



NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter

REPRESENTING CLIFTON HEIGHTS • UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS • FAIRVIEW

February, 2024

**Next monthly meeting:** February 20, 2024, hybrid format, 7 p.m. Google Meet and In-Person at Hebrew Union College, 1st floor, Herrman Learning Center

## CUF Neighborhood Association general meeting minutes

Jan 16, 2024

Call to Order by at 7:05 by Rob

Present: Kelly, Linda, Chris, Rob, Chip, Mary.  
Virtual: Tracy, John Absent: Nathan

Guests:

- Brendan Regan, CHCURC: Polk St presentation: Affordable Housing. CHCURC= CDC for CUF. Affordable Housing= not spending more than 35% on housing. Site is at Vine and Polk south of Inwood Park. Redeveloping Vine St is a goal. Metro will have a bus every 4 minutes. 2 old frame blds will be torn down. It's 14 pieces of land which are under contract. Polk St steps—hoping City will fix those. 35 parking spaces; 1-3 beds; renovate 2 existing blds. 30-60% AMI. No students can live here for 20 yrs. Hoping to start building in 2025. Have to have 30% of design ready to present with application. 4-5 story building; improve street scape. Need TIF money from City, & to vacate Van Lear alley behind the space. Now Van Lear is not active. It's listed as a street. Go to CUFNA Board in Feb for letter of support. 25% of TIF money goes to affordable housing. These units will be rental only with income qualifications. It's not voucher housing.

Officer Johnson sent email to CUF about sale of Van Lear alley. That's normal procedure for the police.

- CHCURC looking to add 30 more planters in the neighborhood. CHCURC would pay for upkeep.

- BRT is raised platform stations. Emulates rail travel. Don't know if street car will come up Vine St. Feb 01 streetcar mtg will discuss

nine lines.

- You can email the Board at: [thecufna@gmail.com](mailto:thecufna@gmail.com)

- Board Members: Robert Neel, Nathan Hess, Mary Singler, Kelly Ambrosius, Linda Ziegler, Chris Donahue, Chip Kussmaul, Tracy Schwetschenau, John Stork

- Goals and Priorities. The CUFNA Board has summarized its Goals and Priorities for this coming year, and we hope you will take some time to look through the document and provide feedback. Flyers on table.

- Call for Volunteers: Backups for Neighborhood Roles Please email [thecufna@gmail.com](mailto:thecufna@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Old Business:

- Approval of the November 21 General Meeting Minutes.

- The CUFNA Board of Trustees met on January 02, 2024 and the first Tuesday of every month.

- Block 1 suggestions.

Reports:

- Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (CHCURC): (Chip Kussmaul). The Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation, CHCURC, was established as a partnership between the Clifton Heights Business Association, the CUF Neighborhood Association and the University of Cincinnati. The partnership is dedicated to the revitalization of the Clifton Heights neighborhood through various initiatives and redevelopment projects.

<https://cliftonheights.org/about/about-clifton-heights-urban-redevelopment-corporation>

Communications with the City and CHCURC regarding affordable housing TIF dollars and the Vine Street affordable housing project.

- Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC): Lyn Martin (Hughes High School) & Susan Heinrich (Clifton Area Neighborhood School, or CANS): Susan H —LSDMC had Jan Mtg last week. All CPS schools will have COVID relief funds expire next year. School budgets will be cut by 50%. Looking for creative solutions for budget cuts. CANS has monthly fund raisers. Feb 06 is Dewey's fund raiser. They have enough bb coaches for this year. Thx to Clifton Rec Ctr for their support. CANS doesn't have a gym or library. CRC lets CANS use their gym. CANS=Clifton Area Neighborhood Schools. Preschool-6th grade. Have a cheer/dance squad for the 1st time. Get Girl Scout cookies in Feb at Clifton Plaza. The food pantry will be installed outdoors in the Spring, like the little libraries. Anyone can use it or donate.

- NSP (Neighborhood Support Program). The City's Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) provides annual funding to Community Councils for neighborhood projects and activities. It is our main source of funding.

A Community Council's NSP proposal must be approved in an open meeting which includes any residents living within that neighborhood, then a presentation to the NSP Review Committee made of other neighborhoods.

- Invest in Neighborhoods

- Treasurer Report (below).

- University of Cincinnati update: Megan Smith: no updates.

- University Relations/Town & Gown: Tracy Schwetschenau, Daniel Cummings, Brooke Lipscomb. Tracy: no updates. Daniel & Brooke absent. T & G is understanding between UC & the City about costs to the City from UC.

- Trinitas Mark Becher & Betsy Hoying: The District at Clifton Heights presentation: Pruss starting street scape next week on Straight St. Will take 6-7 mths. Clifton & Straight St work will occur this summer. The Hub—student housing—structure is complete. Windows being installed. Power coming soon. Will be completed in a few mths. Street closures will remain as is now thru Aug. Betsy has hotel update: 50% window installed. Roof going up. Emily thinks the walk area seems safer. She

will ask her colleagues to make sure it's safe. Betsy says they look into this at their weekly mtgs. Let them know if something is not right. Suggestion for painted line by weird kink. Suggestion to move the weird kink down 40 yds. Suggestion to get rid of permanent parking in front of The Deacon. Mark B will raise this to the group who manages this property now. No updates on the area behind Hughes. Working on Senior Housing by St Monica/St George. No updates there though.

Announcements:

- Duke Energy Toolkit - Winter Bill Assistance/ Resources (for distribution)

Safety Updates:

- CFD Engine Co.19: New Fire Chief of 3-4 mths is big on community engagement. This month's Fire Prevention tip is on heating & extension cords. Left a flyer. Lt Bullock left phone number for any questions. There's a number to call to get free smoke detectors. The Fire Dept installs at your house. Property Owners responsible for smoke detectors; renters for batteries. 513-352-2319 Lt Bullock. See flyer

- UC Police: Sgt Brinker and Sgt Valerius: served 39 children with Shop with a Cop. Thx for our donation. School started last Mon. Classes end on Apr 19. UC pays for extra patrols. 03:00 am – 07:00 am is when the break-ins occur. Parking lots & garages are targeted. If you see anything, let UCPD know.

- CPD District 5: Amanda Johnson, Neighborhood Liaison Officer: amanda.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov-update on Jan 01 shooting on McMicken. Can't talk about the investigation. Doesn't know anything. The apts at 700 Straight St had a dumping issue. Discussed KCB putting up cameras. Citizens on Patrol are aware of this property. Wasn't sure of protocol because it's private property. Officer Johnson would appreciate any pics citizens on patrol can provide. Tires will be thrown down the hill. Officer Johnson will look into it. The county has a program where KCB puts up cameras for dumping issues. Marshall across from Coy Park is a chronic dump site. Nuisance properties = no one cares, so more crime.

Lots of car break-ins. Don't keep guns in your car. City passing ordinance that criminal charges will apply if stolen guns not reported to the police.

House on Stratford between Warner & McMillan on the right has sign that says, "this is not a whore house." Freedom of speech issue.

Lots of Sex offenders living in the Straight St apts.

New Business:

- Hillside Chapel Historic Status landmark request: City Council working with community for landmark designation. 11,000 urns there. It's considered a cemetery. Located at MLK & Dixmyth. Gilbane was the potential buyer. Linda & Kelly working on this.

- City looking for volunteers at CRCs warm shelters.

- January Board Mtg: CUFNA sent letter to CHCURC to support housing project. Linda will go to NSP Mtg to get our funds approved in Feb. Need Nathan to sign. CUFNA sent a letter about McMicken cracks & falling to the City Manager & the City. Carolyn Young's house was vibrating from the private construction project. Is the City monitoring it? The City responded to the letter & said they are looking into it. Rob says take pics & document the before & after. When a large Sycamore tree was removed, retaining wall was not put up.

- Apr 20 Spring Fest. Burnett Woods 150th. Earth Day weekend.

- Mtg. with City & Joel Angel-Chumbley to get signage for each neighborhood. Delineate the areas by signage. It's part of the CBR project that deals with the McMillan sidewalk by Fairview Park. Current signs falling apart. The new signage has been approved. Craig will meet with group & present the signs update.

- Rob sent letter to City as a citizen about the street cleaning that isn't happening. The centers of the street are clean. Rob will present to our Board.

- Emily says there are 7 students on the Community Action Team. They work on better relations with the Community. Email any concerns. Planning community events with UC. Rob says their voice is important. Email: communityactionteam@ucmail.uc.edu

Points Of Pride: 39 children participated in Shop With A Cop

Minutes submitted by Kelly. Mtg adjourned by Rob at 2010. Seconded by Kelly

## CUF Neighborhood Association Financial Report: January, 2024

Balance on: 12-31-2023 \$4,398.10

Income:

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Dues, on-line               | 20.00  |
| Dues, on-line               | 10.00  |
| Dues, on-line               | 20.00  |
| Dues                        | 20.00  |
| KCB Reimburse. Garden grant | 171.03 |
| Dues on-line                | 20.00  |
| Dues                        | 10.00  |
| Dues                        | 10.00  |

Total Income: + 281.03

Expenses:

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Wild Apricot fees          | 1.81     |
| CUF Community Fund, garden | 171.03   |
| GCWW                       | 7.61     |
| Total Expenses:            | - 180.45 |

Balance on: 1-31-24 \$4,498.68

## Housing Network questionnaire

Elizabeth Goodman of the Cincinnati Housing Network is working on an independent project related to housing developments in Cincinnati. The missing and most important piece of interest in the development of our city is how residents are interacting with the city, the developers, and their perceptions on the process.

Below is a link to a short form with some basic questions along with an opportunity for residents to provide their insights about the progress of the project. Your feedback as a Community Council Member is appreciated, but feel free to share with your local neighbors as well. **The project she is asking about now is the student housing development between Central Parkway and McMicken; the address to include in the survey is 001 Marshall. (aka PD-92).**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdc\\_pzWEv\\_Dx22MkXC8Noc-9TlxevuFABLAQ6NRqzcvWrAePw/view-form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdc_pzWEv_Dx22MkXC8Noc-9TlxevuFABLAQ6NRqzcvWrAePw/view-form)

## Community input request

A group of street car backers are gauging support for possible new routes.

You can express your opinion here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JZZ6NW5>



## Word Find puzzle

Circle the streets in the letter grid from the list below. They can be in a straight line in any direction.

You can print out page 5.

(Answers on page 8)

### Streets of CUF

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Y P N I T A U Q Y M A Q H A T
U Q G T E O R R A I C O Y M T
L Y O N B L W S Z L C V M T A
L L M Y O N Y A H L F C C T S
K E L A D A U S R A B S E O S
R C F Q Y Z B O I N L G M K A
E M H A R X A R H A E L M R C
K V A G T R V A O L N R I E P
R M H X S I O B H I A X N W G
A T D A E T S L A H H C G K Q
P Y Z W V N I E L R E O M P Q
V I C T O R I R A V I N E Z L
Y T H G I A R T S U F W M A I
```

|          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| Ada      | Calhoun  | Cassatt  |
| Clybourn | Coy      | Elysian  |
| Emming   | Fairview | Halstead |
| Klotter  | Kottmann | Lyon     |
| Marshall | McMillan | Moerlein |
| Ohio     | Parker   | Ravine   |
| Straight | Tafel    | Vestry   |
| Victor   | Warner   |          |

## Hughes news

There's more good news from Hughes STEM High School this month:

- Principal Dr. Jennifer Williams was notified by the State recently that Hughes is no longer a Priority school! Priority schools, now called Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools, are considered the lowest-performing in the State, based on Ohio School Report Card scores. To progress past this status, a school must show testing scores higher than the lowest 5% of schools and show a graduation rate of more than 67% for two consecutive years. Hughes is now the only Title I school in Ohio that is not a CSI School. (Title I funding is provided by the Federal government to schools where more than 85% of the families live below the poverty line.) This encouraging news about Hughes comes on top of the news shared in a previous CUFNA newsletter that Hughes improved from a one-star to a three-star overall rating in 2023 for the first time since 2011. Academics at Hughes are on an upward swing!

- A senior at Hughes was chosen as a Marian Spencer Scholarship awardee. This scholarship was established in 2022 in honor of Marian Spencer, a well-known and well-loved Cincinnati community leader and civil rights activist who graduated from U.C. The scholarship provides the full cost of tuition, room and board for four years at U.C., as well as a travel abroad opportunity. Hughes senior, Fiston Feruzi, was one of only 10 Cincinnati Public Schools seniors to receive the scholarship. He was honored at a school assembly on January 22 that included the U.C. pep band and cheerleaders. Fiston hopes this wonderful opportunity helps him achieve his goal of becoming an aerospace engineer.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FISTON AND GO BIG RED!



**2024  
STATE OF  
THE MILL  
CREEK  
ADDRESS**

**MILL CREEK ALLIANCE**  
  
FEBRUARY 28, 2024  
6-8:30 PM  
FREE

METROPOLITAN SEWER  
DISTRICT (MSD)  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING,  
1081 WOODROW STREET,  
CINCINNATI, 45204

See Mill Creek through the eyes of MCA's citizen scientists, compare lab results from 2023 and highlight both water quality improvements and areas of concern within the watershed

*Reservations are recommended*  
For more info contact: [aroberts@themillcreekalliance.org](mailto:aroberts@themillcreekalliance.org)

### Annual State of the Mill Creek Address

February 28th, 2024  
6-830 PM

1081 Woodrow Street  
Cincinnati, OH, 45204

Mill Creek Alliance presents the Annual State of the Mill Creek Address and will compare lab results from 2023 to results from 2011-22. We will be looking at multiple parameters of Mill Creek which highlight water quality improvements, habitat restoration, and current areas of concern.

Register for the SOMC In Person and Online Access [Here](#).

### Seeking Water Quality Samplers and Analyzers

Our first sampling day begins March 9th!

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Ohio Primary



The Ohio primary election is coming up March 19th. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Visit their website for all the information you need for the primary.

<https://ohio.gov/government/topic-hubs/voting-and-elections/>

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## Roots to Boots

We have exciting news here at Keep Cincinnati Beautiful! For the past year, we've been working with the Sustainable Horticulture department at Cincinnati State to launch a first of its kind workforce development program for 2024 CPS graduates, as well as recent grads. We are reaching out to you because of your continued dedication to your community and to provide additional resources for youth within that community.

Through this program, participants will earn a certificate while gaining hands-on experience in the sustainable horticulture field. We are excited to share that students will receive tuition reimbursements as well as a monthly stipend to compensate them for their time and labor while working in the field and to minimize financial barriers for would-be participants.

The application for our inaugural workforce development program, Roots to Boots, is now live on our website. The deadline to apply is March 15th. If you have seniors or recent grads who might be interested, please share the application with them and let them know we're here to help as they apply to the program and complete their FAFSA to be eligible for financial aid.

The Environmental Education Manager, Kirsten Brademeyer, has a background in college access and career readiness, and we're so excited for KCB to be able to offer this unique opportunity for our city's young people who are interested in a career managing and maintaining greenspaces. They will gain valuable knowledge from educators at Cincinnati State while broadening their network through in-field work experience with KCB and partners like the Civic Garden Center and the Cincinnati Recreation Commission.

Should you have questions about Roots to Boots, please do not hesitate to reach out to Kirsten here. If you'd like KCB to visit your organization to promote the program, we'd be excited to connect directly with you. Thank you for your support!

KCB Education Team

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The Love Thy 'Nati Celebration is a time to honor you, our volunteers, for your unwavering commitment to keeping Cincinnati clean, safe, and beautiful.

Join us on February 25th from 10AM-12PM at the Woodward Theater for a free volunteer ap-

preciation celebration and annual Love Thy 'Nati Award ceremony. Enjoy a light brunch and sip Mom n' 'em Coffee while connecting with some of the Tri-state's greatest volunteers and community partners! We'll announce the Love Thy 'Nati award recipients, celebrate 2023 successes, and kick off the 2024 Great American Cleanup season. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful.

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## Home heating fire safety



The Cincinnati Fire Department is encouraging the public to focus on fire safety when heating their homes during winter. Individuals need to use extra care if they are relying on alternative heating sources to save money on heating bills. Please keep in mind such heating methods are a major contributing factor in residential fires. "Proper installation, use and maintenance of winter heating devices are essential for reducing the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning. Home heating fires in Ohio are often caused by human error, particularly through the misuse of portable heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces. In Ohio during 2022, 151 people were killed in fires. Regardless of age, background or where we live, these deadly fires could affect any one of us. Many of these fires could have been prevented. You can prevent the loss of life and property resulting from heating fires by being able to identify potential hazards and follow the safety tips contained in the information below:

- Have a qualified professional check your home's heating system annually. Furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves and their chimneys should be inspected and cleaned prior to the start of every heating season.
- Allow enough clearance between a wood burning stove and combustible materials such as walls, floors, and ceilings.
- A wood stove should be placed on an approved stove board to protect your floor from heat and hot coals.
- Make sure the flue is open before lighting a fire, and never close the flue while a fire is still smoldering.
- Use a fireplace screen to prevent any sparks from reaching out and igniting nearby objects.
- Never use gasoline or lighter fluid to start a fire.
- The immediate area in front of a fireplace (approximately 3 ft.) should not have a rug, carpet, or exposed wood flooring.
- When lighting a gas fireplace, strike your match first, then turn on the gas.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood and dispose of the cooled ashes in a closed metal container outside and away from your home.
- Never leave a fire burning unattended in the fireplace.

### Portable Space Heaters

- When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over.
- Never leave a heater on when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep, and do not leave children or pets unattended around any heating source. Unplug it when you are not using it.
- Don't use an extension cord with an electric portable heater. The current from the heater could melt the cord and cause a fire.
- Don't plug more than one heating device into an outlet.
- Never use electric heaters near water – like in your bathroom or near a water heater.

### Extension Cords – Ohio Fire Code

- Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be a substitute for permanent wiring. Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings, or floors, or under doors or floor coverings, nor shall such Home Heating Fire Safety
- Allow enough clearance between a wood burning stove and combustible materials such as walls, floors, and ceilings or floors, or under doors or floor coverings, nor shall such cords be subject to environmental damage or physical impact. Extension cords shall be used only with portable appliances.
- Extension cords shall be plugged directly into an approved receptacle, power tap or multi-plug adapter and, except for approved multi-plug extension cords, shall serve only one portable appliance.
- The ampacity of the extension cords shall be not less than the rated capacity of the portable appliance supplied by the cord.
- Extension cords shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration, or damage.
- Extension cords shall be grounded when serving grounded portable appliances.

### Smoke Alarms Installation

Please sign-up to have the Cincinnati Fire Department install smoke alarms in your home.

We have smoke alarms available from the American Red Cross.

Remember smoke alarms saves lives, so sign up today to have the Cincinnati Fire Department install smoke alarms in your home. Members of the community can also call our Fire Prevention Bureau at 357-7585.

Smoke Alarm request link is below:

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/fire/fire-prevention/fire-prevention-forms/smoke-alarm/>

## CPD and CFD Cadets

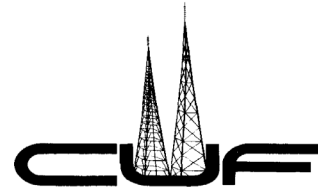
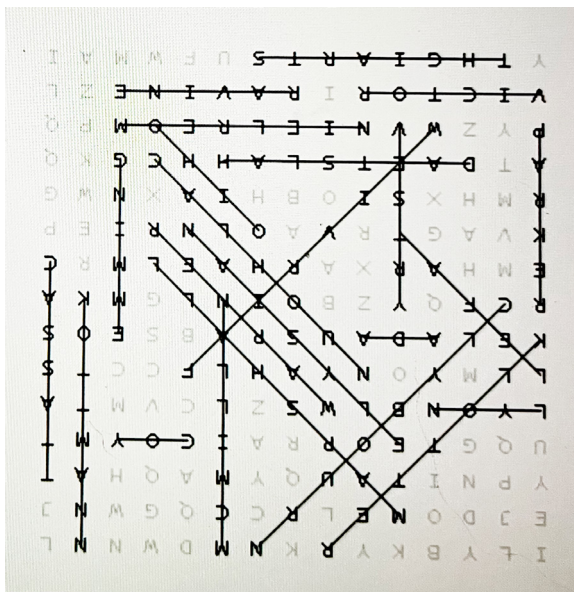
The Cincinnati Police and Fire Departments are currently accepting applications for their Cadet programs. These programs are emblematic of City Manager Sheryl Long's priority to engage and employ youth throughout Cincinnati. The Cadet programs are one part of the pipeline to a career with the City by providing critical training and mentorship to youth. Applications are open through March 1, 2024. Interested 14- to 18-year-olds are invited to apply [here](#).

Separately, the Cincinnati Police Department's Summer Police Cadet program is currently accepting applications for 16- to 18-year-olds through April 26, 2024. Click [here](#) to apply.

"The Cadet program provides our youth with an opportunity for hands-on career experience in law enforcement. This is one of several CPD programs that show investing in our youth works. I, as your police chief, have seen the results and I am dedicated to continuing these efforts in building up the next generation," said Police Chief Teresa Theetge.

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## Answers to Word Find puzzle



The annual meeting of the CUF Community Fund will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

Invitations will be mailed to all Fund Members in advance of the annual meeting and include the slate of candidates running for open positions on the Board of Trustees, copies of last year's minutes, financial report and projects completed.

The agenda for the meeting is to review and approve the minutes of the Fund's previous annual meeting, vote to elect members to the Board of Trustees, review the financial report and projects completed, and discuss current issues pertaining to the Fund.

### CUF Community Fund Membership Requirements

To be a Member of the CUF Community Fund, one must be a paid member of the CUF Neighborhood Association for twenty-four months prior to the annual meeting of the Members and must be a permanent resident residing within Clifton Heights, University Heights or Fairview as designated in the by-laws of the CUF Neighborhood Association or its successor organization. A permanent resident is defined as one residing year around within the CUF community for at least four consecutive years (48 months) immediately preceding consideration of Member status. The burden of satisfying the requirement of permanent residency is upon the individual seeking to be a Member.

Sincerely,

Maureen France, Secretary  
Chip Kussmaul, Treasurer  
Craig Lloyd, Vice President  
John Stork, Vice President  
Linda Ziegler, President

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**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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, except August and December, 7:00 p.m, Hebrew Union College (HUC), 3101 Clifton Ave.
- CUF Trustee meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m, CHCURC office meeting room.
- CUF annual meeting and election: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

W W W . C U F N A . O R G