

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.

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WOMAN'S CITY CLUB

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ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – 2023

JUNE 2023

Board and Officers 2022-2023

President Vice President Administration Vice President Civic Engagement Vice President Membership Vice President Programs Jeff Dey (2022-2024)
Sharon McCreary (2020-2026)
Jan Seymour (2022-2025)
Cathy B. Bailey (2020-2024)
Janet Buening (2019-2025)
Open

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Michelle Dillingham (2020-2026) Beth Sullebarger (2020-2024)

Sherri Adams-Davis (2021-2024)
Deborah Allsop (2022-2025)
Anne Buening (2020 - 2026)
Laurie Frank (2022-2025)
Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
(2021-2024)

Helen O'Neal (2021-2024) David Siders (2019-2024) Aurelia Candie Simmons (2021-2024) Marcia Togneri (2020-2026) Christa Zielke (2021-2024)

WCC is deeply grateful to Helen O'Neal and Anne Buening, whose board terms have concluded, for their years of dedicated service. WCC thanks Marcia Togneri, Michelle Dillingham and Sharon McCreary for serving a second full term on the board (2023-2026). And, we welcome new board members Nina Lewis and Sue Wilke!

Board and Officers 2023-2024

President Jeff Dey
Vice President Administration Laurie Frank
Vice President Civic Engagement Jan Seymour
Vice President Membership Nina Lewis
Vice President Programs Janet Buening
Secretary Open
Treasurer Marcia Togneri

Past President

Sherri Adams-Davis
Deborah Mariner Allsop
Cathy B. Bailey
Michelle Dillingham
Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

Sharon McCreary David Siders Aurelia Candie Simmons Sue Wilke Christa Zielke

Beth Sullebarger



WHAT'S YOUR STORY? A YEAR OF SHARING STORIES OF STRUGGLES AND HOPE

Recently, I took a break from a steady diet of reading nonfiction to pick up Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*. So far, I highly recommend it but won't spoil it for you by sharing any details. But, as with many of the recent works of fiction I read, what made me pick it up and not put it down is that Kingsolver – as so many notable authors – is a great storyteller.

But there's also a convergence in writing as authors of nonfiction are writing prose that reads like a novel. This has been true of the works of many of Woman's City Club's national speakers, Denise Kiernan (*The Girls of Atomic City*) and Helen Thorpe (*The Newcomers*) as examples. Likewise, the way our various guest speakers have presented to us has been with the ability to inspire us through their narratives.

This has been a phenomenal year for the Woman's City Club. Right as the year began (and I became the President of the Club), the Supreme Court handed down the Dobbs decision. Immediately, we had to decide whether to break our silence on the reproductive rights issue, aware that with Roe vs. Wade overturned, "trigger laws" in many places would immediately take effect. I'm proud to say that we were well-prepared to make that decision because, at our June 2022 Annual Meeting, the topic had already been discussed among our membership. It was clear that the Woman's City Club was willing to make a clear statement in support of reproductive rights. We went on to have a forum including O'Dell Owens, Kersha Deibel, and Elizabeth Hopkins which was very well-attended and well-received. (See page 13, Program Committee report, for more details.)

The forum, rather than a dry recitation of reasons why reproductive rights needed to be protected – was comprised of a weaving of stories about what happens to real people when these rights are challenged. This approach fully engaged our audience.

We found that our forums and presentations came alive due to the real stories that illustrated the issues before us. Presenters such as Marcia Coyle, Maureen O'Connor, David Pepper, State Rep. Adam Bird and Cincinnati Police Chief Theresa Theetge shared their experiences with candor, poignancy and humor. The OJPC's project *Beyond Guilt*, which we visited on a Sunday afternoon at the Freedom Center, captured words



and stunning pictures (taken by our own Harriet Kaufman) featuring stories of redemption of formerly incarcerated people given second chances.

My good friend, Omope Carter Daboiku, is a local artist and storyteller, currently serving as the Artist-in-Residence at the Paul Laurence Dunbar House in Dayton, Ohio. She was interviewed a couple of years ago by Barbara Gray on WVXU to talk about the importance of storytelling and to share one of her stories. She talked about the importance of shared stories, the "common lore." It allows us to "have a shared language; laugh together, cry together, emote together; to have a shared emotional experience." Our "imagination might be sparked so that we can share this telepathic moment where we're all hooked up on the same circuit."

Stories are how we relate to each other. Whether as part of the oral traditions passed from our ancient or more contemporary ancestors or in the can't turn-the-radio-off driveway moments from StoryCorps on NPR, stories are how we breathe life into the issues that we care about. They are how we make connections when we meet new people. They are how, over time, we begin to chip away at the veneer that we and our colleagues hide behind.

As we look to our next program year, we can promise another year of great stories.

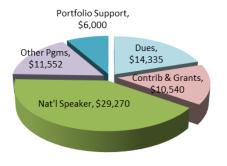
One more ask... Tell us: What's Your Story?

~ Jeff Dey, President



2023 ANNUAL MEETING FINANCIAL REPORT

ACTUAL Year Ending 5/31/23

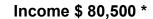


Income

BUDGET Year Ending 5/31/24



Income \$ 71,697*









2022-2023 Finance Recap

We saw some weakening of our revenues and continue our leadership efforts to assess and strategically improve those. From a financial perspective, we are positioned for growth going forward.

WCC finished our program year with a **net surplus of** \$3,300, slightly better than the \$0-breakeven we planned.

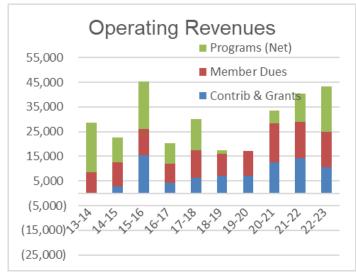
Income was \$4,300 less than plan, driven by lower contributions & grants. Expenses were \$7,600 under-budget with the bulk of this from National Speaker and personnel.

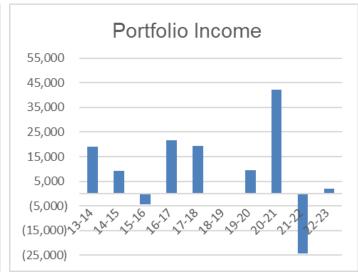
Outside of our core operations, our investment portfolio rode the market's roller-coaster, but ended the fiscal year net up \$1,900.

Expense \$ 68,404 Net \$ 3,293*

Expense \$ 80,500 Net \$ 0*

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





^{*} Operations only; excludes portfolio income and special funds.



2023 ANNUAL MEETING FINANCIAL REPORT

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Programs		Income	Expense	Net
National Speaker	Mar-23	\$ 29,270	\$ 12,658	\$ 16,612
Seasongood Banquet	May-23	\$ 4,808	\$ 3,320	\$ 1,488
Spencer Scholarships	May-23	\$ 3,200	\$ 4,000	\$ (800)
Feist Tea Luncheon	Dec-22	\$ 3,320	\$ 2,099	\$ 1,221
Continuing Funds	5/31/22			5/31/23
	Balance	Income	Expense	<u>Balance</u>
2nd Century Fund	\$ 41,615	\$ 486	\$ -	\$ 42,101
Spencer Scholarships	\$ 10,744	\$ 14,267	\$ 1,000	\$ 24,011
EAG Tutoring	\$ 1,858	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 2,008
¢200.000			<u> </u>	
\$200,000	*	A		*
\$150,000	Cash	& Invest	ments	
\$100,000	1 1	1 1	1 1	1
5/31/12 5/31/15	5132127 513219	5/31/19 5/31/	20 131/22 5131	12 5/31/23

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 reproportion our "mix" of revenue sources.

WCC Finance Team 2022-2023 Treasurer Michelle Dillingham Accountant Roger Smith, CPA Non-Profit Executive Services Investment Advisor Todd Durham Park National Bank Communications Manager Donna Tukel Finance Committee Janet Buening Michelle Dillingham (Chair) Carole Donnelly Sharon McCreary Susan Noonan Jeanette Rost Alice Schneider Rina Saperstein Beth Sullebarger Marcia Togneri





While we proudly honored our past at the Centennial Gala in 2015, eight 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. And if you already have done so, we thank you!



Marcia Togneri, Treasurer

For information about making a gift to the Woman's City Club Second Century Endowment Fund, please contact Marcia Togneri via the WCC office, 513-751-0100.

Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others? Martin Luther King, Jr.



2023 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Woman's City Club thanks all those who so generously gave to our Annual Fund campaign this program year. We raised our goal by 40 percent to \$10,000 and we came very close to reaching it. Members and friends listed below contributed a total of \$9,771, including a \$1,000 gift earmarked for the WCC Marian A. Spencer Education Awards. The money raised through the Annual Fund helps us to continue our programs and engage the community. We salute and celebrate you!

Deborah Mariner Allsop ~ Cathy B. Bailey ~ Louise Gomer Bangel ~ Jenny Broh ~ Janet Buening
Ed Burdell ~ Ruth Cronenberg ~ Marge Davis ~ Jeff Dey ~ Carole Donnelly
Barbara Elleman ~ Laurie Frank ~ Eleonora Fusco ~ Sarah Gideonse ~ Judy Green
Joy Haupt ~ Ashley Humston ~ Chara Jackson ~ Harriet Kaufman ~ Edna Keown
Susan Kreuzmann ~ Michael Maloney ~ Sharon McCreary ~ Susan Noonan
Nikki Orlemann ~ Francie Pepper ~ Suzanne Richmond ~ Jeanette Rost ~ Rina Saperstein
Alice Schneider ~ Janice Seymour ~ David Siders ~Aurelia Simmons ~ Beth Sullebarger
Marcia Togneri ~ Peggy Tojo ~ Donna Tukel ~ Mary Wells

~ Beth Sullebarger,Chair Development Committee

Events & Fundraisers



THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL FEIST TEA

The 13th Annual Feist-Tea celebration and fundraiser was held at the Kennedy Heights Art Center Annex on December 3, 2022. A lively and interactive celebration, this year's three feisty honorees, previous honorees, past presidents, and new members were recognized.

Additionally, Marge Davis recognized Sister Judy Tensing and Mark Shannon, past leaders of Venice on Vine, for their dedication to and passion for supporting those in need and Mike Maloney celebrated the many contributions to the community of our beloved Louise Spiegel. Louise, who died in July 2022, was fondly known as the Queen of Feist Tea, presiding over the festivities for many years.



Laurie Frank, Chair

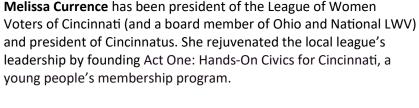
Starting with an enjoyable social hour, the afternoon Tea offered the 74 attendees light fare catered by Catered with Grace and a memorable slide show compiled by Jeff Dey, reminding us of this past year's wonderful programs and activities. A warm welcome to new members was extended by Membership Vice President, Cathy B. Bailey.

Three remarkable and feisty individuals, who embody the club's mission, were honored during the event. Two of the honorees, Janet Buening and Melissa Currence, are current WCC members and the third honoree, Denisha Porter, is a contributing partner who embodies the mission and vision of WCC. These individuals were recognized for their passionate dedication and advocacy to making a difference in our regional community.



Janet Buening

Janet Buening, a past president of WCC, was 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.





Denisha Porter

Denisha Porter, not a WCC member, is director of the All-In
Cincinnati Coalition concerned with racial equity. 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.

WCC is deeply grateful to all who attended and supported the Tea and honorees. The income from the event was \$3320 (an increase of \$842 from the previous year) and .90 (up by \$659.46 from the previous year due to the increased rental fee, catering, and

expenses were \$1953.90 (up by \$659.46 from the previous year due to the increased rental fee, catering, and Paypal costs) giving us a profit of \$1366.10. Proceeds from this event will support the programs and operations of the Woman's City Club.

Feist-Tea Committee members for this year's event were Jo-Ann Huff Albers, Marge Davis, Jeff Dey, Sharon McCreary, and Susan Noonan. Special thanks to Donna Tukel, WCC Communications Manager, Harriet Kaufman, Dennis Finney, and Mike Maloney for their support prior to and during the Feist Tea event.

~ Laurie Frank, Chair



NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM 2023

MARCIA COYLE OFFERED BRILLIANT INSIGHTS INTO SCOTUS



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, Manley Burke—and CET, our Media Sponsor, individual donors, and 37 cosponsoring organizations. 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. 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. This year's event netted more than \$16,000. The hard-working event committee chaired by Beth Sullebarger, included Jane Anderson, Janet Buening, Carol Donnelly, Edna Keown, Sarah Gideonse, Barbara Myers, Jeanne Nightingale, Susan Noonan, Jeanette Rost, Alice Schneider, Aurelia Candie Simmons, Kay Smith-Yount, Mary Wells and Donna Tukel.

~ Beth Sullebarger, Chair National Speaker Forum Committee

Committee Members: Back Standing, 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 Forum, Marcia Coyle, Alice Schneider

(Photos by Wendell O'Neal)





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

On May 31 at the Hilton Garden Inn, more than 95 attendees were engaged, delighted, and engrossed in the program presented at the Annual Seasongood Luncheon.

Four wonderful young women were awarded the WCC Marian A. Spencer Education Awards: Brogan Callioni, Jennifer Estep, Riya Patel and Raegan Styles. This year we were fortunate to receive a \$1,000 grant from the Woodward Trust for one of the awards and a \$1,000 donation from Marge Davis, a WCC member, for another. A third award was funded by the excess Spencer Statue funds donated to WCC for the Education Awards and the fourth from WCC funds. Sharon McCreary, Education Award chair, did a wonderful job of welcoming and introducing the awardees and their families. Seeing the excited, grateful smiles on the students' faces is always gratifying!



Police Chief Theetge

A highlight of the program was this year's speaker,
Teresa Theetge, Chief of the
Cincinnati Police Department (CPD). Theetge is the
first woman Police Chief that
Cincinnati has ever had – an
accomplishment that was
inspiring and motivating for
our awardees and many

others! She told the young women to set your goals and never doubt that you can reach them. She had men in the CPD who mentored and guided her through the steps to reach her goal of becoming Chief. As a woman aware of inequities, Theetge's goal is to have 30 percent of the Department female by the year 2030!

We had 15 beautiful raffle baskets that brought in over \$800 – a record! Thanks to all the committee and board members who donated. Final figures are being calculated, but we think the profit may be a record, also.



Two awardees, Brogan Callioni and Jennifer Estep, with their parents and Police Chief Theetge.





Two awardees, Raegan Styles (L) and Riya Patel were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

This new venue was close to downtown, had easy, free parking, and wonderful staff. However, there were logistical problems with registration space and several complaints about the food. The committee will evaluate the location for next year's luncheon.

Thanks to my committee members who all did their share: Sharon McCreary, Chair of Education Awards, Marge Davis, Carole Donnelly, Laurie Frank, Sarah Gideonse, Chalet Jones, Alice Schneider, Aurelia Candie Simmons, Susan Shellenberger, Beth Sullebarger, Dave Edmundson and to Donna Tukel, WCC Communications Manager. Another successful, inspiring Seasongood luncheon!

~ Susan Noonan, Chair

(Photos of event by Harriet Kaufman)



WCC EDUCATES, EMPOWERS, AND ALWAYS ENGAGES

Civic engagement is one of the three important goals in Woman's City Club's mission statement.

Since the inception of WCC, over 100 years ago, the organization has been about educating and empowering the greater Cincinnati citizenry to become engaged in activities and policies that would build a stronger community for all citizens.

Speaking truth to power has always been a large part of our mission. The year 2022-2023 gave WCC many opportunities to do just that. Through our forums on the environmental issues and preservation of green areas, the state of community/policing relations, the affordable housing crisis in Greater Cincinnati, and the implications of Roe v. Wade reversal, we have educated and empowered ourselves and others in the community on ways we can engage on these significant topics.

We have advocated against the Ohio State Assembly legislative takeover of school curricula around the teaching of history and against the move to disregard Title 6 protections for LGBTQ students. We have also taken a position against bills to make voting more difficult that are expected to suppress the voting by college students, people of color, people with low income, and seniors.

This year has certainly been challenging in monitoring the Ohio General Assembly. Most of our work has been in advocating against legislation and much of that has not been successful. As we heard from retired Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, we must stay the course for eliminating the radical gerrymandering in Ohio and continue to work for fair redistricting.

A current Civic Engagement activity is working with our Social Justice Action Group on voter registration with our partner the Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative. WCC has endorsed two major citizen initiatives and is very involved in getting them on the ballot for a November 2023 vote.

First, we have endorsed the Cincinnati for Action on Housing Now (CAHN)'s move to place an affordable housing funding Charter amendment on the City of Cincinnati ballot. Our members have been very active in gathering signatures on petitions.

Secondly, WCC endorsed the citizen initiative to amend the Ohio constitution to recognize the "Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety." We were approached by the Physicians for Reproductive Rights to endorse their campaign to put this amendment on the ballot. After careful consideration on the part of the WCC board, including an advance look at the exact language of the amendment, and noting that Planned Parenthood and the ACLU joined the Physicians as a unified group called Protect Choice Ohio, the board vote was unanimous to endorse. Several of our members have been extremely active in gathering signatures on petitions. We were applauded by Marcia Coyle when she was here as National Speaker for taking this step.

Coming up next for Civic Engagement: The Ohioans to Stop Executions has asked to take a position on bills the Senate and House will be introducing soon. Stay tuned for announcements on issues that WCC and each of us can become educated, empowered and engaged with. Something I recommend which makes it easy to use one's voice is to look up contact information for all your legislators, especially at the state level. Keep this handy on your refrigerator or taped to the back of your phone.

And then dial, email, or "old fashioned" write, but ENGAGE!

~ Jan Seymour VP for Civic Engagement



SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

The WCC SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP addresses inequities due to systemic poverty, racism, and classism, and has folded in the Thriving Cincinnati project. Our action group connects community resources to educate and empower WCC members and the public on issues that create barriers to people in our communities who are disproportionately impacted. We collaborate with other social justice groups and advocate for legislation. Community need drives the following priorities:

- 1. Livable wages & affordable housing
- 2. Voting rights
- 3. Racial justice & criminal justice reform
- 4. Access to health care

This past year, we successfully urged the Board of Woman's City Club to endorse a proposed Charter amendment, proposed by the social justice group Cincinnati For Affordable Housing Now (CAHN), to raise ongoing funds for the City's Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The proposed amendment 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. Find more information at cincyhousingforall.com/amendment. SJAG informs the community and membership about opportunities to help with the petition campaign in the weekly updates of Woman's City Club.

Other accomplishments of the SJAG:

 We supported the WCC's VP of Civic Engagement in taking action in the petition drive to ensure that the proposed Ohio Reproductive Rights amendment is on the November 2023 ballot.

- We hosted speakers from ACLU Ohio on statewide action on the Ohio Reproductive Rights Amendment.
- 1
- We collaborated with the
 Price Hill community to increase voter registration
 and voter education. SJAG member Harriet
 Kaufman attended multiple Price Hill-area
 community meetings to build relationships to
 cultivate a voter registration environment that is
 comfortable and relatable to residents. SJAG
 member David Siders recruited a group of community activists eager to help with voter registration
 via East Price Hill Improvement Association. We
 provided voter registration forms and information
 at Meiser's Market in Lower Price Hill.

What's ahead in 2023?

- We are hosting guest speakers to learn more about the Ohio SB 101 Abolish The Death Penalty.
- We welcomed new SJAG member Sue Wilke who updated us on efforts to engage Cincinnati City Hall to more deeply embrace the Civic Engagement Plan proposed to the City of Cincinnati.

SAJG meets monthly on the second Thursday. Members interested in joining this committee may contact David Siders at dbsiders@gmail.com

Current active members include: Jeff Dey, Sarah Gideonse, Hariet Kaufman, Susan Noonan, Jan Seymour, David Siders and Sue Wilke.

~ David Siders, Chair

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



Sarah Gideonse chairs this action group, which has the goal of supporting public school children's achievement and helping children at risk succeed.

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



Sarah Gideonse

Arts (MSLA) curriculum, tutors had worked with individual children weekly throughout the year 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 had shown to be an effective intervention.

This year, the program continued only as an after-school program, with nine children participating three days a week with the same MSLA curriculum. Talented volunteers, Sue Ivory and Sue Carfagna, helping out Linda Wihl, organized and led the lessons. Overall, they "were pleased with the performance of the students in the program. Almost everyone completed the MSLA program. The students were well behaved, good listeners, creative, engaged, and cooperative. [By the end of the year,] most students could identify the letters

and sounds with little or no help. A few were able to read the Pre-K and Kindergarten easy readers. They had also developed good critical thinking skills by listening

and responding to the stories that were read to them."

Linda retired at the end of the school year, and the continuation of the MSLA tutoring program next year is uncertain.



Linda Wihl

Woman's City Club cosponsored an Ohio School Board of Education

local candidate forum organized by the League of Women Voters Education Committee. Shortly after the election, where three progressive candidates won, the Ohio legislature introduced a bill to move most of the responsibilities of the state board to the governor's office. The EAG prepared a statement of opposition for the WCC Board to endorse. While that bill failed to pass before the legislative term ended, it reappeared in the new term and has passed in the Senate.

EAG continued to monitor other education legislation, often brought to our attention by the nonpartisan Honesty in Education nonprofit, and reported it in the Update along with possible actions members and friends can take.

~ Sarah Gideonse







ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

WCC's Environmental Action Group focuses on environmental justice issues, ensuring that all our communities benefit from the same degree of protection from environmental pollution and health hazards due to climate disruption and industrial pollution. No group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from corporate, governmental operations or policies.

Through its Environmental Action Group, WCC collaborates with other civic, neighborhood, environmental, and faith groups in the city to educate the public and participate in actions and projects that raise eco-awareness and green the urban environment. We also work to advocate for equitable governmental policies that protect air and water quality from the threats of industrial pollution.

Here are ways to become involved:

- 1. Join Past Plastic Cincinnati Coalition, which works with 20 other organizations that are lobbying City Council's Climate, Environment and Infrastructure Committee to amend Cincinnati's 2020 ordinance banning single-use plastic bags. It is hoped that the revised ordinance will provide a legal bulwark against the State's pre-emption law enacting a permanent ban against all such municipal bag bans in the state of Ohio. In the meantime, we are sharing Cincinnati's initial success statewide, by sending a roadmap to 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. At 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? But until the amendment to the ordinance gets approved by the city's law department—currently fearing state lawsuits—we have temporarily suspended regular Past Plastic Cincinnati Coalition meetings
- 2. Join *League of Women Voters Cincinnati Area Natural Resources Committee* meeting online monthly on <u>fourth Monday at 11 am.</u> We produce programs, tours, and study pages on environmental topics of concern such as plastic pollution, recycling practices, stormwater and solid waste policies, drinking water safety, PFAS contamination, sustainable agriculture, and the U.S. Farm Bill.

3. Join the *Sierra Club's Conservation Committee* that meets online monthly the <u>second Wednesday at 7 pm.</u> Issues we address: equitable sewer rates, leveraging city projects to ensure safe stormwater management, protecting public parks against fracking, promoting best practices in recycling, planting trees, protecting air and water



from industrial contamination, and more. Join Hamilton County Solid Waste Caucus that is fighting to hold Rumpke accountable for the environmental impacts resulting from its proposed expansion in Whitewater Township. Together with the League, WCC also works with Communities United for Action (CUFA) to promote affordable sewer rates. The Metropolitan Sewer District's current base rate places an undue burden on lower-income households.

- 4. Join CROW, Citizens For Rights of the Ohio River Watershed, that is NOW gathering signatures for a ballot petition asking we establish a Bill of Rights to legally protect a community's stewardship over its own local ecosystems. This proposed Bill of Rights would be an amendment to the city charter. The Ohio River—the second most endangered river in our nation—is the principal source of the city's drinking water. Woman's City Club supports CROW though its educational programs, "Who Speaks for Nature?" CROW offers monthly meetings to the public on first Saturdays at 11:30 am at BLOC Café in Price Hill.
- 5. Help us write monthly Bulletin articles covering environmental issues in the city, county and state. Or submit ideas to our Green Tips column. To join us in our work, contact Jeanne Nightingale at jnightingale@fuse.net.

~ Jeanne Nightingale, Chair

Committee Reports



WCC's Program Committee works all year long to offer excellent free public programs and forums on topics of both immediate and ongoing concern, often presented in partnership with other Greater Cincinnati organizations and agencies. We put WCC's mission — to educate our members and the community, and to empower them with the information and resources they need to become engaged—in action.

Guided by the lively discussion from the 2022 Annual Meeting, Vice President for Programs Janet Buening and committee members WCC President Jeff Dey, Laurie Frank, Sarah Gideonse, Amy Katzman, Susan Noonan, and David Siders planned and presented programs based on WCC members' expressed concerns: the actions of Ohio state government, the erosion of civil rights, voters' rights, affordable housing and inequitable housing policies, and environmental issues. We also worked with Jan Seymour, Vice President for Civic Engagement, to represent the concerns identified by the Social Justice Action Group.

With COVID protocols in place, WCC returned to offering some of its programs in person at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, and to increase accessibility also offered the option to attend these programs online, thanks to the equipment installed in the Geier Room by the church and assistance from WCC member Alice Schneider. To expand our outreach, we partnered with other organizations for some shared programs and sought cosponsors for WCC's events. Additionally, with Jeff Dey's technical expertise some of our programs were also livestreamed on Facebook, all were recorded, and many can be viewed on our website.

Here is an overview of the 2022 - 2023 program year:

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

FINDING A WAY FORWARD - PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS WITHOUT ROE V. WADE

In response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Dodd v. Jackson Women's Health Organization and the subsequent major changes in state laws that threaten personal rights and freedoms and the availability of women's reproductive health services, Program Committee brought together a panel of experts who detailed the specific impact of this decision in Ohio, provided up-to-date information about what reproductive health services are still available, discussed the practical and legal actions being taken to mitigate the reversal of Roe V. Wade, and presented ways to take part in advocacy actions.

Dr. O'dell Owens, noted OB-GYN and fertility specialist and former medical director of the Cincinnati Health Department and CEO and President of Interact for Health, spoke movingly about the concerns that physicians and other medical staff now have about protecting women's health during pregnancy and the limitations this ruling may put on in vitro fertilization and other practices that help women conceive. He also discussed the impact on community health services and the potential inequity of Ohio's laws on lower income and minority women. Kersha **Deibel**, President and CEO of Planned Parent-hood Southwest Ohio Region, discussed 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, got everyone's attention by asking people to stand if they had personally had an abortion, supported someone seeking an abortion, or knew someone who

had an abortion – and nearly everyone



Dr. O'dell Owens



Kersha Deibel



Elizabeth Hopkins

in the room stood up. She then addressed the legal issues and steps ACLU is considering to challenge the state laws and encouraged people to speak up and get involved. (Online and in person)

OCTOBER 3, 2022

WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE?

This Judicial Forum was organized by the Cincinnati Bar Association in partnership with WCC, League of Women Voters, Urban League, and MARCC to provides voters with an overview of the Hamilton County Court system and give them an opportunity to meet the candidates running for the Appeals Court and Common Pleas Court. This non-partisan event was not a debate, but a forum for voters to hear about the candidates' experience, judicial philosophy, and plans for the Court. Unfortunately, none of the Republican candidates for judicial offices attended, even though some had agreed to do so, but the program was still an excellent way to get to know the candidates and learn more about the court system. (Online)

(Continued on page 16)

Committee Reports



PROGRAM COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

OCTOBER 9, 2022

BEYOND GUILT (Exhibit at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center)



An Out & About event for WCC Members and guests, photographer and WCC member Harriet Kaufman met with us at the exhibit to share the stories behind the photos and talk about her experience with the *Beyond Guilt* project, which also included six short films made by students at the University of Kentucky, and curatorial research by a team from The Ohio State University, all focusing on the human consequences of second chances and the ethical necessity to see and treat people beyond their guilt.

It was a unique opportunity to hear the artist's perspective and view a powerful exhibit. Harriet spoke movingly about the project, the process, and the personal relationships she formed with the people she photographed.

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

THE STATE OF THE STATEHOUSE: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW—WHAT YOU CAN DO

What happens at the Ohio Statehouse gets little attention but directly affects Ohio residents, often with major impact. This program gave attendees an overview of the legislative process from a current State Representative and also examined how gerrymandering, voting restrictions, changes to the ballot format have made it harder for citizens to have a voice.

In response to WCC members' requests at the Annual Meeting to prioritize state government issues and pro-



ceedings in this program year, on November 17, 2022, we presented a well-attended hybrid program with David Pepper, former Ohio Democratic Party Chair and author of Laboratories of Autocracy: A Wake-Up Call from Behind the Lines, and Adam Bird, the Republican Representative for the 66th District, who was a gracious last-minute replacement for scheduled Representative Cindy Abrams when she was called to meetings in Columbus. In a lively but respectful in-person gathering at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, Pepper outlined the problems caused by gerrymandering and other policies and outlined steps that can be taken, from federal action to local initiatives, to restore the democratic process, while Bird explained how bills progress through the General Assembly, how he works with his constituents, and how citizens can have a voice. (Online and in person)

JANUARY 19, 2023

FORUM WITH CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ON POLICING AND RACE (Cosponsored Program with League of Women Voters and ACLU presented online only)

The League of Women Voters took the lead on organizing this program, but WCC also had an active role in this online forum with members of Cincinnati City Council and former Council member, now US Representative, Greg Landsman. In three groups of three, Council members answered questions about campaign promises kept and progress being made in the key areas of public safety, policing, and adherence to the Collaborative Agreement. Jan Seymour, WCC's Vice President for Community Engagement, was onscreen to ask the four questions submitted by WCC. (Online)

JANUARY 25. 2023:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: FUNDING STRATEGIES FOR PLACES TO CALL HOME

WCC has an ongoing commitment to advocate for more affordable housing in Greater Cincinnati. This online program, cosponsored by Cincinnatus and Action Tank, discussed current issues and recent progress in affordable housing, with an expert panel: Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney; Robie Suggs, Chief Lending



Officer at Cincinnati Development Fund; Kevin Finn, President/CEO at Strategies to End Homelessness; and Josh Spring, Executive Director of the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition. Program Committee member Susan Noonan took the lead on convening the panel and moderating the program and its lively question and answer period. (Online)

(continued on page 17)



PROGRAM COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

A CONVERSATION WITH THE HONORABLE MAUREEN O'CONNOR, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE OHIO SUPREME COURT (RETIRED)



With the two-fold goal of continuing to explore issues in state government and creating interest in our National Speaker Forum with Marcia Coyle on the U.S. Supreme Court, we presented a program on Ohio's judicial branch, with the best possible person to speak about it. This

was an amazing opportunity to learn first-hand about the functions, actions, impact, and authority of the Ohio Supreme Court from the woman who has been so instrumental in shaping its processes and procedures.

Always a strong voice on issues that she supported, O'Connor is now committed to ending gerrymandering in Ohio with a constitutional amendment for redistricting reform. WCC looks forward to supporting that initiative. (Online)

MARCH 23, 2023 NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM



The National Speaker Forum with Marcia Coyle, who addressed issues with the U.S. Supreme Court, took place in person at Memorial Hall and replaced the monthly program.

Read more about this annual event on page 7 of this report.

APRIL 27, 2023

THE HILLSIDE TRUST: PROTECTING AND PRESERVING FRAGILE LAND TO KEEP US ON SOLID GROUND

At a program co-sponsored by the Sierra Club – Miami Group/Ohio Chapter, Executive Director, Eric Russo, updated us on the Hillside Trust's ongoing work and current initiatives, including his engagement with municipalities to create regulations for hillside development and resources available to homeowners who have experienced landslides. Director and producer Laure Quinlivan spoke about her documentary, *Living with Landslides*, and shared some clips. The Q & A session was unusually lively, as many of the attendees had experienced some issues with landslides or were impacted by inappropriate development on a hillside. (*In person and online*)





Eric Russo

Laure Quinlivan

APRIL 30, 2023 BANKERS AT THE KNOW THEATER

Committee member Amy Katzman organized an outing for WCC members and guests to see the Know Theatre's production of *Bankers*, with a special discounted ticket price. Know Theater is interested in continuing this relationship with WCC so Program Committee will explore options for their next season.

The WCC website has links to recordings of these forums, and archived Bulletins with articles on them.

Program Committee will begin planning for the 2023-24 club year after the Annual Meeting, once again being responsive to the interests and initiatives expressed by our members.

We welcome all your ideas and suggestions.

Committee Reports



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, through its publications, 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 were important during the epidemic and remain so. In addition to information on upcoming WCC programs and events, the weekly Update provided members and the community news of state and local legislation, petition drives for ballot issues, WCC board positions, and calls for action/advocacy. The Update also kept readers apprised of important events, programs, and initiatives in "news from our network" and "other worthwhile events."

The committee continued to carry out its various responsibilities:

WCC WEBSITE

We updated the website pages as needed. Alice Schneider remained our go-to person for web expertise. The website is now being served by Jasmine West, our longtime web designer. We welcome suggestions from 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, laid the issue out. Jeanne Nightingale wrote articles about environmental issues, and most months, Jo-Ann Albers wrote excellent profiles of members. Jeff Dey, WCC president, wrote eloquent monthly messages and Jo-Ann, Beth Sullebarger, and Sarah Gideonse wrote up forum proceedings.

PUBLICITY

The committee promoted our programs and other events, wrote press releases, prepared and distributed flyers, put articles in the Bulletin, and posted on online calendars, the Friday Update, our Facebook page, the Greater Cincinnati Politics Facebook group, and more. The *Cincinnati Enquirer* continued to post 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

Donna Tukel takes the lead designing and posting items on Facebook and Instagram. 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. Kindly help us achieve vibrant social media by suggesting items to Alice Schneider and Donna Tukel, as well as sharing WCC postings on your own social media pages.

This year active members included Sarah Gideonse, chair, Jo-Ann Albers, Jeanne Nightingale, Susan Noonan, Alice Schneider, Beth Sullebarger, and Donna Tukel. Patty Kelly and Christa Zielke contributed greatly to our new social media initiatives until about mid-year when other responsibilities prevented them from staying on the committee.

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, photography, social media, and graphic design ability. Occasional or longer-term contributions are welcome! Please contact Sarah Gideonse for more information: sarahgideonse@womanscityclub.

~ Sarah Gideonse, Chair Communications Committee

Committee Report



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REACHES OUT

During the 2022-2023 program year, Woman's City Club had many successes and was able to maintain a membership count of 226. We are encouraged by members who raised their membership level, showing a deepening commitment to the Club.

We attracted 26 new members with a discounted rate offered at our National Speaker Forum. We also added two new Lifetime Members with the addition of Cathy Bernardino Bailey and

Louise Spiegel

Janice Seymour. Sadly, we lost Lifetime Member and "Queen of the Feisties," Louise Spiegel, last July. She remains an inspiration to so many of our members who knew her.



Cathy B. Bailey, VP Membership

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) or those who join/ renew at the Basic and "Pay-What-You-Can" rates. If you renewed very recently, please accept our apologies for not including you on this list. If you have yet to renew, please consider doing so soon. Membership represents about 20% of our budget, so it isvery important to keeping WCC humming!

WCC would like to recognize members who contributed at higher dues levels. Thank you for your generous support!

LIFETIME

Deborah Mariner Allsop	Mary Beth Owens
Joyce Asfour	Francie Pepper
Mary Ellen Ashley	Burton Roehr
Cathy B. Bailey	Rita Sanders-Parks
Jenny Broh	Ann Schloss
Janet Buening	Alice Schneider
Marjorie Davies	Janice Seymour
Marge Davis	Kathryn Shahani
Barbara Elleman	Louise Spiegel
Sarah Gideonse	Beth Sullebarger
Joy Haupt	Emily Thobe
Connie Hinitz	Beverly Thomas
Suzanne Joiner	Nancy Lu Walters
Jeanne Nightingale	Linda Wihl
Lori Nuckolls	Dan Zavon

It's easy to renew:

Mary Osterbrock

Online at www.womanscityclub.org or by mailing a check to Woman's City Club, 103 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

INSPIRED

Heather Rae Byer Marcia Togneri

ENGAGED

Nina Lewis	Hera Reines
Alice Perlman	Lucy Ward
Janet Reid	Mary Wells

FEISTY

Jo-Ann Albers	Carole Cutter Hawkins
Jane Anderson	Susan Kreuzmann
Tracy Artis	Ariel & Huxley Miller
Cheryl Benedict	Susan Noonan
Ruth Cronenberg	Rina Saperstein
Liza Backman Curp	Dolores W. Shaffer
Jeffrey Dey	Catherine Shick
Dianne Dunkelman	Jane Katzman Simon
Cynthia Duval	Janet Walsh
Emily Hodges	



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, more often nonfiction than 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 2022

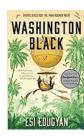
There is Nothing for You Here: Finding Opportunity in the 21st Century (2021) by Fiona Hill There is Nothing for You Here is part memoir, part policy analysis. Fiona Hill is a prominent analyst of Russian affairs and a key witness at the first Trump impeachment trial in 2019, argues that declining opportunity in the U.S, as well as England, is setting America on the grim path of modern Russia but shows how we can return hope to forgotten people.



July 2022

Washington Black (2018) by Esi Edugyan

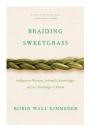
The eccentric Christopher Wilde chooses as his manservant eleven-year-old George Washington Black (called Wash), a field slave on a Barbados sugar plantation. Wilde turns out to be a naturalist, explorer, inventor, and an abolitionist. When a man is killed and a bounty is placed on Wash's head, Wash and Wilde flee, and many adventures all over the world ensue.



September 2022

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. She argues that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.



October 2022

Homegoing (2016) by Yaa Gyasi

In eighteenth century, Ghana, two half-sisters are born into different villages: one will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a village raid, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery. Homegoing follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem.



(continued on page 19)



November 2022

Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools (2018) by Monique W. Morris The powerful exploration of the harsh and harmful experiences confronting Black girls in schools, and how we can instead orient schools toward their flourishing.

January 2023

Pelosi (2020) by 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 an award-winning journalist.

February 2023

Justice on the Brink: A Requiem for the Supreme Court (2022) by Linda Greenhouse Recounting the 18 months after the three Trump nominated justices joined the Court, Greenhouse shows the seeds being planted for the Court's eventual overturning of Roe v Wade, expansion of access to guns, and the unprecedented elevation of religious right In American Society.

March 2023

Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships (2022) by Nina Tottenberg Celebrated NPR correspondent Nina Totenberg delivers an extraordinary memoir of her personal successes, struggles, and life-affirming relationships with friends, colleagues, and justices, including her beautiful friendship of nearly 50 years with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

April 2023

The Sentence (2021) by Louise Erdrich

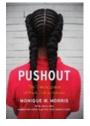
The novel with vivid Native American characters abounds with charm and magic realism. Much of the action takes place in and nearby Erdrich's actual small independent bookstore in Minneapolis, which is haunted by the aggressive ghost of a dead customer during the pandemic and the riots following the murder of George Floyd.

May 2023

Poverty by America (2023) by Matthew Desmond

Princeton professor Matthew Desmond reimagines the debate on poverty, making a compelling argument about why it persists in America: because the rest of us benefit from it. Drawing on history, research, and original reporting, Desmond gives readers new ways of thinking about a morally urgent problem and helps us imagine solutions.

On each call, 9 to 14 people participated in the discussion. Attendees included Jo-Ann Albers, Janet Buening, Dot Christenson, Sarah Gideonse, Jane Jinx, Amy Katzman, Harriet Kaufman, Chrystal Kendrick, Irene Moore, Erna Olafson, Jan Seymour, Alice Schneider, Ginger Sheer, Beth Sullebarger, and Marcia Togneri. For more information, please contact SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org.

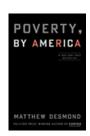














NOMINATING COMMITTTEE UPDATE

The Nominating Committee began meeting in November 2022 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, 2023-2026:

- Michelle Dillingham (returning)
- Dr. Nina Lewis (new)
- Sharon McCreary (returning)
- Marcia Togneri (returning)
- Sue Wilke (new)

The nominating committee then recruited the following members to serve as at-large members of the nominating committee for 2023-2024:

- Deborah Mariner Allsop
- Marge Davis
- Amy Katzman

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, 2023 to May 31, 2024:

President: Jeff Dey

Vice President Administration: Laurie Frank

Vice President Civic Engagement: Jan Seymour

Vice President Membership: Nina Lewis

Vice President Programs: Janet Buening

Secretary: open

Treasurer: Marcia Togneri

Past President: Beth Sullebarger

Much thanks to the Nominating Committee: Rina Saperstein, Chair, Deborah Mariner Allsop, Marge Davis, Amy Katzman and Alice Schneider.

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.



WOMAN'S CITY CLUB

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