

**LIGHTING THE FIRE
LEADING THE WAY
SINCE 1915**

OUR MISSION

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

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



JOIN US

PUBLIC FORUM

ARTS AND ACTIVISM: USING ART TO PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY GROWTH

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 | 7-8:00 PM

Via Zoom

On March 10, Gina Belafonte will speak at our National Speaker Forum on the theme of Arts and Activism. Gina is the head of Sankofa.org, a California-based foundation that uses art, culture, and media to address injustice and create social change, enlisting artists, performers, and prominent individuals to deliver messages of moral and political consequence.

As a lead-in to Gina's presentation, WCC wants to shine a light on local creatives who use arts and activism for social change in Cincinnati. Our panel will include:

- Toilynn O'Neal Turner, Robert O'Neal Multicultural Arts Center
- Kathy Wade, Learning Through Art
- Elissa Yancey, A Picture's Worth

To **Toilynn O'Neal Turner**, "Everything that art does makes change and impact, and that's what activism does." She heads the Robert O'Neal Multicultural Arts Center (ROMAC), which was established in 2019 to celebrate African and African American arts, history and culture. To be located in the restored Regal Theater in the West End, the ROMAC will serve as a hub for African and African American culture and arts by providing programs, information, and services to multicultural arts groups. Previously, Toilynn served as Education Coordinator for Community Engagement at the Cincinnati Art Museum, ran a downtown art gallery, and worked as a diversity trainer and a program coordinator for Fountain Square. *(Continued on page 3)*



SCAN TO RSVP



FINDING OUR FIRE

As we begin the new year, it is time to commit ourselves anew to inform ourselves and speak out on all the issues that confront our Cincinnati community—budget deficits, hunger, housing, health, discrimination, and more. Sometimes it seems overwhelming, but together we can make a difference by pulling together and combining our voices.

I am inspired by what Jody Grundy said in her remarks after being recognized as a Feisty Woman. She talked about fear, fire, fight, family, and friends. At some time, all of us face fear in our personal and public lives—the fear that we aren't up to a task, that we can't find the right words, that we can't succeed. In my own life, I have struggled with a fear of public speaking, of performing alone on stage, or that I won't be taken seriously by people in power.

How do we overcome this fear? Jody talked about fire in the belly—that force that commands us to speak—and I think she's right. Many of us feel a sense of outrage at injustice, a deep need to right wrongs, and idealism that impels us to make the world a better place. This is what gives us the drive to overcome fear. As Jody said, fire is the passion that pushes us from fear to fearless. In my own life, this passion has meant forcing myself to do the things I'm afraid of because of desire to achieve a greater goal. You can't be president of an organization without public speaking, so I have done this repeatedly, and the more I do it, the less scary it gets.

Once we overcome our fear, we're able to fight—to give “full-throated voice to our values in a

“Fire is the passion that pushes us from fear to fearless.”

particular instance,” as Jody said. “Fire leads inexorably to fighting for that value or a cause. Fear may rise again, telling us it's not possible, too scary, I'm not able.” Overcoming our fears enables us to fight for what we want to achieve. I think about what patriots endured during the American war for independence—years of hardship, disease, death—but we fought to be free of tyranny and unfair treatment and we finally succeeded.

To do that, we need our friends and family as allies. When the task is great, we need to band together for greater strength. By coming together, we create a community of friends with a louder voice and a stronger force. This is what provides the power to make advocacy succeed. In my own life, I think about the petition drives I've been involved in during the last few years. The number of signatures required, say 700,000, seemed impossible. I was able to collect just a small portion of that, but by combining the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, the goal was met. It took all of us.

Thanks to all of you who are inspired to join with Woman's City Club as we meet the challenges of the new year—to overcome our fears, find our fire, and fight for right in the community of our friends and family.

BETH SULLEBARGER
PRESIDENT



WCC TO PRESENT A BOTHER TIMELY TOPIC IN FEBRUARY

WISeR vs. SMARTER

In November 2025, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMC) announced it will launch a six-state pilot project, effective January 2026, to cut Medicare, using AI for pre-authorization. The model is referred to as WISeR (Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction), which will inevitably overrule a doctor's scripts for medically necessary treatment to cut costs. Read more about concerns [HERE](#).

In response, congressional representatives introduced a bill to repeal the WISeR model. [HR Bill 5940](#), aka [SMARTER](#) (Streamlined Medical Approvals for Timely, Efficient Recovery) Care Act is currently in committee. Additionally, Representative Landsman introduced [HR Bill 6361](#), to ban AI denials in the Medicare Act.

Look for date, time, and registration details for the virtual **February Public Forum** in future issues of the *WCC Weekly Updates*. Then you can join our panel of experts, who will explain what lawmakers are doing, and how the AI authorization for Medicare claims will impact everyone, not just those over 65.



ARTS AND ACTIVISM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kathy Wade is an award-winning international jazz entertainer, producer, CEO, and bridge-builder in the community. Kathy co-founded Learning Through Art, Inc., (LTA) which has built community through art and impacted over one million participants for more than three decades. Learning Through Art's driving mission is to provide quality performing arts programs in support of arts integrated education, literacy, community development and engagement—encouraging multicultural awareness and understanding. LTA's programs seek to build bridges, break down barriers, and bring neighbors and neighborhoods together in celebration of the rich mosaic beauty of our global multicultural region.

Elissa Yancey, president and co-founder of A Picture's Worth (APW), is a lifelong learner, leader and educator. APW is a nonprofit that champions

and helps spark narrative change through storytelling. APW works with community partners, nonprofits, educators and businesses to bridge divides created and sustained by traditional media models and deficit-framed narratives. Elissa's background in journalism and education and has led her on a rich career journey through corporate and nonprofit America. She is an experienced writer and editor, serving in top roles in and outside of academia. Co-founding APW enabled her to marry her passions for creative disruption of outdated systems, equity, community engagement and, through this work, to spark narrative change.

To register, scan the QR Code on page 1, call (513) 751-0100 or email wcc@womanscityclub.org.



ARTS AND ACTIVISM: THE BELAFONTE LEGACY

BETH SULLEBARGER
AND CHERI REKOW

Why should you be interested? Gina Belafonte has spent her life at the intersection of arts and activism, that she calls, “activism.” As Co-Founder and Executive Director of Sankofa, she embodies her father Harry Belafonte’s work to enlist today’s most celebrated artists and influential individuals, in collaboration with grassroots partners, to elevate the voices of the disenfranchised and promote peace, justice, and quality, as well as cultural and civic engagement.

In these divisive times, Gina has the great ability to find common ground with people of opposing views. She proved it in a challenging conversation with conservative pundit Anne Coulter in 2019 in which Gina calmly steered them to agreement on multiple fronts: raising minimum wage, incarceration, lack of trade skills and arts in education, teenage unemployment, and more.

We are all more comfortable talking with like-minded people and frustrated with those of opposing views that make actionable solutions to problems difficult to achieve. Even more troublesome are those who are asleep at the wheel in a time when Gina emphasizes that “everybody in this moment needs to be political.” She leads by example when it comes to civil but effective activism.

Gina has a talent for bringing people together for common causes such as voting rights, mass incarceration, poverty and economic parity. Her vision draws on community-building to focus on the most pressing issues of our time and realize positive change. We can all learn from her example and the legacy that she carries on.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

**PRESENTING GINA BELAFONTE
SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST,
ACTRESS, AND PRODUCER**

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Memorial Hall

1225 Elm Street - Cincinnati

Gina’s arts and activism initiatives include directing the award-winning hip-hop spoken word musical *Lyrics From Lockdown*, which addresses mistaken identity, mass incarceration, and police brutality, and producing the Many Rivers to Cross Social Justice Arts and Music Festival, uniting 40 artists and 50 social justice organizations to center voting rights, mass incarceration, and poverty.

The National Speaker Forum is WCC’s biggest fundraiser of the year. Tickets for the presentation remain just \$50. For \$150, you may also attend a private VIP Reception with the speaker after her talk. Get your tickets through the Memorial Hall website (link below) and bring your friends.

<https://www.memorialhallotr.com/cincinnati-shows/gina-belafonte-on-arts-activism/>

If you scroll down on the event page and click on “Underwriter,” you can support the event at higher levels that include listing in the event program. You may also call the box office at (513) 977-8838. Please do not send checks to the WCC office for tickets unless you’re a sponsoring organization. If you cannot attend, why not make a tax-deductible donation to WCC to help cover the cost of the Forum? You will be listed in the program and *Bulletin* as a Donor.



ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FEIST TEA

CONTRIBUTORS - JO-ANN ALBERS, CHRISTY BACKLEY,
SARAH GIDEONSE, BETH SULLEBARGER
PHOTO CREDIT - HARRIET KAUFMAN

On December 7, 54 members and guests enjoyed a festive afternoon at the Kennedy Heights Art Center Annex. We met new friends and visited with old, enjoyed a 2025 retrospective slide show created by Jeff Dey, and savored delicious treats provided once again by WCC favorite Catered by Grace, with Mike Maloney presiding over libations. We then honored three remarkable and feisty women who embody the club's mission to educate, empower, and engage.

And speaking of engaging...emcee Elissa Yancey did whatever she does that is so good and then turned the program over to WCC President Beth Sullebarger for a short history of the club. Beth recognized past presidents in the room—Janet Buening, Jeff Dey, Sarah Gideonse, and Alice Schneider—thanking them for their continued service. She also took a moment to remember Stephanie Stoller, a longtime WCC member who recently passed away.

Then it was time to introduce the honorees. Honoree **Jody Grundy** has made the world a better place in many ways, according to nominator Beth Sullebarger. As an activist and



community organizer, Jody has fought for social justice

and environmental protection her entire adult life. She has effectively advocated for farm labor, sustainable agriculture, domestic violence prevention, and preservation of our threatened tree canopy.

Her deep concern about the way food is produced, the

economic viability of small farms, and preservation of farmland led her to form Rural Resources, whose mission addressed the interrelationship of food, farm, and land issues across the entire country. Locally, dialogue with farmers has led to the development of tailgate markets, community gardens, sustainable agriculture, and food security.

In California, where she grew up, Jody became involved with Cesar Chavez in the farm labor movement. In 1973, living with her husband, Terry, in Clermont County, she organized Citizens for a Better Goshen to fight encroaching suburban development. Later, she worked for the Archdiocese in Cincinnati as the assistant director of Social Action and World Peace.

As a board member of the Cincinnati Kharkiv Sister City Program, Jody led an international project that resulted in passage of federal legislation in Ukraine, making physical domestic violence illegal for the first time.

Her dedication to environmental advocacy led her to



FEIST TEA RECAP CONTINUED

initiate the Green Partnership for Cincinnati, which focused on high-level partnerships that included the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati State, and the Cincinnati Zoo to address climate change. In response to the Emerald Ash Borer's devastation of the region's trees, she organized the Taking Root campaign to spur reforestation and education about the critical value of trees to our lives. Over a decade, 326,000 trees have been planted!

And, after a stint as an advocate and counselor at the Alice Paul House (a safe house for women and children who have been victims of domestic violence), Jody returned to school and became a licensed therapist, a practice she continued for 35 years.

If these accomplishments don't describe a Feisty woman, what does?

In her acceptance speech, Jody talked of Francie Pepper as an inspiration and the five "Fs" that contributed to her feistiness: fear, fire, fight, family, and friends. She told of experiencing fear of not being up to a task, the fire in the belly that helped her overcome that fear, the determination to fight for a cause and the strength that family and friends contribute to that fight.

According to Sharon McCreary, honoree **Crystal Kendrick's** feistiness took root when she left the security of a lucrative marketing position to start her own business. The Voice of Your Customer is a minority- and woman-owned marketing firm that enables her to serve the community through her volunteer nonprofit, The Voice of Black Cincinnati. Through this online service/directory, she has kept the community informed about the many activities available in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Crystal has served the community by hiring high school interns participating in the City's summer

program, whereby they learn marketing through her mentorship. Through her membership in Delta Sigma Theta, she has worked to provide services to homeless families and has for many years presented informative programs about college life and careers at the annual College Prep Fair.

As a member of Links, Crystal coordinated donations to Valley Interfaith Services and served as a volunteer national officer committed to the mission of engaging in educational, civic, and intercultural activities for African American students.

On the fun front, Crystal has coordinated the Black Santa at the Cincinnati Art Museum and the National Underground Freedom Center. A board member of the Sharon Woods Heritage Museum, she coordinated the living Early Black Cincinnati History Museum Tours, at which she and other volunteers dress in period clothing and lead tours of the grounds.

Her love for history led her to work in conjunction with the Freedom Center to provide programming on the connections between America's River Roots (the festival held in Cincinnati in October) and the Underground Railroad.



Sharon McCreary shares in celebration of honoree Crystal Kendrick with Lucia and Donald Hudson and Jeanette Bronson.



FEIST TEA RECAP CONTINUED

Sharon calls Crystal “a feisty woman who has conquered a world that, as an African American woman, she would not have conquered without the tenacity, confidence, persistence, and prowess to be bold.” In turn, she has served the community with service and compassion. Her motto: “To whom much is given, much is required.”

Crystal was unable to attend Feist Tea in person (as she was presiding at this year’s Black Santa event) but graced us with a lovely video. She thanked WCC for the honor saying, “I know I am a better person for having joined WCC. I am grateful for the opportunity to connect with remarkable people.” She praised our programs, especially the Book Club.

Expert Enabler—Maybe she didn’t set out to be one, but that’s what honoree **Judy Tensing** became after leaving home in Corryville to enter the convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur that had supplied her teachers at Corryville Catholic School in the old St. George Parish. She took her vows in 1958 and graduated from Our Lady of Cincinnati (which became Edgecliff College and merged with Xavier) and taught in Chicago, Hamilton, and Dayton, Ohio, and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, before returning to Cincinnati.

Doing community work in the West End, she and Sr. Barbara Wheeler, a Dominican Sister of Hope, responded to needs of women who wanted to be independent of welfare, and formed ‘Power Inspires Progress’ (P.I.P.) to “create a sense of place, provide work skills development and work history for individuals with chronic barriers to employment—generational poverty, lack of access to a quality education, history of addiction, and/or history with the court systems.”

In 1990 P.I.P. had the opportunity to buy Venice Pizza at the intersection of Marshall and McMicken for \$950—complete with equipment and name sign! Sister Judy learned to make pizza, hired the people she wanted to help, and added catering to the business. By 2004 the rent grew too high and five other ventures were providing job training. It took two years for her to accumulate the \$250,000 to open Venice on Vine as the first new entrepreneurial business in Over-The-Rhine with similar staff as before. In 2020, because of COVID, the operation was a food truck.

No wonder our feisty woman was named a 2012 *Cincinnati Enquirer* “Woman of the Year”! In 2020 Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr honored her with a “Respect Life Awards” for persons called “to proclaim that human life is ‘a precious gift from God’ through their work...”. She enabled hundreds of Cincinnatians to start a better life.

Her last venture, in 2022, is Just Earth – Cincinnati. Its mission is to educate and facilitate action to address the intersecting crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental injustice.

WCC has benefited from Sister Judy’s work over the years, especially as caterer for some Feist Teas. She provided space for WCC members for lunch and to
(Continued on page 10)





FIGHTING HUNGER IN HAMILTON COUNTY

CHRISTY BACKLEY

Panelists from three Greater Cincinnati organizations shared their insights on “Fighting Hunger in Hamilton County,” a WCC-Sponsored forum held at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church on November 18, 2025. Cold rain deterred some of the 51 registrants, but those who braved the weather were rewarded with eye-opening information.

Renee Mahaffey Harris, President and CEO of the Center for Closing the Gap; **Kurt Reiber**, President and CEO of the Freestore Foodbank; and **Amy Scarpello**, Senior Director of Rescue, Share, and Volunteer Engagement at La Soupe, discussed their services, goals, achievements, and next steps.

Kurt noted that although the Freestore is indeed the organization that sponsors the Rubber Duck Regatta, it is so much more. It is one of 250 partner and affiliate foodbanks that make up the Feeding America Network, operating 600 food pantries in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, and serving families who are 200% below the poverty level.

Additionally, the Freestore offers wraparound support services to its clients, among them helping with rent and utilities; enrollment in SNAP and Medicaid; vouchers for birth certificates; transportation services; and a customer connection center.

“We also operate two workforce training programs. Cincinnati Cooks! (free to students) has two levels—one that teaches basic cooking skills, and an advanced program that teaches fine dining preparation skills. The Lift the Tristate program, developed with Gateway Community College, teaches enrollees to drive a forklift. Sixty percent



of the graduates of these programs have a criminal history. Now they are skilled employees and solid community members making up to \$25/hour.”

Rescue, Transform, Share is the mission of La Soupe, started 10 years ago by Suzy DeYoung, a chef who saw how much food was being wasted in her industry. Amy described the unique goal: to transform surplus ingredients into nutritious meals through the power of chefs, using food that would go to the landfill or lie fallow in the fields. “Thirty-one percent of food produced in the U.S. is unused. Since 2015, we have rescued 7.9 million pounds of food and created 6.7 million servings.”

La Soupe recovers products that are not useful at the pantry level. “Approximately 15 percent of people served require prepared food, because they lack the resources to prepare meals for themselves, and 50 percent would prefer a prepared meal. We work with 150 community partners, plus a crew of volunteers, to recover and deliver the food the chefs transform.”

La Soupe also operates two educational programs.

Cincinnati Gives a Crock works in the schools to teach students how to prepare meals for their families. Along with new skills, each participant takes home a crockpot and ingredients. *Cooking for the Family* teaches participants how to prepare a complete meal in a cast-iron skillet.

Other initiatives are the *Food as Medicine* program, which provides Nourish meals that follow the DASH diet, and medically tailored meals for people with specific needs. The Inspire program takes the La Soupe model of relying on the power of chefs to other pantries throughout the country.

Renee explained the goal of her organization is to engage, empower, and advocate. "Empowering is all about education," she said, "teaching people to do the most with what they have." Her organization works across the community with schools, churches, hospitals, and medical providers to provide education. "With education," she says, "people know what they need and can be empowered to advocate for themselves."

A direct correlation exists between accessibility to healthy food and outcomes for people with diabetes and cardiovascular disease. "Individuals who live in a 'food desert' (more than 2.4 miles from a grocery) don't know what that is. If there's a convenience store, then they have access to food—it's just not healthy food." She also pointed out where most fast-food restaurants and convenience stores are located—where students on their way to school have easy access.

"Understanding how to read a label helps you know what you're putting in your body. Seeing a diagram of what your body looks like with some of these diseases helps you know what the disease is doing to you and why you need to address your diet."

In Q&A following their individual presentations, panelists discussed correlations between hunger and violence; the impact of nutrition on birth weight and infant mortality; working with employers to ensure employees are making a living wage; and the ever-growing problem of immigrants who will not take advantage of the many resources that are available because they fear being picked up by ICE.

These three organizations and their community partners are making an impact, but there is consensus among them things are going to get worse. What can the average person do to help?

Kurt says, "Show us the money. Volunteer. Advocate with elected officials." He noted that canned goods drives are not helpful because they pull goods off the shelves, which leads to fewer donations. Cash donations are more effective because the Freestore can buy seven times as much with each dollar as an individual can.

Amy says be a food advocate. "Ask the manager of the store where you shop what happens to their leftovers. Encourage donation."

Renee suggests volunteering to teach a class on reading food labels or preparing a meal with what you have.

Kurt summed it up this way: "Tell people what you've heard tonight. That's how change will happen. Don't be judgmental. You don't know the circumstances that led to a family's situation. It is incumbent on all of us to step up and be the voice for the voiceless."

WCC thanks Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church and Cincinnati Gives for co-sponsoring this event.



WCC'S NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Kim Fantaci, WCC's new administrator, grew up just south of Dayton and has always had deep roots in community and connection. Her path to Cincinnati began in 2011, around the same time her oldest son, Alex, started college at the University of Cincinnati. The city quickly became a second home—a place that combined her professional passion for leadership and her love of civic engagement.

A graduate of the University of Dayton with a degree in marketing, Kim quite literally grew up in the association management world. She began working for her father's association management firm while still in high school and college, learning early on the importance of building relationships, fostering collaboration, and supporting organizations that make a difference.

Kim has carried that passion for service throughout her career and personal life. She has volunteered as treasurer for her sons' high school athletic boosters and continues to dedicate her time and talent to organizations that strengthen Greater Cincinnati. In addition to her new role with Woman's City Club, she also serves in leadership capacities with two local organizations—ULI Cincinnati and the Cincinnati

Association—groups committed to civic dialogue, education, growth and community improvement.



At home, Kim and her husband, Todd, a third-grade teacher, enjoy a full and lively family life. Together, they have three sons—Alex, Nick and Ben—and two (soon to be three!) grandchildren who are the joy of their lives. They cheer on FC Cincinnati or UD basketball in their free time as avid season ticket holders.

Though new to the Woman's City Club, Kim feels an immediate connection to its mission and members. "WCC's programs and initiatives educate, empower, and engage women to make a difference in their communities," she says. "I'm excited to help grow the organization and continue its legacy as an impactful force in Cincinnati."

Kim's blend of professional experience, community dedication and genuine enthusiasm for people make her a wonderful addition to the WCC family. Please join us in welcoming Kim and celebrating the energy and leadership she brings to our club and our city.



FEIST TEA RECAP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

hear local speakers on poverty and hunger and coordinated our giving programs—Christmas presents and school supplies—for the Contact Center.

The final award of the afternoon went to feisty-in-her-own-right Harriet Kaufman, who was honored and thanked for her many years of photographing WCC events.

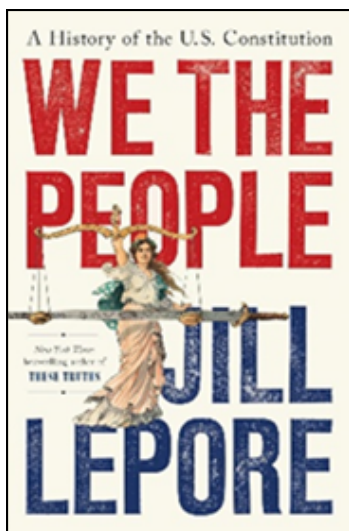
Feist Tea chair Laurie Frank and the entire the Feist Tea committee thank all who attended and supported the Tea and the honorees. Your generous donations in honor of these remarkable individuals and the mission and vision of the WCC serve to support the ongoing work, programs, and operations of the Woman's City Club.



BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

SARAH GIDEONSE

JANUARY BOOK CLUB



We the People: A History of the U.S. Constitution
by Jill Lepore

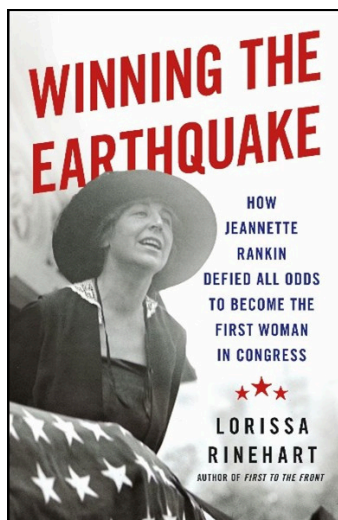
**Saturday, January 17
10:00 a.m. via Zoom**

Published on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding, *We the People* offers a

different sort of history of the Constitution. "One of the Constitution's founding purposes was to prevent change," Lepore writes. "Another was to allow for change without violence." Lepore recounts decades of attempts to amend it, yet nearly all those efforts have failed. Although nearly 12,000 amendments have been introduced in Congress since 1789, and thousands more have been proposed outside its doors, only 27 have ever been ratified. More troubling, the Constitution has added no substantive amendment since 1971. Without recourse to amendment, she argues, the risk of political violence rises. So does the risk of constitutional change by presidential or judicial fiat.

Challenging both the Supreme Court's monopoly on constitutional interpretation and the flawed theory of originalism, Lepore contends that "in this gripping and unfamiliar story of our own past" the framers never intended for the Constitution to be preserved, like a butterfly, under glass, but expected that future generations would be forever tinkering with it, hoping to mend America by amending it through an orderly deliberative and democratic process.

FEBRUARY BOOK CLUB



Winning the Earthquake: How Jeannette Rankin Defied all odds to become the first woman in Congress

by Lorissa Rinehart

**Saturday, February 21
10:00 a.m. via Zoom**

Our book is the newly published *Winning the Earthquake: How Jeanette*

Rankin Defied All Odds to Become the First Woman in Congress, the first major biography of the groundbreaking suffragist and first American woman to hold federal office. Born in Montana in 1880, Rankin learned early how to read people as well as the land. That rare ability—to listen, persuade, and lead—carried her to history in 1916 when she became the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

As her first act in Congress, Rankin introduced legislation that would become the 19th Amendment. During her two nonconsecutive terms in 1916 and 1940, she championed workers' rights, unions, and aid for children in poverty. In 1941, she cast the lone anti-war vote against U.S. entry into World War II, declaring that "you can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake." Despite her courage and influence, Rankin's story has faded from public memory. In *Winning the Earthquake*, Rinehart brings this singular American hero back to life.

Rankin's legacy lives on through the Jeannette Rankin Foundation, which awards unrestricted Scholar Grants to nontraditional women students nationwide.



STEPHANIE STOLLER

April 24, 1935 - November 28, 2025

We are saddened to share the passing of Stephanie Stoller, a devoted community leader, public servant, and active and engaged member of Woman's City Club.

Stephanie's determination, perseverance, and risk-taking revealed itself at an early age. Graduating from the University of Cincinnati's College of Pharmacy, Stephani chose a field not common to women at that time. She joined her husband as a pharmacist in running a family apothecary, and together they transitioned from owning a pharmacy to selling supplies to drugstores by mail-order.

In 1973 Stephanie was appointed to Blue Ash City Council and subsequently won elections and served for 44 years, including terms as Vice Mayor and Mayor. Her favorite part was running the mayor's court. Proud of her role in helping to develop the city of Blue Ash into what it is today, she continued to advocate for individuals to run for political office or get involved behind the scenes.

Stephanie's other activities included serving on the Blue Ash-Montgomery Symphony board, Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio, Cincinnati

Association's Executive Committee and Inclusion Panel, Women's Political Caucus, League of Women Voters' board, Village Green Garden Club, and of course WCC, where she served on the board, the National Speaker Forum Committee, and the Seasongood Luncheon Committee. WCC honored Steph as a Feisty woman at its 2020 Feist Tea. When asked what makes her feisty, she replied she has always shown a playful tendency to cause mischief, but in a good way. We are missing her!



SARAH GIDEONSE



ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN WELL UNDERWAY

As of December 31, we have raised \$6,850 from 27 donors. This is great progress toward our budget goal of \$10,000. Won't you help us meet that goal? [Give today!](#)

Deborah Allsop

Christy Backley

Annie Faragher Bennett

Janet Buening

Melissa Currence

Marge Davis

Jeff Dey

Carole Donnelly

Barbara Elleman

Linda B. Fabe

Laurie Frank

Jennifer Funk

Judith Green

Jane Hopson

Chara Jackson

Nina E. Lewis

Elizabeth Mann

Susan Noonan

Alice Perlman

Cheri Rekow

Jeanette Rost

Alice Schneider

Janet Simpkinson

Katherine Smith

Beth Sullebarger

Margaret Tojo

Susan Wilke



Annual Fund