



LIGHTING THE FIRE,
LEADING THE WAY,
SINCE 1915

THE BULLETIN

MAY 2024

WCC MAY PUBLIC FORUM LOCAL NEWS: WHY IT MATTERS AND HOW IT'S CHANGING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 AT 7 PM
VIA ZOOM ONLY
[REGISTER HERE FOR THE LINK](#)

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

At WCC's National Speaker Forum in March, NPR's Jenn White spoke passionately about the need for truth, transparency, and trust in journalism. But two other factors are equally important in today's media – technology and timeliness.

Who can you trust to provide accurate and nonbiased reporting in the 24/7 environment of social media and digital platforms? We no longer rely on just the morning newspaper or the evening news. And how have the traditional media of newspapers, television, and radio evolved to remain not only relevant but vital in keeping our community informed?

Join us online on Wednesday, May 8, at 7 pm to hear local media leaders discuss key issues and innovations in journalism. Our panelists include **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. These experienced journalists will update you about the changes and challenges, the new technology and tools for gathering and sharing local news — and answer your questions during the Q & A.

~ Janet Buening

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



Beryl Love,
Executive Editor &
Vice President of
News for the
Cincinnati Enquirer



Ann Thompson,
Digital Media
Producer for CET



Jennifer Merritt,
Deputy Editor/
Digital Editor
for WXXU



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

Friday, May 24

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

**Hilton Garden Inn
Cincinnati Midtown
2145 Dana Avenue
(near I-71 exit)**

Event Price:

**\$55 single each and \$400 for a table of 8
RSVP deadline: Friday, May 17**

Any profits will benefit the Education Award fund.

The Woman’s City Club invites the community, members, and friends to its May 24 Seasongood Luncheon, an event held each year in the spring in honor of Agnes B. Seasongood (1890-1982), a WCC leader and benefactor and community activist. It is an inspiring event as we gather together for a festive lunch to hear a local woman leader and to present education awards to promising young women.

This year’s speaker is Dr. Whitney Gaskins, Associate Dean of Inclusive Excellence and Community Engagement in the University of Cincinnati College of Engineering. She also directs the Gaskins Foundation, which works with community partners to provide opportunities and educational experiences for individuals to enter STEM fields with a special interest in reducing structural obstacles that have traditionally created barriers for marginalized groups to succeed in STEM spaces.

The Seasongood Luncheon is also where WCC presents education awards to civic-minded senior-high-school women to further their education goals. WCC is selecting the young women based on their school recommendations and the essays they write on *Growing into Citizenship: Trusting My Voice and*



**Our speaker:
Dr. Whitney Gaskins**

Making it Heard. The awards are named the Marian A. Spencer Education Awards in honor of the civil rights activist and past president of WCC, who died a few years ago.

We are thrilled that over 60 senior-high-school women have applied for the awards. A committee is evaluating the essays and recommendations to winnow them down, before they select six outstanding women to receive the awards at the luncheon. They will be announced soon.

Come early (with your checkbooks) and bid on a selection of gift baskets. Any profits benefit the Education Awards Fund.

TO RSVP:

- **CLICK HERE FOR THE LINK** to our website page, where you can pay by credit card.
- **SEND A CHECK** payable to Woman's City Club at 103 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219. Be sure to include your name, contact information, number of guests, and meal selection - salmon or vegetarian.
- **USE THE QR CODE** to reach our website page.



~ Susan Noonan, Chair
Seasongood Committee



SPRINGTIME FOR WOMAN'S CITY CLUB ~ A TIME TO CULTIVATE

I think I will always be a Midwesterner, never having lived outside of Ohio. While others flock to Florida and other warm places, I think I've always appreciated the cycle of the seasons, which I would miss if I weren't in a place with summer AND winter. I especially was aware of this when we had a garden and we would clean up the garden for the winter and give the land a chance to rest. Then, as if thanking us for our care, the garden would begin to sprout and blossom in the spring. Now I'm able to take walks and observe the daffodils, tulips, and azaleas as they come alive.

We are in the midst of a busy time of the year. We just held our 30th National Speaker Forum where Jenn White wowed us with a phenomenal presentation at Memorial Hall. The attendance was great, and the reactions were very positive. The Seasongood Luncheon is coming up fast on May 24th. In addition to our Education Award recipients, coming from a pool of 68 entries, Whitney Gaskins, Associate Dean of the University of Cincinnati's College of Engineering and Applied Science, will be our luncheon speaker. If you haven't already, make sure you get tickets to the luncheon! (See page 2 for how to do so.)

Another cycle we're experiencing is the end of the Club's fiscal year and the associated Board year on May 31. My term as President ends on May 31 and I've



been humbled by the experience; though I'll certainly appreciate a little more free time. I won't be far away as I will continue to serve with the board as Past President. In my time on the board and as its president, I have been amazed by the history, the activity, and the scope of the

work Woman's City Club engages in. We are fortunate to be able to do so many things with the help of our many partner organizations and dedicated members. I'm looking forward to seeing what future possibilities and passions we can address in the coming months.

In June, we will have our Annual Meeting, and it will be your chance to help us decide what matters most in the coming year. I'm hoping some of you will step into new roles, serving on committees or the board or volunteering to help with a program or event. We can't do it without you. Let's continue to cultivate something great together!

~ Jeff Dey, President





HAMILTON COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER TOUR ~ APRIL 3

Opened in 1985 to replace the old Workhouse, and with an inmate capacity of 1,240, the County Jail now has a current population of 1,023 men and 159 women – changing daily.

As a follow up to the February forum with Sheriff Charmaine McGuffey, thirteen members and friends started our tour in the lobby hearing about a mural of the old Workhouse where Sheriff McGuffey started as a deputy over 30 years ago! We then proceeded through the jail touring the intake section, medical area, brand-new open dorm, which is a recovery unit for women – riding up and down stairs in the new elevators! The social worker running the recovery unit indicated her thrill to be working with the women trying to recover from substance abuse.

Before McGuffey took over, the jail had been allowed to deteriorate (rated the worst in the state in the previous administration) and now with fresh paint, locks, and addiction, mental health, and recovery programs added, it is rated the best!

The Sheriff, Major, and Captain proudly pointed out the freshly painted walls with graffiti and dirt gone and some of the new locks the jail is in process of installing.

Some of our members who have never been to a jail were chagrined at the small cells, two metal beds, a toilet bowl, and a small bookcase, which are all two



inmates have in their cell. Often they spend many hours a day in the cells with no exercise.

While sitting in one of the empty inmate pods, we heard how often only one officer is in a pod with twenty-plus inmates out of their cells watching TV, playing cards, wandering around. There are too few staff members to supervise inmates in the gym. Jail is much harsher than prisons where inmates go for much longer periods of time but have more opportunities for programs, recreation, and work details. As the Sheriff told us, this is “hard jail.”

Many thanks to the Sheriff for organizing this tour and generously offering her staff for a complete look at all the facets of processing people arrested for alleged crimes into the jail.

~ Susan Noonan





CIVIC ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Engagement, one of the goals of WCC, refers to our vision of engaging citizens in the challenging work of committing to active participation in the creation of policy and programs offering the best quality of life for all. WCC likewise engages our officers and members in that same commitment.

WCC's most critical area of policy for the coming year is supporting and working for the People Not Politicians amendment to the Ohio constitution for the November ballot. The amendment removes elected representatives and officials (the "politicians") from the role of establishing districts for the election of state legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives. We are planning a rally in Fountain Square in early fall to educate the public about the proposed amendment in coordination with many partner organizations. We encourage members to help gather signatures in the meantime. Click to volunteer: <https://citizensnotpoliticians.typeform.com/>

Another important area is working with environmental groups to pass legislation and regulations for a cleaner and healthier planet. As these various issues surface, WCC endeavors to inform our membership of actions they can take to further the work of caring for the Earth. The Environmental Protection Agency is working on an Air Nuisance Rule of a national scope, and Green Umbrella is calling for support for an Ohio legislative action to start a pilot program for creating shared solar power in rural communities.

All civic engagement is not about policy, politics, and endorsements. Your WCC members are also engaging in significant art events highlighting the works of major African American artists that interpret lived experiences and can reach into our souls and bring us together as one family.

Artistically speaking a picture is worth a thousand words.

~ Jan Seymour, VP for Civic Engagement



Left: Candie Simmons, Jan Seymour, and Crystal Kendrick attend the Exhibit of African Modernism at the Taft Museum (Garden Party included, hence the hats).



Above: Jan Seymour and Crystal Kendrick attend Soulful Soiree at the Cincinnati Art Museum with *Passages* exhibit by Whitfield Lovell.



THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM & FUNDRAISER, MARCH 22, 2024

The National Speaker Forum committee hit another home run.

The Forum opened with WCC president Jeff Dey, who welcomed a crowd of 475 people, including 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 Federation of Teachers, Manley Burke, Park National Bank, and 29 co-sponsoring nonprofit organizations. He celebrated all the speakers from the past 30 years, thanked the event committee 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. Dey welcomed Ann Thompson, longtime reporter at WVXU and now Digital Media Producer, for CET, who described Solutions Journalism and discussed Brick by Brick, a new podcast and documentary about affordable housing solutions. 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*. After noting how thrilled she was to be in a room with faces (and not just ears) and acknowledging and thanking members of the local media in attendance, White opened by talking about how tough things are 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." As positions in local media outlets have been whittled away due to the evolution of technology, media have found they can create an environment that delivers what they have decided we want to hear. Algorithms have led to a breakdown in relationships between news and communities. People do not believe the news, the government, the courts, or even each other. White focused her talk on rebuilding the relationship through three fundamentals: truth, trust, and transparency.

White compared transparency in journalism to dining out. When you visit a restaurant, you don't feel the need to see for yourself how the food is sourced and prepared. You care only about having a good meal. If your meal isn't acceptable, you send it back and get a fresh dish. If journalists make a mistake (which, as humans, they do), transparency requires a similar admission and replacement. And, she added, "If the error is loud, the correction cannot be quiet."



Speaker Jenn White

An erosion of trust throughout society has led to a downward trend in confidence in journalism since the 1970s. Recent polls show that 32 percent of Americans do not trust the accuracy of the news they receive. There may well be justification for this skepticism.

When Chicago teenager Laquan McDonald was shot and killed in 2014, a narrative was crafted to defend the shooting. Here, police said, was an enraged black man with a knife who was lunging toward them. He had to be stopped. This story was repeated, despite evidence to the contrary. Cameras show him walking away from the police. Interviews with the people who knew him depict a respectful young man with a sense of humor. Based on posthumous laboratory tests, he was probably experiencing a mental health crisis, but he was not threatening anyone. The lone Chicago police officer who killed McDonald started shooting as soon as he exited his car and shot him 16 times in the next 14 seconds! Imagine the anger and distrust the public had toward the news organizations that continued to repeat the story told by the police. To maintain trust, "the media has to ask itself why we were willing to repeat that story," White said.

Continued on page 7



THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM (CONTINUED)

Because audio and video can be doctored, she said, “It is your job as a journalist to pursue the truth relentlessly. When you’re at a party and someone enters and says it’s raining, how do you verify that statement? Do you ask someone else already in the house whether it’s raining, do you try to find someone who says it’s not raining, or do you open the door, stick your head out, and see if you get wet?”

Truth in journalism includes 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.”

For story ideas, White relies on her producers, who suggest topics, curate a list of contents, and give her the framework. Then she fills in the gaps with research. For instance, if she is interviewing an author, she reads the book, so she has thoughtful questions. “Mainly, I want to be an advocate for you, the listener,” she said. “I never want to present myself as the interviewer who knows all the answers.”

Topics she considers most important relate to how this present time is shaping those who will be voting in 5-10 years. “I’m worried that young people are not ready for what they will inherit,” she says. “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.

After a standing ovation, Beth Sullebarger, Chair of the National Speaker Forum Committee, joined Jenn White on stage for Q&A. A journalism student asked how to keep from burning out in a stressful career. White’s advice was twofold: find a mentor and have a conversation with yourself. “If you’re in a toxic environment, ask yourself ‘Is this the right place for me?’ But before you leave the industry, see if there’s another place that is better suited for you. If you find yourself in a place where you have to choose between a calling and a life, choose your life. You can always come back to your calling, but if you burn out, you have nothing to give to your life or your calling.”

As for what she knows now that she wishes she had known sooner: “I don’t have to erase who I am to do my work. My story can enrich what I do.”

White, the daughter of a minister, is one of seven children. Her love of radio began during her childhood when she’d listen to her father’s tapes of shows like *The Lone Ranger*. Her mother planted the journalism seed when she’d point to the host of a show young Jenn was watching (like Oprah) and say, “You can do that.” And she owes her love of NPR to an older sister who picked her up one day and said, “You’ve got to listen to this show. It’s two brothers who talk about cars.” It was the long-running show, “Car Talk,” that got her hooked!

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.”



The crowd at Memorial Hall.

Continued on page 8



THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM (CONTINUED)

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.

About 200 enjoyed the reception after the presentation with food provided by Catered with Grace. Harriet and Ben Kaufman provided photography for the evening. The event raised approximately \$14,000 to support the operation of the club.

~ Christy Backley and
Beth Sullebarger



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



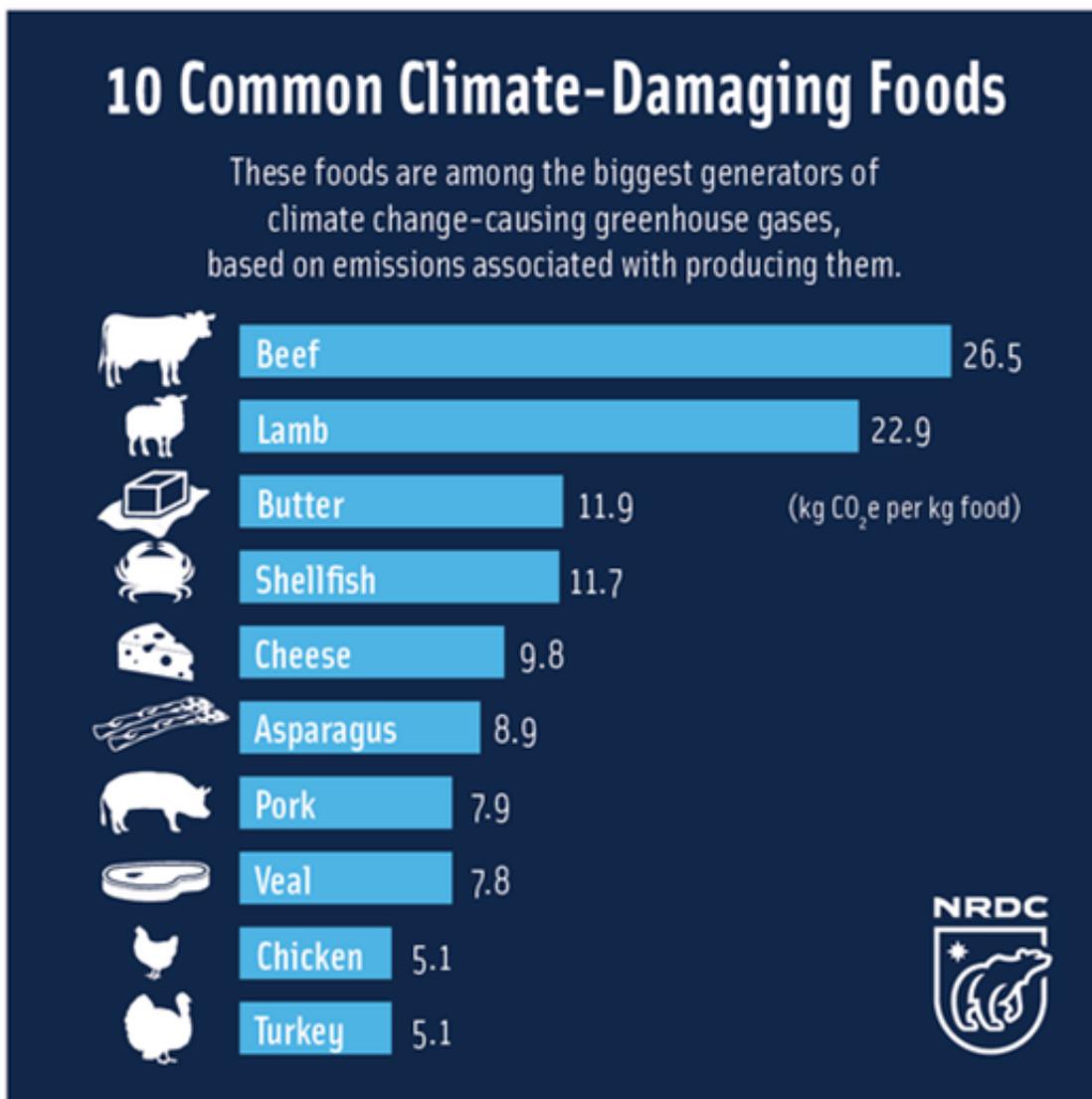
L to R: Cathy Bernardino Bailey, Sherri Adams-Davis and Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney



TIPS FOR EARTH DAY 2024

REDUCE YOUR FOOD FOOTPRINT

- Let's become more thoughtful about the foods we choose to eat..
- Be more intentional about out what we really need and want to eat.
- Throw away less. Our planet, our bodies and our pocketbooks will be grateful for the changes we make.
- Learn how much of your diet is the most demanding on our planet. See chart below.



~ Jeanne Nightingale, Chair
Environmental Action Group



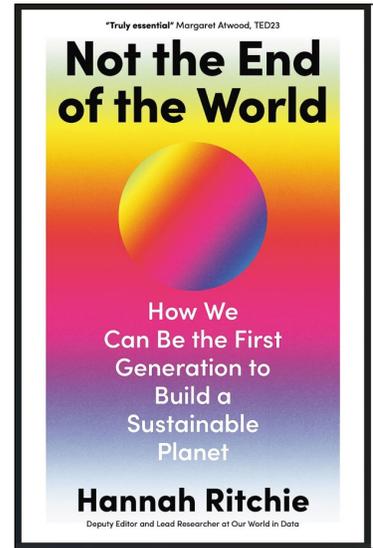
JOIN THE CONVERSATION

May 2024 Book Club

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

By Hannah Ritchie
Saturday, May 25, 10 am

Members and their friends, or others by invitation, are welcome to join the conversation, but you must RSVP to obtain the link:
sarah.gideonse@fuse.net.



This "eye-opening and essential" book (Bill Gates) will transform how you see our biggest environmental problems—and explains how we can solve them.

It's become common to tell kids that they're going to die from climate change. We are constantly bombarded by doomsday headlines that tell us the soil won't be able to support crops, fish will vanish from our oceans, and that we should reconsider having children.

But in this bold, radically hopeful book, data scientist Hannah Ritchie argues that if we zoom out, a very different picture emerges. In fact, the data shows we've made so much progress on these problems that we could be on track to achieve true sustainability for the first time in human history.



Did you know that:

- Carbon emissions per capita are actually down
- Deforestation peaked back in the 1980s
- The air we breathe now is vastly improved from centuries ago
- And more people died from natural disasters a hundred years ago?

Packed with the latest research, practical guidance, and enlightening graphics, this book will make you rethink almost everything you've been told about the environment. *Not the End of the World* will give you the tools to understand our current crisis and make lifestyle changes that actually have an impact. Hannah 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. (Amazon review)

The title comes in audio, e-book, and hardcover at booksellers and in the public library but the library's copies are all out now.



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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CALENDAR - UPCOMING EVENTS

WCC May Public Forum

Wednesday, May 8 ~ See page 1 for more information.

Agnes B. Seasongood Luncheon & WCC Marian A. Spencer Education Awards

Friday, May 24 ~ See page 2 for more information.

WCC Book Club

Saturday, May 25 ~ See page 10 for more information.

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

Finance Committee

Wednesday, May 15, 5 pm
Committee meets monthly on third Wednesday
Contact Marcia Togneri: mtogneri839@gmail.com

Program Committee

Wednesday, May 22, 7 pm
Committee usually meets monthly on fourth Wednesday
but is subject to change. Contact Janet Buening:
wccpresident2018@gmail.com

Social Justice Action Group: Tuesday, May 28, 7 pm
SJAG is now meeting most months on the fourth Tuesday.
Contact David Siders: dbsiders@gmail.com

Communications Committee

Tuesday, May 28, 5 pm
Committee meets monthly on the last Tuesday.
Contact Sarah Gideonse: SarahGideonse@womanscityclub.org

Membership Committee

Wednesday, June 5, 5:30 pm
Committee meets monthly on first Wednesday.
Contact Nina Lewis: eninalewis@gmail.com



CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS: For an updated list of City Council sessions and committee meetings, go to the City website at cincinnati-oh.gov/council/

The monthly *Bulletin* keeps us connected with our membership, our network, and our community. Please submit all material as they are ready to Sarah Gideonse at sarahgideonse@womanscityclub.org.

