



**MEMBER PROFILE: KATHY HELMBOCK** A frequent published writer of letters to the editor of The Cincinnati Enquirer, Kathy Helmbock was president of Woman's City Club (2006-2008) and a pioneering advocate for women's rights. But she has difficulty getting around these days. "In the last few years my legs have become progressively weaker," she said. "My heart was diagnosed with 'a-fib' and on May 9 my legs gave out entirely. I can now walk only a few feet at a time and have a caregiver a few hours each morning." You may not see her at many WCC events, but that's not because her heart isn't with us. In addition to being president, she held many other posts, particularly as member of the National Speaker Committee "until I could no longer navigate the steps at Jane Anderson's house." A charter member of the Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus in 1972, she joined NOW same year and later served as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer of both the local and state (1983-85) NOW chapters in the years that followed. She was local press representative in the 1980s and '90s. She served two terms on the local Planned Parenthood board in the 1990s. She volunteered for countless Democratic candidates, starting with Bobbie Sterne in 1973. She served her church, Disciples of Christ, as board chair for two terms and as elder. Born and raised in Winchester, Ky., Kathy graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1954 and came to Cincinnati for a job at Procter & Gamble (staff assistant on the Gleem brand group). "I left after 3 1/2 years because Procter did not promote women back then. (It would be nearly a decade before Title VII of the Civil Rights Act took care of that problem.) She went to Baldwin Piano and Organ Company as a publications editor and then to Shillito's as an advertising copywriter. After the merger with Lazarus, she became pre-print/direct-mail manager, buying all the paper and printing for advertising inserts. She retired after the merger with Rich's in 1995 "that wiped out most of our jobs." She was married to the late David Helmbock for 48 years. Her son, Steve Helmbock, "is an excellent carpenter who lives in Indiana and loves corgis." Kathy's hobbies are knitting and reading ("I grew up before television!") "I learned to knit during the war, made sweaters for Bundles for Britain, and I cut my teeth on Nancy Drew mysteries," she said. ~ Jo-Ann Huff Albers