



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 -

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Woman's City Club welcomes new members. Visit our website, WomansCityClub.org, to learn more about us and how to join.

THE BULLETIN

APRIL 2023

WCC PUBLIC FORUM

THE HILLSIDE TRUST

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING FRAGILE LAND TO KEEP US ON SOLID GROUND

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

Social time: 6:30 pm ▪ Program: 7 - 8:30 pm

Geier Room, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
103 Wm. Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM](#)

Cincinnati is renowned as the City of Seven Hills – but those hills that make our city beautiful are endangered by both development and natural forces. The Hillside Trust, founded 47 years ago, works to protect and preserve this exceptional but fragile topography through research and education, land conservation, and advocacy of responsible land use.

Join Woman's City Club to meet **Executive Director Eric Russo** and learn about the Hillside Trust's ongoing work and current initiatives.

The program also features director and producer **Laure Quinlivan** and clips from her new documentary, *"Living with Landslides."* Quinlivan and her team spent two years filming landslide damage in multiple communities, interviewing homeowners, and documenting the two-year \$18 million fix to Columbia Parkway.

Woman's City Club has supported the Hillside Trust since its founding in the mid-Seventies. We raised grant money and participated in a study on how Cincinnati could best develop the region's fragile hillsides responsibly. The Club is eager to give our members and supporters this opportunity to learn more about this organization and its continuing efforts to literally ensure the stability of our Greater Cincinnati community.



OUR COSPONSOR:

SIERRA CLUB
MIAMI GROUP, OHIO CHAPTER

~ Janet Buening
VP for Programs



COURAGE!

I've been moved by some recent events that have shown displays of courage and resilience by women.

A recent letter in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, co-authored by a group of Catholic Sisters of Charity, Peace, Mercy and Hope (Your Turn, 4/2/2023), discussed the need to care for the sick, welcome immigrants and protect the environment, but also to lobby "to change systems that perpetuate injustice."

"It's time to finally move past the divisive culture wars over abortion and come together to do the hard work of supporting women and families."

Being outspoken in an institution where most would assume there's only one side represented is an act of courage and commitment. These sisters spoke out because they saw no other choice. I'm fortunate to know one of them—Sr. Carren Herring lives in Kennedy Heights, where she and I have toiled side by side beautifying Kennedy Park.



Martha Stephens (L) speaking with Divya Kumar and other students.

President's Message

The day before, as it happens, Dr. Martha Stephens gave a talk at Probasco Auditorium about her book, *The Treatment: The Story of Those Who Died in the Cincinnati Radiation Tests* (Duke University Press, 2002). Since the early '70s when she first uncovered this story, she



has been documenting and advocating for the people who died or were injured by these studies at the University of Cincinnati that exposed unknowing subjects to often lethal amounts of radiation on the promise that it was a treatment for the cancer they experienced.

This tragedy continued to linger in Martha's mind, and she found she needed to document the lives of the people who had suffered. For many of them, not only were their stories not known—their names had been virtually erased. Now, there are groups of students working to learn more about this and to properly memorialize the people who were affected.

I met Martha 30 years ago, and I was actually a student of her husband, Dr. Jerome Stephens, at Bowling Green State University before that.

These are just two examples of so many people who have challenged the structures that feed injustice while claiming a voice for those who are ignored or forgotten. And, it shows that we don't have to travel far to find them. Moreover, the question is posed back to us: What small or significant action can I do to make a difference?

~ Jeff Dey



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

Guest Speaker

CHIEF TERESA THEETGE
CINCINNATI POLICE DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, May 31
11:30 am – 1 pm

Hilton Garden Inn
2145 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati



From our 2022 Event



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



Andrea Udosen, R, Education Award recipient, with Beth Sullebarger

The Woman's City Club invites the community to its May 31 Seasongood Luncheon, an event held each year in the spring in honor of Agnes B. Seasongood (1890-1982), a WCC member, benefactor, and community activist. It's an inspiring event as we gather together for a festive lunch to hear a local woman leader and to present education awards to promising young women.

This year, we are thrilled to present our speaker, **Chief Teresa Theetge**, the first woman to lead the Cincinnati Police Department. She was appointed after more than 30 years on the force in several command roles, during which, we hear, her goal has always been to be chief!

Woman's City Club uses the occasion of the Seasongood Luncheon to present \$1,000 education awards to civic-minded senior high-school women to further their educational goals. This year WCC will select three young women on the basis of essays and school recommendations. The awards are named the Marian A. Spencer Education Awards in honor of the civil rights activist and past president of WCC.

Come early (with checkbooks) and bid on a selection of gift baskets. The emcee will announce the winning bids at the end of the program.

Event Price: \$55 per person or \$400 for a table of 8

To make a reservation and indicate meal choice, go to
<https://womanscityclub.org/programs/seasongood-luncheon/>.

RSVP Deadline is Monday, May 22.

All profits benefit the Education Awards Fund.



NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM COYLE OFFERS BRILLIANT INSIGHTS

Over 400 people gathered at Memorial Hall on March 23 to hear Marcia Coyle's compelling presentation at WCC's 29th annual National Speaker Forum.

WCC President Jeff Dey warmly welcomed the crowd and thanked our generous sponsors—The Jeannette Rankin Foundation, d. e. Foxx & Associates, Guardian Savings Bank, the law firm Manley Burke—and CET, our Media Sponsor, individual donors, 37 cosponsoring organizations, and the hard-working event committee chaired by Beth Sullebarger.

Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas Judge Jennifer Branch introduced Coyle, providing context from her own experience with litigating reproductive rights and marriage equality before the Supreme Court.

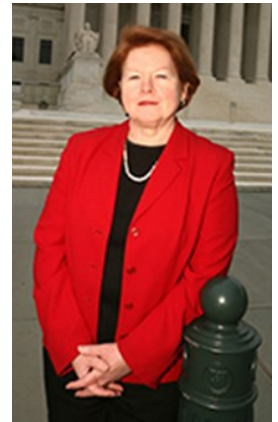
Coyle, who holds degrees in both law and journalism, has been covering the U.S. Supreme Court for more than 25 years, and the depth of her experience and expertise was clear in her talk. With complete command, precise and powerful prose, and down-to-earth humor, she covered a whole range of topics related to the court in a manner accessible to a lay audience.

She observed that questions about the legitimacy of the court, largely triggered by its overruling of *Roe v. Wade*, were not raised, as the chief justice has suggested, because people simply disagreed with the court's decisions, particularly overturning *Roe* and expanding gun rights last term. Rather, she said, the public perceives the court as political or partisan because it issued sweeping, one-sided, 6-3 conservative rulings in abortion, Second Amendment, religion, and environmental cases last term.

Another point she made is that the court lost its "center" justice when Justice Anthony Kennedy retired in 2018. A center or swing justice lends a certain amount of unpredictability to case outcomes and so the court appears more balanced. The Supreme Court has had a center justice for at least 40 years, but now there is only a conservative super majority.

Also contributing to partisan perceptions is the fact that four of the nine justices took their seats under a political cloud: Thomas and sexual harassment allegations; Gorsuch, whose seat should have been an Obama appointment;

Kavanaugh, for his sexual assault allegation and his wildly partisan reaction; and Barrett, who was rushed through the confirmation process as Americans began voting for president. Then there was the appearance of conflict of interest when Thomas failed to step aside from voting on 2020 election-related cases when his wife was actively seeking to overturn the election results.



On the law, Coyle said originalism—analyzing constitutional rights and issues according to the original public meaning of the text—has become the dominant approach of the court. "Text, history and tradition" is the test applied by the majority. Unenumerated rights must be deeply rooted in the nation's history and traditions. The abortion right was not, according to the current majority.

In interpreting the Second Amendment, gun regulations must have a historical analogue, or they will be struck down. Coyle said judges are having difficulty applying this test because they are not historians and do not have the tools historians have to find such historical analogues to modern weapons. And so, gun regulations are being struck down, including a recent decision striking down a federal law banning possession of guns by individuals subject to domestic violence restraining orders.

And this test is also applied in religion cases, which has resulted in the First Amendment's free exercise clause being elevated above its counterpart, the establishment clause.

While the court's last term was largely defined by the abortion decision, Coyle commented that the current term may be defined by race. The justices are weighing the role of race in college admissions policies, redistricting under the Voting Rights Act, and adoptions under the Indian Child Welfare Act. They also have a major elections clause challenge in which some states argue state courts have no role in judging redistricting and other election actions by state legislatures.

(continued on page 6)



NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM (CONTINUED)

Looking down the road, Coyle predicted that the conservative majority will be proven wrong in its belief that overruling Roe would end the court's involvement in abortion cases. A legal fight over medication abortion will inevitably get to the high court. And the rights of transgender persons, now an issue in courts and state legislatures, also will ensure that this court will face more culture war questions.

After a lively Q&A session, Coyle enjoyed signing books and mingling with guests at a reception with refreshments by Catering with Grace. Coyle proved to be very warm and approachable and made this National Speaker Forum one to remember.

The National Speaker Forum, initiated in 1994 by Mary Wells, is WCC's biggest forum and fundraiser of the

year. The event features inspiring women journalists, authors, and activists. Past speakers have included Pat Schroeder, Molly Ivins, Terri Gross, Diane Rehm, Gail Collins, and Isabel Wilkerson. This year's forum netted over \$11,000, which helps support the work of the club.

Committee members included Jane Anderson, Janet Buening, Marge Davis, Carole Donnelly, Sarah Gideonse, Edna Keown, Barbara Myers, Jeanne Nightingale, Susan Noonan, Jeanette Rost, Alice Schneider, Aurelia Candie Simmons, Kay Smith-Yount, and Mary Wells.

We thank Wendell O'Neal for contributing photography.

*~ Beth Sullebarger, Chair
National Speaker Forum Committee*



Committee Members: Back row (L-R) Janet Buening, Jeff Dey (WCC President), Susan Noonan, Jane Anderson, Sarah Gideonse, Barbara Myers, Marge Davis, Jeanne Nightingale, Edna Keown, Aurelia Candie Simmons, Carole Donnelly. Front row (L-R): Beth Sullebarger (Chair, National Speaker Committee), Marcia Coyle (2023 Speaker), Alice Schneider. Absent: Mary Wells



Jeanne Nightingale, L, with Jeff Dey



L-R: Susan Noonan, Marcia Coyle and Charmaine McGuffey, Hamilton County Sheriff



Marcia Coyle with (L-R) Janel Chriss, President of Top Ladies of Distinction, Carole Cutter-Hawkins and Gwendolyn Ivory Robinson.

Photos by Wendell O'Neal



WOMAN'S CITY CLUB ADVOCACY

The Board of Trustees has taken positions on two state constitutional amendments, one General Assembly bill, and a Cincinnati Charter amendment and urges its members and friends to take action.

1. The Club has endorsed the proposed state constitution amendment, "The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety," and the Protect Choice Ohio's campaign to place the amendment on the November 2023 ballot. Initiated by a coalition including Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights, Planned Parenthood, and the ACLU, the amendment would protect reproductive rights in Ohio and ensure decisions can be made by patients with their doctors.

To see the full ballot language, you may go to:
<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/getattachment/cf27c10f-b153-4731-ae9e-e3555a326ed9/The-Right-to-Reproductive-Freedom-with-Protections-for-Health-and-Safety.aspx>

To learn about opportunities to help with the petition campaign, consult WCC's weekly Updates.

2. The board opposes Ohio House Joint Resolution 1 (HJR1) and Senate Joint Resolution 2 (SJR2), which would amend the Ohio Constitution to make it harder for Ohio citizens to pass a ballot initiative to amend the constitution. It would require:

- 60% of voters to approve a proposed constitutional amendment rather than a simple majority as now.
- signatures to be gathered on petitions for the proposed amendment from all 88 Ohio counties rather than just 44 as now.

The board views this consolidated effort as unnecessary, unfair, unpopular, and undemocratic. It is also directly aimed at thwarting the campaign to protect reproductive rights. Consult the weekly updates to learn about voicing opposition to this proposal.

3. The board is also opposing the reinstatement of the August Special Election, now being considered by the Ohio legislature that did away with in its last session with bipartisan support. The rationale then was the usual low voter turnout, so that important issues were decided by a small minority of voters. Saving taxpayer money was also a factor.

Restoring the August election would then make it possible to put the proposed amendment to make gathering petitions for a constitutional amendment more difficult on the August ballot. If it passes, it will make it harder for Protect Choice Ohio to gather enough signatures to place their proposed amendment to protect reproductive rights on the November 2023 ballot.

See the Updates for possible action.

4. The Club has endorsed the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Cincinnati charter amendment. It would reinstall the .3% income tax that was removed in 2020, with most of the revenue to be used for financing projects affordable to citizens earning 30% AMI (average medium income) and up to 50% AMI. For more complete information, go to <https://www.cincyhousingforall.com/amendment>.

To learn about opportunities to help with the petition campaign, consult WCC's weekly Updates.





FEBRUARY PUBLIC FORUM ~ MAUREEN O'CONNOR RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE OHIO SUPREME COURT

In her introductory remarks to this virtual forum on February 28, program VP Janet Buening reminded us of WCC's focus this year on state government, starting with the General Assembly late last year. We now turn to the judicial branch with "the best possible person" to enlighten us.

Woman's City Club was thrilled to present Maureen O'Connor, retired chief justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. In Judge O'Connor's talk, she reviewed her amazing career as the longest serving woman in Ohio government—as what she calls a “public servant,”—starting in 1985 as a magistrate in Summit County's probate court, where one of her “really joyous tasks” was presiding over adoptions. She was appointed, then elected (by 70 percent of the votes), to the Court of Common Pleas in the county. She resigned to become prosecuting attorney because she viewed the role as the most important and powerful job in the county. A particular challenge the judge welcomed was the prosecuting attorney's supervision of the county's poorly rated child support agency. Under her leadership it became the most improved agency in the county—by her “hiring smart people and letting them do their jobs.” She's done that all along, “the secret to her success.”

She came to the attention of Bob Taft, who asked her to run as lieutenant governor with him in 1999.

At the end of her term in 2002, an opening in the Ohio Supreme Court enticed her to run for the spot, as she had always wanted to return to the bench. She was elected as an associate justice by winning 86 out of 88 counties and then reelected in 2008 with the support of all 88 counties. Judge O'Connor praised her Chief Justice Tom Moyer, from whom “I learned by example.”

In 2010 she was elected chief justice by an overwhelming margin (the first woman) and remained in that role until she retired December 31 because of age limits mandated by the Ohio constitution. Judge O'Connor told us that a chief justice has no more authority than associate justices in deciding cases but is the court administrator with the

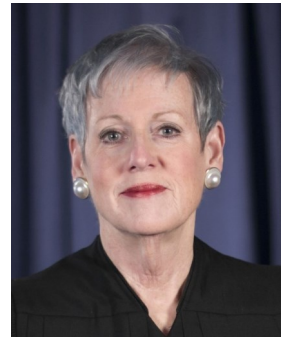
authority to set rules for and have oversight of courts in all 88 counties. In that role she was also able to address areas that needed attention, like bail reform, the death penalty, and the opiate crisis, forming task forces and study groups to do so. They gathered all interested partners, identified best practices, and wrote reports recommending policy changes.

She alluded to the Court's being in the news in 2022 because of its rejection of seven maps proposed by the Redistricting Commission as unconstitutional and described the frustrating circumstances that allowed the maps to prevail.

The new Court will be presiding over the development of a new map this year for use in the 2024 elections, starting in the March primary. She decried the entry of politics into the selection of Supreme Court and Appellate Court justices, who now have their party designated on the ballot.

Two months into retirement, Judge O'Connor said she is excited moving forward as she plans to work on reforming the redistricting process and removing politicians and the influence of political parties from the mapping process. She is working with state and national groups, starting with a listening tour, to devise language to put a constitutional amendment on the November 2024 ballot. It is likely they will beg, borrow, and steal from other states' approaches to redistricting.

When asked what else she will be doing in her retirement, she indicated that after the redistricting amendment effort is over, it is likely that her “shelf life”—reputational authority—will be depleted. Janet Buening expressed what the audience was no doubt thinking—that this is unlikely!



~ Sarah Gideonse



SPECIAL CULTURAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WCC MEMBERS AND THEIR FRIENDS



THE KNOW THEATRE

has invited WCC members and their friends
to attend its new play **Bankers**

at a discounted group price, followed by a post-performance talk.

Sunday, April 30, 3-6 pm.

Know Theatre

1120 Jackson Street, Cincinnati

Here is a description from Know Theatre of this highly relevant tragicomedy:

Things aren't great in Bialystock – for one thing, the world's ended, and the residents are pretty sure they're the only town left. Then it gets worse: strangers arrive, tensions rise, and a battle for the resources the town protects seems inevitable. Faced with the destruction of all they hold dear, the people of Bialystock must decide what's worth saving in the apocalypse ... and in the world that comes after.

This world premiere dark comedy from local playwright Brant Russell shows us a world broken beyond repair and

explores how we might find a way to mend it. Be aware that the play contains foul language, violence, and adult themes. Please stay for the post-performance talk.

Tickets: Go to <https://www.knowtheatre.com/bankers/>, select the April 30 matinee performance, select how many tickets you would like, and then enter the code WOMANSCITY on the checkout screen (like a coupon code) to get the discounted price of \$12.50. The code works only for April 30.



GREEN TIPS: VOW TO BE A CONSCIENTIOUS CONSUMER

WCC Environmental Action Group

One of the best ways to enact change is to vote with your dollar.

Buy only what you need. Buy the best, most eco-friendly items available, and don't let trends fill your home with useless purchases. Everything we buy has a direct or indirect effect on the environment.

Before buying ask the following questions:

- How was the product made?
- Did its manufacture produce pollution?
- Does the availability of this product mean a depletion of resources elsewhere?
- Can its packaging be recycled?

The closer you are to the source of the product, the easier it is to estimate its ecological footprint. Buy from local craftspeople, farmers markets, and thrift shops.



~ Jeanne Nightingale, Chair
Environment Action Group



WCC BOARD MEMBERS

Woman's City Club welcomes new board members who were elected to a three-year term starting June 1.



Nina E. Lewis, PhD

Dr. Lewis' career comprises over 25 years of leadership experience in behavioral health, clinical and macro social work, and higher education. Currently, she is the multi-systems director with Hamilton County Job and Family

Services, where she focuses on designing a trauma responsive system of care and partnerships for youth with complex behavioral health needs. She serves as the agency's lead for OhioRISE and co-leads the population health prevention partnership, All Families Thrive, in collaboration with the Harmony Project and Children's Hospital.

Previously, Nina directed women's substance use treatment and facilitated intensive training seminars on cross-cultural practice at the University of Cincinnati Department of Psychiatry, Crossroads Center.

She is the former nonprofit board executive and project director for the Life Management Institute's National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Annual Conference. Currently, she volunteers on the boards of the Ohio Justice & Policy Center and Women of the Dream, Inc.

In 2019, Dr. Lewis received the Marvin B. Sussman doctoral award for her dissertation entitled, *Representing Women's Literacy: Constructing a pragmatist feminist paradigm to guide the implementation of gender-sensitive adult education policy reform in the United States*. This work affirms her career-long passion for women's activism and extends her family's heritage as a direct descendant of Eliza Bailey Mitchell (sister of Frederick Douglass), a heritage of reaching out to a future generation of scholar activists and teaching those who do not believe they possess the ability to learn.

Susan (Sue) Reid Wilke

Sue has had an extraordinary and varied career. Prior to moving to Cincinnati in 1974, Sue spent seven years as a member of the intelligence community working at the Defense Intelligence Agency. In her role as an intelligence specialist, she focused on the Vietnam War and later on the Peoples Republic of China and provided assistance for President Nixon's 1972 trip to China.



In Cincinnati, Sue joined P&G where, among other accomplishments during her 21 years there, she established the role of Work and Family manager to raise the profile of these issues and their effect on women's careers. She also wrote P&G's initial policy on sexual harassment.

Sue subsequently played leadership roles in several non-profits: the Coalition for a Drug Free Greater Cincinnati (now Prevention First), the Free Store, the Cincinnati Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, and the Leadership Council of Human Services Executives (now the Leadership Council).

Sue's community service includes serving on a number of Boards, such as 4C for Children, Woman's City Club (2008-12), Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, Christ Hospital Family Advisory Council, and CAIN. She recently completed ten years of service on the Board of the Northside Community Council where she founded the Council's Education Committee. Sue was elected to two terms on the Sycamore Schools Board of Education (1989-1997) and was a member of the Sycamore Schools Planning Commission.

Michelle Dillingham, Sharon McCreary, and Marcia Togneri were reelected to three-year terms.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jeff Dey, *President* (2022-2023)
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)

BOARD MEMBERS

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

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL PUBLIC FORUM

The Hillside Trust:

Protecting and Preserving Fragile Land to Keep Us on Solid Ground
Thursday, April 27, 7 pm In Person and via Zoom (See pg. 1)

SEASONGOOD LUNCHEON AND WCC MARIAN A. SPENCER EDUCATION AWARDS

Wednesday, May 31 with speaker
Chief Teresa Theetge, Cincinnati Police Department (See pg. 3)

WCC MEETINGS

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

Communications Committee

Tuesday, April 25, 5 pm
Committee meets monthly on the last Tuesday.
Contact: SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org

Program Committee: Wednesday, April 26, 7 pm

Committee meets monthly on fourth Wednesday.
Contact: Janet Buening: wccpresident2018@gmail.com

Membership Committee: Wednesday, May 3, 5:30 pm

Committee meets monthly on first Wednesday.
Contact: CathyBBailey@yahoo.com

Social Justice Action Group: Thursday, May 11, 6:30 pm

Contact: David Siders: dbsiders@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 it is ready to Sarah Gideonse at sarahgideonse@womanscityclub.org.

