

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free”



Photo by the National Park Service.

Too often, we live not as one community but as many

With whom do you most often associate?

In Cincinnati, more frequently than not, the answer is “those who are most like me.”

If we are to understand each other better, don't we need to know one another better, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation and immigrant status?

Tonight's program, presented by the Inclusion Panel, is intended to provide a deeper understanding of one aspect of the different experiences among our neighbors. We'll hear from young people

and others about what it is like to live in the United States (and to want to live in the United States), but not always feel welcomed.

As background for tonight's program, it's worth thinking about the recent report by Bridges for a Just Community in conjunction with the University of Cincinnati's Institute

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TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

- ▶ What's it like to grow up in America yet feel unwelcomed here?
- ▶ Two local Latino high school students, one from Purcell and one from Northern Kentucky, will tell their stories.



HERE! HERE! BARBARA & KIM UNITED WAY HONORS TWO OF OUR MEMBERS

A salute is in order for Cincinnati Association Vice President **Barbara Henshaw**, who was honored by United Way of Cincinnati on April 30 at its Leaders & Legends Luncheon.

Barbara was awarded the Impact Leadership Award. Congratulations, madam vice president.

Another Cincinnati member, **Kim Fender**, also was honored. She received one of two Community Service Awards for Improving Our Community.

Congratulations, Kim.



WEBSITE UPDATE

UNDER WAY BUT WE STILL NEED EVERYONE'S \$UPPORT

When the cranky system that supports our aging website went down once again last week, we were reminded of the urgency in building a new site.

We are still short of our goal of \$3,000 to fund this important project, but in April the executive committee authorized the marketing committee to get started.

Cincinnati artist and web designer **Ryan Ostrander** (see samples of his work at ryanostrander.com) will give our site its new look.

If you have not yet made a donation, please give a check to **Roger Smith** tonight.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

OUR LOFTY GOAL IS 20 NEW MEMBERS BY SEPTEMBER

Whether measured by community impact, by the strength of the discussion at a monthly meeting, by the fiscal stability of the association or by any other measure, Cincinnatus is only as strong as its membership.

Unfortunately, we have turnover. Members leave for a variety of reasons. Even if we did not, we would still want to refresh our organization often with the talents and thinking of new members.

With that in mind, the membership committee has set a goal of 20 new members by September. Your help is needed. Please recommend a prospect tonight to anyone on the membership committee, and the committee will take it from there.

The membership committee is **Barbara Henshaw, George Wharton, Peter Hoyt, Rick Pender and Jane Anderson**. They need your suggestions to succeed.

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for Policy Research and looking at inclusion and diversity in our region.

This annual report allows our community to benchmark its progress, and provides encouraging news. More people in the region, for example, reported having a good friend who is African American or Asian. But fewer people report having a friend who is Hispanic (36.2 percent in 2007 and 31.7 percent in 2012).

The barriers fall among younger people: "Young adults, those 18 to 34 years of age, are more likely than other age groups to have contact as a good friend with a person who is Black or Hispanic," the report says.

Meanwhile, the survey also sought to determine whether the experience of living in our region is different for different groups. In a nutshell, the answer is yes. Consider this example:

"African American and Hispanic residents differed significantly from white residents in experiences of being treated unfairly. Fifteen percent of African American respondents and 14 percent of Hispanic respondents say they experienced unfair treatment in a store where they were shopping in the past 30 days, compared to only two percent of whites."

Food for thought. If you would like a full copy of the Bridges report, send an email to inclusion panel's **Steph Stoller** at steph@covap.com.

Finally, the Community Inclusion Panel offers this thought about tonight's program: "Our goal tonight is to start a dialogue on a subject which has become more pertinent to all of us in our daily lives. This group of young immigrants who have grown up in America, but were not born here, have issues that we had not been aware of prior to hearing the students speak."

ALSO OF INTEREST...

Enquirer editor **Carolyn Washburn** will moderate the next Northern Kentucky Forum on May 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Dixie Heights High School in Crestview Hills, Ky. The topic will be "Babies vs. the Boardroom," examining an increasing interest in the stay-at-home option for one spouse for young families. More at nkyforum.org. RSVP to engage@nku.edu.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A WORD FROM ...

MARK SILBERSACK

A key part of our mission is to *initiate* changes to improve the community. This doesn't mean that we fully put such changes into effect. Often, we hand off execution to others or work for collaborative implementation.

This month, I'll mention two illustrative efforts.

First, the association (largely through the efforts of **Al DeJarnett** and **John Frank**)

created and promoted the "Greater Cincinnati Commitment." They formed an alliance of supporters to gather individual, business, and group endorsements.

Now they have found a home for its future operation and expansion, Bridges for a Just Community. At the May 2nd Bridges annual dinner at the Duke Energy Center, its CEO Lynnette Heard spoke to an assembly of over 600 about the Commitment and announced that Bridges will now build on what Cincinnatus initiated. She asked everyone to sign the Commitment form that evening.

Second, four years ago, to better educate Cincinnati voters, we took the lead in putting together a group to hold a debate of mayoral candidates on prime-time TV. As we move towards the upcoming election, a similar coalition of civic organizations such as Cincinnatus, the League of Women Voters, and Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, has already started to meet with the various candidate and media representatives to plan a series of candidate debates.

