

*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

NOVEMBER 2022

The Thirteenth Annual Feist Tea ~ In Person ~

Sunday, December 4, 2022, 1:30 – 3:30 pm
 Kennedy Heights Arts Center Annex
 6546 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati

Woman's City Club invites its members and friends to this year's Feist Tea, a celebration and fundraiser for WCC. Join us for this festive event with elegant light fare (the Tea!), reception, and awards. The Feist -Tea will honor new and longtime members, past and current presidents, and especially this year's exceptionally feisty honorees:



Janet Buening



Melissa Currence



Denisha Porter

WCC is recognizing these women for their passionate advocacy and dedication to making a difference in our regional community.



Our beloved friend, Louise Spiegel, who died this past July, presided over the annual festivities for many years as the Queen of Feist Tea.

While there is no charge for this event, WCC would greatly appreciate your generous donation to honor our 2022 feisty members and awardees and to support WCC's programs and events.

Kindly RSVP by November 28 by phone at 513-751-0100 or email at wcc@womanscityclub.org

Read more about the three outstanding honorees on page 3.



AN INVITATION TO STIR THE POT...AND SHARE THE BOUNTY



If you don't already have a copy of Woman's City Club's cookbook *Stirring the Pot in the Kitchen & the Community for 100 Years*, get one now. And while you're at it, pick up at least another as a holiday gift for a friend.*

So why does this civic organization, the Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati, even publish a cookbook? Isn't that what was often done by women's auxiliaries of men's organizations? Actually, I think it's just that we just love to cook (and eat)! And, the cookbook, published in 2015 as part of WCC's centennial celebrations, is not the first Woman's City Club cookbook. The first, entitled *The Liberty Cookbook*, was published in 1917 to offer recipes that addressed wartime shortages of ingredients. A later one, *Recipes*, appeared in 1952. Both are wonderful artifacts of their times, and some of the recipes now appear in *Stirring the Pot*.

So why is it significant that a civic organization produces a cookbook? Don't we, indeed, have more important things to do? As a cook myself (see my strawberry shortcake recipe in the cookbook on page 160), I can't think of anything more important than producing food for friends, for conversation, for celebration! Why else would we honor our noteworthy—Feisty—members and partners with a tea—a Feist Tea?

As we enter the holiday season beginning with Thanksgiving, it's no coincidence that these fall from a time of harvest to a time when our ancient ancestors may have wondered whether the sun was going to return. In so many cultures, we celebrate light amidst the darkness in the hope of better days ahead. We press on and believe that this dark time will pass if only we can persevere. The country has experienced some darkness in recent years with renewed racial tensions, a pandemic, loss of rights we had thought were won, and a general feeling of angst about how our city, our states, and our nation can continue to hold it together in an increasingly contentious climate.

While we continue to advocate for reason, for compassion, and for justice, it's important to feed ourselves and our friends ... physically, intellectually and spiritually.

Woman's City Club provides this 'food' through our forums, through our acts of civic engagement and building community, and through some pretty tasty ideas in our cookbook. Take this as an invitation to **Stir the Pot!** And don't forget to share with your neighbors and family.

Happy Holidays and see you at the Feist Tea!

~ Jeff Dey

*The WCC cookbook can be purchased on our website, womanscityclub.org, or at the office.



SUPPORT THE 2022 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

As a member of Woman's City Club, you will have received a printed membership directory for the 2022-2023 program year. As you look at the individuals who are included in it, you will find yourself in good company, among people who are committed to civic education and engagement for the betterment of our community and participation in our democracy.

As a member, we hope you will respond to our Annual Fund Campaign donation request enclosed with the directory and give as generously as you can to keep WCC strong and viable. Membership dues alone cover only about 20% of our annual operating budget. We do a lot with a little, but we have fixed costs for all our office needs as well as our annual education awards. We rely on a volunteer working board and our paid staff—part-time Communications Manager Donna Tukel and Business Manager Roger Smith—but **we also depend on you to give!**

The easiest way to donate, on a one-time or monthly basis, is through our website, womanscityclub.org/donate. You can also mail a check to Woman's City Club or call our office at 513-751-0100 on M/W/F from 10 to 2 pm to donate by credit card. You can set up a recurring gift through your banking institution or credit card, or work with your financial advisor to explore other ways to support us.

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



MEET THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL FEIST TEA HONOREES

Woman's City Club is honoring three remarkable and feisty women at its 13th Annual Feist Tea on Dec 4. Here is a bit more about them:

Janet Buening, a past president of WCC, is described by her nominator as a “committed, conscientious, courageous, and creative community activist.” She currently chairs the WCC program committee. A writer, editor, teacher and trainer, she works for non-profit agencies such as CET and Forward Movement. An active volunteer, she was a founder of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Council and has served on its board 44 years.

Melissa Currence has been president of WCC's close community partners, the League of Women Voters of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Association. She rejuvenated the local League leadership in founding Act One: Hands-On Civics for Cincinnati, a young people's membership program and worked with WCC when establishing a similar program. Melissa has worked in development, communications, and marketing for different community non-profits and is now a communications manager at Procter & Gamble.

Denisha Porter is director of the All-In Cincinnati, a community-led racial equity coalition working to dismantle racial inequities in health, housing, education, economic mobility, and justice focusing on Black women. Her nominator said, “Denisha represents the best of Cincinnati's leadership into the future.” In Denisha's words, “All-In Cincinnati aims to deepen, amplify and multiply local and regional efforts to build equitable, thriving neighborhoods.” Denisha has training and experience in public health, working for 10 years addressing public health disparities.

NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM 2023

MARCIA COYLE

SPEAKING ON: A LOOK INSIDE THE CURRENT SUPREME COURT

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 AT 7 PM

MEMORIAL HALL ~ 1225 ELM STREET ~ CINCINNATI



After a momentous year of Supreme Court rulings, what does the coming year portend? Join us March 23 for an inside view of the Court from the uniquely qualified lawyer and journalist Marcia Coyle, the award-winning Chief Washington Correspondent for *The National Law Journal*.

Coyle's remarks will focus on recent and anticipated decisions of the Court, particularly those that have the biggest societal impact.

Watch for information on how organizations can cosponsor this event at \$300, as well as corporate sponsorships at \$500+. Beginning in mid-December, individuals can purchase tickets at \$50 and up through Memorial Hall.



NOVEMBER FORUM: THE STATE OF THE STATEHOUSE What You Should Know ~ What You Can Do

This forum was an opportunity to learn about state government and how it works — or doesn't — from two experts:

David Pepper, former Ohio Democratic Party Chair and author of *Laboratories of Autocracy: A Wake-Up Call from Behind the Lines*, and Adam Bird, Republican State Representative for the 66th District (New Richmond), and a teacher, principal, and school superintendent for 35 years. What ensued was an animated but civil exchange, packed full of information.

An engaged audience listened as Pepper forcefully presented a litany of actions occurring in Ohio's statehouses that would appall us if they occurred in another country:

- drawing districts to guarantee that one party win in most, defying the state constitution and the Ohio Supreme Court,
- assigning party designation to Supreme Court candidates after three judges of the other party were elected on merit without the designation,
- proposing a bill to make voting harder,
- stripping much of the authority of the elected State Education Board, assigning these responsibilities to the Governor's office, again after three progressive candidates were elected,
- limiting the kinds of care transgender children may receive, and
- proposing to change the Ohio Constitution so that **60% of voters must approve** any attempts to amend the Constitution, an avenue advocates for abortion access and redistricting reform are expected to pursue.

Representative Bird talked about his background as an educator and his experiences during his first term representing Brown and part of Clermont counties. He has initiated and sometimes successfully passed several bills, often related to education. With exasperated humor, Bird described how difficult it is to get a bill passed – committee, hearings,



David Pepper (L) and Rep. Adam Bird (R)

amendments, Senate, House, reconciliations, etc. When asked about the proposal to move the mostly elected State Education Board to the Governor's office, he said it is difficult for him because he has been working for a long time on a bill to have the electorate vote for all of the board members rather than having eight members appointed by the Governor and eleven elected.

Bird also shared his proposal to require that ballots include state board of education candidates' party designation. Great pushback followed, both from Pepper and members of the audience. Bird countered that adding party to candidates' names for both the state school board and the Ohio Supreme Court gives voters important information, while Pepper argued that both offices should be nonpartisan, even though parties may endorse them as candidates.

Bird seemed puzzled about audience outrage at the new Substitute House Bill 294 that will make absentee voting harder and eliminates utility bills, bank statements, and government checks as alternative identification in place of driver's licenses and voter IDs. In his district, he said, he hears great concern from constituents about voter fraud. He commented that this (the forum) was a different world!

Representative Bird stepped in at the last minute as a substitute for scheduled speaker Representative Cindy Adams, whose committees were meeting at the Statehouse, and was a strong addition to the program! He encourages people to contact him at rep66@ohiohouse.gov and promises a personal response.

It was a spirited program and we learned a lot from the speakers and their different perspectives. Our speakers shook hands and happily posed for photos at the end.

(continued on page 5)



NOVEMBER FORUM: THE STATE OF THE STATEHOUSE

(continued from page 4)

“What to do” ideas to help citizens stay informed, learn more, and have input into Statehouse actions :

- Use the state website <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/search>, library resources, and other online resources to learn who your representatives are and follow the progress of proposed legislation.
- Connect with your state representative and senator through their official state email, their office, and their social media; send letters, questions, and petitions.
- Push the press and other local media for better coverage of statehouse actions.
- Work to achieve fair districting, through your representative and senator, Fair Districts, LWV, Blue Ohio, and any other person or agency who is dedicated to getting fair maps drawn.
- Work to oppose bills you don't support and to get new bills you do support passed into law; as Rep. Bird outlined, getting a bill written, approved, passed, and adopted is a long and slow process - you have time to weigh in with letters and testimony.



PROGRAM COMMITTEE KEEPS WCC MEMBERS INFORMED

WCC continues to offer programs that educate and most definitely engage its members!

Please mark your calendar now for our upcoming January 2023 program — a progress report on affordable housing, in response to our members' requests for more information on this important issue. **This will take place via Zoom on Wednesday, January 25, at 7 pm**, with Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, Cincinnati Vice Mayor and City Council Member, and additional speakers who will update us on the critical need for more affordable housing, strategies to fund it, and actions being taken to increase available units in Greater Cincinnati.

Program Committee is also planning an event for members and their guests with Elissa Yancey of A Picture's Worth (<https://apicturesworth.org/>) to learn the power of stories and effective story-telling techniques (date to be announced.)

We welcome new committee members to assist in planning and carrying out WCC's programs! We meet online at 7 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Please contact Program VP Janet Buening to join us or to share suggestions for future programs: wccpresident2018@gmail.com

~Janet Buening



PUBLIC EDUCATION UNDER SIEGE IN OHIO

**Much Ado about Something—and that something is—
What power does the Ohio State Board of Education have over Ohio schools, their operating policies, standards, and curricula and what power do the people of Ohio have in selecting those representatives to the State Board?**

Like many local boards, the State Board has been embroiled over curricula that “condemned” any standards, curriculum, or training programs for students, teachers, or staff that seek to ascribe circumstances or qualities, such as collective guilt, moral deficiency, or racial bias, to a whole race or group of people.” More recently the board has been considering a statement opposing changes in Title IX rules to extend protections to LGBTQ+ students.

What is a taxpayer to do? We just did it, VOTED. Voters defeated two of the members opposing anti-racism and Title IX protection and elected another Democrat, so progressive members are now the majority of the 11 elected candidates. So there, right? Oops, not so fast. In November’s meeting of the Ohio Board, like October’s meeting, the anti-Title IX resolution was tabled to be resurrected in the December meeting. Now the lame duck Board will have another chance to counter the will of the people.

So here we are, starting in 2023 with a new State Board of Education duly elected by the people and all could be well. Except..... here comes the Governor’s office and the state legislature.

On Tuesday, November 16, the state senate introduced a bill (SB 178) to restructure the State Board of Education, greatly reduce the board’s purview, and create a new cabinet level department, with the Division of Primary and Secondary Education and the Division of Career Technical Education



under its umbrella. We will be following this but are very concerned, as this proposed legislation would remove the electorate from holding the cabinet accountable as it just did the Board of Education.

*~ Jan Seymour
Vice President for Civic Engagement*

Other Important State Issues Civic Engagement is watching:

House Bill 183 - Abolition of Ohio’s Death Penalty. Proponents are urging people to contact their state reps and ask Chairman LaRe to move this bill out of committee and get it voted on in this session.

Senate Bill 183 and House Bill 319 - Enact Expanding Human Trafficking Justice Act, which creates a pathway for expunging records of convictions for those whose crimes were committed while being trafficked.





THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT ~ WHAT DOES IT ASK OF US?



Whether by conscious design or institutional neglect, communities of color in urban ghettos, in rural 'poverty pockets,' or on economically impoverished Native-American reservations sadly face some of the worst environmental devastation in our country. We must acknowledge that many of our current systems of power were built under the legacy of colonization: the enslavement of one people and the violent dispossession of another. The culture of white supremacy and the patriarchal strategies of colonization have set the stage for our current systems of oppression and injustice.

The crisis of global climate change has revealed the unfair exposure of poor and marginalized communities to increasing harms from hazardous waste, resource extraction, and other land uses.

Calls for Environmental Justice (EJ) have grown recently, and yet little attention has been paid to exactly what the 'justice' of Environmental Justice refers to. The justice demanded by the global Environmental Justice movement is threefold: Environmental Justice means equity in the distribution of environmental risk; it implies the recognition of the diversity of participants and experiences in affected communities; and it demands an inclusive participation in the political processes which create and manage environmental policy.

How can we become meaningfully involved in reversing these injustices? Many of those who have been suffering disproportionately—people of color, indigenous communities, and generations of youth—are now rising up to lead the way toward a transformative process that works for us all. We must raise these neglected voices of leadership: Black and Brown people on the very frontlines of racial and environmental injustice; indigenous people who are protecting our local resources and sacred wilderness; the youth who are calling out to the world for climate justice and join them in their projects. We must work together towards a shared vision of a future where our collective humanity is equitably recognized and cherished.

*~ Jeanne Nightingale, Chair
WCC Environmental Action Group*

STEPS TO LIVING LIGHTLY ON THE PLANET

Susan Vogt of the Pachamama Alliance of the Cincinnati Area and the Past Plastic Cincinnati Coalition circulates a weekly blog of seasonal ECO TIPS. Here are a few of her suggestions as we move into the winter months:



1. Clothing

EASY: Swap clothes with friends and neighbors. **CHALLENGING:** Keep Microfibers from entering waterways by washing your clothes less often. Spot clean as needed. Mend and patch to extend the life of your clothing. Think about purchasing high-quality, long-lasting items.

2. Single-Use Plastic

EASY: Keep reusable bags in the car for use at the grocery. **CHALLENGING:** Buy loose vegetables (without plastic wrapping). Buy fewer packaged frozen foods. Buy fresh when possible. Avoid plastic clam shells, which cannot be recycled (or leave them on the counter suggesting to storeowner that they are unacceptable).

3. Thanksgiving Gifts

EASY: As a gift to the environment, spend an evening in candlelight with the electric lights off. **CHALLENGING:** As a gift to your community, do a family service project together.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Book Club Selection for January

Pelosi

By Molly Ball

2020

Saturday, January 21
10 am via Zoom

Pelosi

Molly Ball



A riveting inside account of the unprecedented rise to power and unmatched political legacy of the first woman Speaker of the House, by award-winning journalist Molly Ball.

Nancy Pelosi's opposition to Donald Trump has made her an icon of the Resistance, featured in viral memes clapping sardonically at the president or ripping up his State of the Union address. But the real Nancy Pelosi is neither the shrill partisan featured in thousands of attack ads nor the cautious corporatist reviled by the far left. She's the rare politician who still knows how to get big things done—a master of legislative power whose policy accomplishments have touched millions of American lives, from providing universal access to health care to reforming Wall Street to allowing gay people to serve openly in the military. She's done it all at a time of historic polarization and gridlock, despite being routinely underestimated by allies and opponents alike.

Ball's nuanced, page-turning portrait takes readers inside Pelosi's life and times, from her roots in urban Baltimore to her formative years as a party activist and fundraiser, from the fractious politics of San Francisco to high-stakes congressional negotiations with multiple presidents. The result is a compelling portrait of a barrier-breaking woman that sheds new light on American political history. Based on exclusive interviews with the Speaker and deep background reporting, Ball shows Pelosi through a thoroughly modern lens to explain how this extraordinary woman has met her moment.

The book is available in multiple formats from booksellers and the public library.

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@womancityclub.org.

Molly Ball, an award-winning journalist, is the national political correspondent for *Time*, where she writes columns and features and contributes video journalism.

She is also an analyst for CNN and previously covered national politics for *The Atlantic* and *Politico*.





WCC MEMBER PROFILE

It takes 232 words to itemize the 15 awards bestowed on Jeanne Rehling Gollhofer this century. Among them -- 2020 YWCA Career Woman of Achievement, twice *Cincinnati Magazine's* list of most powerful business executives in the city, a lifetime achievement award from the Over-the-Rhine Chamber of Commerce, and an excellence award for volunteerism from the Ohio Economic Development Association.

Jeanne has been engaged in affordable housing, community development, and social justice for more than 30 years. After 24 years as president and CEO of the Cincinnati Development Fund (CDF), she transitioned to an advisory role in April 2022 and plans to fully retire at the end of this year.

Before CDF she worked 16.5 years in banking, "surviving four mergers" and becoming vice president of community development of Key Bank.

Her executive bio says, "in addition to locally raised, private loan capital, Ms. Gollhofer was instrumental in bringing more than \$350 million in federal dollars to CDF who deploys these awards thoughtfully and deliberately to benefit residents of Cincinnati's lowest-income neighborhoods."

She joined the Woman's City Club because she supported its mission of education, empowerment and civic engagement. She still remembers attending her first WCC luncheon forum, invited by Barbara Milon. "Topic was racial bias in America," she said. "We watched a video of Diane Sawyer's 1991 'ABC Prime Time' program where they had hidden cameras observing the disparate treatment of a Black man and a white man in St. Louis in various situations: attempting to rent an apartment, buy a car, and shop. It was absolutely eye-opening to me, as at the time, I naively believed that we lived in a 'color blind' society," she said.

"I was motivated to use that video in partnership with our director of human resources to develop a cultural diversity program and presented it to every employee of the Cincinnati district of Society Bank during 1994-95.



The responses were incredibly positive and emotional for all employees, regardless of race. As a result of this initiative, I was given the Applause/Standing Ovation Award, which was the highest honor awarded by the district president," she said.

While Jeanne has no children of her own, she is considered "Madre Americana" to AFS Exchange students from Spain whom she hosted and "Abuela Americana" to their four children. She said, "I hosted four family members of my #1 'daughter' over eight summers and look forward to hosting the next generation when they are old enough!"

Gollhofer visits San Sebastian, Spain, frequently and considers it her second home. A volunteer to Co-Op Cincinnati that is based on the Mondragon Cooperative movement in Basque, Spain, she is organizing a delegation of Cincinnati leaders to Mondragon in April 2023. "I believe that nurturing cooperative businesses (employee empowerment and ownership) is one way to alleviate the shameful income and wealth inequality in our region and throughout the U.S.," she said.

She believes WCC can make a difference in Cincinnati life by continuing to organize great forums and more deeply engaging the leaders of the future.

~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers



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wcc@womanscityclub.org 513-751-0100

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney (2021-2024)
Helen O’Neal (2021-2023)
David Siders (2019-2024)
Aurelia Candie Simmons (2021-2024)
Marcia Togneri (2022-2023)
Christa Zielke (2021-2024)

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL FEIST TEA

Sunday, December 4 - See page 1 of this Bulletin.

NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM

Thursday, March 23, 2023

featuring Marcia Coyle, Chief Washington Correspondent for *The National Law Journal*
See page 3 of this Bulletin.

WCC MEETINGS

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

Communications Committee: Tuesday, November 29, 5 pm
Committee meets monthly on last Tuesday.
Contact: SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org.

Program Committee: Wednesday, November 30, 7 pm
Committee usually meets monthly on fourth Wednesday.
Contact Janet Buening: wccpresident2018@gmail.com

Membership Committee: Wednesday, December 7, 5:30 pm
Committee meets monthly on first Wednesday.
Contact: CathyBBailey@yahoo.com

Social Justice Action Group: Thursday, December 8, 6:30 pm
Contact David Siders: dbsiders@gmail.com

National Speaker Committee: Monday, December 14, 4:30 pm
Contact Beth Sullebarger: wccpresident2020@gmail.com

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

