

# AIR TIME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Economic Inequality Reading List** 2

**Community Issues Forum Schedule** 3

**Putting Political Reform On The Public Radar Screen** 4

**Applied Information Resources** is a non-profit, public policy research and community information organization dedicated to:

- Citizen education on public issues.
- Assisting human service organizations in evaluating their programs.
- Providing the best possible information to decision makers responding to changing human and urban needs.

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## “Economic Inequality“ is the Theme of this Fall’s Community Issues Forums

The Community Issues Forum kicked off its 34<sup>th</sup> season of forums September 11 with a “Justice Walk” led by

**One explanation of growing inequality is the use of political power generated by wealth by certain groups to shape government policies financially beneficial to them.**

-Joseph Stiglitz

Josh Spring, Director of the Homeless Coalition. Sponsored by the Outreach Committee of Christ Church Cathedral, the forums feature

presentations on critical community and public policy issues every other Thursday at noon from September to June.

There will be a broad analysis of economic inequality on Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>. **Nancy Bertaux**, Professor of Economics at Xavier University, will depict the various trends that have brought about growing economic inequality in this country and globally. This Forum will be back at the Cathedral, 318 East Fourth Street, at 12:00 noon in the Forum Room.

One day later

back at Buddy’s Place, 1300 Vine, a follow up to the September 11<sup>th</sup> Justice Walk will take place at noon Sept. 25. **Alice Skirtz**, author of Econocide: Elimination of the Urban Poor, and **Tom Dutton**, Professor of Architecture at Miami University, will discuss how neighborhoods like Over-the-Rhine were some of the first places to feel the impact of the forces creating economic inequality.



## CONTRIBUTIONS HELP AIR, INC. WITH COMMUNITY WORK

AIR depends on individual contributions to support our work. We are a charitable 501(c)(3) organization and your contributions help fund such projects as political reform, and studies in racism and homelessness in Cincinnati. We invite you to assist us as AIR takes on community issues and challenges.

\$500     \$100     \$50     \$25

Make your tax-deductible checks **payable to: AIR, Inc.** and send to:

Applied Information Resources  
830 Main Street, Suite 900  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

**You can now donate online at [www.airinc.org](http://www.airinc.org)**

## Suggested Reading for Economic Inequality

The Price of Inequality, by Joseph Stiglitz

Economic Growth and Income Inequality, by Simon Kuznets

A Framework for Understanding Poverty, by Ruby Payne

Nickel and Dimed, by Barbara Ehrenreich

Savage Inequalities, by Jonathan Kozol

The Jungle, by Upton Sinclair

Income Inequality in the United States, 1913-2002, by Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez

Wealth and Poverty, by George Gilder

The Inequality Issue of The Economist (<http://www.economist.com/node/21564414>)

The United States of Inequality video, BillMoyers.com

The Other Wes Moore, by Wes Moore

The Politics of Rich and Poor, by Kevin Phillips

Econocide: Elimination of the Urban Poor by Alice Skirtz

## Community Issues Forum Schedule for the Fall, 2014

### **Thursday, September 11, 2014, Noon**

Focusing this fall on the theme of “economic inequality,” the Forum on September 11<sup>th</sup> features **Josh Spring**, Executive Director of the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition, conducting a “Justice Walk” in Over-the-Rhine. Spring will begin with a brief talk at Buddy’s Place (1300 Vine Street), and then lead attendees on a walk that highlights how economic forces and public policy impact this neighborhood.

### **Wednesday, September 24, 2014, Noon**

The second Forum on Wednesday Sept 24 will feature **Nancy Bertaux, Professor of Economics at Xavier University**. Professor Bertaux will provide an overview of the forces and factors causing a growing economic inequality in this country. This Forum will take place in the Christ Church Cathedral Forum Room (318 East Fourth Street) at noon.

### **Thursday, September 25, 2014, Noon**

One day later, Thursday September 25, a follow up to the September 11th Justice Walk will take place at noon at Buddy’s Place, 1300 Vine Street. **Alice Skirtz**, author of "Econocide: Elimination of the Urban Poor" and **Tom Dutton**, Professor of Architecture at Miami University, will discuss how neighborhoods like Over-the-Rhine were some of the first places to feel the impact of the factors creating economic inequality

### **Thursday, October 9, 2014 Noon**

The October Forums will focus on election issues. On Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup>, **Michelle Dillingham**, Director of Education for the Homeless Coalition, and **James Thindwa** is a long time labor, community and political activist. He serves as the Great Lakes Community Engagement Coordinator for the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). will emcee a presentation at the Cathedral featuring creative Cincinnati Public School Programs that deserve support. This Forum will highlight the need to pass the School Levy on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Thursday, October 23, 2014, Noon**

Candidates for the Ohio General Assembly will be invited to speak at the Forum on October 23. Co-sponsored by One-Ohio-Now, its Executive Director, **Gavin Leonard**, will ask the candidates some tough questions concerning the State Budget, recent cuts in a variety of programs and services, and tax policy

### **Thursday, November 6, 2014, Noon**

The “New Jim Crow” Issue. The New Jim Crow refers to the situation of African Americans in the contemporary United States. And deals primarily with the issue of the current mass levels of incarceration in the United States (with 5% of the world's population, the U.S. incarcerates 25% of the world's prisoners)<sup>l</sup>

### **Thursday, November 20, 2014, Noon**

The New Gender Economics-care giver circle leaders and immigrant women in cleaning/custodial roles. The median full-time salary for U.S. women is 77% of that of U.S. men.

### **Thursday, December 4, 2014, Noon**

Income Inequality series continued -specific topic to be decided.

**For current information about forums, see [www.airinc.org](http://www.airinc.org)**

Unless otherwise noted, forums are at Christ Church Cathedral, 318 4th St.

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## Putting Political Reform On The Public Radar Screen

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We're on the web!

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**AIR, INC.**

*Public Policy and  
Research*

Applied Information Resources is currently talking with groups such as Common Cause/Ohio, the League of Women Voters, and the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless about launching an informal coalition to promote campaign reforms locally and in Ohio. Bill Woods of AIR, Inc. believes local networks need to be organized in order to work on restoring our democratic process to a healthier condition.

“Extreme gerrymandering of Congressional and state legislative districts and the huge amounts of money donated to campaigns by Fat Cats,” he explains, “are moving us dangerously close to becoming a plutocracy.”

Both Woods, who stepped down as chair of Common Cause/Ohio in 2012, and AIR’s Alice Schneider, a former President of the League of Women Voters, were leaders of the Fair Elections Coalition, the group that won voter approval of a campaign reform Cincinnati City Charter Amendment in 2001. According to Schneider and Woods, the impact of “big money” and the computer precision of gerrymandering have made reforms even more critical in 2014.

“The first step,” they say, “is to better educate the public about what is happening and what can be done to reform the system. The two major parties,” they conclude, “are so caught up in the realities of Fat Cat fund raising that it will take a grass-roots citizen movement to bring about the adequate changes needed to preserve democracy in this country.”