



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 2024 JUNE 2024

Board and Officers 2023-2024

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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President	Jeff Dey (2022-2024)
Vice President Administration	Laurie Frank (2022-2025)
Vice President Civic Engagement	Jan Seymour (2022-2025)
Vice President Membership	Nina E. Lewis (2020-2024)
Vice President Programs	Janet Buening (2019-2025)
Secretary	Sharon McCreary (2023-2026)
Treasurer	Marcia Togneri (2023-2026)
Past President	Beth Sullebarger (2020-2024)

Sherri Adams-Davis (2021-2024)	David Siders (2019-2024)
Deborah Mariner Allsop (2022-2025)	Aurelia Candie Simmons (2021-2024)
Cathy B. Bailey (2020-2024)	Sue Wilke (2023-2026)
Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney (2021-2024)	Christa Zielke (2021-2024)

WCC is deeply grateful to the following people for their years of dedicated service and whose board terms have concluded: Cathy B. Bailey, Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, David Siders, Aurelia Candie Simmons, Sherri Adams-Davis, and Christa Zielke.

WCC thanks Marcia Togneri and Sharon McCreary for agreeing to serve a second full term on the board (2023-2026). And, we welcome new board members Christy Backley, Anne Lathrop and Cheri Rekow.

Board and Officers 2024-2025

President	Beth Sullebarger
Vice President Administration	Laurie Frank
Vice President Civic Engagement	Cheri Rekow
Vice President Membership	Nina E. Lewis
Vice President Programs	Anne Buening
Secretary	Sharon McCreary
Treasurer	Marcia Togneri
Past President	Jeff Dey

Deborah Mariner Allsop	Anne Lathrop
Christy Backley	Jan Seymour
Janet Buening	Sue Wilke

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A CALL TO ACTION – CONTINUE THE PROUD LEGACY OF THE WOMAN'S CITY CLUB

As I look back at the past year, I am struck by the amazing accomplishments of the Woman's City Club. From our annual Feist Tea to our National Speaker to the Seasongood Luncheon, we had some major in-person events that energized our members and friends. In addition, we had several public forums on Zoom on such subjects as education, immigration, affordable housing, and local news. Throughout, we continued to advocate for justice in our city and beyond, including our support of the Affordable Housing Charter Amendment. While it did not pass, our efforts really did make a difference in how we talk about housing in Cincinnati, and we hope progress on this issue will continue even while other priorities compete with affordability of housing for people with the lowest incomes.

We also partnered with other organizations to host candidates' forums, a panel on landslides, and other community events. We organized a tour of the Hamilton County Justice Center, two evenings viewing exhibits at the Cincinnati Art Museum, and several member salons on a variety of topics including a presentation about Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and the restoration of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House; a reading of a new play on the 19th Amendment; and an open discussion of leading local, state and national issues.

One thing that I keep noticing is how many of our people wear multiple hats in their participation in the Woman's City Club. We are proud and fortunate



to have so much commitment from these members.

I remember when I first began to get involved, I wondered how I could help this 'well-oiled machine' that produces major events, public educational forums,

and other programming while taking part in so many communities seemingly without effort. First, I can tell you that it *does* involve effort – but, when shared among many, it becomes more manageable. I am sure many of you have skills, knowledge, and ideas to offer whether it be authoring an occasional article for the Bulletin or Update, helping with a mailing from our office in Mount Auburn, helping plan a membership event, etc. We would love to have you share in the work – and the joy! – of these efforts. At our Annual Meeting, you will have opportunities to step up and become part of the splendid work and legacy of the Woman's City Club.

I complete my two years as President of the Woman's City Club proud of what the Club has accomplished and hopeful for a long future of engagement. I won't venture far away as I plan to continue several of my committee involvements.

I hope you will join me in *Lighting the Way!* After 109 years, we are just getting started!

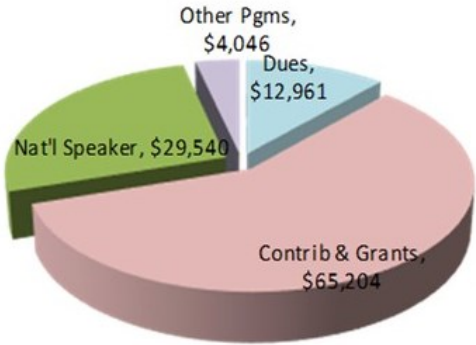
~ Jeff Dey, President



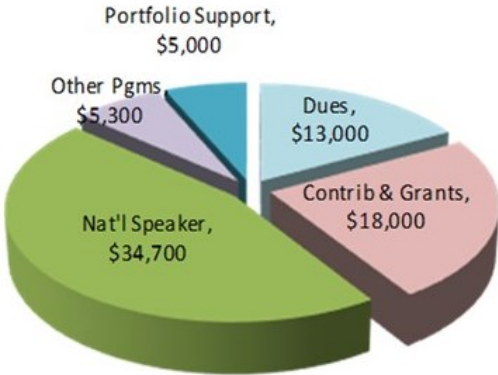


ANNUAL MEETING 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

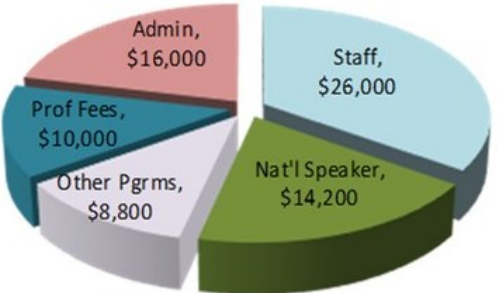
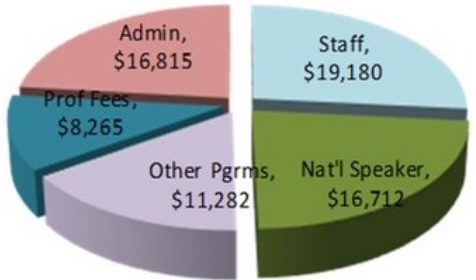
ACTUAL
Year Ending 5/31/24



BUDGET
Year Ending 5/31/25



Income

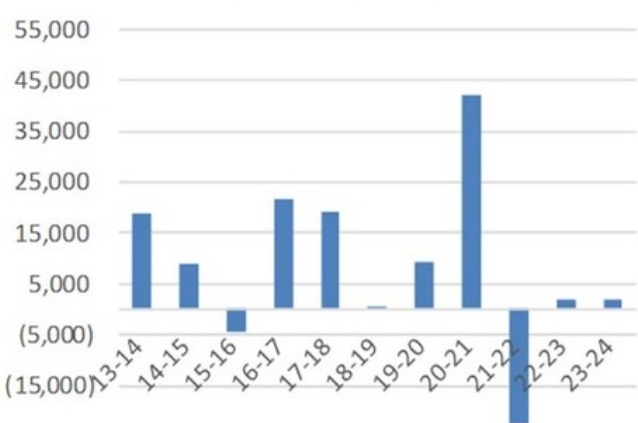


Expenses

Operating Revenues



Portfolio Income

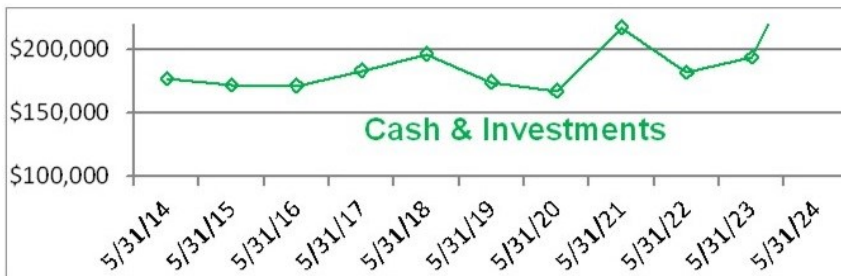




ANNUAL MEETING 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

Programs		Income	Expense	Net
National Speaker	Mar-24	\$ 29,540	\$ 16,712	\$ 12,828
Seasongood Banquet	May-24	\$ 3,173	\$ 2,759	\$ 414
Seasongood Scholarships	May-24	\$ -	\$ 6,000	\$ (6,000)
Feist-Tea Luncheon	Dec-23	\$ 873	\$ 2,062	\$ (1,189)

Continuing Funds	5/31/23			5/31/24
	Balance	Income	Expense	Balance
2nd Century Fund	\$ 42,101	\$ 7,838	\$ -	\$ 49,939
Spencer Scholarship	\$ 24,011	\$ 2,724	\$ -	\$ 26,735
EAG Tutoring	\$ 2,008	\$ -	\$ 2,008	\$ -



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 repropotion our "mix" of revenue sources.

WCC FINANCE TEAM 2023-2024

Treasurer

Marcia Togneri

Accountant

Paul Maddox, CPA
Non-Profit Executive
Services

Portfolio Manager

Park National Bank
Trust Department

Office Manager

Donna Tukel

Finance Committee

Marcia Togneri, Chair
Janet Buening
Carole Donnelly
Susan Noonan
Rina Saperstein
Alice Schneider
Beth Sullebarger

THE WOMAN'S CITY CLUB BUDGET REFLECTS OUR GOALS FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR.

The Finance Committee, with input from our CPA Paul Maddox, prepared the budget reflecting on the past few year's activities and operations. Included are known actual expenses such as office rental, personnel, and certain administrative costs. The largest variable in our expenses is the speaker fee for the annual National Speaker Forum, which has been a very successful event.

WCC largest fund raising efforts focus on the Annual Fund Drive, National Speaker Forum, and membership dues and renewals.

In November 2022, WCC changed the Investment Portfolio Manager to the Park National Bank Trust Department. We are very pleased with this new relationship in portfolio performance with the Trust Officer.

The sustainability of Woman's City Club to effectively empower and engage the citizens of Greater Cincinnati depends on our community to support our efforts by involvement in our programs and our advocacy for the betterment of our city, counties, and state.

One of the ways we can provide sustainability is described in a separate article about our Twentieth Century Endowment fund the on page 5.

~ Marcia Togneri
WCC Treasurer, Retired CFP



CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO WCC'S SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT FUND

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!

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.



Marcia Togneri
WCC Treasurer,
Retired CFP

*"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."
– Winston Churchill*



2023-2024 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Woman's City Club thanks all those who so generously gave to our Annual Fund campaign this program year. We exceeded our goal of \$10,000 to the tune of \$11,157, including two \$1,000 gifts earmarked for the WCC Marian A. Spencer Education Awards. Members and friends who contributed are listed below. The money raised through the Annual Fund helps us to continue our programs and engage the community. We salute and celebrate you!

Jo-Ann Huff Albers ~ Deborah Mariner Allsop ~ Christy Backley ~ Louise Gomer Bangel ~ Ann Bowers
Janet Buening ~ Ed Burdell ~ Ruth Cronenberg ~ Melissa Currence ~ Marge Davis ~ Jeff Dey
Carole Donnelly ~ Barbara Elleman ~ Linda Fabe ~ Rachel Foster ~ Laurie Frank ~ Carol Friel
Rebecca Gibbs ~ Sarah Gideonse ~ Judy Green ~ Chara Jackson ~ Laurie Johnston ~ Amy Katzman
Harriet Kaufman ~ Crystal Kendrick ~ Edna Keown ~ Marie Kocoshis ~ Virginia Kuertz
Michael Maloney ~ Freeman McNeal ~ Barbara Milon ~ Susan Noonan
Francie Pepper ~ Burton Roehr ~ Jeanette Rost ~ Alice Schneider ~ Jan Seymour ~ Beth Sullebarger
Marcia Togneri ~ Peggy Tojo ~ Donna Tukel ~ Christine Weber ~ Mary Wells

Beth Sullebarger



THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL FEIST TEA

The 14th Annual Feist-Tea celebration and fundraiser was held at the Kennedy Heights Art Center Annex on December 3, 2023. This interactive celebration honored this year’s four feisty honorees, previous WCC honorees, past presidents, WCC’s current president, and Ruth Cronenberg, one of the original founders of the Feist Tea. Attended by 82 members and friends, the afternoon festivities opened with a social hour, offering light fare by Catered with Grace and a memorable slide show compiled by Jeff Dey. Membership VP, Nina Lewis extended a warm welcome to 34 new members.

Four remarkable and feisty individuals, who embody the club’s mission to educate, empower, and engage, and demonstrate a strong dedication and advocacy for making a difference in our regional community, were honored during the event. Following the guidelines established in 2021, three of the honorees, Louise Gomer Bangel, Jan Seymour, and David Siders, are current WCC members and the fourth honoree, Lydia Morgan, is a contributing partner who embodies the mission and vision of WCC. These individuals 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.

WCC is deeply grateful to all who attended and supported the Tea and honorees. The income from the event was \$2554 and expenses were \$1796.98, giving WCC a profit of \$757.02. 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 JoAnn Huff Albers, Christy Backley, Marge Davis, Jeff Dey, Sharon McCreary, and Susan Noonan. Special thanks to Donna Tukul, WCC Communications Manager, Greg Buening, Harriet Kaufman, and Mike Maloney for their support prior to and during the Feist Tea event.

~Laurie Frank, Chair
Feist Tea Committee



30TH NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM - A HOME RUN

Memorial Hall was filled to capacity on March 22 for our National Speaker Forum with Jenn White. WCC president Jeff Dey welcomed a crowd of 475 people, who included an array of elected officials—County Commissioner Denise Driehaus, Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, City Council Member Meeka Owens, former Mayor Roxanne Qualls and former Council Member Steve Goodin. He thanked WCC’s generous sponsors, including the Jeanette Rankin Foundation and Cincinnati Federal of Teachers, Manley Burke, Park National Bank, and 29 co-sponsoring nonprofit organizations.

Dey celebrated all the speakers from the past 30 years and paid tribute to Mary Wells, longtime WCC member, who initiated the National Speaker Forum in 1994 as a way to highlight women of national stature. He welcomed Ann Thompson, longtime reporter at WVXU and now Digital Media Producer for CET, who described Solutions Journalism, her new assignment. Thompson then introduced the evening’s featured speaker.

Jenn White, host of NPR’s morning talk show 1A, spoke on *Truth, Trust and Transparency in Journalism*. She noted how tough it is for the media these days. “We used to trust that our local news media was telling us the truth,” she said, “and we felt a connection with our local and national newscasters.” New technology has whittled away positions in local media outlets, and media have employed algorithms that decide what we want to hear. This has led to a breakdown in relationships between news and communities. Recent polls show that 32 percent of Americans do not trust the accuracy of the news they receive.

Truth in journalism requires looking at all sides of an issue. White follows the “Nothing about it without it” credo. Stories based on conjecture and self-promotion fail to tell the truth. “People involved in the story must participate in the story,” she says. “Your story matters,

and we want to give the time and space to tell a story that reflects you.” She expressed concern that “young people are not ready for what they will inherit. “We are not preparing the next generation for what is coming.” Her comment that we need to return to teaching civics in our schools brought a round of applause from the audience.



Jenn White

White stressed that NPR is able to offer listeners unbiased stories with input from sources on all sides of an issue largely because it receives adequate financial support. When asked how thoughtful journalism can survive the algorithm-filled social media, White answered: “We need to pay for it. We must be willing to shine the light because democracy can die in the dark.”

Beth closed the event by thanking Jenn White and recognizing all journalists for their daily service in bringing us the news, seeking the truth and protecting our democracy. Media present, besides Ann Thompson, included Beryl Love, editor of the Cincinnati Enquirer; Mark Lammers, Executive Producer, and Sue Ellen Stuebing, VP and Chief Development Officer of CET; Dan Yount, editor of the Cincinnati Herald, and Laure Quinlivan, an independent documentary filmmaker and former Council Member. Harriet and Ben Kaufman provided photography.

After the presentation, about 200 enjoyed the reception catered by Catered with Grace. The event raised approximately \$14,000 to support the operation of the club.

~ Beth Sullebarger & Christy Backley



30TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM



WCC President Jeff Dey greets Ann Thompson, CET Digital Producer



Photo of the Reception, L to R, Journalism students with Jenn White and Beryl Love, editor of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*



Photo of the Committee, L to R, back row: Edna McKeown, Barbara Myers, Janet Buening, Susan Noonan, Alice Schneider, Marge Davis, Carole Donnelly, Jeanne Nightingale, Aurelia Simmons; Front row: Kay Smith-Yount, Mary Wells, Beth Sullebarger, Jenn White, Sarah Gideonse



L to R: Cathy Bernardino Bailey, Sherri Adams-Davis, and Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney



Photo of the crowd



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

On May 24, at the Hilton Garden Inn, more than 70 people attending this year's Seasongood luncheon were engaged, delighted, and enthusiastic. We decided to try this venue again despite the awful food last year, as they had a new cook and promised it would be better. We also changed the registration set-up, and it worked beautifully. The venue is close to downtown, has easy, free parking, and wonderful staff. The food was definitely better, but not excellent. The staff work extremely hard at pleasing us.

Thanks to the generosity of two members, we were able to award SIX wonderful young women the WCC Marian Spencer \$1,000.00 Education Awards: Oceane Brazina, Skylar Koch, Yesica Temaj Guzman, Isabella Saalfeld, Adeli Mejia Yoc, and Destiny Owen.

The awards came from donations from Marge Davis and Deborah Alsop (WCC members), a grant from the Woodward Trust, and from the Louise Spiegel Fund, the Marian Spencer Fund, and one from WCC funds.

Sharon McCreary, Education Award Chair, did a wonderful job of welcoming and introducing the awardees and their families. Each of the young women told us of their college and career plans. Seeing the excited, grateful smiles on the students' faces makes our efforts so worthwhile.

Dr. Whitney Gaskins, this year's speaker, was an inspiration to the girls. She told the young women to set your goals and never doubt that you can reach them.



Dr. Whitney Gaskins

We had fourteen beautiful raffle baskets that brought in over \$665.00! Thanks to all the committee and board members who donated baskets. Final figures for the luncheon are being calculated, but we think there will be a profit.

Thanks to my committee members who all did their share, and to Donna Tukel, who was invaluable. Another successful, well run, inspiring Seasongood luncheon!

Committee Members: Marge Davis, Jeff Dey, Carole Donnelly, Dave Edmundson, Laurie Frank, Sarah Gideonse, Erika Jay, Chalet Jules, Edna Keown, Alice Schneider, Susan Shellenberger, Aurelia Candie Simmons, and Donna Tukel.

~ Susan Noonan, Chair
Seasongood Committee



Three awardees helping Candie Simmons with the raffle baskets.



WCC Members Rachel Foster, Jeannette Rost, and Hera Reines enjoying the luncheon.



PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

WCC’s Program Committee works all year long to offer excellent free public forums, programs, and activities 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 — into action.

Vice President for Programs Janet Buening, WCC President Jeff Dey, and committee members Marge Davis, Laurie Frank, Sarah Gideonse, Amy Katzman, Susan Noonan, and David Siders planned and presented 12 programs and events based on the topics put forth by WCC members at the 2023 Annual Meeting and in response to current events. We also worked with Jan Seymour, Vice President for Civic Engagement, to represent the concerns identified by the Social Justice Action Group. Beth Sullebarger, chair of the National Speaker Forum, joined us to plan a follow-up program for that event.

Though COVID was no longer a major concern, we held all our programs online this club year. This format enables us to present speakers who would not be able to attend an in-person event, and also opens our programs up to a wider audience. Additionally, with Jeff Dey’s technical expertise our programs were recorded, and can be viewed via links on the WCC website. To keep in personal touch with our members, Program Committee also organized two Out & About activities.

Here is an overview of the 2023 – 2024 program year activities:

**SEPTEMBER 27, 7 PM WCC PROGRAM:
THE PROPOSED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AMENDMENT:
WHAT’S IN IT, WHAT IT IS MEANT TO ACCOMPLISH,
AND WHY THIS MATTERS:**

WCC has an ongoing commitment to advocate for more affordable housing in Greater Cincinnati. This program was planned both to take a deep look at Issue 24, the City of Cincinnati’s Affordable Housing Amendment, endorsed by WCC, that was on the

November 7 ballot. The threefold purpose: to explain the language of the amendment; to address the questions people had about the amendment; to present the facts about the issues of affordable housing and let people draw their own conclusions about supporting the amendment.



Speakers **Robin Wright-Pierce**, Founder & CEO of The Wright Institute for Transformative Change and campaign leader for the Affordable Housing Amendment (Cincinnati Action for Housing NOW) and **Peg Fox**, Executive Director of Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC), addressed both the amendment and the critical need to create a renewable fund for providing more housing for lowest-income individuals and families. VP for Programs Janet Buening served as moderator. A lively Q & A session followed the presentations.



**ELECTION RELATED PROGRAMS
AND EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER
AND OCTOBER**

WCC’s Program Committee partnered with other civic organizations to present five programs to connect voters with candidates for various offices on the November 7 ballot:

September 28, 7 - 8 pm, on Zoom

WCC cosponsored a forum organized by School Board School to present Cincinnati Public Schools’ Board Candidates.

October 2, 6 pm at the Corinthian Baptist Church

WCC co-hosted the only in-person candidate forum for all 5 candidates for CPS School Board, organized by The Cincinnati Federation of Teachers.

October 3, 6 pm, at the Price Hill Library – an in-person

Meet and Greet with Cincinnati City Council candidates, presented by the League of Women Voters along with WCC and other co-sponsors.

Continued on page 11



PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

OCTOBER 5, 6 PM – IN PERSON AT THE CBA AND STREAMED ONLINE VIA ZOOM AND FACEBOOK LIVE WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE? A HAMILTON COUNTY JUDICIAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Organized by the Cincinnati Bar Association in partnership with WCC, the League of Women Voters, Urban League, MARCC, and Cincinnati Association, this program was an opportunity to meet the candidates running for Hamilton County Municipal Court. John J. Williams, Esq. moderated.

October 26, 3 -5 pm, in-person – Held during the All-In Cincinnati Coalition’s monthly meeting, this public meeting, hosted by the Women’s Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and cosponsored by WCC and other partners, focused on the candidates and issues critical to strong communities.

NOVEMBER 16, 7PM – WCC PROGRAM, ONLINE VIA ZOOM: ARE OHIO’S PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT RISK?

Planned in conjunction with WCC’s Education Action Group, this program focused on two controversial measures affecting Ohio’s public schools: 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.



A panel discussed what the state intended to accomplish 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**, elected in 2021 to represent Hamilton County on the Ohio Board of Education; and **Bill Phillis**, Executive Director for the Coalition for Equity & Adequacy in School Funding, who is leading the lawsuit against universal vouchers. Susan Noonan moderated.

January 11, 6 pm – Out & About for WCC Members and Guests: Along with WCC’s Membership Committee, we organized a tour of the **Charles White: A Little**

Higher exhibit at the Cincinnati Art Museum, led by WCC member and CAM curatorial assistant Anne Buening.

JANUARY 25, 7 PM – WCC PROGRAM, ONLINE VIA ZOOM: NEIGHBORS, NOT NEWS: HOW CINCINNATI WELCOMES IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

This program looked beyond the headlines about the immigration crisis on the US southern borders to the very different story Greater Cincinnati has to tell: how immigrants and refugees from many countries have come here with the support of organizations and individuals, contributing to both the cultural diversity and economic development of our community. An extraordinary panel of speakers addressed the demographics of who is coming here, from where, and for what reasons; the positive economic impact their arrival has had; the services and support available to them from local agencies; and the steps the federal government is taking to expedite legal entry and refugee resettlement.



The speakers were **Tony Stieritz, CEO of Catholic Charities**, the only local agency that works with the US State Department to resettle refugees in southwest Ohio; **Samantha Searles, Program Director for Ignite Peace**, who coordinates the **Immigrant Dignity Coalition**, a network of 40+ organizations working to protect and assist the immigrant and refugee community; **Bryan Wright, Executive Director at Cincinnati Compass**, a collaborative project of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, the City of Cincinnati, and 65+ community partners. **Greg Landsman, US Representative for Ohio’s 1st District**, was not able to attend in real time, but participated via a video in which he updated us on current federal immigration policies and actions, the support the federal government provides, and the ways in which his office actively assists people coming to southwest Ohio. VP for Programs Janet Buening moderated.

Continued on page 12



PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

FEBRUARY 28, 7 PM – WCC PROGRAM, ONLINE VIA ZOOM: AND JUSTICE FOR ALL - A CONVERSATION WITH HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF CHARMAINE MCGUFFEY



Sheriff McGuffey

Susan Noonan moderated this personal and informative program with the first woman to be elected Sheriff of Hamilton County. **Charmaine McGuffey** spoke about her career in law enforcement, her goals as Sheriff, the many physical improvements she has made at the Justice Center, and the new programs she has instituted to focus on addiction services, mental health care, and post-release support.

February and March – Meetings about an event on Fountain Square in support of Fair Districts

To follow up on a joint meeting of WCC’s Program Committee and Social Justice Action Group, VP Janet Buening held a series of meeting with representatives from the League of Women Voters, Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative, Citizens Not Politicians, and other partner agencies to plan a spring major event to gain support for the Ohio amendment to end gerrymandering and gather signatures to get it on the November ballot. David Siders secured free use of Fountain Square through his contacts with 3CDC, and we planned an event with retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice Maureen O’Connor. However, after meeting with state deputy campaign manager Andy Brown, the partners agreed to his request to move the event to September and make it a “get out the vote” initiative, closer to the election and early voting. Planning for this event is still in progress.

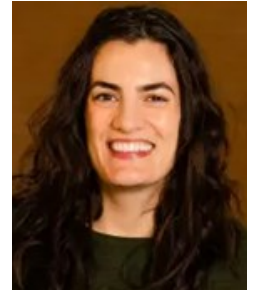
April 3 – Out & About for WCC Members and Guests And Justice for All: a Tour of the Hamilton County Justice Center

As a follow up to our February program, WCC members and guests toured the Hamilton County Justice Center with Sheriff McGuffey and members of her staff. We

viewed the intake areas, renovated cells, and new pods as we learned about the programs and services offered to inmates.

MAY 8, 7 PM – WCC PROGRAM, ONLINE VIA ZOOM LOCAL NEWS: WHY IT MATTERS AND HOW IT’S CHANGING

As a follow-up to the National Speaker Forum with NPR’s Jenn White, and with assistance from NSF Chair Beth Sullebarger, WCC brought the discussion about truth in journalism literally closer to home, with a panel of local leaders in print, television, and radio addressing the challenges and changes in the media we rely on every day: **Beryl Love**, Executive Editor and Vice President of News for *the Cincinnati Enquirer*; **Ann Thompson**, Digital Media Producer for CET; and **Jennifer Merritt**, Deputy Editor/Digital Editor for WXXU. VP Janet Buening moderated.



Jennifer Merritt



Anne Thompson

Unfortunately and most unexpectedly Beryl Love did not attend, due to an error in his calendar entry. He has offered to take part in another WCC program, in the 2024-25 program year.

OCTOBER 15 –7:00 - 8:30 PM, IN-PERSON PROGRAM, GEIER ROOM, MT. AUBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: CHARTER COMMITTEE - WOMEN FOR CHANGE

WCC will host an evening reception and program as part of Charter Committee’s Centennial Celebration, featuring Roxanne Qualls speaking on *Women for Change*. Women were the tireless workers who knocked on thousands of doors to get the Charter amendments passed in 1924—which was also the first Federal election in which women could vote.

*Janet Buening
Vice President for Programs*



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Civic Engagement is at the very heart of Woman's City Club. Our mission is to educate, empower and engage. The education and empowerment functions are both necessary to move toward citizen engagement. Therefore, civic engagement flows into many of the other areas of WCC. The Social Justice Action Group and the Program Committee both connect to civic engagement so that the issues we choose to emphasize at any given time can be addressed in the activities of the Social Justice Action Group and the programs that WCC presents.

The two major issues Civic Engagement took on this year were the Reproductive Rights Amendment and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund funding amendment. Those two legislative issues were covered in programming, actions, and engagement. WCC endorsed the amendment, worked to get it on the ballot, and rejoiced at its passing. Likewise, we endorsed the city of Cincinnati Affordable Housing Amendment, worked to get it on the ballot, presented an excellent program explaining the amendment, knocked on doors and made calls in support. This time there was no rejoicing as the amendment failed. WCC continues to advocate for solutions to the housing crisis.

We have attended housing committee meetings about a new program the city has recommended on zoning changes impacting residential housing development. This plan, Connected Communities,

does not address affordable housing at needed levels (housing for people with incomes 30-60 percent AMI). WCC joins other housing advocates expressing this concern. We also feel there has not been enough citizen engagement in creating this plan.

We recently signed a letter, with several other citizen groups, to the City Council criticizing the Futures Commission report for a lack of an inclusive group on the Futures Commission. We felt, along with others, that the commission was made up of CEO's and other business people without input from non-profit leaders and citizen groups. Once again, the city missed the mark on citizen engagement. The lack of a well-rounded group to complete the commission resulted in a report with no emphasis on affordable housing. Another major gap in the report was the omission of resources for the Green Cincinnati plan.

WCC has taken a strong position on the Citizens Not Politicians Amendment, which we hope to see on Ohio's November ballot. Many of our members have been active in circulating petitions for this anti-gerrymandering amendment. If this amendment makes it to November's ballot, we hope that WCC's efforts with the Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative in voter registration will pay off at the polls.

*~ Jan Seymour, VP
Civic Engagement*





SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

We welcomed new SJAG members Marianna Bettman, Angela Brown, Freeman McNeal, Virginia Scheer, Sue Wilke, and Janet Simpkinson!

The SJAG deeply thanks Woman's City Club for endorsing Issue 24, the affordable housing Charter amendment on last November's ballot. Although we did not win, we are impressed by and highly value the strong voter turnout in support of Issue 24, and for raised awareness of the issues. At our December meeting, we reflected on strategies and shared information for future efforts to fund affordable housing and to work to dismantle systemic injustices:

For updated information, please visit: <https://www.cincyhousingforall.com/why>

The WCC board and the SJAG successfully endorsed the Ohio constitutional amendment to establish a state constitutional right to "make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions," including decisions about abortion, contraception, fertility treatment, miscarriage care, and continuing pregnancy.

The SJAG decided on our priorities for 2024:

- Affordable housing, City Council, and County Action, and homelessness. We considered holding deep dive programming into the experience of living in poverty and education on what affordable housing truly means and what is needed—housing to support 30% AMI.
- Voter registration and voter education, in partnership with the Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative and the Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library
- Support of WCC Program Committee's September Fair Districting (Citizens not Politicians) activism event on Fountain Square in September 2024 on a Saturday. (This is still very much a work in progress).

SJAG made a recommendation about **joining Green Umbrella**, looking at [levels of membership](#): under \$250-K revenue of participating member is free, but



WCC joined Green Umbrella as a supporting member @ \$250 annually because of the benefits listed on their website. We agreed to be more intentional to provide information on environmental justice.

Update on open discussion led by Susan: How can SJAG support the Louise Spiegel Endowment City Hall 101 civic education series?

- Possibly contract with Ioanna
- City Hall 101: 3 educational sessions
- WCC can advise on specific topics, e.g., how City government works, and how County government works. We may try to collaborate with ACLU Ohio Civics School

Harriet shared very important values of Louise Spiegel that should guide the use of her funds:

- Abolish racism based on Louise's childhood experiences
- Constantly involved in community her entire life
- Particularly concerned about equitable opportunities for Black youth
- Forums open to all to become participants together
 - Focus on 2-3 organizations that support young people of color aged 24 and younger
 - Focus on topics that are meaningful to youth; meet in libraries
- Also focused on the Appalachian community and supported the Urban Appalachian Coalition
- Potential collaboration with Youth At The Center—Harriet recently met with Y@TC & Pauletta Hansel
- Possibly develop youth mentorship programs

Continued on page 19



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.

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. The committee is redesigning the home-page with the help of our webmaster.

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 Albers, Beth Sullebarger, Christy Backley, 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. Beth Sullebarger, chair of the National Speaker Forum Committee, was highly successful in arranging marketing through media outlets.

BROCHURE

On the prompting of Donna, who wrote the first draft, and with advice from WCC, the committee is developing an updated and refreshed brochure.

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, Christy Backley, Jeanne Nightingale, Susan Noonan, Alice Schneider, Beth Sullebarger, and Donna Tukel.

The committee hopes 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.

~ Sarah Gideonse, Chair
Communications Committee



EDUCATION ACTION GROUP

Sarah Gideonse chairs this action group, which supports the success of public school children, especially children at risk.

Our major project has been a volunteer and funding commitment to a multi-sensory kindergarten literacy program in Winton Hills Academy and using Linda Wihl's Making Sense of Language Arts (MSLA) curriculum. For many years, tutors had worked with individual children weekly throughout the year so they could become strong readers by the end of third grade, 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 has continued only as an after-school program, with children participating three days a week with the same MSLA curriculum. A talented volunteer, Sue Carfagna, organized and led the lessons. This year was the first without Linda's participation as she retired at the end of the last school year, and the continuation of the MSLA tutoring program at Winton Hill Academy under WCC auspices is now unlikely.

Woman's City Club sponsored or cosponsored forums related to education. In the fall 2023, we cosponsored the School Board School's virtual program for school board candidates as well as an in-person program with the same school board candidates put on by Michelle Dillingham of the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers.

The Education Action Group continued to monitor the Ohio General Assembly's proposed and enacted education legislation, often brought to our attention by the nonpartisan Honesty in Education nonprofit, and reported it in the Update and the Bulletin, along with possible actions members and friends can take.

EAG/WCC opposed the state's new universal voucher program, which subsidizes virtually all children to attend private schools, and the Governor's transferring all substantive roles from the State Board of Education that included mostly elected representatives, to his office. A November 2023 forum, "Are Ohio's Public Schools at Risk?" on these state actions, featured local state representative Dani Isaacsohn, Ohio Board of Education elected member Katie Hofmann, and Bill Phillis, executive director for the Coalition for Equity & Adequacy in School Funding, who is leading the lawsuit against universal vouchers. Members Susan Noonan and Julie Sellers helped with inviting the speakers.

Members interested in analyzing policy, developing and working on projects, and planning programs about education may contact Sarah Gideonse for more information and to volunteer.

~ Sarah Gideonse, Chair





WCC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The WCC Membership Committee expanded opportunities for membership engagement and retention. During the 2023-2024 program year, the Membership Committee hosted a choice of initiatives designed to nurture new connections and build community among current and prospective members.

SUNDAY SALONS

WCC members hosted the Sunday Salons, a monthly series of informal gatherings held in members' homes. These gatherings offered open dialogue for sharing sensitive experiences and perceptions of critical national, state, and local concerns. Members invited prospective members who voiced interest and curiosity in the work of WCC. Highlights were:

In April, President Jeff Dey organized a lively discussion on themes addressing issues chosen by attendees; how members are feeling about everything that has been happening recently; how to stay positive amidst the tension between factions; and what ways the Club can help.

In May, Janet Buening hosted playwright Paul Bergman and members joined in the delightful round-robin reading of selections from *19 and Me*, a one-woman, one-act play that shines a new light on the long, winding journey from the first Women's Convention in Seneca Falls in 1848 to the moment the 19th Amendment was finally ratified in August of 1920.

CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM TOUR

Members took part in a special tour of the Cincinnati Art Museum exhibition, *Charles White: A Little Higher*. The tour was made possible by Anne Buening, WCC member and Curatorial Assistant for American and European Paintings, Drawings, and Sculpture, who explored White's beautifully detailed art, examining how he created visual messages that influenced so many people during the Civil Rights era and promoted Black culture.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

WCC continued its rolling membership policy. This approach supported year-round efforts to renew connections through personalized outreach to long-time supporters and friends. WCC attracted 24 new members, including members who joined through the discounted rate offered at our National Speaker Forum. We are encouraged and thankful for members who elevated their membership level this year.

YOU MATTER TO WOMAN'S CITY CLUB

We appreciate all of you who support WCC through membership at whatever level you can. If you have yet to renew, please consider doing so soon. When you renew, you help sustain the club's future as we strive to keep *lighting* the pathways toward social, economic, educational, and environmental equity for all citizens.

Membership Committee Members

Cathy B. Bailey, Anne Buening, Jeff Dey, Sarah Gideonse, Marcia Togneri

~Nina Lewis, VP Membership

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Deborah M. Allsop
Joyce Asfour
Mary Ellen Ashley
Cathy B. Bailey
Jenny Broh
Janet Buening
Heather Rae Byer
Marjorie Davies

Marge Davis
Jeff Dey
Barbara Elleman
Sarah Gideonse
Joy Haupt
Connie Hinitz
Suzanne Joiner

Michael Maloney
Jeanne Nightingale
Lori Nuckolls
Mary Osterbrock
Mary Beth Owens
Francie Pepper
Burton Roehr
Alice Schneider

Janice Seymour
Beth Sullebarger
Emily Thobe
Beverly Thomas
Nancy Lu Walters
Linda Wihl
Dan Zavon

INSPIRED MEMBER

Marcia Togneri

ENGAGED MEMBERS

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

FEISTY MEMBERS

Jo-Ann Albers
Jane Anderson
Tracy Artis
Ruth Cronenberg

Liza Backman Curp
Dianne Dunkelman
Eleonora Fusco
Emily Hodges

Carole Cutter-Hawkins
Ariel & Huxley Miller
Susan Noonan
Rina Saperstein

Grace Sferra
Jane Katzman Simon
Virginia Tallent



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

WCC’s Environmental Action Group focuses on environmental justice issues to ensure 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:

- ~ Sierra Cub Miami Group’s Conservation Committee,
- ~ League of Women Voters Natural Resources Committee,
- ~ Communities United for Action (CUFA),
- ~ Citizens for Rights of the Ohio River Watershed (CROW),
- ~ Faith Communities Go Green (FCGG),
- ~ MDS Stakeholders Impervious Surface Fee (ISF) Working Group,
- ~ Past Plastic Cincinnati Coalition (PPCC)

Our mission is 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, particularly in the Middletown community that suffers pollution from their steel plants.

This past year we participated in community input sessions convened to discuss environmental concerns around the building of the new Brent Spence Bridge.

The Past Plastic Cincinnati Coalition continues to push implementation of Cincinnati’s 2020 ordinance to ban single use plastic bags—preempted by the State of Ohio in violation of Home Rule. The city of Cincinnati is now a partner with the Ohio Municipal Coalition, currently engaged in a counter lawsuit against Ohio that sued the city of Athens for implementing a similar bag ban.

This spring, as participating stakeholder on the ISF Working Group, we submitted a proposal to the County Commissioners to establish an equitable wastewater rate

structure now currently under consideration. Finally, this year, we proposed that the Environmental Action Group join the work of the Social Justice Action Group. Climate change and Industrial pollution impacts lower income communities disproportionately so that social justice and end environmental issues increasingly overlap. (The WCC board did not adopt our proposal but hopes to revive the Environmental Action Group that can address the environmental justice issues.)



Ways to become involved in the Environmental Action Group: Since we work with so many groups on collaborative projects, we do not hold regular meetings in committee sessions with WCC members alone. We invite them to join our meetings with our collaborating organizations.

1. Join *Past Plastic Cincinnati Coalition* that works with 20 other organizations 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 shared Cincinnati’s initial success statewide, by sending a roadmap to other cities that seek to craft their own bans.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP (CONTINUED)

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?

2. Join *League of Women Voters Natural Resources Committee* meeting monthly on fourth Mondays at 11:00. 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*, which meets monthly on second Wednesdays at 7 pm. 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, etc. Join the Hamilton County Solid Waste Caucus that is fighting to hold Rumpke accountable for the environmental

impacts resulting from its proposed expansion in White-water Township. Together with the League, WCC also works with Communities United for Action (CUFA) to promote affordable sewer rates. 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 us to 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–second most endangered river in our nation–is the principal source of the city’s drinking water. Woman’s City Club supports CROW through 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. Join the WCC Bulletin team to submit monthly articles covering environmental issues in the city, county, and state. Or submit ideas to our Green Tips column! Contact Jeanne Nightingale.

~ Jeanne Nightingale, Chair
Environmental Action Group

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP (CONTINUED)

Add to next Board agenda: review the WCC Partnership and Sponsorship Affiliated Organizations Document.

We reviewed and will hold ongoing discussions in regard to the re-activated Civic Engagement Plan of the City of Cincinnati [Engage Cincy](#).

Notes:

At the WCC Annual Meeting in June 2024, SJAG will present its priorities and goals to recruit more support and awareness and explain SJAG’s intention to align with the Program Committee to provide educational activities and community conversations.

~David Siders
Social Justice Action Group



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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 is 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, to receive the zoom link. Look for announcements of book selections in the weekly Update and the Bulletin.

July 2023

Demon Copperhead (2023) by Barbara Kingsolver

Channeling Dickens’ David Copperfield and set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, this novel is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father’s good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses.



August 2023

Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden: Two Sisters Separated by China’s Civil War

by Zhuqing Li

Jun and Hong were scions of a once great southern Chinese family living in their flower fragrant garden, growing up in the 1930s during the final days of Old China before political revolution and violence. The book tells the story and of a family ripped apart by the Communist victory in China. Jun ended in Taiwan, and Hong found herself an ocean away on the mainland. A doctor by training, Hong endured two waves of “re-education” and internal exile, before becoming one of the most celebrated doctors in China. Jun established one of U.S.-allied Taiwan’s most important trading companies.

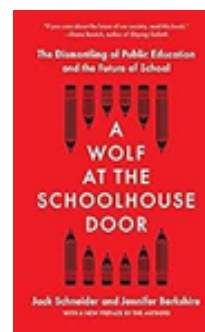


Ambitious, determined, and resourceful, both women faced morally fraught decisions as they forged careers and families in the midst of political and social upheaval.

September 2023

A Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door: The Dismantling of Public Education and the Future of School (2023) by Jack Schneider and Jennifer Berkshire.

A trenchant analysis of how public education is being destroyed in overt and deceptive ways—and how to fight back.



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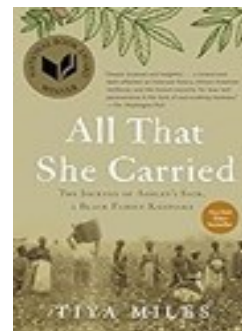


JOIN THE CONVERSATION

October 2023

***All That She Carried – The Journey of Ashley’s Sack, a Black Family Keepsake* (2021)** by Tiya Miles

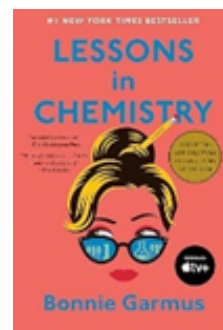
Harvard historian Tiya Miles traces the life of a single object (a cotton bag) given by an enslaved woman to her daughter, who is about to be sold. The bag is then handed down through three generations of Black women. Professor Miles examined archival records, and when these fell short, she turns to objects, art, and the environment to write a singular history of the experience of slavery and the uncertain freedom afterwards.



November 2023

***Lessons in Chemistry* (2022)** by Bonnie Garmus

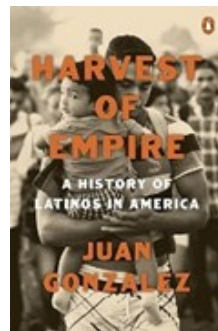
Lessons In Chemistry -- a comedy and a satire with charming touches of magic realism -- is in effect a feminist novel that is captivating readers everywhere. Research chemist Elizabeth Zott flees her sexist lab, then stars in a wildly popular cooking show that incorporates the teaching of chemistry. Adventures ensue.



January 2024

Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America
Second Revised and Updated Edition (2022) by Juan Gonzalez

Harvest of Empire spans five centuries—from the European colonization of the Americas through the 2020 election. With family portraits of real-life immigrant Latino pioneers, as well as accounts of the events and conditions that compelled them to leave their homelands, Gonzalez highlights the complexity of a segment of the American population that is often discussed but frequently misrepresented.



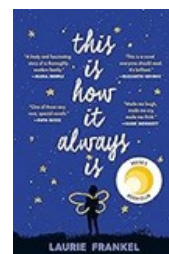
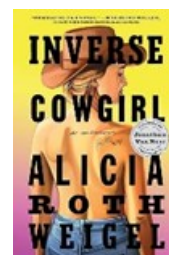
February 2024 Members could choose to read one or both of these books.

***Inverse Cowgirl: A Memoir* (2017)** by Alicia Roth Weigel

From a celebrated activist on the forefront of fighting for intersex representation and rights—a funny, thought-provoking collection of essays about owning your identity and living your truth.

***This Is How It Always Is* (2017)** by Laurie Frankel

Claude is five years old, the youngest of five brothers, loves wearing a dress, and dreams of being a princess. When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl. Rosie and Penn want Claude to be whoever Claude wants to be. This wonderful novel tells of how Claude and his family learn to engage with the world where Claude can flourish.



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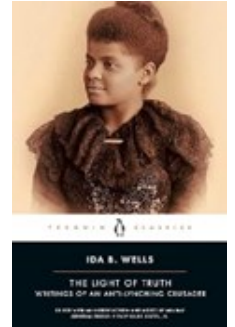


JOIN THE CONVERSATION

March 2024

The Light of Truth: Writings of an Anti-Lynching Crusader (2014) by Ida B Wells

Seventy-one years before Rosa Parks' courageous act of resistance, police dragged a young black journalist named Ida B. Wells off a train for refusing to give up her seat. The experience shaped Wells' career, and—when hate crimes touched her life personally—she mounted what was to become her life's work: an anti-lynching crusade that captured international attention. This volume covers the entire scope of Wells' remarkable career, collecting her early writings, articles exposing the horrors of lynching, essays from her travels abroad, and her later journalism.



April 2024

Undaunted: How Women Changed American Journalism (2023) by Brooke Kroeger

Undaunted is a representative history of American women who surmounted every impediment put in their way to do journalism's most valued work. Brooke Kroeger examines the lives of the best-remembered and long-forgotten woman journalists who covered the major news stories and every conflict at home and abroad since before the Civil War.

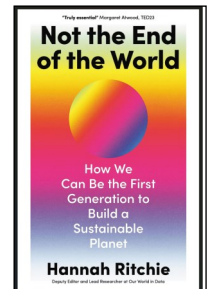
A larger story develops: the nearly two-centuries-old struggle for women's rights to be treated like male journalists, hired to perform challenging roles and paid the same. Here is the collective fight for equity from the gentle stirrings of the late 1800s through the legal battles of the 1970s to the #MeToo movement and today's racial and gender disparities.



May 2024

Not the End of the World: How We Can Be the First Generation to Build a Sustainable Planet (2024) by Hannah Ritchie

Packed with the latest research, practical guidance, and enlightening graphics, this book will make the reader rethink almost everything they have been told about the environment. Ritchie cuts through the noise by outlining what works, what doesn't, and what we urgently need to focus on so we can leave a sustainable planet for future generations.



~ Sarah Gideonse



NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Nominating Committee began meeting in December 2023 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, 2024 - 2027:

- Anne Buening (returning)
- Christy Backley (new)
- Anne Lathrop (new)
- Cheri Rekow (new)

The nominating committee then recruited the following members to serve as at-large members of the nominating committee for 2024-2025:

- Marge Davis
- Beth Sullebarger

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, 2024 to May 31, 2025:

- President: Beth Sullebarger
- Vice President Administration: Laurie Frank
- Vice President Civic Engagement: Cheri Rekow
- Vice President Membership: Nina E. Lewis
- Vice President Programs: Anne Buening
- Secretary: Sharon McCreary
- Treasurer: Marcia Togneri
- Past President: Jeff Dey

Woman’s City Club Board
1979

Board Members remaining and their terms:

- Deborah Mariner Allsop (2022–2025)
- Janet Buening (2019–2025)
- Laurie Frank (2022–2025)
- Nina E. Lewis (2022–2025)
- Jan Seymour (2022–2025)
- Sharon McCreary (2023–2026)
- Marcia Togneri (2023–2026)
- Sue Wilke (2023–2026)

We thank these five board members who are leaving the board for their service:

- Sherri Adams-Davis
- Cathy B. Bailey
- Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
- David Siders
- Aurelia Candie Simmons
- Christa Zielke

Many thanks to the Nominating Committee: Anne Buening, Chair, Deborah Mariner Allsop, David Siders, Marge Davis, and Amy Katzman.

~ Anne Buening, Chair

