

Lighting the fire, leading the way, since 1915

#### 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.

# THE BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2022

### SEPTEMBER PUBLIC FORUM FINDING A WAY FORWARD Protecting Our Rights without Roe V.Wade

Wednesday, September 21 6:30 pm Social Time ~ 7 pm Program

Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church ~ Geier Room 103 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati 45219

If attending in person, RSVP at wcc@womanscityclub.org or if attending via Zoom: <u>Register here for a link</u>.

The recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Dodd v. Jackson Women's Health Organization has led to major changes in state laws and the availability of women's reproductive health services—and may threaten other personal rights and freedoms. WCC is presenting a panel of experts who will detail the specific impact of this decision in Ohio.

Join us in person or online to get up-to-date information about what reproductive health services are still available, the practical and legal actions being taken to mitigate the reversal of Roe V. Wade, and ways you can take part in advocacy actions.

Dr. O'dell Owens, noted OB-GYN and former medical director

of the Cincinnati Health Department and CEO and President of Interact for Health, will speak about the impact on community health services, the concerns of physicians and other medical staff, and the potential inequity of Ohio's laws on lower income and minority women. **Kersha Deibel**, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region, will discuss the effect on services available through Planned Parenthood, navigation through

the new laws, and ways people can advocate for women's health and civil rights. **Elizabeth Hopkins**, Organizing Director, ACLU Ohio, will address the legal issues and steps ACLU is considering to

The program will also offer ample time for questions from the audience.



Dr. O'dell Owens



Kersha Deibel



**Elizabeth Hopkins** 

COSPONSORS:

challenge the state laws.



Read WCC's position statement on the Dodd decision on Page 6.

Action Tank

THE PROGRAM IS FREE BUT YOU MUST REGISTER IN ORDER TO GET THE LINK.

### President's Message



# AN INVITATION TO REEMERGE

As Woman's City Club's new president, I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of some of the most vibrant changemakers in our City's history.

I looked back to see what our immediate past president, Beth Sullebarger, said at this time in her tenure. She spoke of coming into the role during the pandemic as the club strove to continue its mission in the new reality of the times – times which were turbulent, indeed, as the nation also came to grips with the George Floyd killing and an increased need to focus on social and racial justice.

In retrospect, I feel that we adapted amazingly well, continuing and even expanding our same quality of programming but in a virtual environment. Some of us found that we could do more in this new virtual world since we didn't have to drive to meetings or our workplaces. But, alas, we realize that this can only go so far as some have found this unsatisfying and backed away finding themselves "Zoomed out." But, the genie is out of the bottle now and we have learned how to utilize technology to make our programming available to a growing number of people whether they are in driving distance or not. Moreover, our forums are available to watch on our website, offering a rich resource that can be used again and again. So, the technology is here to stay.

However, while we are not done with the pandemic, we have carefully found our way to have in person events again – beginning with last year's Feist Tea in December. In April, at the National Speaker Forum Mary Frances Berry truly engaged an enthusiastic crowd. In May, the Seasongood Luncheon returned to in person with a dynamic speaker, Barbara Turner, and three young recipients of the Marian A. Spencer Education Awards. So, we continue to *reemerge*. Looking back at our success during the pandemic in virtual programs coupled with our desire to return to something that feels like before, we will have some hybrid programs beginning



with the September Forum entitled "Finding a Way Forward: Protecting Our Rights Without Roe v. Wade" on Wednesday, September 21. As soon as the Supreme Court decision was handed down on June 24, we knew we had to act, first with a statement (Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati Statement on the US Supreme Court's 2022 Overturning of Roe v. Wade), then with this forum focusing on how to navigate this new landscape. Read the complete statement on page 6 of this Bulletin.

And, yes, I'm not unaware that I am the first male president in the 107-year history of the Club. It was one of the reasons I had to think long and hard about taking this on as I certainly don't want to telegraph any less of a commitment to the same mission, vision and values that Woman's City Club has developed. My involvement and passion for Woman's City Club began in 1988 when I met Louise Spiegel, whom we lost on July 4 this year. She was always an inspiration to me and to so many others in the Club. It is in her memory that I continue to dedicate myself to this work.

> So, let's continue to *reemerge* together as we Light the Way!

> > ~ Jeff Dey

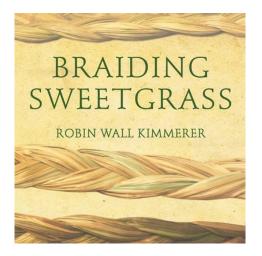
### WCC Book Club



### BRAIDING SWEETGRASS

Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants (2013)

### by Robin Wall Kimmerer



#### As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers.

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons. She argues that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.

The book has been a perennial bestseller. It has been on the *New York Times* bestseller list in paperback for 124 months, now number two on the paperback nonfiction list. It is available in multiple formats at booksellers and the public library. An audiobook version of *Braiding Sweetgrass* was released in 2016, narrated by the author.

The book club invites all members to participate as they wish – all the time or occasionally. Friends and family members may join in, depending on space availability. To RSVP, receive the Zoom link, or ask questions, email: SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org.

**Robin Wall Kimmerer** is an American Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental and Forest Biology; and Director, Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

She is the author of numerous scientific articles, and the books *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses* (2003), and *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* (2013).

She is an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and combines her heritage with her scientific and environmental passions.



**Robin Wall Kimmerer** 

### WCC Civic Engagement



### With midterm elections coming up in November, voters will have another chance to make our voices heard, or will we?

The state of Ohio, among others, has reached a crucial point in potentially damaging its representative government. Its legislative leaders recently endorsed an unconstitutional and gerrymandered redistricting plan. Too many districts remain non-competitive, and candidates run unopposed. More scary: Some are advocating for "the independent state legislature doctrine" that could reduce the role of state supreme courts in reviewing legislation for constitutionality.

Right now, our Ohio state legislators are proposing and passing bills that a majority of Ohio voters do not support, including permitless gun carry laws, stringent abortion laws, and bills to control school curricula.

Civic engagement could become a thing of the past as too often the Assembly pays little attention to voter views.

# What can we do? Pay attention to what is going on in the General Assembly, register voters, and

### VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!

Most of us are regular voters, but we need to help others register and turn out to vote. WCC is working with the Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative to register folks and encourage them to vote. Check our weekly Update for opportunities to help. There are also opportunities for volunteering with the League of Women Voters.

### LET'S SAVE OHIO

#### Right now, stop reading, and do the following...

If you do not already know your current State of Ohio House Representative or your State of Ohio Senator, go to <u>https://www.legislature.ohio.gov</u> -- Legislatures button.



You can find your Senate District and your Senator's name and contact information. Use the same website for finding your House District, Ohio State representative, and their contact information. Write this information down and post it on your refrigerator or bulletin board. Don't get a tattoo because they do change.

Now that you have finished that task, find out if your Senate district is in the November election. (All House districts are.) The number may have changed since reapportionment. Find out who is running for your districts and then find out what their position are:

#### https://ballotpedia.org/ Ohio\_House\_of\_Representatives\_elections,\_2022 #General

https://ballotpedia.org/ Ohio State Senate elections, 2022#General

Also a terrific resource: The Civic Health First Aid Kit (FAK) from ACTION TANK explains why local races should matter even more for voters. Look for the League of Women Voters' *Voter Guide* available in early fall.

Now you are ready to make your voice heard. Please give this information to your neighbors, your friends and family, and those you may help register. If people have different neighborhoods, give them the website so they can also look them up.

> ~ Jan Seymour Vice President, Civic Engagement

### WCC Events - Save the Dates

## THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL FEIST TEA SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

### HOORAH! THE 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FEIST TEA WILL CONTINUE TO BE 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 many years
- To honor Feisty individuals who embody the mission, vision, and spirit of WCC and have contributed to WCC or the Greater Cincinnati Community



Feisty Honorees 2021: (L-R) Barbara Myers, Aurelia Candie Simmons, and Iris Roley

As was the case last year, WCC members are invited to nominate people to be honored at the Feist Tea, and one of the honorees may be a non-member of WCC whose significant contributions to WCC and/or the Greater Cincinnati align with WCC's mission. A selection sub-committee, including Feist Tea Committee and WCC Board members, will meet at the end of October to select this year's Feist Tea honorees. The application form for nominations will be emailed to WCC members in the near future. And as always, Woman's City Club hopes ALL past Feist Tea honorees will attend and be recognized.

PLEASE NOTE: Feist Tea is a free event, but we welcome your donation in honor of our 2022 honorees. Look for more information in the coming weeks and for your invitation which will be emailed mid-November.

~ Laurie Frank, Chair, Feist Tea Committee



### NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

### FEATURING MARCIA COYLE SPEAKING ON THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES



Woman's City Club is pleased to announce its selection of lawyer and journalist Marcia Coyle, currently the Chief Washington Correspondent for *The National Law Journal*, as our 29<sup>th</sup> National Speaker in March 2023. Coyle has covered the U.S. Supreme Court for 20 years. She regularly appears on PBS's *NewsHour*, and her work has earned numerous national journalism awards. Coyle's selection is a timely one — a response to high-impact recent and forthcoming highprofile Supreme Court cases.

Coyle's book, *The Roberts Court: The Struggle for the Constitution,* provides a brilliant inside analysis of four landmark decisions of the Supreme Court—concerning health care, money in elections, guns at home, and race in schools. Coyle examines how those cases began and how they exposed the great divides among the justices, such as the originalists versus the pragmatists on guns and the Second Amendment, and corporate speech versus human speech in the controversial Citizens United case. Most dramatically, her reporting shows how dedicated conservative lawyers and groups strategize to find cases and craft them with an eye on a receptive conservative majority on the Supreme Court.

Read WCC's Bulletins and Updates in the coming months for more information about our speaker and her topic and about tickets and ways for members, friends, and the community to support this annual fundraising event.

~ Beth Sullebarger, Chair, National Speaker Forum Committee

### WCC Position Statement

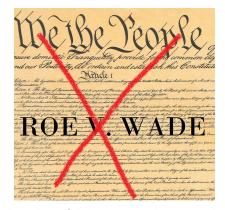


### STATEMENT ON THE US SUPREME COURT'S 2022 OVERTURNING OF ROE V. WADE

Woman's City Club (WCC), a nonpartisan civic organization that has worked since 1915 to promote social, economic, and environmental justice through education, advocacy, and service, is gravely concerned about the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's reversal of Roe v. Wade, a precedent for 50 years. WCC has never taken a position on abortion because it is such a complex and personal issue, but we cannot stay silent about the Supreme Court's decision. Without Roe and other Supreme Court precedents guaranteeing the right to privacy, women's freedom to make decisions about their own bodies is being eliminated in many states, whose legislatures now have the legal authority to regulate or ban the procedure at any point in a pregnancy and for any reason. The decision occurs at a time when the majority of the country supports access to abortion, at least in the first trimester of pregnancy.

WCC is also concerned with Ohio's "Heartbeat Law," which went into effect when a federal judge dissolved an injunction on the same day Roe v. Wade was overturned and was upheld by the Ohio Supreme Court. Ohio's law bans abortion either at six weeks after gestation, when many women don't know they are pregnant, or once fetal cardiac activity can be detected. It allows for two exceptions: an abortion can be conducted after the six week mark if a physician finds the procedure necessary to save the life of the mother, or if there is no fetal heartbeat. But there are no exceptions for rape or incest, and doctors who perform an abortion in violation of the law can be charged with a fifth-degree felony.

We concur with the statement issued by the League of Women Voters' (LWV) national office, which says that the Supreme Court "ruling strips women and those who may become pregnant of their bodily autonomy and will have devastating—and immediate—consequences across the country. . . . When women and those who can become pregnant can no longer make reproductive decisions for their own bodies, they are no longer equal individuals in our democracy. This harm will exacerbate societal inequalities and fall disproportionately on people of color and low-income communities already facing egregious obstacles to health care."



These harmful decisions at the national and state levels are an issue of social justice. According to 2019 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Black women in the United States are five times more likely to have abortions than white women, while Latina women are twice as likely. Nearly half of women seeking abortions are poor. According to the Ohio Capital Journal (June 24, 2022). Ohio's population" is only 13% Black, but Black women received 48% of all abortions in 2020." The poverty rate for Ohio's Black people was 27% in 2020, compared to just 10% of white people (https:// talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/ohio-2020- report/). "With higher maternal mortality, more problem pregnancies, worse health care, and less insurance, Black women especially need reproductive autonomy." In addition, the vast majority (82%) of the 20,605 Ohio women who received abortions in 2019 were on their own-separated, divorced, widowed or never married. The fact that so many unmarried and Black women had abortions suggests they didn't have the financial and emotional support needed to raise a child-often in addition to children they already have (Washington Post, June 25, 2022).

Many worry that the Roe v. Wade decision is the beginning of a slippery slope. The dissenting Justices consider the decision and concurring opinions as an assault on the constitutional guarantee to equal protection of the laws and the right to due process that could also threaten the rights of BIPOC (Black, indigenous, and people of color), LGBTQIA+, and other historically marginalized communities. WCC maintains its longstanding priority to promote social, racial, and criminal justice, and staunchly supports women's rights as well as equity of healthcare access and gender equality.

WCC maintains its longstanding priority to promote social, racial, and criminal justice, and staunchly supports women's rights as well as equity of healthcare access and gender equality. Abortion is a decision that must be made privately by a person who can become pregnant. It is essential to keep it safe and accessible.

# WCC Environmental Action Group



#### WHAT IS "ZERO WASTE"?

As a concept and a visionary goal, Zero Waste serves to guide us as we modify our lifestyles to emulate the sustainable cycles of Nature. It is the conservation of resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning or discharges to land, water, and air that threaten the environment or human health. It is at once ethical, economical, and efficient. When all our discarded materials are designed to become resources for further use, we create a Circular Economy.

# FIVE PATHWAYS TOWARDS ZERO WASTE IN CINCINNATI:

**1. Stop Plastic Pollution.** The Earth's living ecosystem is being choked by plastic waste. Single-use plastic litters our neighborhoods and clogs our waste streams, stormwater systems, landfills, rivers, and oceans. We're eating plastic for dinner! The production & recycling of plastic accelerates climate change.

#### 2. Enact a new 5-year Solid Waste Plan.

Rumpke's landfill is one of the largest in the country and by far the biggest landfill in Ohio. It contains 63 million tons of waste and a capacity to add another 100 million tons, according to the EPA. Due to unnecessary dumping of organic material (which currently makes up of 27% of the landfill), Rumpke produces more methane than any other landfill in the nation.

The Hamilton County Solid Waste District is required to update its Solid Waste Plan every five years. A local citizens' group, the Solid Waste Caucus (SWC), has been reviewing a draft of the Plan and helping to revise it and move our county forward on waste diversion. The Caucus is advocating for: universal trash collection, universal access to recycling, and universal access to organics collection (yard waste and food scrap). It is also pressing for an increased tipping fee for out of district waste haulers.

# 3. Visit the Cincinnati Reuse & Recycle Hub.

The facility, located at 911 Evans Street off Gest St., is open on



Thursdays & Saturdays. (Hours may vary.) Park in the gated lot on Woodrow Street off Gest. For an updated list of recyclable items, go to: https://

www.cincinnatirecyclingandreusehub.org/how-to-drop-off.

#### 4. Shop at Simply Zero Lifestyle Shop & Refillery.

This new store just opened on 1235 Vine St. in downtown Cincinnati and offers a new kind of retail experience. They sell package free, sustainable and eco-friendly products to help you live your best zero waste low impact lifestyle. <u>https://www.simplyzero.com</u>

# 5. Join Findlay Market's Residential Composting Program.

This new program keeps organic material out of the landfill by distributing processed compost throughout the nearby landscape. Cost to rent a five-gallon bucket and drop off your food waste (no meat or dairy) is \$10 per month, \$55 for six months. You can drop off your compost bucket at the market any time during marketing hours. <u>https://www.findlaymarket.org/</u> compostingprogram

If you would like to add your voice, please attend the next Solid Waste Policy Committee meeting on Sept. 21 at 3:00 P.M. Caucus meetings are held every Tuesday. The Sierra Club Miami Group (SCMG) Conservation Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month.

#### What you can do to liberate yourselves from this "tyranny of convenience":

- 1. Bring your own reusable shopping bag to the grocery store.
- 2. Practice sustainable lifestyle habits: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Rethink Recycling (in that order).
- 3. Join Past Plastic Cincinnati Coalition's effort to amend Cincinnati's ordinance to ban single-use plastic waste.

<sup>~</sup> Jeanne Nightingale, Chair Environmental Action Group

### WCC News



Edna Keown was attracted to WCC membership in 2020 by Helen O'Neal "because Helen believed in the Woman's City Club mission."

Keown quickly became involved in helping the National Speaker committee, which isn't surprising given her long history of community volunteering.

Edna Keown is a 2009 founding member of the Ambassadors of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. She was in the inaugural class of exhibit interpreters/docents and became active as a center docent. She chaired the Martin Luther King Day breakfast for five years.

Soon to be honored as an Enquirer Woman of the Year, Keown is recognized as a volunteer and ambassador for many causes in the Greater Cincinnati area. The Enquirer reported that she is a member of the Cincinnati Chapter of The Links Inc., a member of the Woman's City Club, a former board member of the Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio, member of the Women's Alliance, and a volunteer at Jack & Jill.

"It's nothing new," *The Enquirer* said, "As far back as 2003, she was instrumental in getting the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center up and running. A former board member who worked with Edna wrote, 'no matter what project or chairmanship she is involved in, she does the job to perfection quietly and thoroughly.' One nominator wrote that Keown has not received many public accolades, 'not because she is not deserving of them, but because she simply goes about her helping in a very humble way.'"



Keown will be honored with nine other women during an Oct. 21 luncheon at the Hyatt Regency.

She grew up in a small town, Gilmore, Arkansas, and attended Arkansas

State University in Jonesboro. Marriage brought her to Cincinnati in November 1978. She worked at Clayton L. Scroggins in Springdale, doing retirement plans administration and downtown for Great American Insurance (part of their American Financial Group) in the human resource department.

For WCC's National Speaker event, she has worked on the co-sponsor and money team committees, helping secure forum sponsorships. She thinks WCC can make a difference in Cincinnati by "continuing to address issues affecting women and those who don't have a voice or platform, and to speak out on social injustices, voting, and such."

She considers it "a privilege and a blessing to be in a position to volunteer. My key to happiness is to make life better for others. I believe in a quote by Muhammad Ali -- 'Service to others is the rent you pay for your room in heaven.'"

She is married to Woodrow Keown Jr., who since 2019 has been president and CEO of the Freedom Center. They live in Hyde Park "after living in Mason and suburbs forever," she said. Their daughter, Katrice, lives in Seattle.

~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers

## WCC Communications Committee



### HELP MAKE WCC'S SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS RELEVANT AND COMPELLING!

This past spring, WCC's Communications Committee created a new social media plan. WCC is now boosting its social media presence with succinct, consistent, and vibrant postings. We are hoping to catch the eye of the broader community as well as our members and friends with news about our public forums and projects, WCC history, member spotlights, committee engagement opportunities, and special events, issues, and news.

We have been posting items semi-regularly for several months, and we hope keen observers of Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter have seen them. As the busy season of Woman's City Club begins again this month, we plan to post twice a week. Here's where WCC members and friends can help: We would like to share serious or lighthearted stories/ memories/anecdotes about significant personal experiences where Woman's City Club played a role.

Please email us your stories (wcc@womanscityclub.org), including photos when possible, which we can use to educate and enlighten the outside world about WCC as well as our own members. While only a brief sentence will be included in the post, a link to the complete story on our website will be available.

And please check out our social media posts. We'd love your feedback.

~ Donna Tukel, WCC Communications Manager











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#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Jeff Dey, *President* (2022-2024) Sharon McCreary, *VP Administration* (2020-2023) Jan Seymour, *VP Civic Engagement* (2022-2025) Cathy B. Bailey, *VP Membership* (2021-2022) Janet Buening, *VP Programs* (2016-2022) Michelle Dillingham, *Treasurer* (2020-2022) Beth Sullebarger, *Past President* 

Sherri Adams-Davis (2021-2024) Deborah Mariner Allsop (2022-2025) Anne Buening (2017-2023) Laurie Frank (2022-2025) Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney (2021-2024) Helen O'Neal (2021-2024) David Siders (2019-2024) Marcia Togneri (2021–2023) Aurelia Candie Simmons (2021-2024) Christa Zielke (2021-2024)

### CALENDAR

### UPCOMING EVENTS — OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

#### SEPTEMBER PUBLIC FORUM

FINDING A WAY FORWARD: Protecting our Rights without Roe V. Wade Wednesday, September 21 - see page 1

#### ANNUAL FEIST TEA

Sunday, December 4 - see page 5

#### NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM

Thursday, March 23, 2023

featuring Marcia Coyle, Chief Washington Correspondent for The National Law Journal

See page 5

### WCC MEMBER MEETINGS

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

**Membership Committee:** Wednesday, September 7, 5:30 pm Committee meets monthly on first Wednesday.

**Social Justice Action Group**: Thursday, September 8, 6:30 pm SJAG meets monthly on first Thursday. Contact David Siders: dbsiders@gmail.com

**National Speaker Committee**: Monday, September 12, 7:30 pm in person Contact Beth Sullebarger: wccpresident2020@gmail.com

**Communications Committee:** Tuesday, September 27, 5 pm Committee meets monthly on last Tuesday. Contact: SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org.

**Program Committee**: Wednesday, September 28, 7 pm Committee meets monthly on fourth Wednesday.

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 October. Please submit all materials as they are ready to Sarah Gideonse at sarahgideonse@womanscityclub.org