



NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

July, 2023

Next monthly meeting: July 10, 2023, hybrid format, 7 p.m.

Google Meet and In-Person at Hebrew Union College, 1st fl., Herrman Learning Center

CUF trustee election

Dear Neighbors,

The July edition is full of election news. Inside please see information from the League of Women Voters on Ohio's new ID requirements for in-person and mail-in voting. Remember there is a state-wide special election on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

July 18th is the CUF annual meeting when we will elect three trustees to represent all members and residents of CUF. Terms are for three years, and trustees may serve two consecutive terms. The trustees whose 3-year terms are expiring this year are Maureen France, Andrea Schwallie, and John Stork. We thank them for their dedicated service to CUF! Maureen is term-limited; Andrea has chosen not to run for a second term; John is eligible for a second term. Eligible voters will be sent an email describing this year's procedures. The election will be in-person at our new meeting facility: Hebrew Union College, 3101 Clifton Avenue; but there will be opportunity for absentee voting if needed.

Candidates for this year's election are Kelly Ambrosius, Chris Donahue, Chip Kussmaul, and John Stork. Below are introductory statements from the candidates:

1. Kelly Ambrosius

I have been a member of CUFNA for 4 years. Like all of us, I want to live in a sanitary and safe neighborhood. I am a member of the CUFNA Litter Group and have partnered with the UC Student Trash Collection group, as well as Keep Cincinnati Beautiful for litter supplies. I have reached out to the CUFNA Board and Zoning Commission in the past about a new building housing issue. I have participated with neighbors from different communities on a Connective Community session to learn how density affects neighborhoods. I have participated with various city departments on an Extreme Storms session to learn how they are working on preventing floods in our neighborhoods. I am interested in what happens in our community and in our city and would like to get more involved in CUF. That is why I am submitting my name for a position as CUFNA Trustee.

2. Chris Donahue

I grew up in CUF and returned here after leaving the Navy. I have a BA in History from UC. I retired from a career with the State of Kentucky where I provided employment assistance to veterans for 19 years and then moved into providing IT support for multiple agencies. My interest in the Neighborhood Association is to protect long-term residency in the CUF neighborhoods.

3. Chip Kussmaul

Jan and I have been residents of CUF, in the same house, for a little over forty years. We raised our blended family here and are now grandparents, and even great grandparents! I've always seen CUF as a great community, in a central city location, with great neighbors. Jan and I are now retired and enjoying our community even more.

But we do have our problems, largely due to the influx of students from UC. While most UC students are conscientious neighbors, some are not. In any event, the sheer numbers affect our quality of life, in parking, litter, and graffiti. As the representative of the CUF Board, I sit on the board of CHCURC (Clifton Heights Urban Redevelopment Corporation). In that capacity I have done everything I can to influence UC to consider its outsize influence on CUF. There have been some desirable results. We now have the Housing Initiative, a formal cooperative agreement between CUF and CHCURC, which is bearing fruit, as abandoned and neglected houses are converted into owner-occupied and long-term rental homes. Additionally, I have

previously served on the CUF board, seeking, as we all do, to make CUF a better place for all of us. CUF is surrounded by development. OTR has become almost legendary in its turnaround. Mt Auburn and Avondale are seeing significant improvement. We sit in the middle of this, sometimes wondering what our future is and whether we will decide it, or someone else will. I want our future to be our choice.

4. John Stork

I am John Stork, and I am running for reelection to the Board. I have lived on Chickasaw Street since 2003 and in and around Clifton Heights years prior to that. I work for the University of Cincinnati Libraries, so much of my life centers around the neighborhood. I hope to have a positive impact on the Board as we continue to work to address our needs as residents during this time of record enrollments at the University, increased building and housing developments, and limited city services.

Eligibility for membership in CUFNA and eligibility to vote for Trustees is defined in our by-laws. To be eligible to vote at the annual meeting, a Member 1) must be a resident of the community who has attained the age of 18 years, and 2) must have attended three general meetings as a paid Member in full during the Annual Period, which is defined as beginning May 1 and ending the following April 30. (The complete document can be accessed through the website at <https://www.cufna.org/>.)

We hope to see you on July 18!

CUF Neighborhood Association General Meeting

Hybrid In-Person / Virtual meeting at Hebrew Union College and on Google Meet
Meeting Presider: Jack Martin, President of CUFNA

Meeting Commenced on Tuesday, June 20, 2023
at 7:01 pm

Board of Trustees Vacancy: Jack Martin reported that the CUFNA board has been looking for a candidate to take the place of Carolyn Young, who resigned in March. Motion made and passed by the CUFNA board to appoint Rob Neel to fill the remainder of Carolyn's unexpired term.

Safety Updates:

CFD Engine Co. 19: Not present

CPD District 5: Officer Dent shared the crime statistics. Officer Dent also reported that the City of Cincinnati is remapping the police districts. They will be moving from five districts to four, with CUF to become part of District One. There is a meeting for public discussion at the Winton Hills Recreation Center on 06/27/2023.

UC Police:

Officer Sparks reported that:

- Summer Commencement is on 08/04 and 08/05.
- Move-in dates for Fall Semester will be 08/12 – 8/20.
- Fall Semester runs from 08/21 – 12/09.
- UCPD is still hiring. Please reach out if interested.
- UCPD also has a limited number of steering wheel locks available to deter thefts of Hyundais and Kias.

Jack Martin reported that there was a Town and Gown workshop in Colorado. There were no CUF reps in attendance. Brooke Lipscomb from the city and Daniel Cummins from UC reported that they both attended the conference.

Guests:

Update on the District at Clifton Heights:

Mark Becher reported that:

- There are traffic changes on Straight Street to accommodate the construction.
- Prus is working on the streetscape at The Deacon. This includes sidewalk upgrades and new plantings.
- Hotel Celare is on the third level of the deck.
- HUB student housing is on the 11th or 12th level, and they are starting to install wall panels.
- On the south side of Straight St., on the site adjacent to Hughes High School, there is a new landscaper and there will be additional trash pickup.
- They will be installing a decorative fence wrap at Straight St. and Clifton Ave. based on feedback from the community regarding the temporary fencing.

Philip Rowe reported that:

- For Hotel Celare, there will be fencing and water traffic barriers in place for most of the project. To accommodate this, Straight Street has been reduced to two lanes, with no on-street parking. Pedestrian access is still available. The fencing will remain in place until the site improvements are complete. The estimated completion date is the spring of 2024.

Beta Theta Pi: 2630 University Ct.

Bill Gerth and Allison McKenzie reported that:

- They are working on making updates to the existing Beta Theta Pi fraternity house and are in the process of finalizing their plans with the city.
- They anticipate starting the demolition in July or August, with an estimated completion date of August 2024.
- The site is 0.681 acres and houses about 50 students.
- The front two sections will be torn down and replaced with something of a similar footprint.
- The parking lot will remain the same.
- The back section of the building, which was added on in 1963, will remain the same.
- They will not be applying for zoning variances, and the building will follow all existing regulations regarding setbacks.
- There are no anticipated street closures.
- The site does have several large, mature trees. During construction they will try to save as many of the trees as they can.
- While under construction, the students have secured leases in other buildings around campus. CHCURC (Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation):

Brenden Regan provided the following updates:

- 2136 Ravine St. and 2455 W. McMicken St. have been sold as part of the housing initiative.
- They hope to be building infill at some point for the lot at 495 Riddle Rd. And 496 Sandheger Street, and are looking into the possibility of creating international graduate student housing.
- CHCURC is in talks with the University of Cincinnati about turning block one, across from Crossroads Church into student housing.
- The owner of Mole's records has sold the building on Calhoun Street to CHCURC.
- CHCURC is working with 8k Construction on predevelopment for workforce housing on Vine Street across from Inwood Park.
- In U-Square, Keystone is closing, and the Mac Shack is moving to Corryville.
- Molly Cardosi has helped paint murals in CUF, and is working with CHCURC to create designs for vinyl wraps on traffic control boxes in 18 locations in the neighborhood. They are looking for community input on design concepts. CHCURC will be accepting suggestions until 06/30/2023.

Potential ideas included:

- Historical photos of the neighborhood
- A trompe l'oeil
- A design inspired by the Rookwood fountains in Hughes High School
- Elements from the CUF neighborhood games flag
- Icons from Christmas ornaments that CUF created in a previous year
- Incorporating the Corryville Catholic school

colors of orange and black.

Business/Reports/Announcements:

- May Treasurer's Report: Attached to the meeting agenda. Linda Ziegler reported that the treasurer's report is incorrect on the agenda. Most of the money in the account is from the KCB reimbursement grant for the solar powered lighted stop signs and the new community garden. The last of the grant money will be applied towards steps and a handrail for the community garden.
- Trash & Litter Cleanup Committee:
- Jack Martin reported that CUFNA has pick-sticks to aid in litter clean-up; please reach out if interested.
- Tracy Schwetschenau reported that there will be a community clean-up event on 6/24/2023 at 10:00 am at Christ the King on 333 Warner St. Supplies will be provided, and all are welcome to attend.
- Street Safety: Jack Martin provided a document with street safety improvement proposals along with the meeting agenda and asked for feedback. If there are any additional traffic / safety issues or suggestions for improvement, please send them to CUFNA's email address by the end of the weekend.
- LSDMC/CPS

CANS: Not present.

Hughes HS: Lyn Martin reported that:

- School will be back in session starting 08/17/2023
- Hughes' schedule has changed to 8:00 am – 3:00 pm for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Uniforms will be required for the 2023-2024 school year.
- CHCURC (Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation) – Chip Kussmaul reported that the uptown waste diversion event will be taking place again this year from 07/26/2023 – 08/06/2023.
- CHBA (Clifton Heights Business Association) – Jack Martin reported that there was no June meeting.
- NOU (Neighborhoods of Uptown): No updates at this time.
- IIN (Invest in Neighborhoods): No updates at this time.
- UC Community Development: No updates at this time.
- Hallmar:

Linda Ziegler reported that:

- They have removed CUF's water service line adjacent to the construction site for the Hallmar development. Mary Singler reported that the water line for the new community garden had just been installed, and CUF has been using it instead.
- There was a serious vehicle crash on McMicken at Marshall, and the park bench has

been destroyed and removed.

- IT, Website Development: Mary Singler reported that they are working on creating a separate email list to distribute CUFNA updates aside from meeting notices (such as for events).
- CBRs - Community Budget Requests (FY 2024-25)
 - Warner Street Steps Reconstruction – Jack Martin reported that the City is applying for grant money to restore the public stairway from Fairview Park to Warner St.
 - McMillan Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Improvements: No updates.
 - Neighborhood Identification Signage: Jack Martin reported that this request has been at least partially approved.
- CBRs – Approved Community Budget Requests (FY 2022-23)
 - One-way Streets: Jack Martin reported that there are still talks of making at least a pair of the north-south streets one-way.
 - McMillan Sidewalk: Jack Martin reported that this is ongoing.
 - CUFPA (Parks Advisory Council):
 - Bellevue Hill Park: Jack Martin reported that the bollards for the current parking circle are back-ordered, but scheduled to be installed in July. Jack also reported that there will be a concert in the park on Friday, July 7th from 6:00pm – 11:00pm.
 - Fairview Park: Jack Martin reported that the final presentation from Dave Gamsetter's UC class on a hypothetical natural dog park in Fairview is available on UC's website.
 - Inwood Park Picnic & Rozzi Fireworks: Jack Martin reported that there will be an Independence Day celebration on Sunday, July 2nd from 5:00pm – 10:00pm.
 - Foxhall Trail Cleanup: Jack Martin reported that there will be a clean up at the end of July on the Foxhall trail in Fairview Park. It will primarily entail honeysuckle removal.
 - Street Sweeping: Jack Martin reported that street sweeping is on 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month. Call 311 or 513-765-1212 with any issues regarding street sweeping or illegal parking.
 - Community Council Roundtable: Mary Singler attended the roundtable with the mayor on May 17th and reported that:
 - 10 – 11 community council representatives attended.
 - Attendees expressed concerns with developers buying up properties and raising prices.
 - Additional overall concerns included: approval for developments without proper setbacks, pedestrian safety issues, and issues with the FixitCincy app—where requests were getting closed out instead of being forwarded to

the appropriate department.

- Trustee Elections: Linda Ziegler reported that the CUFNA election is next meeting. Those who are eligible to vote will need to either attend in person for July's meeting, or request an absentee ballot prior to the meeting. If interested in voting absentee, please reach out via CUFNA's email address.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:59 pm.

Minutes taken by: Andrea Schwallie is an upcoming international town and gown conference in Colorado. A representative from CUFNA is not able to attend, but hopefully CUFNA will get updates.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:46 pm

Minutes taken by: Andrea Schwallie

Remembering Ken Skirtz

Kenneth Skirtz, 86 of Cincinnati passed away May 29, 2023. He was born December 17, 1936 in Berea, OH the son of the late Edwin and Mary (nee Koza) Skirtz. Beloved husband of Alice (nee Davis). Loving father of Stefan Skirtz. A high school drop-out, he earned a bachelor's degree in history from the State University of New York. From there he received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Ken was a Master Carpenter and was recruited to run the Vocational Careers in carpentry program at Withrow High School and later Western Hills High School.

In 1979 during hurricanes Frederic and David in Dominican Republic, Ken proudly took a group of his students to help rebuild after the disaster struck. Ironically, during the month of the project, a teachers' strike back home closed the school for ten days.

He was the past President of the Polish-American Society. He and his wife Alice became devoted members of the Ukrainian Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister Cities where they each eventually spent a year volunteering in Kharkiv. Ken was also a long-time member of the CUF Neighborhood Association as well as a founding member of the CUF Community Fund.

CUF Neighborhood Association Financial Report: June, 2023

Balance on: 5-31-20223 \$17,002.59

Income:

Online dues	\$10.00
Park Board grant	1500.00
Online dues	10.00
Dues	10.00
American on-line giving	100.00
Online dues	10.00
Total Income:	+ 1,640.00

Expenses:

Wild Apricot fees	1.26
Zins Plumbing, community garden	2,300.00
Genesis Events, Bellevue Park	350.00
CHCURC move in/move out	250.00
Allied Lock, community garden	156.61
HUC	1,125.00
Druffel Landscaping, St. Monica	1049.50
Zins Plumbing, Straight Street	275.00

Total Expenses: - 5,507.37

Balance: \$13,135.22

Balance to be reimbursed by KCB: + 5,632.93

Balance of Community Fund loans to be repaid:
- \$5,632.93

Balance on 6-30-20223 after loan repayment:
\$7,502.29

CUF Community Fund loaned CUFNA \$39,000 to cover costs from the two Keep Cincinnati Beautiful grants for a community garden and solar stop signs. CUFNA will repay loans to CUF Community Fund as KCB reimburses CUFNA for expenses submitted.

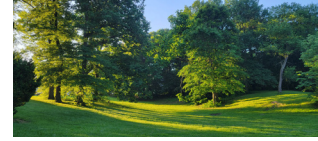
CUF Community Fund loan activity:

Solar stop signs: \$12,500
KCB grant; \$9,336.84 total cost paid, leaving \$3,163.16. Total \$9,336.84 reimbursed by KCB. \$9,336.84 reimbursed to Community Fund. Remaining \$3,163.16 transferred to community garden grant.
Community garden: \$26,500 KCB grant plus \$3,163.16 remaining from stop sign grant = \$29,663.16 total; \$24,136.17 expenditures. \$18,503.24 has been reimbursed by KCB. \$18,503.24 has been reimbursed to Community Fund. \$5,632.93 has been invoiced to KCB, not yet paid to CUF.

Bellevue park live music

Live bands perform at the pavillion in Bellevue Park on the first Friday of each month during the summer, 6:30 until 10:30-11 pm.

Burnet Woods appeal



Burnet Woods needs your help once again and we hope you will join us in signing this petition to City Council requiring due diligence in community engagement and the study of environmental impact prior to the installation of synthetic turf in our city parks and public lands.
[Stop Toxic PFAS Exposure: Don't let them Turf our Cincinnati Parks](#)

Not only is there concern about the process by which the Park Board arrived at its decision, there is great concern about the installation of synthetic turf as part of this project. Synthetic turf, among many other environmental contaminants, contains PFAS "forever chemicals" which leach into the environment and bioaccumulate in the bodies of living organisms.

Green plastic is not greenspace, and the assurance that a product is 10-degrees cooler than other synthetic turf means the turf temperature reaches 140-degrees in the sun instead of 150-degrees. Usage of this product, especially in replacement of healthy mature greenspaces, is being on the wrong side of the current climate crisis. This project could easily be redirected into making a gray surface parking lot a re-greened space with trees and natural features. Burnet Woods' place in our community as a migratory bird stopover with shaded mature trails in the center of three business districts, five hospitals, three colleges and three different communities is unique. It is our green heart center in a loud, gray, hardscaped world.

go Vibrant neighborhood challenge

Once again CUF is participating in the Million Step Neighborhood Challenge sponsored by the go Vibrant organization.

CUF is a small but mighty participant, and we urge all to sign up and start walking! Below is information on how to get started.

See our website at www.govibrant.org for details.

govibrant | 

New Ohio ID Requirements for In-Person Voting



There are several types of valid photo identification.

- Ohio driver's license;
- State of Ohio ID card;
- Interim ID form issued by the Ohio BMV;
- A US passport;
- A US passport card;
- US military ID card;
- Ohio National Guard ID card; or
- US Department of Veterans Affairs ID card

All photo IDs must have the following:

- An expiration date that has not passed;
- A photograph of the voter;
- The voter's name, which must substantially conform to the voter's name as it appears in the Poll List or in the Poll Book
- Must be an original document, not a copy.

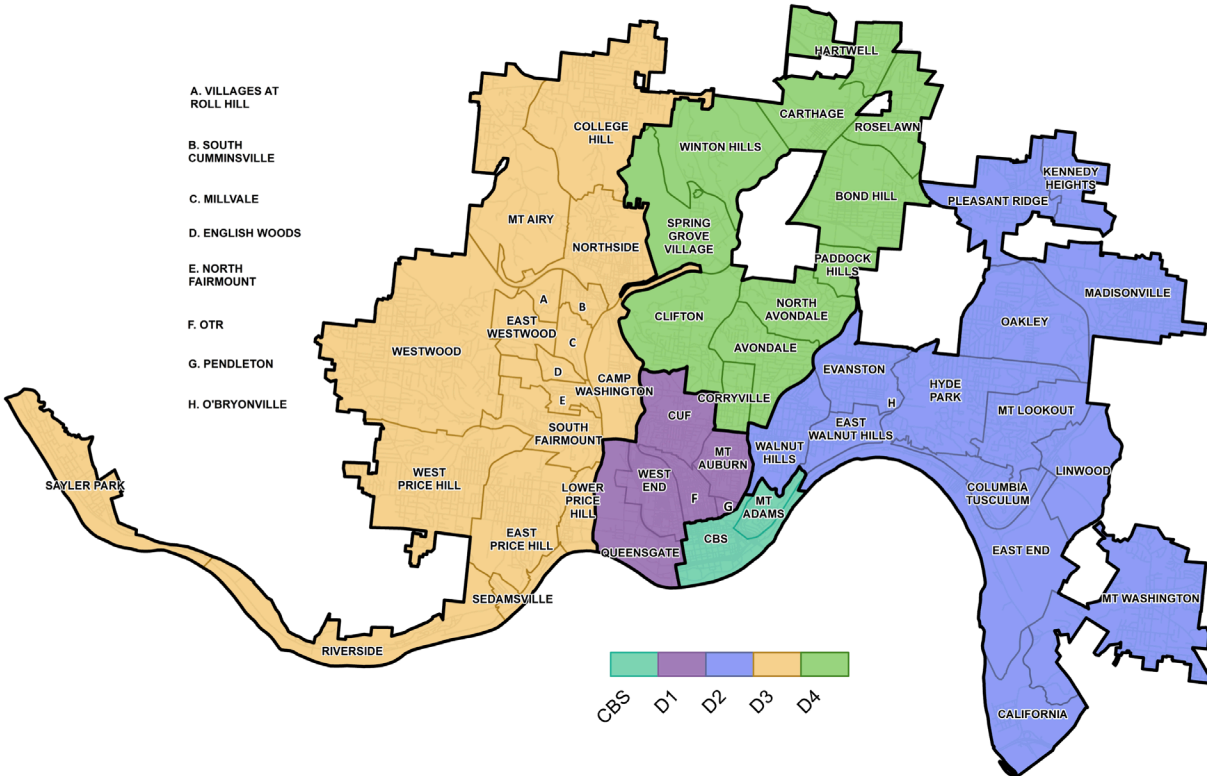
NOTICE: An unexpired Ohio Driver License, State ID Card, or Interim Documentation with your former address IS an ACCEPTABLE form of ID when your current address is in the pollbook.

Vote-by-Mail ID Requirement

To vote by mail, you may use the last four digits of your Social Security Number (SSN) as identification.

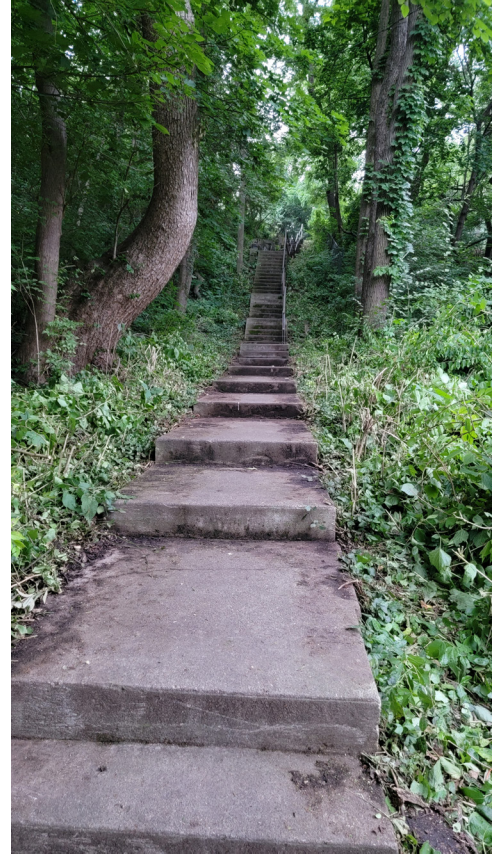
Cincinnati Police Districts Re-structured

The police districts in the city of Cincinnati are being re-structured. This change is set to occur at the end of 2023. A new district CBS, including the central business district and Mt. Adams, has recently been created. District 5 will be eliminated, and the seven neighborhoods currently served by D5 will be disbursed among existing Districts 1, 3 and 4. CUF will be re-located along with Mt. Auburn into District 1. See the attached map. Stay tuned for further information as it is received.



Neighborhood projects

Two recent neighborhood improvement projects have eliminated weeds, upgraded accessibility and enhanced street appeal. The Clemmer stairs were cleared of weeds and trash by city staff and the Warner corner garden was refurbished by neighbors.



Clemmer stairs, running from McMillan Street down to Clemmer Avenue.



Warner corner garden, Warner and Chickasaw.



**CLIFTON HEIGHTS
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
FAIRVIEW
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

2364 West McMicken Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Cincinnati, Ohio
Permit No. 4834

Funded by the City of Cincinnati



CUF membership



Any person subscribing to the purpose of the CUF Neighborhood Association, Inc. and paying dues set by the Association may become a member. Election of Trustees is held at the annual meeting in July. Eligible voters are residents of the community who are at least 18 years of age and who are fully paid members of the

Association and who have attended three general meetings after payment of dues during the year prior to the annual meeting. Non-resident members have voice but no vote in Association meetings and may not hold elective office.

Annual CUF dues are \$10.00.

- CUF general meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month, except August and December, 7:00 p.m, Hebrew Union College (HUC), 3101 Clifton Ave.
- CUF Trustee meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m, CHCURC office meeting room.
- CUF annual meeting and election: 3rd Tuesday in July, 7:00 pm, Hebrew Union College (HUC), 3101 Clifton Avenue.

CUF Neighborhood Association

2364 West McMicken Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Membership Type:

CUF resident _____

Non-voting Membership: _____

Membership fee: \$10.00 per year.
Make checks payable to CUFNA.

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