



LIGHTING THE FIRE,
LEADING THE WAY,
SINCE 1915

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to educate, empower, and engage the citizens of Greater Cincinnati to act together to promote the common good.

OUR VISION

Our vision is a just, inclusive, thriving, and sustainable community where all are informed and engaged in shaping our shared future.

OUR VALUES

Civic Literacy - Citizen Empowerment
Collaboration - Equity and Justice
Support for Children and Youth

THE BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2024

JOIN US AT THE **2024 FEIST TEA!** **WE'LL SOCIALIZE & CELEBRATE!**

Sunday, December 8, 1:30–3:30 pm
Kennedy Heights Art Center Annex
6620 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati

The 15th Annual Feist Tea Fundraiser will take place on Sunday, December 8. Following a social hour where members can meet new friends and reconnect with old, this festive celebration will offer light fare by Catered with Grace, a memorable slide show to remind us of the past year's programs and activities, and, of course, a celebration of Woman's City Club and its feisty and dedicated members. Join us in recognizing all past presidents and honorees who have served and supported WCC across the years, and in honoring the contributions of this year's Honorees, three lively, determined, and courageous individuals.

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Valerie Daley is currently serving as Senior Program Officer for LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) Greater Cincinnati. She has served on the executive committee as well as various ad-hoc committees of the Cincinnati Association and was recently selected to participate in WE Lead, a 10-month leadership development program for women.



Nina E. Lewis, Ph.D., has worked professionally in the health care, mental health, substance abuse, and social work fields. Currently, she is employed by Hamilton County Department of Job & Family Services in the Office of Systems, Partnerships and Community Solutions, and serves as board vice chair of the Ohio Justice & Policy Center. She is the current WCC vice president of membership.



Jeannette Rost, longtime WCC member, is loyal, responsible, and dedicated to the mission and goals of Woman's City Club. She has served on the board and various committees, including finance and the National Speaker Forum. A lawyer, she is an excellent legal and financial steward.



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



DECEMBER 2024 THOUGHTS

Now That the Election's Over, How Can We Move Forward?

In the aftermath of the November election, many of us are bewildered by the results, concerned about the deep divisions in our society, and wondering how to move forward.

Our book club is reading **How Democracies Die: Challenges and Threats of Modern Democracies** by Daniel Ziblatt and Steven Levitsky (see page 10). Published in 2018, the book seems even more relevant now than it did following the 2016 election. The authors warn that modern democracies more often die incrementally from within rather than by a sudden violent overthrow.

Even with the essentials of free elections, independent media, and three branches of government in place, democracies can succumb to the emergence of populism and authoritarian leaders. Historically, political parties have held their extremists in check, but the threat of retaliation appears to have curtailed that moderating role.

A major danger to democracies is polarization, which seems to be at an all-time high. Our society is being divided by those who emphasize our differences, not just in race and religion but education levels, income, and social issues such as gender identity, rather than

reinforce what we have in common. By demonizing minorities, like the 1.14 percent of Americans who are transgender, we are all dehumanized.



Separation of our populace into extreme opposing camps makes it difficult to come together on anything. But for the good of our society, that's what we must strive for. How do we do it? It would help if our political parties would reform, but while we wait for that to be realized, we must combat social inequalities that lead to polarization. We must be a good neighbor, especially to those who are different, and narrow the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" so that everyone has adequate food, shelter, and safety.

We might feel that the opposition is deplorable, but we must give up toxic partisanship and the politics of grievance. We might feel like quitting, but we need to keep striving for the common good, as Woman's City Club has always done. We must listen and empathize with the other side. Our free and public forums are opportunities for community conversations that can help bridge differences.

~ Beth Sullebarger
President





FORUM ON THE CINCINNATI FUTURES COMMISSION REPORT DRAWS A CROWD

About 95 people attended WCC’s Forum on the Futures Commission Report (FCR) in the Huenefeld Tower Room at the Downtown Main Library on November 13, exceeding expectations. Cheri Rekow, WCC’s VP for Civic Engagement, welcomed the crowd and introduced the moderator, Becca Costello, WVXU’s Local Government Reporter, and the four panelists—Mark Jeffreys, City Council Member; Pete Metz, VP, Civic & Regional Partnerships, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber; Emily Woerner, City Solicitor; and Jerry Newfarmer, former Cincinnati City Manager and retired CEO of Management Partners.

Costello began with a brief overview of the report, which was commissioned about two years ago by Mayor Aftab Pureval to address the city’s long-term fiscal sustainability. For the last two years, the City’s budget has benefited from federal stimulus funding provided in response to the COVID pandemic. Those funds are running out, and the City is facing a deficit, so it needs to consider ways to spend less money, bring in more money, or both. [\(Click here to view the full report.\)](#)

Metz explained that the Mayor asked Jon Moeller, CEO of Procter & Gamble, to form an independent commission to do three things: 1) a careful review of the City’s budget,



2) an analysis of the city’s economic development strategy, and 3) a plan to survey the community and engage with businesses to provide recommendations on how to move forward.

After pointing out the report’s three primary goals: 1) Increase Population; 2) Grow Jobs and 3) Increase Wages and Shrink Wage Disparities, Costello zeroed in on two of the recommendations to raise revenue: 1) a 0.1% earnings tax increase limited to funding economic development, and 2) a 0.05% income tax limited to police and fire service. Both would require a vote of the people. She asked the panel how voters could be convinced to support them.

Jeffreys said there will be a lot more public engagement. Each recommendation needs to be discussed. Some of them are already underway, such as more parking enforcement, increasing parking footprint, and capturing

taxes on ticket resales. The panelists all emphasized the importance of making operations more efficient before seeking additional money from the taxpayers.

Costello noted there is a current income tax dedicated to the support of infrastructure, and that since the public approved the sale of the railroad to fund capital infrastructure projects, the report suggested that money be diverted to the General Fund. Woerner said that any change to a



measure approved by the voters would have to go back to the voters. Metz clarified that the Commission intended that any diversion of the railroad money should not happen until the backlog of infrastructure projects was relieved, which is about ten years out. Jeffreys said that Council had yet not discussed this possibility.

Regarding the proposed tax for Police and Fire services, Costello asked if it is typical for cities to spend such a large proportion of their budget for public safety—66% of Cincinnati’s General Fund, roughly 34% for the Police and roughly 28% for the fire department. This is expected to increase 2.7% per year. Mr. Newfarmer explained that the City’s two primary services are public safety and infrastructure, and it is not uncommon for public safety to require two-thirds of a city budget. Pete Metz said the Report recommends holding down the cost of public safety and looking for cost savings. Jeffreys noted that the City has been losing police to surrounding counties, so it needs to offer competitive salaries. Woerner said it would be difficult for the city to manage a police department knowing that a funding stream might end because it could trigger layoffs.

After noting that Cincinnati is more reliant on income tax revenue than other cities, Costello asked Newfarmer how else to diversify the income stream. Newfarmer replied that

Continued on Page 4



FORUM ON THE CINCINNATI FUTURES COMMISSION REPORT ~continued

an income tax is a good revenue source because it's income-elastic; it goes up when salaries increase, while property tax and sales tax don't swing in the same way.

He added that the idea we are going to grow our way out of the problem, is an illusion. "I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but you can look at data on the rate of growth in the Greater Cincinnati region for the last 30 years and you find that it's pretty stable," and "that's good news!" Most of the growth in this country is in the sunbelt, and such "macro demographic conditions are part of the context in which we make decisions about what we do in Cincinnati." He urged everyone to think about how we can improve the quality of everything we do.

About diversifying the revenue stream, Pete Metz pointed out the proposed trash collection fee as an example. The Commission saw that the city's growth, in terms of people, jobs and wages, is essential to the health of the city but didn't assume that would solve all the City's problems. They projected an increase of 26,000 people, which is a conservative number.

Jeffreys agreed that growth is not the only answer, but it's certainly a part of it. If you take the average resident, for every 1,000 new residents the City gets a \$1 million in revenue just in earnings tax, so that's an important component. 26,000 new residents would bring in \$26 million just in earnings tax.

Next Costello brought up the recommendation of selling public assets. Pete explained the thinking that beyond its core services, the City has assets that might be monetized for other purposes. This could mean the sale or lease of the city's golf courses, many of which are outside the city, and other real estate assets such as parking garages. There was also an idea of CVG to manage Lunken Airport. Woerner explained there are restrictions involved in selling the golf courses, which are self-supporting. The money people pay to play golf can only go back into the golf system, so if you want to unlock that money, you'd have to cease doing golf operations. Also, the funds used to buy properties may have strings attached. Jeffreys added that the City does have some vacant lots it may be able to dispose of.

After a brief Q&A exchange, the forum closed with each panelist responding to the question, "Where do we go from here?"

... people need to understand that local government in Cincinnati, is extraordinarily complex. There are probably about 200 separate discrete programs that the city operates with their own staff... Jerry Newfarmer

Newfarmer commented that some recommendations are "flat off the table because they're not doable. The idea of selling the Cincinnati Water Works was tried and failed; a garbage collection fee (already paid via resident taxes) is probably a non-starter; and other ideas like that that I don't think are going anywhere." He acknowledged the upside of having an outside group looking through the weeds, "but people need to understand that local government in Cincinnati, is extraordinarily complex. There are probably about 200 separate discrete programs that the city operates with their own staff. . .very often drawing on common funding sources with certain operational constraints. . . so if you want to look at efficiencies, you have to look at individual programs."

A common theme for all speakers was that this "nerdy" conversation, if not a magnet for the average citizen, needs to continue in order to solicit feedback from citizens and engender support. The City policy makers and stewards within the administration need to listen and remain open-minded as they lay out a clear roadmap, including short-, medium-, and long-term decisions.

A recording of the event is available online [via this link](#) to the WCC FCR Forum video. We welcome all to share this link with others who were unable to attend so that, as Council deliberates on the FCR in months and years ahead, the event can continue to "educate, empower, and engage the citizens of Greater Cincinnati."

Clearly, the limited time we had to cover 25+ recommendations only scratched the surface, and we didn't get to all of the questions, hence the post-event survey to share ideas for continued FCR engagement. See page 5.

Beth Sullebarger & Cheri Rekow, Contributors



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT NEEDS YOU!

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

We want to know what is important to current (you) WCC members and prospective members. We also would benefit from knowing where you get information on significant issues. With that primary objective in mind, please stop and take the quick three-question survey on our website, and then return to this article to learn more about WCC 2025 Civic Engagement Goals.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8TZDPRT>



Welcome back, and thanks for taking the survey to help the WCC Civic Engagement Committee (CEC) serve you better! Stay tuned for the survey results in the January Bulletin! Meanwhile, we are on a roll.

The CEC is currently focused on multiple activities, consistent with the WCC Strategic Plan (Oct.'24):

- **Informing WCC membership on current legislative initiatives** so that “WCC can engage in nonpartisan advocacy, modeling the importance of civic engagement” aligned with WCC Mission and Values;
- **Establishing Civic Engagement priorities** for WCC membership and Action Groups; and
- **Coordinating Civic Engagement activities** with WCC Committees and Partners.

Toward the first ongoing objective, CEC initiated the **WCC Forum on the Cincinnati Futures Commission Report (FCR): Where Do We Go From Here?**

There will be more on this topic, and many others, but with Forum logistics behind us, we are sinking our teeth into the second objective—to establish priorities, via surveys.

WCC Action Group members are looking for ways to invigorate involvement, and that is where the surveying comes in—to help establish priorities that will better inform action groups (i.e. Social Justice, Education, Environment, fill in the blank), as well as Program and Membership Committees. In addition to gauging interest in outreach efforts via the above December survey link, and the post-FCR Forum survey, CEC will circle back in January to share results and pose additional questions based on feedback.

Finally, the CEC will continue in 2025 to coordinate civic engagement with WCC Committees. For example, the ‘**Contacts’ Data Base** developed for the forum will aid in all future event publicity and sponsor recruitment, including the National Speaker Forum (NSF) featuring Cathy O’Neil (NYT bestselling author of *Weapons of Math Destruction* and *The Shame Machine*). That’s a full plate, but for the final course, CEC is building relationships with partner organizations to leverage resources through joint civic engagement projects.

The networking shall also serve in our quest to study best practices that may benefit the WCC rebranding exploratory committee, a long-range project.

Cheri Rekow
V.P. Civic Engagement





NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM – SAVE THE DATE!

THE 31st NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM

FEATURING

**CATHY O’NEIL,
DATA SCIENTIST AND AUTHOR**

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025



Woman’s City Club is proud to present Catherine (“Cathy”) Helen O’Neil, an American mathematician, data scientist, and author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy*.

The book, published in 2016, has been widely praised and won the Euler Book Prize. *The Boston Globe* described the book as “an urgent critique of . . . the rampant misuse of math in nearly every aspect of our lives.”

O’Neil is a thought leader who explores the realities and dangers of social networking, the consequences of algorithm design, and the defense of human dignity in the context of predatory capitalism. We live in the age of the algorithm, so the decisions that affect our lives—where we go to school, whether we can get a

job or a loan, how much we pay for health insurance—are increasingly being made not by humans, but by machines. In theory, this should lead to greater fairness: Everyone should be judged according to the same rules.

But as O’Neil reveals, the mathematical models being used today are unregulated and uncontestable, even when they’re wrong. Most troubling, they reinforce discrimination—propping up the lucky, punishing the downtrodden, and undermining our democracy in the process. O’Neil has become a whistle-blower when it comes to the world of Big Data.

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

~ Beth Sullebarger, President



National Speaker Forum March 2024 with Jenn White



National Speaker Forum Audience



ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN WELL UNDERWAY

Woman's City Club thanks all those who so generously contributed to our Annual Fund campaign this program year. We salute and celebrate you!

Deborah M. Allsop
Margaret Atterbury
Christy Backley
Annie F. Bennett
Dot Christenson
Marge Davis
Jeff Dey
Carole Donnelly

Laurie Frank
Louise Gomer Bangel
Kathleen Hebbeler
Chara Jackson
Nina Lewis
Michael Maloney
Betsy Mann
Susan Noonan

Alice Schneider
Grace Sferra
Kay Smith-Yount
Janet Simpkinson
Beth Sullebarger
Marcia Togneri
Margaret Tojo
Donna Tukel

As of December 2, we have raised **\$5,936** from 24 donors. This is great progress toward our budget goal of \$10,000, and there's still time to meet that goal before the end of the year.

Membership dues go a long way, but don't cover all our administrative costs so we must raise additional funds through our Annual Fund and special events such as Feist Tea, Seasongood Luncheon, and National Speaker Forum. This enables us to offer all our informative forums free to the public!

Will you help? The easiest and fastest way to donate, on a one-time or monthly basis, is through our website, womanscityclub.org/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. Or set up a recurring gift through your bank or credit card. We appreciate you!

~ Beth Sullebarger
President



WCC RECEIVES BEQUEST FROM LONGTIME MEMBER

WCC recently received a generous bequest of **\$5,000** from the estate of Kathryn (Kathy) Shahani, who died unexpectedly last year at age 77. Born in Arlington, VA, she moved with her parents at the age of 6 to Wyoming, OH, where she attended local schools, graduating from Wyoming High School in 1964.

A musically gifted child, Kathryn excelled in both piano and oboe, and earned a degree in music education from the University of Cincinnati. Mother of three daughters and grandmother of 7 grandchildren, she passed on her love of music and the arts to all of them.



Kathy was compassionate and eager to help a fellow traveler in life. She donated both time and money to many causes, particularly equal access to education and the performing arts. She also championed literacy, voting rights, and the creation of gardens and green spaces.

If you would like to make a planned gift to Woman's City Club, you may specify a dollar amount or a percentage of your residual estate or an asset in your will. Contact WCC Treasurer Marcia Togneri for guidance at mtogneri839@gmail.com.

~ Beth Sullebarger
President



RECENT WCC MEMBER-ONLY EVENTS

Many have asked what the benefits of joining Woman’s City Club are, given that our public forums are free.

To begin with, only members can join different planning and operational committees and “action groups” that work to achieve our mission; their meetings are announced in weekly Updates. There are also other perks exclusively for members and their invited guests. Watch for these member-only events in emails and announcements in the weekly Update. The Membership Committee welcomes suggestions for other member-only activities; contact Nina Lewis, Membership Chair, eninalewis@gmail.com.

OUR RECENT EVENTS MUSEUM TOURS

June 6: Art in Nature tour of Cincinnati Art Museum

WCC member and Cincinnati Art Museum curatorial assistant, Anne Buening, led a group on a delightful tour through the museum, exploring how nature inspires artists and is made use of in the creation of artworks. This was a wonderful opportunity to focus on objects in the collection that often get passed by.

October 10: Early-Twentieth-Century Cincinnati Tour at Cincinnati Art Museum

Anne Buening took a gathering of members to a newly redesigned room, *Early-Twentieth-Century Cincinnati*, in the American Collection and presented about the changes in her usual *tour-de-force* manner. The room’s new blue walls offset the paintings, which have been lowered to ease the reading by people in wheelchairs, children and others. It was good to see the art again like this.

Anne also talked about the changing views of our Indigenous population and how CAM represents them. Although the labels of some artworks were updated in the ‘80s, they are being rewritten with visitor interactions as part of the museum’s new approach to labeling Indigenous art. WCC’s attendees took advantage of this opportunity to share their views and impressions.

After each museum tour, the group adjourned to the café for supper, wine, and lively conversation.

MEMBER SALONS

October 20: *Skele-bration* Sunday Salon

A small crafty group joined together with Anne Buening at her home. She shared her vast collection of holiday craft items and we proceeded to put Halloween decorations together with a lot of her help.



October 22: *Who is an Appalachian?* Virtual Salon

An October virtual salon, “Who is an Appalachian” was held via Zoom. Recent discussions in the news had again focused on Appalachia, *Hillbilly Elegy*, and JD Vance. With people on both sides of the question of whether Vance (from nearby Middletown, Ohio) is actually Appalachian, it seemed timely to discuss what it means to be Appalachian, urban Appalachian, etc., and whether the depictions of any type of Appalachian in the media or in Vance’s book are accurate.

Mike Maloney, convener of the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition, and one of the many contributors to a book called *Appalachian Reckoning* responding to Vance’s book, and Dr. Ashley Hopkins, Professor of Appalachian Studies and Project Director for TRIO Upward Bound, offered their perspectives in an animated group discussion that began with exploring the unique place of Appalachia in American culture and why the region and those who migrated from it matter.

November 17: *Exhale* Salon

Jeff Dey hosted a lively gathering of WCC members and friends to discuss reactions to the election. Whether their candidates won or lost, a great deal of unnecessary ‘heat’ in the recent election cycle at all levels (local through federal) resulted in many feeling alienated from the election process and looking to find ways to reengage. Attendees were able to share their experiences and receive much needed solace from the others in the room, while enjoying some nice refreshments. It was a great chance for members and their friends to become better acquainted.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

WCC continues to host a very active book club that is open to members and their guests. See page 10 to learn more about its current selection, *How Democracies Die*, and to learn the way to join in the conversation.

~ Jeff Dey and Sarah Gideonse



ELISSA YANCEY

Member Profile

Always a writer and storyteller, that’s how Elissa Yancey describes herself. She believes stories run in her blood. “My Mom was a wonderful storyteller,” she said, “and so I came to my life’s work naturally. In high school, I was voted most likely to work for *The New York Times*.”

Earning a BA in English literature and a certificate in Journalism, “which was all that was available at the time at the University of Cincinnati,” her first “paid gig” as a writer and newsroom leader was as editor of *The News Record*, the UC student newspaper.

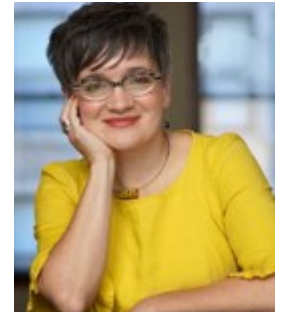
She finished an M.Ed. from Northwestern University “because I felt I needed to know more about how people learn and why certain ideas stick while others don’t. I figured my practice in journalism—newspapers, magazines and copyediting work at first—was the best training for that part of the career I had planned.”

Yancey is a native of Norwood, “a second-generation Urban Appalachian like many of my peers in the 1970s and 80s,” she said. The youngest of six, she was the only sibling to attend only public school, “which is probably why I’m such a fierce public school advocate,” she said.

After freelancing as a health and environmental reporter, Yancey worked at *Cincinnati Magazine* for a decade, then went back to UC to teach journalism for the next 10 years. “But in the end, a professor’s life was not for me,” she said. She left academe to do national consulting work.



Now, she proudly leads *A Picture's Worth*, a nonprofit she cofounded in 2018. “We focus on community-led story initiatives that help balance lopsided media coverage and offer opportunities for community experts to share their stories in ways that are shaped by their knowledge and experiences.”



There are no full-time paid staff yet, but *A Picture's Worth* has done a tremendous amount of work “and published hundreds of stories that would otherwise not have been shared,” she said. “It’s the work I’m most proud of in my life because I can see the short and long-term impact of what we do.”

Yancey has been a WCC member for just two years, joining at the urging of Jeff Dey. “I learned more about the history of the club and the powerful force for good it has been for so long, and I realized what an honor it was to be involved,” she said. She loves the forums and opportunities WCC provides for community members to learn, grow and connect, she said. “I think the more relevant and diverse the topics and speakers can be, the better.” She’s a fan of Feist Tea. “I love the whole concept,” she said. “What a great way to celebrate folks who are doing great work and not afraid to shake things up!”

She has two grown sons and two stepdaughters. “I am engaged to a wonderful visual artist who just hosted his first solo show at age 70,” she said. “My passion is community-building and also dance. I’ve been in the Dancefix community for more than 15 years— it keeps me sane and healthy, and the community is a truly powerful force,” she said.

Yancey spends a lot of time with folks at the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition, where she is a Core member and leads the Communications Committee.

~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers

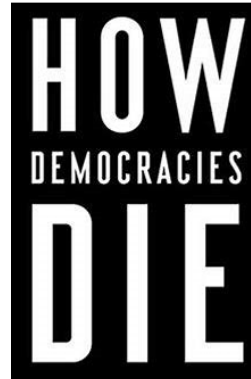


DECEMBER SELECTION

HOW DEMOCRACIES DIE

by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt

Saturday, December 14



Written in 2018, the authors asked whether our democracy was then at risk. Harvard professors Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt had spent more than twenty years studying the breakdown of democracies in Europe and Latin America, and they believed the answer was yes. They argued that democracy no longer ends with a bang—in a revolution or military coup—but with a whimper: the slow, steady weakening of critical institutions, such as the judiciary and the press, and the gradual erosion of longstanding political norms. The good news, they said, is that there are several exit ramps on the road to authoritarianism.

Drawing on decades of research and a wide range of historical and global examples, from 1930s Europe to contemporary Hungary, Turkey, and Venezuela, to the American South during Jim Crow, Levitsky and Ziblatt show how democracies can die.

How Democracies Die is available in Kindle, paperback, and audio formats from booksellers and as hardcover, e-book, and audiobook at the public library. A best-seller, the book was widely praised and translated into 25 languages. It continues to be relevant.

Steven Levitsky is David Rockefeller Professor of Latin American Studies and Professor of Government at Harvard University. Levitsky’s research focuses on Latin America and the developing world. He is the author, most recently, of **Revolution and Dictatorship: The Violent Origins of Durable Authoritarianism** (with Lucan Way) and has written or edited eleven other books.



Daniel Ziblatt is director of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies and Eaton Professor of Government at Harvard University. His research focuses on Europe and the comparative study of democracy. He is the author of the prize-winning **Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy** and other books.



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.

~ Sarah Gideonse



SUSTAINABILITY CENTRAL

COLLEEN McSWIGGAN – a woman with a passion for zero waste and a co-founder of the Cincinnati Recycling & Reuse Hub in Price Hill, established in 2021, has even more ambitious dreams.

The ‘Hub,’ 911 Evans Street, a ‘one stop’ drop-off location for difficult-to-recycle items that has become a busy community facility broadly supported by donors, grants, and volunteers. This year, the Hub will have diverted one million pounds of plastic from the landfill that can’t go into curbside bins.

(<https://www.cincinnati recyclingandreusehub.org/>)

Colleen has set her sights now on creating a 33-acre ‘Sustainability Campus’ on land that used to be an old police gun range in Evendale bordering Lincoln Heights, just off I-75 at the Glendale-Milford exit. Her mission: “To increase the impact of sustainability-related organizations by creating a centrally located campus in Greater Cincinnati where multiple organizations can share space.” Her vision: “to help minimize the worst effects of climate change that hits low-income communities. I want to help repair the damage done for over 80 years to the lives of Lincoln Heights residents because of their proximity to the former gun range, and to provide a place of refuge for community members when climate events (flooding, extreme heat, extreme cold, etc.) disrupt their lives.”

Colleen held her second potential stakeholder meeting Nov. 21 on Zoom, where she outlined her plan. She envisions an educational job training center with a focus on women and minority-owned enterprises, green spaces for community gatherings, a health center with walking trails, food gardens and orchards, greenhouses and pollinator gardens, workshops and classrooms, office rooms and warehouses, a stormwater capture site, a retail shop for distributing refurbished items, an even more operational recycling hub with a ‘resilience hub’ for providing food, water, and shelter in times of climate emergencies. Other ideas: a commercial kitchen for preparing rescued food, an animal rescue and rehabilitation center, manufacture of durable building material from recycled plastic by ByFusion, a biochar kiln, EV chargers, and an aerobic organic digester.



When will this all happen? Colleen aims to present her business plan to the City and Village Councils by end of summer 2025, and complete a brownfield cleanup by 2026. She hopes to have the campus fully operational by 2032. The next brainstorming session will be in January/February at EarthConnection, Mt. St. Joseph University in Delhi, 370 Nebe Road.

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. ~ African Proverb

GREEN TIPS FOR WINTER

1. De-ice driveways responsibly. Choose non-toxic de-icers that don’t contain rock salt or chlorides. Use biodegradable calcium magnesium acetate or potassium acetate.
2. Say no to Styrofoam. Recycle packing peanuts to shipping stores for reuse.
3. The next time you rent a car, rent ‘green.’ Most major car rentals have hybrids in their fleets.
4. Consider giving an organically grown potted plant from a local nursery as a gift, rather than a bunch of cut flowers. The blooms are often grown in greenhouses in far off poor countries, where they overuse local water resources and pesticides.
5. Take part in your local recycling program. Proper sorting is vital to making your recycling efforts meaningful.
6. Collect rainwater in rain barrels, preventing it from washing pollutants off streets into storm drains and waterways.
7. Don’t pre-rinse dishes. Pre-rinsing wastes up to 20 gallons of water. Let an efficient dishwasher do the job. And don’t leave the tap running while you wash dishes by hand or brush your teeth.
8. Did you know you could compost cardboard, paper, tissues, egg cartons, and ash from your fireplace? Their fibers aerate the compost and help the organisms that cause decomposition.

*~Jeanne Nightingale, Chair
Environmental Action Group*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Beth Sullebarger, <i>President</i>	Anne Buening, <i>VP Programs</i>
Laurie Frank, <i>VP Administration</i>	Sharon McCreary, <i>Secretary</i>
Cheri Rekow, <i>VP Civic Engagement</i>	Marcia Togneri, <i>Treasurer</i>
Nina E. Lewis, <i>VP Membership</i>	Jeff Dey, <i>Past President</i>

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Christy Backley	Jan Seymour
Cathy B. Bailey	Sue Wilke
Janet Buening	

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEIST TEA

Sunday, December 8, 1 :30 pm. See page 1 for details.

WCC BOOK CLUB

Saturday, December 14, 10 am. See page 10 for details.

NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM

Friday, April 11, 2025. See page 6 for details.

WCC MEETINGS

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

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

TBA
 Committee meets monthly on the last Tuesday.
 Contact Jeff Dey: wccpresident2022@gmail.com

EDUCATION ACTION GROUP

Thursday, December 5, 5 pm
 Members interested in joining this group may contact Sarah Gideonse, chair, at sarah.gideonse@fuse.net

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 18, 7 pm
 Committee usually meets monthly on third Wednesday.
 Contact Marcia Togneri: mtogneri839@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 4, 5:30 pm
 Committee meets monthly on first Wednesday.
 Contact Nina Lewis: eninalewis@gmail.com

NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM COMMITTEE

Monday, December 9, 4:30 pm
 Contact Beth Sullebarger: wccpresident2020@gmail.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 18, 5:30 pm
 Committee usually meets monthly on fourth Wednesday
 Contact Anne Buening: arbuening@yahoo.ie

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

TBA: Contact David Siders: dbsiders@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 materials as they are ready to Jeff Dey at wccpresident2022@gmail.com

