

*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, [WomansCityClub.org](http://WomansCityClub.org), to learn more about us and how to join.**

# THE BULLETIN

## NOVEMBER 2023

### PUBLIC FORUM ARE OHIO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT RISK?

Thursday, November 16

7 pm via Zoom

[Register Here](#)



A panel will discuss two controversial measures affecting Ohio's public schools that the Ohio General Assembly passed in May: Availability of vouchers for all K-12 students for private school tuition and the transfer to the Governor's office of most of the powers of the Ohio Board of Education. Lawsuits were filed objecting to both these measures.

The legislation enacts major changes in the governance and funding of public education in Ohio, and critics are sounding the alarm. Why did the governor and the legislature propose these measures? Should we be worried? Or do they present important reforms benefiting both educational decision making and families seeking the best education for their children?

The new Universal Voucher program is siphoning funding for public schools for scholarships to attend private schools, which critics contend have no public oversight or accountability. The program will likely reduce the student population of individual public schools and therefore the funding each one receives. The rationale being offered: it empowers every family to choose the learning environment that best fits their children's needs.

By reallocating to the governor the control of the majority-elected State Board of Education's oversight, policy and most administrative functions, critics point out that the legislation in effect removes the voice of practitioners and constituents on the state educational matters. The director of a new Department of Education and Workforce will also report to the governor. The rationale: to streamline the implementation of the governor's policies.

Our expert panel will tell us what the state is up to with these initiatives, what the measures entail and their status, and what the likely impact will be for each: Dani Isaacsohn, Ohio State Assembly representative from our area; Katie Hofmann, our Ohio Board of Education member, elected in 2021; and Bill Phillis, who is leading the lawsuit against universal vouchers.



Dani Isaacsohn



Katie Hofmann



Bill Phillis



## RESILIENCE

Our October book club selection was *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake* by Tiya Miles. It's an historical sleuthing of several generations of brave Black women, starting in the 1850s, whose resilience is revealed through a sack, initially filled with life sustaining objects for an enslaved daughter about to be sold, and handed down into the 1920s. It's an inspiring read. We're fortunate to have so many sources of inspiration, many of which can be found in the selections for Woman's City Club's book club.



On October 5, Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library hosted Isabel Wilkerson as this year's Mary S. Stern lecturer at the Aronoff Center. It was yet another inspiring lecture by one of our former Woman's City Club National Speakers. She focused on *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, where she details, in three individual stories, Black migration from the Jim Crow south. It and Wilkerson's more recent book, *Caste*, have both been on the reading list of the book club. I remember when I first picked up *Warmth* – wondering whether I would ever finish such a lengthy volume – but, again and again, the book called me back to read on because of its extraordinary stories of resilience.

As we are struck by the horror of the situation in Israel and Gaza where the fragile peace has again been broken, we are once again challenged by events outside our control. I've seen so many interviews of people who have, yet again, been forced to survive the unthinkable. How do you go on when you've lost your loved ones so tragically?

## President's Message

Dr. Edith Eva Eger, in *The Choice: Embrace the Possible*, answers this question by demonstrating how her experience in two different concentration camps informed her life's work:

Like the challah my mother used to make for our Friday night meal, this book has three strands: my story of survival, my story of healing myself, and the stories of the precious people I had the privilege of guiding to freedom.

What is common among all of these stories – and why we continue to be inspired by them, rather than lose hope, is the resilience of the people confronted with daunting, even horrific, circumstances. While we may not experience similar circumstances, these stories of **resilience** remind us that we can get through hard times if only we maintain our resolve to continue moving forward.

Resilience is defined as “the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.” It can take many forms. Sometimes, it's calmly assembling artifacts and treasures into a cloth bag to allow a child a chance for a future. And other times, it's surviving one more day amid violence. But, sometimes, it's as simple as getting up in the morning; cheering on our loved ones; and maintaining our home and career when it doesn't feel like it makes any difference. And as Dr. Egar shows, it's about making the choices, “big and small, that can lead us from trauma to triumph, from darkness to light, from imprisonment to freedom.”

~ Jeff Dey





## FEIST TEA ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

### JOIN US FOR THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FEIST TEA!

#### KENNEDY HEIGHTS ARTS CENTER ANNEX

6620 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati

Refreshments & Mingling: 1:30 pm - Program: 2 pm

- To celebrate Woman's City Club — its civic engagement and feisty and dedicated members
- To recognize all past presidents and honorees who have served and supported WCC over the years
- To honor feisty individuals who embody the mission, vision, and spirit of WCC

### OUR HONOREES ARE:



**Louise Gomer Bangel's** 60-plus years of activism have taken her from her family farm in Kansas, through anti-war protests in downtown Chicago, to the founding of the Center for Peace Education in Cincinnati. Throughout her journey, she has been instrumental in creating and advocating for peace and justice initiatives and education.



For the past 36 years, **Lydia Morgan** has organized committees to plan Cincinnati's Juneteenth celebration. She believes that Juneteenth is a part of American history. Everybody needs to be involved and know the true history of our country in order to make our community a healthier place to be.



During her career as an executive recruiter, **Jan Seymour** recruited for several Cincinnati area nonprofits, where she first learned about efforts to improve opportunities and provide services to those in need. Upon retirement, she actively volunteered with numerous organizations fighting racial discrimination as well as those serving immigrants, homeless families, and at-risk children.



Though preferring to stay out of the spotlight, **David Siders** is a behind-the-scenes leader and organizer of multiple activities that benefit the Cincinnati region. As Civic Engagement Coordinator at the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library, David works tirelessly to ensure that all neighborhoods receive access to services and opportunities.

### PLEASE NOTE:

*Feist Tea is a free event, but we welcome your donation in honor of our 2023 honorees.*

*A virtual invitation will be emailed to members and posted by mid-November.*

~ Laurie Frank, Chair, Feist Tea



## COUNTING ON YOU TO SUPPORT THE 2023 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN!

As a member of Woman's City Club, you will soon receive a printed membership directory for the 2023-2024 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 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. In addition to our operating expenses, we award education scholarships annually. We rely on a volunteer working board and only two paid part-time employees, but **we also depend on you to give!**

Whether it is a one time or monthly basis, Our website, [womanscityclub.org/donate](http://womanscityclub.org/donate), is the easiest and fastest way to

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 am 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.

Also, If you are 70-1/2 or older, you can make a qualified charitable donation (QCD) from your IRA sent directly from your custodian to Women's City Club and no federal tax will be incurred. If you are subject to a required minimum distribution (RMD) your donation reduces the amount that is taxable.

**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.***

## Annual Fund Drive

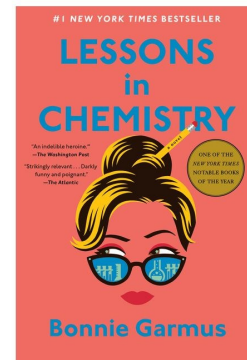


## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

### LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY (2022)

by  
**Bonnie Garmus**

**Saturday, November 18  
10 am via Zoom**



***Lessons In Chemistry*** -- a comedy and a satire with charming touches of magic realism -- is in effect a feminist novel that is captivating readers everywhere. Research chemist Elizabeth Zott flees her sexist lab, then stars in a wildly popular cooking show where she incorporates chemistry lessons. Adventures ensue. The novel has a few nefarious characters, but more wonderful ones, including a precocious little girl, a dog that understands what people say, neighbors, and friends.

Available in multiple formats at booksellers, the public library, and online; the library may have only a few copies available to borrow.

**Members and their friends or others by invitation are welcome, but you must RSVP to obtain the Zoom link:**

[SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org](mailto:SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org).





## AFFORDABLE HOUSING FORUM

## Forum Report

**If any Woman's City Club member doubted the wisdom of the board's endorsing passage of Issue 24, the Affordable Housing Amendment on the November 7 ballot, their doubts may well have disappeared on September 27.**

That's when Robin Wright-Pierce and Peg Fox presented the case for passage of the plan to address the shortage of affordable housing in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Issue 24 applies only to Cincinnati, but it's likely the county will benefit from the issue's passage.

Wright-Pierce is the founder and CEO of the Wright Institute for Transformative Change and chair of the Issue 24 campaign. Fox is executive director of MARCC (Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati) and has been advocating for affordable housing for years.

A lot of compelling information on the need for affordable housing was presented. The most humorous response in the Q&A portion of forum was Fox's retort to someone's concern about the amendment being so far down such a long ballot. "Start with 24 and go backwards," she said.

Wright-Pierce said the amendment will do five things:

- Allow the people to invest in housing for all
- Allocate most of the funds generated to house those most in need
- Support current and future homeownership
- Provide emergency support services
- Give power to the people

WCC is one of 25 organizations endorsing passage of the amendment. Arguments for it are compelling: Rents rose more in Cincinnati in the last year than any city in the country. The average asking price for rent is \$1,815 per month now. In 2020 it was \$760 per month.

Federal money for affordable housing is drying up, leaving those with the lowest income vulnerable and with an insufficient supply of housing options. The 0.3% income tax restoration can be used only for truly affordable housing. With the increase, Cincinnati will still have the lowest city income tax in Ohio.

The amendment will create a community advisory board to partner with the city to ensure equitable distribution of the generated funds. Eighty percent of Black households in the city will qualify for the housing generated. Fifty-five to 60 percent of the total community will benefit.

*~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers*



## WORKING FOR AN EQUITABLE & THRIVING COMMUNITY

## Civic Engagement

**I am writing this as the election is fast approaching. WCC has been active in voter registration and voter education. We have done much of this work through the Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative. My hope is that as we get more people registered and voting that people will begin to see the power of their vote.**

I saw where someone posted that they had just exercised the "privilege" of voting. I certainly understood what that

person was meaning to express. However, I think there are many non-participants in the voting process who have felt that voting is for the privileged and their vote will not matter. We hope our efforts, along with many others, will help people exercise their right to vote despite so many efforts to make voting hard or virtually impossible.

*(continued on the bottom of page 6)*



## NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM - SAVE THE DATE!

## THE 30TH NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM

FEATURING

**JENN WHITE** ~ HOST OF 1A  
NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO'S  
MORNING TALK SHOW



**TRUTH IN JOURNALISM**  
FRIDAY ~ MARCH 22, 2024 ~ 7:00 PM

Woman's City Club is proud to present JENN WHITE, host of 1A, National Public Radio's talk show airing nationally and on WVXU weekday mornings. The 1A program, whose name was inspired by the First Amendment's five freedoms, convenes a daily conversation about the most important issues of our time.

White is a seasoned journalist and podcast host, who has worked in public radio since 1999. She is skilled as a public speaker and has moderated numerous on-air gubernatorial and mayoral debates.

Her timely presentation, *Truth in Journalism*, will address one of our nation's most challenging issues. In response to our growing awareness of media inaccuracy and misinformation:

- *What ethical practices must guide the reliable production and consumption of the daily news?*
- *How can we protect responsible reporting that is so essential to our democracy?*

Watch for invitations to the event this winter, along with opportunities for cosponsorship and other ways to support the National Speaker Forum.

WORKING FOR AN EQUITABLE & THRIVING COMMUNITY - *continued*

Other WCC activities around the election have been our endorsements of Issue 1, the Reproductive Rights Amendment on the Ohio Ballot, and Issue 24, the Affordable Housing Funding Amendment, on the ballot for Cincinnati voters. We held an educational forum on Issue 24 that was significant in furthering the understanding the facts of the amendment (see page 5).

Getting past this election and moving forward, the areas I see for our continued civic engagement are issues surrounding various OHIO legislative attempts to impact the business of public education. Our November 16 forum, "Are Ohio's Public Schools at Risk?" will inform, and perhaps inflame, us about legislative actions in Columbus affecting public

schools. I suspect there will be many opportunities for WCC to be involved.

Another movement that I foresee our getting behind is the People Not Politicians amendment campaign being led by former Chief Justice Maureen O'Hara. It proposes a citizen-led process for drawing district borders for electing candidates for the State Assembly and Congress.

Carrying out Woman's City Club's mission to Educate, Engage and Empower isn't always easy, but I believe we truly make a difference!

~ Jan Seymour,  
VP Civic Engagement



## WCC Education Action Group

### WCC SPONSORED KINDERGARTEN TUTORING PROGRAM

The Education Action Group is happy to announce that our Woman's City Club sponsored Kindergarten Tutoring Program is continuing! It will have the same *Making Sense of Language Arts* curriculum with a new format and new leadership.

For many years starting in 2007, Woman's City Club provided financial support, tutors, and other volunteers for Linda Wihl's *Making Sense of Language Arts* tutoring program for kindergartners who would benefit from a multisensory literacy intervention for one or more hours a week. It's a phonics based multisensory literacy program for kindergartners that has been used effectively with children in Rothenberg and Winton Hills Academy as well as other schools. Pre- and post- testing documented that most children made good to excellent progress by the end of school year, knowing the letter sounds, forming simple words, and beginning to read.

In the last few years, the program has only taken place as part of an afterschool program at Winton Hills Academy three days a week. Children did not attend consistently. Most of the tutors came one or two days and may not have worked with the same child. The MSLA program was still at the center of the program and children made good progress.

Linda retired at the end of last school year for health reasons. Last year she was ably assisted by two volunteers, Sue Ivory and Sue Carfagna (now on medical leave), who are now leading the program.

This year there is no afterschool program. Under the revised program, the kindergarten teachers identify children to be part of a 45-minute in-school literacy program twice a week. Tutors can work with the same child at least once a week.

Fewer WCC members help out now (other tutors are recruited elsewhere) but the wonderful women who are managing the program are open to more volunteers if we can recruit them.



Linda Wihl to

#### MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

If you enjoy working with small children and see them progress – and if you have about 45 minutes on Wednesday and/or Thursday at 11 am – you may want to volunteer. Lesson pages of the curriculum and materials for working with each child are provided. For more information and to volunteer, email Sarah Gideonse, chair of the Education Action Group, at [SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org](mailto:SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org). Thank you!



## WCC Environmental Action Group

### SIERRA CLUB ~ INNINGS ~ EDUCATIONAL FORUM SERIES

**SIERRA CLUB MIAMI GROUP**  
**NOVEMBER 6, 7-9 PM**

**Learn About the Cincinnati Zoo's Sustainability Program**  
**with Mark Fisher talking about:**  
***NET ZERO – THAT'S COOL!***  
***BUT IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH!***



Mark Fisher, VP  
Facilities & Sustainability

Mark's talk will center on what the zoo is doing to aggressively pursue its Net Zero goals, how they are using their talents and leveraging their brand and their partners to help others in need – whether it's across the world, or across the street.

**IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM: [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE](#)**  
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati



103 WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT ROAD, CINCINNATI OH 45219  
womanscityclub@gmail.com 513-751-0100  
[www.WomansCityClub.org](http://www.WomansCityClub.org)

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jeff Dey, *President*  
Laurie Frank, *VP Administration*  
Jan Seymour, *VP Civic Engagement*  
Nina E. Lewis, *VP Membership*  
Janet Buening, *VP Programs*  
Sharon McCreary, *Secretary*  
Marcia Togneri, *Treasurer*  
Beth Sullebarger, *Past President*

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Sherri Adams-Davis	David Siders
Deborah Mariner Allsop	Aurelia Candie Simmons
Cathy B. Bailey	Sue Wilke
Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney	Christa Zielke

## CALENDAR

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### WCC Book Club

Saturday, November 18, 10 am via Zoom. See Page 4 for more information

#### WCC November Public Forum - Are Ohio's Public Schools at Risk?

Thursday, November 16, 7 pm via Zoom. See page 1 for more information.

#### Annual Feist Tea

Sunday, December 3, 1:30 See page 3 for more information

**WCC MEETINGS** All meetings are online, via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

**Membership Committee:** Wednesday, November 1, 5:30 pm  
Committee meets monthly on first Wednesday.  
Contact Nina Lewis: [eninalewis@gmail.com](mailto:eninalewis@gmail.com)

**Communications Committee**  
Tuesday, October 31, 5 pm  
Committee meets monthly on the last Tuesday.  
Contact Sarah Gideonse: [SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org](mailto:SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org)

**Social Justice Action Group:** Thursday, November 9, 6:30 pm  
Contact David Siders: [dbsiders@gmail.com](mailto:dbsiders@gmail.com)

**National Speaker Forum Committee**  
Monday, November 13, 4:30 pm  
Contact Beth Sullebarger: [wccpresident2020@gmail.com](mailto:wccpresident2020@gmail.com)

**Program Committee:** Wednesday, November 22, 7 pm  
Committee meets monthly on fourth Wednesday.  
Contact Janet Buening: [wccpresident2018@gmail.com](mailto:wccpresident2018@gmail.com)



For the latest schedule of WCC meetings, please check our calendar at [womanscityclub.org](http://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/](http://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](mailto:sarahgideonse@womanscityclub.org).

