

THE CIVIC SPIRIT



FALL 2018

WE MARCHED.
WE VOTED.

WHAT'S NEXT?



WOMEN'S
CITY CLUB
OF NEW YORK

100 Years
of Activism

wccny.org

WELCOME

It's a New Day at WCC!

A new vision. A new mission. And, a new direction to help more women become changemakers in New York City!

After a 6-month-long process—complete with engaging debate, deep soul-searching, and insightful counsel from civic and elected leaders across our great city—we are moving boldly forward. YOU can be part of this change as we enlist new supporters, partners, investors, and friends to ensure EVERYONE can participate in the democratic process!

The climate of our country and city has changed since Women's City Club of New York was first founded a century ago. So have the needs of the women we must serve in New York City. It is crucial that WCC adapt to the times and chart a course that will yield more opportunity, access, and inclusivity— for *all* NYC women.



As you read this newsletter, you will discover how we will reach women who are underserved in neighborhoods across the city. WCC will equip them with the skills and knowledge to be successful in their careers, in their communities, and in their lives.

A century ago, our founders were civically engaged and reshaped New York City. We stand on their shoulders, and will exude the same passion and purpose so that the women of today can advocate for change. I applaud WCC's Board of Directors for the foresight and commitment to continue our legacy of hard work and to build a more impactful organization. As we move ahead, I welcome your thoughts and ideas—and look forward to you standing with WCC as a changemaker!

In solidarity,

Carole J. Wacey
President and CEO

JULY 2018

WCC staff begin to develop a comprehensive list of goals and strategies. Discussions continue with external partners.



JUNE 2018

Discussions continue with the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC), the Executive Committee, staff and external partners on WCC's direction. A new vision and mission are unveiled—and approved—at WCC's 102nd Annual Meeting on June 27.

WCC *in Action*



This summer, WCC hosted voter registration events at locations throughout the city to promote civic engagement. WCC is part of the **Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies Civic Engagement Cohort (FPWA)**. This year, WCC worked to dispel voter intimidation tactics and lift up the voices of individuals and families in low-income communities.

WCC stood with the **New York State Sexual Harassment Working Group, Girls for Gender Equity, Common Cause New York**, and other organizations in calling for New York State to hold public hearings on sexual harassment policy.



WCC Operations Coordinator **Anita Mathew** led a discussion with **Grace Institute** participants about why local elections matter, and encouraged voter registration as part of the FPWA Civic Engagement initiative.

SEPTEMBER 2018

WCC staff preview the strategic plan with the Executive Committee. A signature program is identified by Board leadership and developed by staff.

NOVEMBER 2018 AND BEYOND

The SPAC, Executive Committee, and Board hold discussions on WCC direction. Partner outreach is conducted.

AUGUST 2018

WCC continues to develop goals and strategies with input from key stakeholders, including the SPAC. Feedback is considered as strategic options are researched, developed, vetted, and prioritized.

OCTOBER 2018

WCC staff review the strategic plan with the Board of Directors and WCC members. WCC strategic plan is approved unanimously by the Board of Directors.

MEMBERS *Making A Difference:* **HEIDI REAVIS**

For new Board Chair Heidi Reavis, the work of WCC has always been close to her heart—and her family.

“As a second generation WCC member, I’ve had the opportunity to participate in many events that promote greater civic engagement and to support the organization over the years, as my mother Thetis Reavis had before me,” says Heidi. “It is an honor to now be serving in this leadership position.”

Heidi has had an extensive and accomplished career across a variety of fields, and her dedication to underserved communities has been a common theme across every aspect of her work. She is Managing Partner of Reavis Page Jump LLP, a law firm specializing in alternate dispute resolution and litigation, employment law and discrimination matters, intellectual property and media law, real estate and corporate transactions, and nonprofit organization law.

Focused on disrupting early patterns of discrimination, Heidi has been recognized by the Women’s Sports Foundation for her work in discrimination prevention and Title IX desegregation in scholastic sports. An award-winning film producer with husband Steve Engel, she received an Emmy® Award as an Executive Producer of the feature documentary film, *A Walk to Beautiful*, drawing attention to the issues of lack of education, early marriage, childbirth injuries, and maternal health care in developing nations.

Heidi has been involved in several nonprofit organizations, including as Counsel to and Chair of the Board of Women Make Movies and a member of the Women’s Forum. She previously served on the Board of the Friends Seminary School, where she was Chair of the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, taught classes on labor and discrimination law, and created the Fund for the Teaching of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. In 2016, Heidi received WCC’s coveted Centennial Civic Spirit Award for her transformational work in discrimination prevention and as a leading member of and Counsel to WCC through its Centennial period.



“As the Board Chair, I am thrilled to help guide WCC as we embrace our second century of empowering underserved New Yorkers to become civically engaged and create positive change in our communities.”

GET TO KNOW | HEIDI REAVIS

Favorite book? Pretty much anything by Carl Hiaasen.

Who is your “sheroe”? U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Favorite NYC landmark? Flatiron Building.

What is your ‘mantra’? “Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed, is more important than any other one thing.” - Abraham Lincoln

What does WCC mean to you? Democracy at work.

Most prized possession? 3-way tie between:
— Anything I touch that reminds me of my mother.
— St. Christopher pendant worn by my step-father equivalent, Bernard Pierre Wolff.
— My Emmy® Award, which symbolizes what my husband Steve Engel and I can accomplish together.

PARTNERING FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

WCC is proud to have worked with a number of organizations and nonprofits in recent years. We applaud them for their partnership. You can see our partners [here](#).

Advocating.

This summer and fall, WCC continued to meet with elected officials and civic and labor leaders to discuss the future of WCC and issues affecting New Yorkers. We fought for gender equity by calling for New York State to hold public hearings on sexual harassment. We also joined Equality Now and other women's organizations in expressing solidarity with Dr. Christine Blasey Ford in an ad in *The Washington Post*.



Engaging.

WCC actively engages with New Yorkers, advocates for gender and social equity, and influences policy in the region. WCC events enable people to foster an informed dialogue about issues affecting City and State policies. This fall, we participated in Charter Revision Hearings to suggest changes to the New York City Charter, which has not be updated in nearly 30 years.



Left to right: Carole Wacey, WCC President and CEO, Dr. Hazel Dukes, President of NAACP's New York State Conference, and WCC Board Vice Chair, Deborah Martin Owens.

Speak Up...with a smile!

As the holidays approach, please show your support for WCC.

Select **Women's City Club of New York** as your preferred nonprofit on Amazon Smile. It just takes a click.

Then, when you shop on Amazon, a portion of every purchase supports WCC and it won't cost you a thing!

Visit smile.amazon.com, plug in your name, and select WCC!



You shop. Amazon gives.

Sign Up.

Sign up to receive alerts about important events, legislation that affects you, networking opportunities, and the monthly Civic Spirit Express eblast.

To sign up, send an email to: info@wccny.org or visit us at wccny.org.

MEMBERS *Making A Difference:* **RUTH WATSON LUBIC**

WCC founded the Maternity Center Association (MCA) in 1918, during a time when there was almost no care for expectant mothers in New York City.

The center became a model in public health circles and continues to operate today as **Childbirth Connection**. MCA develops and advances forms of care that are critical components of the nation's maternity care system.



In 1970, Dr. Ruth Watson Lubic was appointed **General Director of the MCA**. A Member Emerita of WCC since 1983, Dr. Lubic's vision led to the establishment of the first freestanding childbearing center in the United States, which now serves as a model for more than 150 centers nationwide. Her background in public health, nursing, midwifery, and education has led to groundbreaking achievements in maternal health, including the founding of childbearing centers in Australia and Europe, and research that upends stereotypes about low-income mothers.

During her career, Dr. Lubic has received recognition for her contributions to public health. She was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1971, and received honorary doctorates from prestigious universities as well as the MacArthur Foundation *Genius Award*. Recently, at age 93, she was honored by the New York Academy of Medicine. Dr. Lubic has served on WCC's Health Committee, and continues to stay connected with WCC work.

WCC: Connecting with Changemakers!



WCC Board member **Barbara Allen** and staff members, including **Anita Mathew**, attended the Henry Hart Rice Urban Policy Forum at the NYU Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

They heard from the inspiring **Cecile Richards**, former President of Planned Parenthood (pictured at left with Anita).



WCC Operations Coordinator **Anita Mathew** met newly-elected Congresswoman **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** at a taping of *The Van Jones Show*. We love connecting with changemakers who are making their voices heard!

LESSONS FROM THE CITYWIDE GUIDES TO SERVICES AND RESOURCES

WCC provides an online *Citywide Guide to Services and Resources in New York* to help individuals and organizations access low- or no-cost social services, programs, and resources throughout the five boroughs.

Earlier this year, WCC conducted an eight-month evaluation of the Guides—in partnership with Touro College—to ensure they are comprehensive, diverse, and practical to users. The evaluation consisted of a focus group and surveys for end-users and providers.



The results show that:

- 92% of end-users are women;
- 42% of Guide users are over the age of 65; and
- Most users had incomes less than \$75,000.

"Housing and Homelessness" was the most searched service category, and the print and online versions of the Guides were used equally among all end-users.

In addition, the focus group participants indicated that the Guides are helpful to social workers and can be a great resource for their clients.

With feedback from users and the evaluators in mind, our summer interns helped update the Guides. Our findings will continue to be beneficial as WCC improves the *Citywide Guides to Services and Resources*.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS FUNDERS

WCC is grateful to have received three grants totaling nearly **\$50,000** that support initiatives to strengthen services for communities in New York City.

We thank the **Sy Syms Foundation**, which supported the *Citywide Guide to Services and Resources*; **Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA)**, which supported our civic engagement initiatives; and an **anonymous foundation**, which supported our civic engagement work. WCC is grateful for this support and looks forward to increasing civic engagement and improving access to low- and no-cost services with these funds.

NINA UNTERMYER: A LEGACY OF CHANGE

Nina Untermyer, a longtime advocate for women and member of Women's City Club of New York, bequeathed a significant gift to our organization, which in the coming years will help WCC to launch new, innovative programs benefiting women and girls in New York City.

"Throughout her life, Nina Untermyer gave generously of her time and talent to a number of nonprofits and organizations," said WCC Board Chair Heidi Reavis. "Her family and formal education led her to a life of social awareness and a willingness to seek justice, and in Women's City Club of New York she championed the causes in which she believed so passionately. We are honored to have been chosen by Nina to continue pursuing her dream of a fair and just city empowering women and girls."

Ms. Untermyer, who was born in New York City more than 95 years ago, passed away in early 2015. During several decades as a WCC member, she served on the Board of Directors, and as Secretary in the early 1980s. She also was a Member—or Chair—of many WCC Committees, such as the Committee on the Status of Women, Committee on Full Rights and Access to Education, and Committee on Public Education and Religious Liberty.

An Upper East Side resident born into an intellectual family that prized civic engagement, Ms. Untermyer attended the Dalton School; Madeira School, Virginia; University of Wisconsin; Columbia University School of General Studies; and Parsons (NYU School of Fine and Applied Arts) School of Design. She spent much of her career in the field of merchandising.

For many years, Ms. Untermyer was engaged with the New York City Department of Education's School



Volunteer Program, which provided instruction in English as a Second Language, and created a peer tutor program for children in elementary schools. Her work was recognized when she received the Lizette H. Sarnoff volunteer service award from Albert Einstein School's Women's Committee. She also served on the Chancellor's Task Force on Sex Equity in Education and the Yorkville Civic Council, and was a member of the Friends of Julia Richman High School.

In her personal life, Ms. Untermyer maintained a longstanding love of France and the arts, and spent many summers in the idyllic countryside of France, where she had treasured friendships.

WCC deeply appreciates Nina Untermyer's longtime commitment to the organization, and is grateful that the bequest will enable WCC to effectively implement our new strategic plan and empower more women and girls in New York City to become changemakers in their communities.

WCC: IN THE KNOW

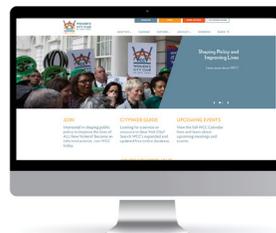
Meet Stephanie Silkowski WCC's New Policy and Programs Manager

Please join us in welcoming Stephanie Silkowski to the WCC team! Stephanie brings a wealth of advocacy, policy, and research experience to the role of Policy and Programs Manager. She has held positions with the First Deputy Mayor's Office and the New York City Council's Progressive Caucus, and even co-founded her own organization to get more women elected to public office. We are delighted to have Stephanie on board, and we can't wait to work with her to elevate the voices of women in New York City!



CHECK US OUT!

WCC has a long and storied history of accomplishments. For more than a century, we have been on the frontlines of a stronger, more inclusive New York. Check out our history of making an impact in NYC on our **Website** or on **Wikipedia**.



Holiday Party
Women's City Club of New York
invites you to a holiday party
to celebrate the season & our new direction!

Mingle and connect with members & friends (old and new)!

WHEN

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

WHERE

New York City Bar Association | 42 West 44th Street (b/w 5th and 6th Aves.)

RSVP

JOIN WCC FOR THE WOMEN'S MARCH

Make your voice heard
on January 20, 2019.

RSVP

Stay up to date
with WCC events
and opportunities
by visiting the
WCC Calendar.

WCC'S 102nd ANNUAL MEETING

At the 102nd Annual Meeting in June, we discussed our accomplishments over the past year, celebrated milestone members, and recognized Member of the Year **Ruth Acker** and Centennial Medal of Leadership recipient **Annette Choolfaian**. Members and guests heard from **Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer**, and we discussed WCC's new strategic direction in our second century of activism. The strategic planning presentation included the unveiling of WCC's new Mission and Vision. Over the summer, WCC developed new strategic goals that will build momentum and result in unmatched civic engagement, activism, and leadership in the years to come.

At the Annual Meeting, WCC also elected new Board leadership, including **Heidi Reavis, Esq.** as Chair, **Deborah Martin Owens, Esq.** as Vice Chair, and **Julia Kagan Baumann** as Treasurer.



Ruth Acker, former WCC President and Treasurer, and a dedicated WCC member for 26 years, was awarded the Member of the Year Award at the 2018 Annual Meeting.



Board Chair Heidi Reavis presented the Centennial Medal of Leadership to former Board Chair Annette Choolfaian.



Left to right: Board Member Margaret Cianci, Board Member Mary Murphree, President and CEO Carole Wacey, Board Vice Chair Deborah Martin Owens, and Board Chair Heidi Reavis at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Join the WCC community. Become part of a movement. Be a change agent.

WCC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!

We are delighted to have welcomed 25 new members to WCC since June 2018. Our newest members come from a range of professional fields and offer a variety of perspectives on policy and programming. New members – we love to hear from you! Reach out anytime to info@wccny.org to let us know what interests and inspires you.

Shila Akther
Jennifer Banarez
Destany Batista
Emily Davison
Christina De Vuono
Sarah Esmi

Tess Felter
Arlene Charisma Frails
Nijah Glenn
Jessica Hauser
Ifeoma Ike
Samantha Johnson

Miina Juvonen
Arpita Khosla
Jennifer Lyons
Andrea Nieves
Lisa Marie Nordfors
Anuli O. Okeke

Sadia Rahman
Ellen Ryan
Coral Sederholm
Mahfuza Sultana
Jeanne Thelwell
Cara Weglarz
Madeline Wills

In Memoriam

We honor and remember our current and previous members who have passed away.

Joyce Bove

We lost WCC member Joyce Bove this summer after a courageous battle with cancer. Joyce was as giving as she was accomplished. She was the Vice President for grants at the New York Community Trust, where she presided over hundreds of millions of dollars to nonprofit organizations. According to her family, she was particularly proud of her work on HIV/AIDS funding and helping New York City recover from the 9/11 attacks. Joyce was a valued and active member of WCC from the day she joined in 2014. She served on the Board of Directors and the Nominating and Development Committees, and regularly attended meetings—most recently our Annual Meeting, Board Meeting and Board lunch on June 27th. Joyce will be missed.

Elisabeth Israels Perry

The WCC community mourns the loss of longtime member Dr. Elisabeth Israels Perry. In her professional life, Dr. Perry worked at prestigious universities, including as a Professor of History at Vanderbilt University and as Director of the Graduate Program in Women's History at Sarah Lawrence College. She authored numerous scholarly articles and books on women's history and the pursuit of citizenship rights in the 19th and 20th centuries. A committed WCC member and prolific researcher, Dr. Perry's contributions to WCC are immeasurable. She shed light on the political, civic, and social impact of women, including the influence of notable WCC members, such as her grandmother Belle Moskowitz, Frances Perkins, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Her insights into WCC's past will help pave the way for a more civically engaged New York City in the years to come. Elisabeth will be missed.

Elizabeth Bache Shwal

Elizabeth Bache Shwal was a longtime member of WCC who passed away on October 17, 2018 at the age of 95. A member since 1966, Elizabeth regularly attended events, and she especially enjoyed our tours. She was an Aviation Machinist Mate, Second Class in the Navy during World War II, volunteering her time for the allies as part of Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). She went on to get her degree from Barnard, which she was able to do because of the G.I. Bill, and also received her Masters in Elementary Education from NYU. Throughout her life, she held teaching and secretarial jobs, and in addition to WCC, she also was involved with the League of Women Voters. Elizabeth will be missed.

HEY, NEW YORK WOMEN... YOU MARCHED! YOU VOTED!

WHAT'S NEXT?

New York Women are taking it to the streets and the voting booths, but much more needs to be done to inspire participation and change across New York City.

It's hard to believe that New York still ranks 22nd out of the 50 states in women's political participation, voter registration, turnout, representation in elected office, and allocation of institutional resources.

(Source: Center for American Women and Politics, 2015)



2018
**CIVIC FUND
APPEAL**

WCC is ready to change all of that!

There are so many ways that *all* New York WOMEN can get involved!



Find an issue you care about.



Raise your voice!



Show up + vote!



Spark change!



Organize!



Donate!

What's Next?

In our second century of service, **WCC** is committed to strengthening civic engagement and forging a new generation of trailblazers.

In the past two years we've seen grassroots activism and political engagement inspire movements for change. We are ready to continue the momentum.

Will You Be a WCC Changemaker?

Support WCC's Civic Fund and invest in a more civically engaged New York!

[CLICK HERE TO
DONATE](#)



110 W. 40th Street
Suite 1002
New York, NY 10018

Shaping Policy
Improving Lives

wccny.org

Become a Member Today!

WCC will continue to shape policy through civic participation, advocacy, education, and issue analysis.

Help make New York a better place for *everyone*.

Benefits

- Public programs featuring leading public policy experts and access to elected and public officials.
- Opportunities to join WCC on the front lines of Marches and on the steps of City Hall as we champion reform.
- Civic Spirit Express monthly eblast on current and emerging policy and legislation and other publications.
- Networking opportunities with a dynamic group of informed activists.

[JOIN WCC](#)

THE CIVIC SPIRIT

President and CEO:

Carole J. Wacey

BOARD OFFICERS:

Chair: Helen Diana (Heidi) Reavis, Esq.

Vice Chair: Deborah Martin Owens, Esq.

Chair, Public Policy: Amy Schwartz

Treasurer: Julia Kagan Baumann

Secretary: Betty C. Jones

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