

**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

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

THE 32ND NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM

**PRESENTING GINA BELAFONTE
SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST, ACTRESS,
AND PRODUCER SPEAKING ON
ARTS AND ACTIVISM:
THE BELAFONTE LEGACY**

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 | 7 PM

Memorial Hall - 1225 Elm Street, Cincinnati

This is an event you won't want to miss! It's a rare opportunity to see Gina Belafonte in person speaking about how she combines arts and activism, continuing the legacy of her father, musician Harry Belafonte (1927-2023), who used his music to help bring people together to work for the common good. As Co-Founder and Executive Director of Sankofa.org, Gina collaborates with artists and grassroots partners to elevate the voices of the disenfranchised and promote peace, justice, and equality.

The National Speaker Forum is WCC's biggest event 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 and bring your friends.

Come early, have a drink at the bar and enjoy the lilting Caribbean rhythms of calypso music played on guitar by James Ricks from 6:30 to 7 pm.

Kathy Wade, an award-winning international jazz entertainer and director of Learning Through Art, will introduce Ms. Belafonte.



(Continued on page 7)



SPRING BRINGS RENEWED ENERGY

As I write this, the snow is melting, the days are getting longer, and I anticipate the first day of Spring with all the renewed energy that it brings. With what's been going on out there, it's been a dark and bitter winter, but we have a lot to look forward to in the coming months.

For example, won't it be wonderful to hear what Gina Belafonte has to say at our National Speaker Forum on March 10? She promises to be a very engaging and relatable speaker as she shares how she uses arts and activism to achieve social justice. Our January forum with local arts activists Toilynn O'Neal Turner, Kathy Wade and Elissa Yancey set the stage for her nicely, and we truly appreciate all the generous sponsors who are supporting the March event. We especially thank CET, The Enquirer and 91.7 WVXU News for helping to get the word out.

In our regular forums, we aim to deliver useful information from authoritative speakers on timely topics. Our February forum (see page 3) about the alarming use of AI in Medicare for pre-authorization of treatment did that in spades. Charlotte Rudolph, executive director of Universal Health Care Action Network, and US Representative Greg Landsman, sponsor of legislation to amend that approach, both gave us important pointers on this crucial health care policy.

I want to put in a plug for WCC's Book Club (see page 11). Sarah Gideonse has been doing a wonderful job leading the discussion and helping us pick engaging and important books. I especially

Clearly we have lots to talk about. We hope you will join us at one or more of our events.

enjoyed the biography of Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to be elected to Congress. Raised on the frontier in Montana, she travelled all over the country fighting for the right of women to vote. The public speaking skills and political savvy she picked up along the way enabled her to advance many other good causes as well. She is an inspiration to us all!

In April, we will naturally think about taxes. Several state bills limiting property taxes passed in 2025, and now there's a campaign for a referendum on the complete repeal of property taxes. If this campaign succeeds, will this be the time to reform state school funding or will we be pitched into a shutdown? In the meantime, WCC's board sent a letter to the Cincinnati mayor and council about a proposed city income tax increase, which may make it to the ballot in November (see page 8). The letter raises important factors that we believe should be addressed before taking a position on the issue.

Clearly, we have lots to talk about. We hope you will join us at one or more of our events.

BETH SULLEBARGER
PRESIDENT



ARTS AND ACTIVISM: HOW LOCAL ARTISTS USE ART TO CREATE SOCIAL CHANGE

CHRISTY BACKLEY

On January 15, via Zoom, three awesome Cincinnati women—Kathy Wade, Elissa Yancey, and Toilynn O’Neal Turner—shared their passion for using art to create social change in our community.

Multiple regional EMMY winner and award-winning jazz entertainer Kathy Wade is the co-founder of Learning Through Art, Inc. (LTA), which has impacted over one million participants since its founding more than three decades ago. LTA’s multiple programs support its mission to build bridges, break down barriers, and bring neighbors and neighborhoods together.

One ongoing LTA program is Books Alive! For Kids®, a national award-winning performing arts literacy program designed to enhance creative thinking, writing, reading, and art and music education. The program makes books come alive through sight, sound, and touch to help students connect with the story in a variety of ways.

Another, Story Quilts, “engages participants to share their truths from the patchwork of their lives.” Each participant in this guided conversation receives a 6”X6” square and a supply of materials to make a piece of the quilt to express their story. Individual squares are joined to weave a tapestry of reconciliation and resistance. Completed quilts are given to host organizations, which display them to keep the conversation going.

Last fall, in association with America’s River Roots Festival, LTA created and performed a concert, Sounds from the River, at the P&G Theater at the Aronoff Center for the Arts for all 6th grade students in Cincinnati Public Schools. The performance

traced a journey from indigenous tribal songs and field hollers to spirituals, gospel, blues, jazz, bluegrass, zydeco, and hip-hop, revealing how creativity and movement connect across generations. To ensure this history is not lost, LTA also created a video and a songbook for classroom use.

Like so many cities in America, Cincinnati needs to come together to have a collective conversation about race and racism that can help us confront difficult truths and find a way forward,” says Kathy.

Elissa Yancey, president and co-founder of A Picture’s Worth, is a lifelong learner, leader, and educator. She is an experienced writer, editor, and nonprofit founder whose mantra is “change the narrative, change the world.”

A Picture’s Worth is a training and service-providing nonprofit whose mission is to support individuals and communities in sharing accurate narratives. “In our community projects,” explains Elyssa, “each narrative is sparked by an individual image and audio story. We believe that all narratives shift based upon who is placed in the center of them.” Therefore, APW works alongside community members to elicit narratives that honor individuals’ strengths and challenges.

Elissa highlighted several narratives. In A Picture’s Worth of Light, neighbors share the light in their lives. Felicia, from Lower Price Hill, talks about how she helps kids in the neighborhood, making sure their clothes get clean because she works at the laundromat. “Little kids running around need people to

(Continued on page 5)



WISER VS. SMARTER

CHRISTY BACKLEY

On February 19, via Zoom, WCC presented a program to help attendees understand a new government program being piloted in six states, including Ohio, which will affect millions of senior citizens who are enrolled in traditional Medicare insurance. It will not apply to those covered by Medicare Advantage plans. Guest speakers were Charlotte Rudolph, executive director of Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN) Ohio, an organization that, among other things, helps people navigate healthcare systems and Greg Landsman, U.S. Representative for Ohio district 1.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, “The Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction (WISeR) Model helps protect American taxpayers by leveraging enhanced technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), along with human clinical review, to ensure timely and appropriate Medicare payment for select items and services. The goal of the WISeR model is to focus health care spending on items and services that will improve patient well-being; apply commercial payer processes that may be faster, easier and more accurate; increase transparency on existing Medicare coverage policy; and de-incentivize and reduce use of medically unnecessary care.” The method is to require prior approval for certain treatments.

Rudolph explained that the program affects 17 specific treatments that now require prior authorization. WISeR considers these to be high-risk, frequently overused outpatient services. She highlighted concerns about the program’s potential impact on patient care and medical debt and encouraged attendees to review the list and contact their doctors.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sen. Jon Husted (202-224-3353)

Sen. Bernie Moreno (202-224-2315)

Rep. Greg Landsman (202-225-2216)

Kobe Walker, Landsman’s Legislative Asst.
kobe.walker@mail.house.gov

Charlotte Rudolph

crudolph@uhcanohio.org

For further information about
WISeR, visit cms.gov.

Landsman is concerned that this use of AI could harm patients and discussed bills he has co-sponsored in response. The aim of the Ban AI Denials in Medicare Act and Seniors Deserve SMARTER Care Act is to stop the pilot and prevent similar denials in the future. He noted that the selection of these 17 conditions was driven by cost savings for CMS with the goal of expanding to more procedures if it is successful; he expressed concern that the program could undermine Medicare, negatively affect patient health, and place an undue burden on doctors, while benefiting big tech companies and private insurance firms—which will make money by denying claims.

Lack of transparency in algorithms and inconsistencies in product oversight and pricing were concerns expressed by speakers and attendees alike. This is such a new initiative that issues not yet considered are likely to arise. The AMA has suggested improvements to the model but has not yet taken a firm stance.

When asked how WCC can support the SMARTER bill, both speakers suggested “making noise.” Contact Ohio’s senators, write letters to the editor, post online, and help create a repository of stories about people whose health has been impacted by denial of care.



ARTS AND ACTIVISM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

talk to them. We've got gardens down here. You could take them in, they grow their own fruit down here. They give it away for free. Just come on down the Lower Price Hill. We'll help you out."

In *More Than Meets the Eye: Immigrant Stories of Resilience, Peace, and Hope*, neighbors from all corners of the world share their journeys to America; and in *What's Your West End? Sharing a Legacy of Resilience*, neighbors tell their stories of growing up in or returning to the West End. One of those telling her story is the next presenter, Toilynn O'Neal Turner.

Art and activism define Toilynn's life. She drew on her life's experiences to found the Robert O'Neal Multicultural Art Center (ROMAC) in 2019 to celebrate African and African American arts, history, and culture. She chose the name to honor the legacy of her father, artist Robert O'Neal, who was the founder of the Arts Consortium of Cincinnati. Located in the West End, the organization cultivated hundreds of African American artists and educated the youth of the inner-city.

Programs offered include ROMAC Stream (Science, Technology, Entrepreneurship, Art, Mathematics), which provides kits and programming to middle schools to keep students excited about learning. ARTpreneur teaches youth the business of art through its pop-up shop in OTR; ART 4 US is a free public program for youth and teens in visual, performing, and textile arts; and the West End Art Series supports multicultural arts organizations and makes arts accessible to underserved Cincinnati residents.

Hand-in-hand with programming is finding the ideal location. The historic Regal Theater, opened in 1913 as the Casino Theater, is being renovated as a multi-use art center that will provide the neighborhood with a new arts and performance center,

employment and career development opportunities for youth and artists, and co-working spaces for other groups.

ROMAC's plans to renovate the Regal Theater by late 2027-early 2028 as its permanent home will be an economic driver for the West End: Creating jobs and economic opportunities for young people, artists, and West End residents; providing exhibitions, community programs, and educational opportunities offered annually; providing maker space for community members, with coworking and office options; developing cultural events, including community gatherings, music, and cultural festivals annually that will bring the community together; and providing an education center featuring free/low-cost, community-focused and advanced classes offered year-round.

"My father," says Toilynn, "believed all of us are creatives and everyone can create or appreciate art." The renovation of the Regal Theater will provide a place to foster and appreciate creativity.

"Art is a common bond," says Kathy. "It gives us alternative ways to handle stress and it brings joy. We have to make sure everyone has access to the arts Cincinnati offers. All people need to feel this is their place too."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE ORGANIZATIONS, VISIT THEIR WEBSITES

learningthroughart.com
apicturesworth.org
theromac.org



FROM WCC'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP MEMBERS

TIPS FOR REDUCING PLASTIC POLLUTION

Plastic pollution poses a serious threat to our environment, affecting wildlife, waterways, and our own health. Microplastics are everywhere—even in our brains! (Studies show there may be up to 7 grams in the average brain—the weight of a plastic spoon.) And our exposure will only get worse; plastic production is set to double by 2040. Fortunately, there are many actions individuals and communities can take to reduce plastic pollution.

Here are some practical tips to help minimize your plastic footprint and contribute to a cleaner planet.

- 1. Wean yourself off single-use plastics**—Refuse single-use plastic bags at the grocery store. Don't purchase produce that is packaged in plastic clam shells.
- 2. Choose products with minimal packaging**—Opt for products that use less or eco-friendly packaging. Select items packaged in paper, cardboard, or other compostable materials instead of plastic. Hint: bring mesh bags for your berries and leave the container at the checkout counter! If more of us do that, they'll get the message
- 3. Use reusable bags, bottles, and containers**—Replace single-use plastic bags, water bottles, and food containers with reusable alternatives made from cloth, glass, metal, or sturdy plastic. Bring your own bags when shopping and refill your water bottle instead of buying bottled water.
- 4. Buy in bulk when possible**—Support local refilleries like Lierer's Market in Northside, Simply-Zero on Vine Street, and Aldi's Grocery Stores. Purchase staples like rice, pasta, and nuts from bulk

bins, using your own jars or bags. Buy your laundry detergent in sheets. Order online: TruEarth.

- 5. Refuse plastic straws, utensils, cups, and plates when ordering takeout.**
- 6. Recycle properly**—First, strive to reduce plastic purchases altogether. If we can't recycle our way out of the plastics crisis, recycling is still important to reduce the footprint of our waste stream. Learn what plastics can be recycled in your local area and ensure you clean and separate recyclables. Improper recycling can contaminate the process and lead to more waste. (nrdc.org)
- 7. Avoid black plastic**—Due to the difficulty of recycling, black plastic is often manufactured from recycled electronic waste (e-waste). This can lead to high levels of toxic chemicals like flame retardants, phthalates, and heavy metals (cadmium, lead) in household items like kitchen utensils, toys, and food containers. Studies have found that 40% of tested black plastic products contained toxic chemicals at 30 times the safe limit, which can leach into food. Use wooden spoons. Throw away your black plastic spoons.
- 8. Support legislation and businesses reducing plastic use**—Advocate for policies that limit plastic production and waste. Support businesses that use sustainable packaging and environmentally friendly practices. Convince local stores that they will likely win more customers if they volunteer to become a "sustainable store."

(Continued on page 9)



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Hope to see you there on March 10!



ON PROPOSED CITY INCOME TAX INCREASES

CHERI REKOW

Since it was founded in 1915, Woman's City Club has advocated for good government in Cincinnati, including the city's financial sustainability. On January 26, 2026, the WCC Board of Trustees voted to send the following statement to the Cincinnati Mayor and Council in response to Mayor Pureval's announced intent to place City income tax increases on the ballot to raise additional funds for public safety and fighting poverty.

Two tax increases were recommended in the Mayor's Future's Commission Report (FCR) proposing revenue-generating and cost-savings measures to help enable the city to remain fiscally sustainable. Both tax increases require a public referendum and would expire after 10 years: **0.1% earnings tax increase** for economic development and **0.05% earnings tax increase** for police and fire service.

Before voters can decide whether to support these tax increases, we urge City Council to consider the following concerns:

1. Will there be an audit of the Safety Department?

The FCR expressly conditioned the Safety levy on the city's conducting a thorough study of the Safety department operations, which FCR noted has not been done in over 15 years. Without a thorough review, the efficacy of spending more on operations is unknown.

2. We recommend the audit be done by an independent auditor

rather than the City Auditor who reports directly to the City Manager, who serves at will of the Mayor. An independent audit would provide more confidence in the facts around the levy



campaign for citizens and business owners who invest in the City.

3. What is the status of the other 25 FCR recommendations?

The City Manager provided a status report on the recommendations on August 7, 2024, about 18 months ago. It would be helpful to have a comprehensive update on the viability and cost savings provided by the other recommendations.

4. What civic engagement process will be employed

to educate citizens about the trade-offs and ramifications of the levies, especially if placed ahead of any other revenue-generating or cost-saving measures?

5. How can council assure that this levy will be capped at 10 years,

in light of past 'time-limited' levies that were later extended without a public vote?

6. How will council provide accountability

and a Return-on-Investment for the additional funds provided by the increase?

Based on the turnout of about 100 people at a Forum WCC held about the FCR in November 2024, we believe there needs to be considerable civic engagement about the proposed tax levies, and we offer these points to help the city achieve the public support essential for fiscal sustainability.



TIPS FOR REDUCING PLASTIC POLLUTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

9. Educate others—Share information about plastic pollution and how to reduce it with friends, family, and your community. The more people are aware, the greater the collective impact. Reducing plastic pollution is a responsibility we all share. By making conscious choices and encouraging others to do the same, we can change our plastic culture, protect our environment, and move towards a more sustainable future.

10. Eliminate plastic items in your kitchen—Use glass or metal containers for food storage. Replace Teflon pots, pans, and utensils with cast iron for skillets, metal for pots and pans, and wood or metal for utensils. Or choose your own eco-friendly materials.

11. Avoid buying anything plastic—Whenever possible, shop for an alternative to plastic. This applies especially to toys and household goods.



WCC SIP. SHARE. CONNECT.

LAURIE FRANK

On January 28, 20 people, including four new members, braved snow and cold temperatures to gather at The Regency and enjoy a warm evening of socializing and learning about WCC activities and opportunities, WCC’s first **Sip. Share. Connect.**

Plenty of member-provided food and drink accompanied the program. Following a welcome from president Beth Sullebarger and introduction of board members, committee chairs presented an overview of their activities, including focus, time required, and how members can contribute without becoming committee members. To illustrate (and enlist) Jeff Dey created a “tree,” featuring one-and-done opportunities. Several branches sprouted Post-it note “leaves” by the end of the evening.

The next member-only event, a visit to the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, will include a light lunch, tour and take place on April 12.



ANNUAL FUND: THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

This year’s campaign raised nearly \$8,000 from 35 donors. This is more than ten percent of our budget and helps us continue to bring you great programs, special events and updates on civic issues.

Joann Albers	Carole Donnelly	Jane Hopson	Jeanette Rost
Deborah Allsop	Barbara Elleman	Chara Jackson	Alice Schneider
Christy Backley	Linda B. Fabe	Harriet Kaufman	Janice Seymour
Annie Faragher Bennett	Laurie Frank	Nina E. Lewis	Janet Simpkinson
Janet Buening	Jennifer Funk	Elizabeth Mann	Katherine Smith
Melissa Currence	Eleonora Fusco	LaVerne Mitchell	Beth Sullebarger
Marge Davis	Sarah Gideonse	Susan Noonan	Margaret Tojo
Jeff Dey	Judith Green	Alice Perlman	Janet Walsh
	Sara Heckscher	Cheri Rekow	Susan Wilke



Annual Fund



HONORING MARIAN A. SPENCER EDUCATION AWARDEES

SUSAN NOONAN

The Agnes B. Seasongood Annual Luncheon with the presentation of the Marian A. Spencer Education Awards will take place on May 2, 2026, at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center Annex from 11:30 am -1:30 pm. A delicious lunch will be served and raffle tickets sold for an amazing variety of baskets donated by WCC members! Any funds raised from the baskets will go toward the Education Awards for next year's program.

The Marian A. Spencer Education Awards are presented to four to five female high school seniors in the amount of \$1,500 each. The awards are provided and can be used for school expenses such as books, travel, software, room, and board.

Each awardee is required to write an essay on their involvement in civic engagement in their school and community. It's a heart-warming, inspirational and exciting time for the young women and for all of us!

The luncheon's featured speaker is chosen for her success in a career, often one which has been male-dominated.

Yvonne DiCristoforo, recently retired Special Agent in Charge of the Secret Service field office in Cincinnati, is certainly one of those women! She was a senior executive and federal law enforcement agent with over 30 years of experience with the U.S. Secret Service, focusing equally on the agency's protective and investigative responsibilities.

Throughout her career, she managed high profile fraud investigations while managing protective details for the Vice-Presidential Protective Division, Special Services Division, and former Presidential details. She has also managed multi-million dollar projects involving renovations, relocations, acquisition of facilities, equipment, and resources for the Secret Service. She was chosen as UC's Distinguished Alumni two years ago and is devoted to UC's Criminal Justice Program, helping students access internships and jobs with the agency.

This is an event you don't want to miss! The Education Award application, tickets, table information and more is available on our website - **womancityclub.org**.

WOMAN'S CITY CLUB
OF GREATER CINCINNATI

MARIAN A. SPENCER
EDUCATION AWARDS
Applications Open

PRESENTED AT THE AGNES B. SEASONGOOD LUNCHEON ON MAY 2

WCC established the WCC and Marian A. Spencer education awards to encourage responsible civic awareness among Greater Cincinnati high school seniors who identify as female.

ELIGIBILITY

- Female graduating high school senior
- Essay on provided topic
- Letter of recommendation

DEADLINE IS APRIL 6 AT NOON

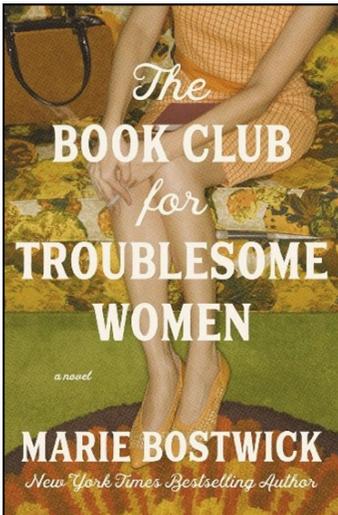
Scan this QR code for the online application or visit Woman's City Club at www.womancityclub.org



A RETURN TO THE SIXTIES!

SARAH GIDEONSE

MARCH BOOK CLUB



The Book Club for Troublesome Women: A Novel (2025)

by Marie Bostwick

Saturday

March 21

10-11:30 am

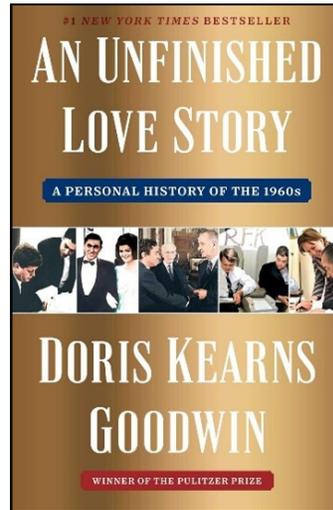
via Zoom

Four well-off women who have it all don't feel that's enough. Together they form a new book club on a lark. The first book they read together is *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan and they begin to discover that the American dream they'd been sold isn't all roses and sunshine--and that their secret longing for more is something they share.

Nicknaming themselves the Bettys, these four friends have no idea their impromptu club and the books they read together will become the glue that helps them hold fast through tears, triumphs, angst, and arguments--and what will prove to be the most consequential and freeing year of their lives.

Set in the early 1960s, *The Book Club for Troublesome Women* captures a moment when private dissatisfaction turns into shared awakening. As the Bettys grapple with the ideas sparked by their reading, the novel highlights the power of friendship and conversation to challenge assumptions about fulfillment--and the courage it takes to imagine a life beyond the one prescribed.

APRIL BOOK CLUB



An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s (2024)

by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Saturday

April 18

10-11:30 am

via Zoom

Acclaimed historian Doris Kearns Goodwin artfully weaves together biography, memoir, and history about hers and her husband Dick Goodwin's extraordinary lives in the Sixties.

In his twenties, Dick was one of the brilliant young men of John F. Kennedy's New Frontier. In his thirties he named and helped design Lyndon Johnson's Great Society and was a speechwriter and close advisor to Robert Kennedy. Doris Kearns was a twenty-four-year-old graduate student when selected as a White House Fellow. She worked directly for Lyndon Johnson and later assisted on his memoir. A heady time for both the Goodwins!

Over the years the Goodwins discussed and argued about the achievements and failings of the leaders they served and observed, debating the progress and unfinished promises of the country they both loved. Aided by conversation elicited by Dick's enormous cache of letters, diaries, documents, and memorabilia, Doris has written her personal revisit of the Sixties.



BOOK CLUB MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT JEANETTE RANKIN

DOT CHRISTENSON

and enjoy lively discussion

Fourteen WCC members enjoyed a highly animated, 90-minute discussion of Lorissa Rhinehart's **Winning the Earthquake** on Saturday, February 21. There was unanimous praise for the lifelong work of Jeanette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress in 1913 (and again in 1942), and general dismay for the quite successful ban of Rankin's role in the history of the suffrage movement, child labor laws, and worker health and safety, particularly in the Montana mining industry. Rankin's personal criticism of herself was that she did not do enough to promote world peace, despite co-founding the International Women's League for Peace and Freedom (with Jane Addams) and voting against both WWI and WWII. Both these Congressional votes cost her reelection and inclusion in suffragette history. The banishment was vindictive over perceived loss of support and votes for the 19th Amendment, despite Rankin's being the only woman in Congress and the one who introduced this legislation nationally. The book discussion also brought recognition to other lesser-known women leaders such as Paulie Murray, Alice Paul, and others.

The oldest daughter of an early Montana homesteader, Jeanette Rankin was smart, independent, hardworking, and innovative from childhood. She was an accomplished horsewoman and rancher who helped her father run his vast Montana holdings from an early age. Never married, she traveled the wild west of Montana, Washington, California, and Colorado to organize those states women's right to vote, traveling by car over unpaved roads when gas stations and lodging opportunities were few and far between. She introduced use of the new telephone and door-to-door knocking to get out the vote, which was copied throughout the

Eastern states for the suffrage campaigns. Born 20 years after Custer's Last Stand in South Dakota, Rankin was always aware that the West was settled at the expense of the native Americans, on lands stolen after so-called peace treaties. Her concern for inequality among minority races and those without wealth was always present.

The Book Club was joined by Rozy Park, a newer WCC member, now Board chair of the Jeanette Rankin Foundation. Over the last 50 years, the Rankin Foundation has provided over \$5M in unrestricted, annually renewable cash scholarships nationally to over 2500 low-income women over thirty-five who have not had the opportunity to complete their college undergraduate degree. Due to the Foundation's unique scholar support system and sheer determination of the scholars, and the flexibility provided by cash assistance, 97% of the 2025 scholars met their annual goal. Nationally, this demographic of women's college success rate is 31%. If you would like to volunteer to serve as a reader for Rankin Foundation applications, let us know.

The Rankin Foundation is in its third year of sponsoring WCC's National Speaker Forum, including the March 10 event.

