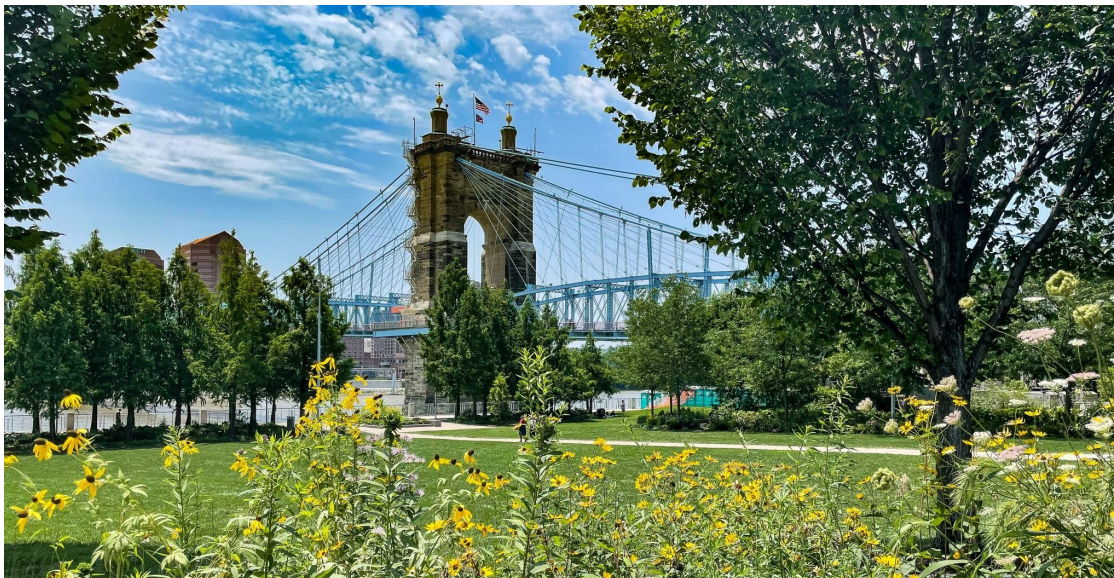
To tackle such laws that protect corporate profits over the health of communities, WCC is working with *The Poor People's Campaign* and *Citizens Recognizing Rights of the Ohio River Watershed (CROW)* to legally protect a community's stewardship over its own local ecosystems. *We have also* been working with the *Ohio River Guardians* who oppose the "Appalachian Petrochemical Hub," an industrial facility that will manufacture more plastics, polluting our air and water with harmful chemicals and microplastics.

In December 2021, WCC joined 9 other organizations to sponsor an in-depth virtual conversation with Rob Bilott, a Cincinnati-based lawyer who has become famous for pursuing a class-action lawsuit against the chemical giant DuPont. We learned more about his steadfast advocacy to promote legal protections against the threats of "Forever Chemicals" (PFAS) that have permanently entered our drinking water and our bloodstreams.

How members can become involved: *Past Plastic Cincinnati Coalition* holds monthly meetings every fourth Tuesday at 6:30 pm. *LWV Natural Resources Committee* holds monthly meetings every fourth Monday at 11 am. We meet with the *Sierra Club's Conservation Committee* every second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Join the WCC Bulletin news team to submit articles covering environmental issues in the city, county, and state. To join us in our work, contact Jeanne Nightingale at jnightingale@fuse.net



~ Jeanne Nightingale, chair
Environmental Action Group





PROGRAM COMMITTEE

AN ACTIVE YEAR OF IMPORTANT PROGRAMS

Woman's City Club provided a full suite of public forums on various important issues affecting the Greater Cincinnati community. These well-attended forums included:

CASH BAIL REFORM



Dr. Zaria Davis

The pretrial bail system in Ohio, widely criticized as unfair and inconsistent, was thought to be near long-sought reform in summer 2021, with bills introduced in the Ohio House and Senate. Speaking first at our July forum "Pretrial Bail Reform in Ohio: Light at the End of the Tunnel," Dr. Zaria Davis, Senior Associate with the Pretrial Justice Institute, contended that this inequitable system operates on a presumption of guilt and is riddled with systemic racism. Greer Aeschbury, the Organizing Strategist for the ACLU of Ohio in Southwest Ohio, updated us on the good news - bipartisan companion bills in the Ohio House (HB 315) and Senate (SB 182) that would, in part, no longer incarcerate or free people based on how much money they have. Finally, Chazidy Bowman, Founder of Opportunities People's Justice Leaders (OJPL), spoke poignantly about the circumstances of her husband, Rufus, navigating this system before he rehabilitated himself and became educated.

CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

WCC collaborated with the League of Women Voters and the Urban League in presenting two forums in September 2021 with 28 candidates for Cincinnati City Council. It was an unusual year where only one candidate had been elected previously, three had been appointed, and four were time limited. Candidates were asked to respond to the issue of policing and race, as an important benchmark of how they viewed their role and our community's future.

WCC was one of several organizations presenting a candidate forum for school board candidates, also in

September. 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.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CITY CHARTER

The November ballot asked the Cincinnati electorate to vote on whether to support Issue 3, comprising a package of eight "anti-corruption" amendments to the Cincinnati Charter. A panel of local experts on city government in the October forum -- Dot Christenson, Carolyn Miller, and Jerry Newfarmer -- discussed the pros and cons of each of the proposed amendments in the context of a 2015 report by the Charter Reform Task Force.



Dot Christenson

RECENT STATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON EDUCATION



Dr. Hasan K. Jeffries

In the face of a coordinated national push in Ohio and other states to suppress discussion of racism, sexism, and gender identity, three Ohio educators, speaking at the November 2021 forum, "Teaching the Truth: Our Kids Deserve it," passionately agreed that it is essential to teach students "hard truths" about discrimination in America.

Panelists Dr. Hasan Kwame Jeffries, author and Ohio State University associate professor of history; Lanisha Simmons, Curriculum Manager for English Language Arts Grades 7-12 for Cincinnati Public Schools; and Alpacino Beauchamp, Principal of Roberts Academy in Cincinnati Public Schools, discussed the potential impact these proposals would have on their institutions.

(continued on page 16)



PROGRAM COMMITTEE

COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Good-government experts expressed qualified optimism for the future of Cincinnati city government in their January presentation of a National Civic League study commissioned by the Murray & Agnes Seasongood Good Government Foundation.

At “A New Day at City Hall: Rebooting the Council-Manager Form of Government,” the January 2022 forum, they suggested that new leadership elected in November has the opportunity to reboot troubled city government by redefining the roles of mayor, city manager, and Council.

Jerry Newfarmer, former Cincinnati City Manager, provided a brief history of the Council-Manager form of government

The National Civic League President, Doug Linkhart, and Kimberly H. Nelson, Professor of Public Administration and Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, co-authors of the National Civic League’s report, described the study’s design and discussed the recommendations from the report.



Jerry Newfarmer

THE OHIO RIVER WATERSHED



As a follow up to a 2020 forum that caused many to become alarmed by the news of unregulated toxic chemicals entering our waterways, the Club presented a two-part series on water. The first forum, on World Water Day, March 22,

“Greater Cincinnati Water Works - Ensuring Good Water Quality from Source to Tap,” was organized by Cathy Bailey, the executive director of Greater Cincinnati Water Works. Cincinnati water has a reputation

for being clean and safe. 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. At the forum, GCWW’s top scientists Bruce Whitteberry and Jeff Swertfeger presented in fascinating and informative detail the processes and strategies the Water Works uses to address such potential threats to our health.

The second forum in April-“Who Speaks for Nature”- addressed the obstacles standing in the way of maintaining these standards. State preemption laws – often financially backed by petrochemical and agricultural industries – tend more and more to hinder communities from protecting their local rights to a clean environment.

Panelist Susan Vonderhaar, former contractor with the federal EPA and member of CROW (Citizens for Rights of the Ohio River Watershed), explained that we are up against: “The Regulatory Fallacy,” which is, in fact, the legal permitting of pollution.

Panelist Tish O’Dell, Ohio organizer for Community and Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF), and mentor for the local CROW group, has helped develop a Bill of Rights as a legal strategy for protecting the Ohio River watershed ecosystem. The proponents of the Rights of Nature movement contend that just as human rights are increasingly recognized by law, so should nature’s rights be recognized and embodied in our ethics and in our laws.



Jheri Neri

Jheri Neri, Executive Director of Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition, invited us to consider an alternative perspective – one rooted in generations of indigenous communities who for centuries nurtured the natural world as if our streams, land, and forests

were blood kin. Modern science confirms the idea of our intimate dependence on an evolving natural world, a point made by panelist Bill Cahalan of CROW.

(continued on page 17)



PROGRAM COMMITTEE

THE PARK BOARD

In February and May, Woman's City Club shone the spotlight on the Park Board with a two-part series. Our February forum, "The Park Board: Time for a Refresh?" attracted an audience of over 80 people, indicating a high level of interest in factors affecting our beloved parks system.

Dr. David Stradling, Zane L. Miller Professor of History, University of Cincinnati, served as moderator and introduced the discussion by explaining how concerns about recent proposals to build in Burnet Woods led Clifton neighbors to create Preserve Burnet Woods and seek a better understanding of the workings of the Park Board. Dr. Alyssa McClanahan, who authored the report, presented a brief history of the Park Board and described its structure as an independent commission. Steve Schuckman, who directed planning, design and construction for the Cincinnati Park Board from 1990 to 2021, and Frank Russell, Director of the UC Community Design Center and the Niehoff Urban Studio and Park Board member from 1994 to 2006, discussed the Park Board's independence and reliance on staff for expert advice.

The Q&A and chat revealed the concerns of the attendees, ranging from recent actions of the Board to diversity of park types and the process of decision-making. Therefore, in May, as a follow up to the February forum, WCC presented "Refreshing the Park Board: Part 2," which provided participants with an opportunity for further discussion with the previous panelists and participation in polling on recommendations for refreshing the Park Board.



LOOKING FORWARD

It is hard to believe that another year has passed with Zoom programs no longer seeming to be a novelty. While we have ventured in person for some activities, our forums continue to be online, partly due to the success of the format in attracting a large audience. We will continue to revisit the possibility of adding some in-person programming while continuing to use the online format when it allows us more participation.

We appreciate the support of our cosponsoring organizations, Action Tank, ACLU, All-In Cincinnati, Cincinnati Association, Jewish Community Relations Council, League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area, Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative, Murray and Agnes Seasongood Good Government Foundation, the Ohio Justice and Policy Center, OPJL, Charter Committee of Greater Cincinnati, Cincinnati Public Library, Pretrial Justice Institute, the School Board School, and the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio in helping to produce and promote these programs.



~ Jeff Dey
VP Programs

The WCC website has links to recordings of these forums, and archived Bulletins with articles on them: Womanscityclub.org, Media button.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE KEEPING WCC CONNECTED AND INFORMED

The purpose of the WCC Communications Committee is to ensure effective internal and external communications about the activities of WCC, 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 have been particularly important the last two years since few of our activities took place in person because of the ongoing epidemic.

This year active members included Sarah Gideonse, chair, Jo-Ann Albers, Shannon Brower, Patty Kelly, Jeanne Nightingale, Susan Noonan, Alice Schneider, Beth Sullebarger, Donna Tukel, Janet Walsh, and Christa Zielke. The committee continued to carry out its various tasks:

WCC WEBSITE

We contracted with our webmaster to “refresh” the website. This helped make our website faster. Updating the website delivered a performance increase. The refresh has the latest security features, to prevent it from becoming a target for hackers, as we were hacked in the past.

We continue to update 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 Communications Manager, Donna Tukel, lays the issue out. Patty Kelly and Janet Walsh 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

Patty Kelly, Donna Tukel, and Christa Zielke have teamed together to create a social media plan and calendar. Alice Schneider and Rina Saperstein continue to help maintain presence on Instagram and Facebook.

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 items to Alice Schneider and Donna Tukel, 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:
sarahgidonse@womanscityclub.org

*~ Sarah Gideonse, chair
Communications Committee*





MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REACHES OUT

During the 2021-2022 program year, Woman's City Club had many successes despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic and was able to grow membership from about 200 in 2020-21 to 230 in 2021-22. That's a 15 percent increase! We implemented our new rolling membership schedule and attracted 13 new members with a discounted rate offered at our National Speaker Forum.

We also celebrated reaching a milestone of 30 Lifetime Members with the addition of Francie Pepper, a longstanding member and generous supporter. We appreciate all of you who support WCC through membership at whatever level you can whether it be Inspired (\$500), Engaged (\$300) or Feisty (\$150) levels or those who join/renew at the Basic and "Pay-What-You-Can" rates. Membership represents about 20% of our budget, so it is very important to keeping WCC humming!



Cathy B. Bailey,
VP Membership

Please 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 this coming year, please do so today. It's easy to make a payment on our website at www.womanscityclub.org or by mailing a check payable to WCC to: 103 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 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 Allsop	Mary Beth Owens
Joyce Asfour	Rita Sanders-Parks
Mary Ellen Ashley	Francie Pepper
Jenny Broh	Burton Roehr
Janet Buening	Rita Sanders-Parks
Marjorie Davies	Ann Schloss
Marge Davis	Alice Schneider
Barbara Elleman	Kathryn Shahani
Sarah Gideonse	Louise Spiegel
Joy Haupt	Beth Sullebarger
Connie Hinitz	Emily Thobe
Suzanne Joiner	Beverly Thomas
Jeanne Nightingale	Nancy Lu Walters
Lori Nuckolls	Linda Wihl
Mary Osterbrock	Dan and Shou Zavon

INSPIRED

Heather Rae Byer
Marcia Togneri

ENGAGED

Janet Reid
Hera Reines
Roger Smith

FEISTY

Jane Anderson	Dianne Dunkelman	Alice Perlman
Cathy B. Bailey	Carolyn Eagen	Elizabeth Pierce
Cheryl Benedict	Judith Green	Roxanne Qualls
Annie F. Bennett	Emily Hodges	Rina Saperstein
Clare Blankemeyer	Susan Kreuzmann	Dolores W. Shaffer
Cronenberg, Ruth	Nina Lewis	Catherine Shick
Liza Brackman Curp	Ariel & Huxley Miller	Janet Walsh
Jeffrey Dey	Susan Noonan	Mary Wells



WCC BOOK CLUB

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

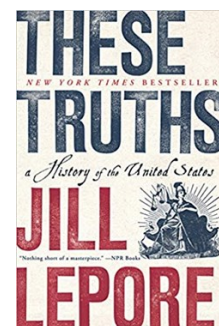
The Woman's City Club's Book Club, currently organized by Sarah Gideonse, meets virtually most months. The club is open to all WCC members who want to be part of a lively conversation on interesting, often timely, books, mostly non-fiction. We continue to meet by Zoom rather than in members' homes because more people can participate and of course it's more convenient.

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 announcements of book selections in the weekly Update and the Bulletin.

Here are the books discussed in the past year.

June 2021

These Truths, The History of the United States, Part II, The People (1899-1865) (2018), by Harvard historian Jill Lapore. Lapore places truth itself—a devotion to facts, proof, and evidence—at the center of the nation's history. She asserts that the American experiment rests on three ideas—'these truths,' Jefferson called them—political equality, natural rights, and the sovereignty of the people and explores whether the course of events since 1492 has proven the nation's truths or belied them.

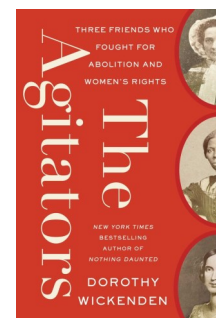


July 2021: *These Truths, Part III, The State (1966-1945)*

August 2021: *These Truths, Part IV - The Machine (1946-2016)*

September 2021

The Agitators: Three Friends Who Fought for Abolition and Women's Rights (2021), by Dorothy Wickenden, tells the story of Harriet Tubman, Martha Coffin Wright, and Frances Seward, from 1820 through the Civil War, and their courageous advocacy for women and enslaved Africans.

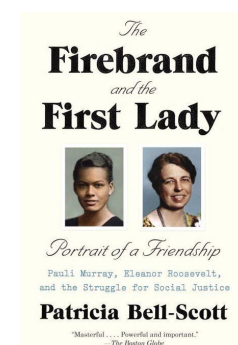


October 2021

Euphoria (2014), by Lily King, a wonderful novelization (names changed) of the 1933 field trip to the Sepik River, in New Guinea by anthropologists Margaret Mead, her then husband, and a new attraction, another anthropologist.

December 2021

The Firebrand and the First Lady: a Portrait of a Friendship – Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice (2017), by Patricia Bell-Scott, a biography of a less well known but fascinating civil rights leader and her friendship with Mrs. Roosevelt.



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WCC BOOK CLUB

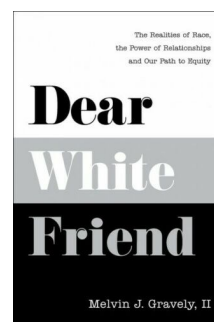
JOIN THE CONVERSATION

January 2022

The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel (2021), by Kati Marton, details the singular rise and political brilliance of the most powerful—and elusive—woman in the world.

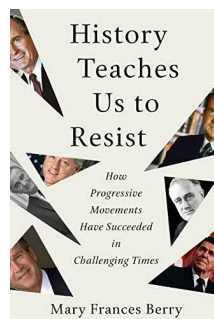
February 2022

Dear White Friend: The Realities of Race, the Power of Relationships and Our Path to Equity (2021), by Melvin J. Gravely II. The author poses these questions: What is really going on with race in our country? Why must we care? And what can we do about it together? In the end, Gravely calls on us to ask ourselves, “What is my role in all of this?”



March 2022

History Teaches Us to Resist: How Progressive Movements have Succeeded in Challenging Times (2018), by Mary Frances Berry, offers lessons about the long history of protests against Presidential policies, beginning with Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

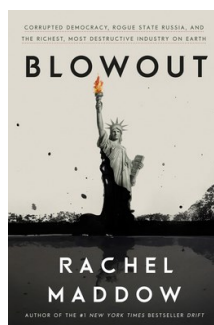


April 2022

Laboratories of Autocracy: A Wake-Up Call from Behind the Lines (2021), by David Pepper, argues that state governments and legislatures, once called “laboratories of democracy,” are now “laboratories of autocracy.” He joined our meeting to tell us about actions he has underway to counteract growing autocracy in Ohio.

May 2022

Blowout: Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia, and the Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth (2019), by Rachel Maddow, argues that the oil and gas industry “is the most consequential, the most lucrative, the most powerful, and the least-well-governed major industry in the history of mankind” and describes the history of corruption associated with the development of fossil fuels.



At each discussion, 9 to 22 people tuned in. Frequent attendees included Jo-Ann Albers, Janet Buening, Carole Donnelly, Dot Christenson, Rachel Foster, Sarah Gideonse, Amy Katzman, Harriet Kaufman, Irene Moore, Shirley Maul, Jeanne Nightingale, Erna Olafson, Francie Pepper, Jan Seymour, Beth Sullebarger, Marcia Togneri, and Donna Tukel.

For more information, please contact SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org



STATUE OF MARIAN SPENCER FROM DREAM TO REALITY

Last year, on Sunday, June 27, after a year's delay, the beautiful statue honoring local civil rights activist Marian Spencer was finally unveiled at Smale Riverfront Park on the Ohio River. An audience of over 100 people attended even though the temperature was in the 90's. Numerous luminaries spoke at the ceremony: Mayor John Cranley; Stephanie Dumas, President of Hamilton County Commissioners; Jan Michele Lemon Kearney, Cincinnati City Council; Kara Kish, Director, Cincinnati Parks; Linda Lee Thomas, Vice President, Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners; Edward Spencer, younger son of Marian Spencer; Tom Tsuchiya, sculptor; and Alice Schneider, chair, Statue Committee.



Marian Spencer

WCC spearheaded the project to commission and place the statue in Smale Park with funds raised in the community. It is the first statue in Cincinnati that pays homage to a named woman. In 1970, Spencer became the first Black President of Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati.

"People can join hands with the sculpture so they can hold hands and be part of Marian's legacy," said Tom Tsuchiya, who created the piece with Gina Erardi, "and continue her civil rights fight." The words "hold hands and unite" are written at the base of the life-sized sculpture in Smale Riverfront Park.

The remainder of the funds raised are being turned over to Woman's City Club for its annual education awards.



*~ Alice Schneider, chair
Spencer Statue Committee*



NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Nominating Committee met in November 2021 to solicit Woman's City Club members to serve on the board. The following members agreed to serving on the board for three-year terms, 2022-2025:

Deborah Allsop
Cathy B. Bailey
Janet Buening,

Laurie Frank
Jan Seymour

The nominating committee then recruited the following members to serve as at-large members of the nominating committee for 2022-2023:

Marge Davis
Jeff Dey
Amy Katzman

As Jeff Dey assumed the presidency of Woman's City Club on June 1, the board will have to appoint another person to the nominating committee.

The Nominating Committee, with input from the board, prepared the following slate of officers for election by the board to a one-year term of June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023:

President: Jeff Dey
Vice President Administration: Sharon McCreary
Vice President Civic Engagement: Jan Seymour
Vice President Membership: Cathy B. Bailey
Vice President Programs: Janet Buening
Secretary: vacant
Treasurer: Michelle Dillingham

Much thanks to the nominating Committee:
Tara French, Jan-Michele Lemon-Kearney, Susan Noonan, Alice Schneider, and Christa Zielke.



WCC Board - May, 1979

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.



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

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Woman's City Club Cincinnati



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