

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 Quality of Life

IN THIS ISSUE

WCC January Forum
President's Message2-3
WCC Annual Feist Tea4-7
2025 National Speaker Forum8
Annual Fundg
Civic Engagement
Member Profile10
WCC Book Club10
Environmental Action Group11
WCC Calendar12

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

THE BULLETIN

JANUARY 2025

JANUARY FORUM: SOCIAL SHIFTS IN GREATER CINCINNATI

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 7 PM VIA ZOOM

On January 23, WCC will present a preview in webinar format of the upcoming release of the Social Areas of Cincinnati: An Analysis of Social Needs, Sixth Edition. The program will focus on demographic changes that have occurred in Cincinnati, its neighborhoods and the surrounding metropolis since 1970 based on data from the US Census.



Mike Maloney

Presenters will include Michael Maloney of the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition (UACC), Christopher Auffrey of the School of Planning, and Peter Petronio of Children's Hospital's Innovations for Program Evaluation. Cincinnati Vice Mayor Jan-Michael Kearney and Hamilton County Commissioner, Denise Driehaus, will serve as a respondents.

To register for Zoom, click here.



Chris Auffrey

Attendees will hear about trends in socioeconomic data that are shaping our region including the shift of poverty to the west, suburbanization, racial and gender equity concerns, and the "return to the city" movement, and how such trends affect the work of organizations that serve the community.



Peter Petronio

This is a unique opportunity – we are not aware of any other city that has such a study covering six census decades.

Since the 1970s, Social Areas of Cincinnati has been Cincinnati's most widely used demographic study. First published by the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission in 1974, it has since been sponsored by the UC School of Planning, the Urban Appalachian Council and its successor organization, the UACC, the Institute for Policy Research and United Way and more recently Interact for Health and Innovations.



Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

Past editions have been used by Cincinnati institutions to develop sites for recreation centers and a senior center to raise millions of dollars for health and human services to fund the \$6 million Empowerment Zone project, and to evaluate programs such as Preschool Promise and Kindergarten programs.



Denise Driehaus



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS: TIME FOR A REFRESH

The New Year is a time to take stock of how we've performed in the last year and think about what and how we could do better. According to Merriam-Webster, people have made New Year's resolutions since at least the early 19th century, and perhaps earlier. An entry on January 2, 1671, in the diary of a Scottish gentlewoman and writer, Anne Halkett, records pledges, such as "I will not offend any more," under the heading Resolutions." This reflects that the practice of New Year's Resolutions was in use at the time, even if people didn't call them that.

It's still quite common to pledge that in the coming year we will lose weight, not drink as much, get our finances in order, or leave behind any number of bad habits. Anyone who works at a gym knows that in January there is a surge of new members who vow to work off the extra pounds they accumulated over the holidays. Personal improvement is a worthy goal, but what can we do to improve our community? The new year can be a time when we recommit ourselves to civic engagement.

In a recent guest essay in *The New York Times* (Dec. 24, 2024), Robert Rubin, the former US Treasury Secretary, urged, "If You're Worried about the Future of Our Country, Do Something About it." He advised that "involvement in issues beyond the immediate scope of one's personal life and work, undertaken for the greater good, however one defines it, is more important than ever." And in doing so, you can benefit, along

with the community.
As Rubin said, engagement with the world makes life vastly more interesting, meaningful and enjoyable."



In the new year, why not resolve to get more active

in Woman's City Club? We offer lots of ways for you to get involved—become a member, attend our educational forums, enjoy our member salons, read our weekly Updates and Bulletins, join a committee, monitor what's going on with an issue, write a letter to your elected officials, write a letter to the editor, help recruit sponsors for our National Speaker Forum, join our board of trustees, help raise money, and on and on.

And what can WCC pledge to do? You could think of our newly refreshed Mission Statement as a New Year's Resolution—a statement of what we intend to do and what values we will uphold. A month ago, thanks to wordsmithing by Christy Backley, Janet Buening, Sarah Gideonse, and myself, the WCC board of trustees approved an updated Mission Statement, (see page three), which I'm proud to share with you. It reaffirms how our organization will serve its members and the Greater Cincinnati community with a renewed emphasis on civic literacy, action, and inclusion.

~ Beth Sullebarger, President



MISSION

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

VISION

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

VALUES

Our values are civic literacy, citizen empowerment, collaboration, equity and justice, support for children and youth, and a good quality of life for all.

Civic Literacy: WCC educates the community through nonpartisan public forums, models the democratic process through dialogue and debate, and supports good government.

Citizen Empowerment: WCC fosters shared leadership through collaboration and encourages all voices to be more powerfully heard in public decision-making.

Collaboration: WCC serves as a convener, partner, and catalyst for collaborative action.

Equity and Justice: WCC promotes social, economic, and environmental justice through advocacy and service, championing the rights of those facing inequities.

Support for Children and Youth: WCC supports excellence in public education and advocates for policies, resources, and services that improve children's lives and prepare them for future success.

Quality of Life: WCC strives for a well-governed city with welcoming civic spaces; a regional transportation system; safe and resilient neighborhoods; high-quality affordable housing; active healthy citizens; and vibrant arts.



From 2005, a photo from the 90th Anniversary of Woman's City Club. And now in 2025, we are still going strong.

The 15th Annual Feist Tea Fundraiser was held on Sunday, December 8, 2024. And, what a wonderful event it was! All attendees could feel the synergy and air of excitement as soon as they entered the banquet room. This lively, interactive, and relaxed celebration of this year's feisty honorees as well as previous honorees, past presidents, and new members, was attended by 70 members and friends. Opened with an enjoyable social hour, the afternoon tea offered light fare catered by Catered with Grace and a memorable slide show compiled by Jeff Dey, reminding us of this past year's wonderful programs and activities.

WCC member and founder of A Picture's Worth, Elissa Yancey, served as emcee for the event and provided lively transitions from speaker to speaker, engaging attendees in light banter throughout.



Elissa Yancey, center

Special thanks go to Sister Judy Tensing and Mark Shannon, who, once again, provided tablecloths, napkins, and years of support and wisdom.

Three remarkable and feisty individuals, who embody the club's mission to educate, empower, and engage, were honored during the afternoon's event. Here are some highlights of the tribute to the 2024 honorees Valerie Daley, Nina E. Lewis, and Jeanette Rost.

VALERIE DALEY

The superlatives kept on coming in Rhonda Holyfield-Mangieri's nomination of Feist Tea honoree Valerie Daley. "The first time I met her," she said, "I was intrigued by this person who listened intently to others and then presented creative solutions for consideration. She was never intimidating, pompous, or aggressive. I was moved by her intellect, her passion, and her wealth of information and impressed with her ability to enlist others to support an initiative."



Valerie Daley (L) and Rhonda Holyfield-Mangieri

One of these initiatives involved working with AARP's Age-Friendly Housing Committee to put forth an Accessory Dwelling Unit proposal to the City of Cincinnati. She secured a slot to present at the Mayor's Housing Summit and worked with the committee to put together a panel of experts.

Valerie currently serves as Senior Program Officer, LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) Greater Cincinnati. Most of her work supports existing homeowners and builds opportunities for new homeownership. In addition to ADUs, she worked for two years with community partners to launch the Home Repair Loan Program designed to improve the growth of Black homeownership. Rhonda calls Valerie "a visionary with resilience", who knows how to handle the challenges of finding lending partners, shifting focus, developing and then implementing a process for homeowners from application through construction, identifying additional community partners, and seeking grant support.

The Cincinnatus Association asked Valerie to serve as vice chair of the Inclusion Panel; in June 2024 she was elected to serve as director at large on the organization's executive committee. Valerie was also selected to participate in the 2023 Class 18 of WE Lead, the flagship leadership development program of its Woman Excel platform.

Continued on Page 5

Valerie credits her successes in accomplishing initiatives to several factors: she lets people know that she has their best interest in mind; she believes in fairness and equality; she is practical; she is determined; and she protects her point of view while working to find ways to do things better.

She challenges us to engage in small acts of community, finding the one that allows each of us to exercise our passions, find our moments of joy, and still serve others. Rhonda believes that when someone encounters a talent like Valerie, we must embrace the talent and elevate the person so that others see and value what she brings to humanity." She excites me and encourages me, and gives me hope for the future, while displaying a powerful blend of personal humility and indomitable will." Feisty, indeed!



Dr. Nina E. Lewis, center

DR. NINA E. LEWIS

When nominator Deborah Allsop called Nina Lewis to tell her she'd been selected as a 2024 Feist Tea honoree, Nina's response was, "What? Who? I'm not worthy." Deborah's most obvious reply was, "Oh yes, you are." Having known each other since they were in kindergarten Deborah already knew what the rest of the world has come to know.

In Deborah's words, Nina is a "gentle giant, who embodies the mission of WCC." She brings people to the table in a collaborative, but forceful, way, and challenges everyone around her to use their own gifts to promote the common good.

Just what does that term "common good" mean? Something different to everyone? Recently, WCC board members were discussing the organization's mission statement: Our mission is to educate, empower, and engage the citizens of Greater Cincinnati to act together to promote the common good. Instantly, and without solicitation, Nina, current vice president for membership, researched the meaning of the term to help board members reach consensus.

Nina holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Oberlin College, a Master of Social Work from Simmons College, a Master of Health Services Administration from Xavier University, and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies from the Union Institute and University. She has worked in the fields of social work, health care, mental health, and substance abuse. In addition to being a licensed in several areas of social work and counseling, Nina holds certifications in trauma management, health center governance, and marriage and family therapy. 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 also WCC vice president for membership.

In the past, Nina has served as chair of Health Care Connections and the diversity committee of the board of Hospice of Cincinnati.



Dr. Nina E. Lewis, center, with her grandsons and WCC member, Sharon McCreary

In 2022 Nina received the prestigious statewide lifetime achievement award from the National Association of Social Workers, Ohio Chapter, and in 2024 she received the Minette Cooper Problem Solving Award at the

Regional Police Accountability and Public Safety Conference.

Continued on Page 6

In her typical calm and articulate style, Nina accepted the honor with "gratitude in my heart," noting that she was deeply humbled by the recognition of her contribution and commitment to servant leadership; acknowledging the contributions of her ancestors who faced restrictive lives; and thanking all who came before her who encouraged her to take on responsibilities she didn't know she could carry, step into roles she never imagined she could fulfill, and rise to challenges she didn't believe she could achieve. WCC is proud to honor Dr. Nina Lewis for being a living example of what feistiness can do.



Jeanette Rost, Honoree

JEANETTE ROST

Jeanette Hanna Rost became a lawyer to show someone she could. A government teacher at Madeira High School, she had a BA in history from Transylvania University in Lexington and an MA in English History from the University of Kentucky. One day she was playing bridge with her husband, Barry, and another couple. "I kept saying 'If I had it all to do over, I'd like to be a lawyer." The husband of the couple said, 'Sure, you would." She passed the LSAT test and promptly enrolled in the University of Cincinnati Law School and earned her JD in 1980. She had a sole practice in civil law for 22 years, working more when her children were older before retiring from lawyering.

Born in Lexington, Kentucky, Rost came to Cincinnati in 1966 for that job in Madeira. She taught for a year in Lexington before going to graduate school. Today she lives in Blue Ash and has a large contingency of relatives and friends who saw her honored as a 2024 WCC Feisty woman.

She and her husband have lived in Blue Ash for 17 years and have two children – a son, Brad, and daughter, Karen. Three grandchildren, two boys and a girl, are her son's. She wanted him to have five. He disagreed.

Rost credits her mother with her feistiness. Her mother told her "Being a female is not a debilitating condition." She took that to heart.

She joined WCC the year Terry Gross was the National Speaker. She was elected to the board, serving many years, including three as Treasurer and also as Vice President of Administration. When she was Treasurer,

she helped start the finance committee. Still a member of the National Speaker committee, she was its chair for five years.



Jeanette Rost, center, with her son and daughter-in-law.

Proud of the club's civic achievements over the years, she

said, "It's done a lot. When someone comes up with a need, a member steps forward and says, 'I can do that." She anticipates many more achievements to come.

On the day she was interviewed for this profile, she was baking cookies with a granddaughter, proving she has a domestic streak with all her intellect. The next day she baked with the grandsons. She said her hobbies are reading, bridge, and grandkids.

On behalf of the Feist Tea Committee, we thank all of you who attended and supported the tea and the honorees. Your generous donations, in honor of these remarkable individuals and the mission and vision of the WCC, serve to support the ongoing work, programs, and operations of the Woman's City Club.

~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers, Christy Backley, and Laurie Frank

More pictures on Page 7



Deborah Mariner Allsop addressing the crowd.



Nina E. Lewis, honoree (L) with Jeanne Nightingale



Jeanette Rost with her family



(L-R) Cathy B. Bailey, Beth Sullebarger WCC President, and Lucy Ward



(L-R) Denise Revely, Doris Jackson and Edna Keown



Laurie Frank, Feist Tea Chair (L) with Cheryl Meadows and Deborah Mariner Allsop



WCC Members Jeff Dey (L) and Francie Pepper



(L-R) Elissa Yancey, Deborah Mariner Allsop and Nina E. Lewis, honoree.

THE 31st NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM FEATURING

CATHY O'NEIL,
DATA SCIENTIST AND AUTHOR
FRIDAY ~ APRIL 11, 2015
7 PM ~ MEMORIAL HALL



Woman's City Club is proud to present
Cathy 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. Here are some reviews:

"This is a manual for the twenty-first-century citizen, and it succeeds where other Big Data accounts have failed—it is accessible and refreshingly critical and feels relevant and urgent."

Financial Times

"O'Neil's knowledge of the power and risks of mathematical models, coupled with a gift for analogy, makes her one of the most valuable observers of the continuing weaponization of Big Data."

New York Times Book Review

"An urgent critique of . . . the rampant misuse of math in nearly every aspect of our lives."

Boston Globe

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 computers. In theory, this should lead to greater fairness, but as O'Neil reveals, the mathematical models being used today are unregulated and uncontestable, even when they're wrong. They can 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 information on how to buy tickets, along with opportunities for sponsorship and other ways to support the National Speaker Forum, coming soon.



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!

Jo-Ann Huff AlbersJennifer FunkMary OsterbrookDeborah Mariner AllsopSarah GideonseFrancie PepperMargaret AtterburyJudy GreenCheri RekowChristy BackleyNancy HenryAlice SchneiderCathy B. BaileyKathleen HebbelerGrace Sferra

Annie F. Bennett Chara Jackson Aurelia Candie Simmons

Janet Buening Edna Keown Kay Smith-Yount Dot Christenson Anne Lathrop Janet Simpkinson Marge Davis Nina E. Lewis Beth Sullebarger Jeff Dey Michael Maloney Marcia Togneri Carole Donnelly Betsy Mann Margaret Tojo Linda Fabe Donna Tukel Sharon McCreary Rachel Foster Susan Noonan Dan Zavon Laurie Frank

As of January 8, we have raised \$8311 from 43 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



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Happy New Year and a big thanks to the 30+ individuals who took the Civic Engagement survey that was linked in the WCC December Bulletin, and a WCC recent update.

The survey is still open-- until **Friday, January 17, 2025,** so if you didn't have time for questionnaires over the holiday, you can still access the short 3-question survey at this **LINK**.

We value your input that will substantively inform the direction of our action groups in 2025!



~ Cheri Rekow, VP-Civic Engagement



What brought Southern Californian Jennifer Funk to Cincinnati? "A story about a boy ..." You can ask her to explain.

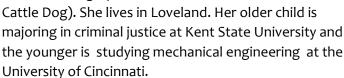
WCC member, Jennifer Funk, has a B.A. in economics from California State Fullerton and an M.B.A. from CSU Long Beach and holds CMA designation (Certified Investment Management Analyst). So, it isn't a surprise that she may be replacing Marcia Togneri as WCC treasurer. The club obviously wants to take advantage of her skills and talent.

Her paid work is with Skylight Financial Group. Describing her business philosophy, Funk said, "My goal is to provide families and business owners with assistance in building their financial freedom. I have the skills, knowledge and experience required to help meet my client's established goals. My personal goal is to become a lifetime resource for each and every client."

She joined WCC a year ago "to get involved in issues that are important to the community and believes

WCC should be a larger presence and do more "to get people to know who we are and what we stand for."

Funk is a single mother with two children and "a wonderful dog" (Australian



A former board president of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, she still serves on an orchestra committee. She was active with Boy Scouts until her younger son aged out. Reading historical and nonfiction books, traveling and history are her hobbies. "What I am passionate about? Environmental and community issues," she said, commenting that she has enjoyed the WCC book club.

~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers



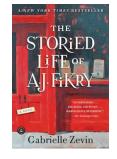
WCC BOOKCLUB ~ JOIN THE CONVERSATION

JANUARY SELECTION

THE STORIED LIFE OF A.J.FIKRY

By Gabrielle Zevin

Saturday, January 18 10 am via Zoom



A.J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. But when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over—and see everything anew.

The Storied Life is available from booksellers in paperback, audiobook, and eBook. The public library has copies in hardcover, large print, e-Book, and audiobook CD. Get in line for the downloadable audiobooks.

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



WCC & SIERRA CLUB MIAMI GROUP present



A SMART TRASH PROGRAM FOR CINCINNATI ~ WHY DO WE NEED IT?

Monday, February 3 ~ 7-8:30 pm ~ In person and via Zoom

Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, Geier Room 103 William Howard Taft Rd, Cincinnati



With speakers:

Larry Falkin, Former Director, Cincinnati's Office of Environment & Sustainability **Bob Gedert**, Former President, National Recycling Coalition



The average Cincinnati household spends more than \$200 per year on trash disposal. Yet many Cincinnatians think trash collection is free because they pay for it through their taxes, not as a separate bill.



Bob Gedert

Trash pickup costs residents and the City more than it should. Paying by volume (like you pay for electricity, water, groceries, etc.) provides households with an incentive to recycle more while placing less waste in the landfill.

Why not establish a Smart Trash Fee? We could save money, improve services, create jobs, stimulate the local economy, reduce landfill dependence, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Free parking behind the church. Join us at 6:30 pm for a Meet & Greet. Please register in advance for the meeting: CLICK HERE.



EARTH-FRIENDLY RESOLUTIONS FOR 2025

- 1. Vow to be a Conscientious Consumer. Everything we buy has a direct impact on the environment.
- 2. Vote with your dollar. It's one of the best ways to enact change.
- 3. Buy locally. The closer you are to the source of the product the easier it is to estimate its ecological footprint.
- 4. Buy only what you need, and buy the best, most eco-friendly items available.
- 5. Don't let trends fill up your home with useless purchases.
- 6. Before buying a product, ask yourself the following questions:
 - How was it made?
 - Did its manufacturer produce pollution?
 - Does it use too much energy?
 - Can its packaging be recycled?
 - Does its availability here mean a depletion of resources elsewhere?
- ~ From 365 Ways to Save the Earth: New & Revised Edition by Philippe Bourseiller

~Jeanne Nightingale, Chair **Environmental Action Group**



103 WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT ROAD, CINCINNATI OHIO 45219

womanscityclub@gmail.com 513-751-0100

www.WomansCityClub.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BOARD MEMBERS

Beth Sullebarger, President Laurie Frank, VP Administration Cheri Rekow, VP Civic Engagement Nina E. Lewis, VP Membership Anne Buening, VP Programs Sharon McCreary, Secretary Marcia Togneri, Treasurer Jeff Dey, Past President Deborah Mariner Allsop Christy Backley Cathy B. Bailey

Anne Lathrop Jan Seymour Sue Wilke

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

WCC BOOK CLUB

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

NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM

Friday, April 11. See page 8 for details.

WCC MEETINGS

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

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 28, 5 pm Committee meets monthly on the last Tuesday. Contact Jeff Dey: wccpresident2022@gmail.com EDUCATION ACTION GROUP

Thursday, January 9, 5 pm

Committee meets monthly on first Thursday.

Contact: sarah.gideonse@fuse.net

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 15, 7 pm

Committee monthly on third Wednesday.

Contact Marcia Togneri: mtogneri839@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 8, 5:30 pm

Committee meets monthly on first Wednesday.

Contact Nina Lewis: eninalewis@gmail.com

NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM COMMITTEE

Monday, January 13, 4:30 pm

Contact Beth Sullebarger: wccpresident2020@gmail.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 15, 5:30 pm

Committee 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





