



Monthly Women's Commission Meeting

Feb 10, 2021

Upcoming Events

March 7, 7-8pm

Left on Pearl: Our Radical Origins

Film screening and discussion on the Cambridge Women's Center and its legacy. Panelists include: Susan Jacoby, Rev. Irene Monroe, Susie Rivo, and Rochelle Ruthchild.

[Register today!](#) (A CWC 50th Anniversary Event)

March 8

Mapping Feminist Cambridge: Central Square – Video launch!

Video launches 3/8 but will be available on an ongoing basis on the Cambridge Women's Commission website

www.cambridgewomenscommission.org

Virtual feminist walking tour of Central Square. Read along with *Mapping Feminist Cambridge: Central Square* during the tour to learn about feminist activists and organizations of the 1970s-1990s.

[Sign up to receive a link when the video launches.](#)

March 8, 11:30am-1pm

Resilience and Regeneration: a Racial Justice and Feminist Recovery

The Boston-Area International Women's Day Committee hosts an informative discussion among women leaders in government, business, and advocacy. Our panelists will discuss what a racial justice and feminist recovery from the pandemic could look like and specific strategies for achieving the future we want.

[Register today!](#)

March 9, 7-8:30pm

Ruby Hamad presents *White Tears/Brown Scars: How White Feminism Betrays Women of Color*

[RSVP for more information and to receive link](#)

A Cambridge Public Library event - Ruby Hamad in conversation with Professor Saher Selod.

Taking us from the slave era, when white women fought in court to keep "ownership" of their slaves, through the centuries of colonialism, when they offered a soft face for brutal tactics, to the modern workplace, *White Tears/Brown Scars* tells a charged story of white women's active participation in campaigns of oppression.

March 10, 6-6:30pm

Monthly Cambridge Women's Commission Meeting

[Register in advance for this webinar](#)

March 10, 6-7:30pm

Community Organizing Panel: Past and Present (A CWC 50th Anniversary Event)

The Cambridge Women's Center has a long history of community organizing - from its founding through protest, to a community organizer staff position beginning in 1998, to a depth of relationships with other community organizations and activists.

Join us for a discussion moderated by Eva Martin-Blythe, with panelists including Lynn Murray, Caroline Hunter, Natanja Craig-Oquendo, and Cathy Hoffman.

[RSVP here](#)

March 11

Finding Women in the Archives

Women make up 50% of your ancestry, yet their lives, experiences, and even complete names are all too often forgotten by written history. Although often overlooked in official records, throughout time women have been the keepers of family and personal history.

When they survive, diaries, letters, account books, family bibles, samplers, organization records, and more can reveal more about a woman's daily life than any government document.

[RSVP today through Cambridge Public Library](#)

March 11

Women's History Trivia, Lamplighter Brewing (a CWC 50th Anniversary Event)

Gather a team for a virtual feminist trivia event hosted by Lamplighter Brewing Company in Cambridge! Local friends can pick-up a beer pairing to enjoy during trivia—two 375ml bottles of a beer brewed with Cambridge Women's Center, a Grisette with ginger called Left on Pearl.

[This ticket also includes a \\$5 donation to the CWC.](#)

March 14, 7-8pm

CWC at 50: From Foremothers Forward (A CWC 50th Anniversary Event)

Emergent second wave feminism inspired the 1971 International Women's Day demonstration in Boston. The surprise ending of the march led to the 10-day takeover of a Harvard building and the founding of the Cambridge Women's Center.

At its core, CWC continues to serve as an activist organizing community and an innovation hub for women from all walks of life. For almost 50 years, Judy Norris, a leading foremother and the Center's current Board President, has been the heart and soul of CWC.

[Join us in honoring Judy Norris and celebrating the radical legacy of the Cambridge Women's Center.](#)

March 14 and 15

Screening of the film *RBG*

Co-sponsored by the Cambridge Women's Commission, Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, Brattle Theater.

More details coming soon!

March 24, 7-8pm

A conversation with Koa Beck, author of *White Feminism: From the Suffragettes to Influencers and Who They Leave Behind*.

Join the important conversation about race, empowerment, and inclusion in the United States with *WHITE FEMINISM: From the Suffragettes to Influencers and Who They Leave Behind* by Koa Beck, the powerful new feminist classic and rousing call for change. Koa Beck, writer and former editor-in-chief of Jezebel, boldly examines the history of feminism, from the true mission of the suffragettes to the rise of corporate feminism with clear-eyed scrutiny and meticulous detail. She also examines overlooked communities—including Native American, Muslim, transgender, and more—and their difficult and ongoing struggles for social change.

In conversation with *Eva Martin Blythe*, retired Executive Director of the Cambridge YWCA. Welcoming remarks from *Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui*.

[Register in advance to receive information about joining the webinar.](#)

Minutes

Ongoing Business

International Women's Day

Our annual International Women's Day breakfast will now be a "brunch" and virtual. This will be the 24th year. Speakers are Karen Holmes Ward of WCVB CityLine (moderator), Nia Grace, Owner Darryl's Corner Bar & Kitchen, Jynai McDonald, Director of Family Child Care for SEUI 509, and Chynah Tyler State Representative of Roxbury.

Women's History Month Event Planning

Please see calendar above for more information about upcoming events.

New Business

CCSW New Members

The Cambridge Women's Commission is thrilled to welcome 5 new members to the commission.

Sucharita Varanasi has lived in the City of Cambridge for the past 15 years and seeks to contribute her extensive experience on the issues of women and girls to the city. As a first generation American and graduate of Tufts University and Emory University School of Law, Ms. Varanasi has prioritized issues affecting women and girls in her work. Currently, as in-house counsel at MassMutual where she leads the pro bono program, she advocates for indigent women in the areas of housing, consumer debt, immigration and domestic violence. Prior to her time at MassMutual, Ms. Varanasi worked on the issue of sexual violence at Physicians for Human Rights. She serves as the current President of the South Asian Bar Association's Foundation where they provide grants to organizations that impact the South Asian community.

Hiwot Behabtu is originally from Ethiopia and has lived in Cambridge for four years. With a B.A. in Law, Ms. Behabtu had served in her home country's government advocating for women and children on legal matters related to family law. Since moving to the US, she has been raising her children, two boys and a girl, and working as a bank teller. Ms. Behabtu is eager to serve the Cambridge community through her service on the Women's Commission, to connect again to her deepest soul's wish of helping to empower women in all aspects of life, and especially to help immigrant women and those who are most vulnerable to domestic violence.

Sandra Middleton is a long-time Cambridge resident with a strong interest in supporting the the City of Cambridge to plan and implement initiatives and programs that meet the diverse needs of women and girls residing in the City of Cambridge. She is an experienced educator with proven experience as a manager, trainer, administrator, manager, and ESL instructor. She is committed to continuous learning for herself and others. Ms. Middleton loves Cambridge and wants to do her part to help make it an even better place for women and girls to live and work through her service with the Women's Commission.

Shamika Naidu is an Indian immigrant living in Cambridge. She has spent her career working for several Massachusetts-based nonprofits and continues to dedicate her time and efforts to many social services and causes promoting the advancement of woman and girls welfare and equity in the state. Currently working as the Grants Manager for Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, Ms. Naidu previously worked for The Children's Room: Center for Grieving Children and Teenagers. She is also a former founding board member of Starts With A Smile, a dental hygiene focused nonprofit in Massachusetts. At the core, Ms. Naidu is most interested in elevating the voices of women and girls. She holds a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Middle Eastern Studies from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University

Rhonda Greene is currently a Probation officer in the Boston Municipal Court – Central Division. A lifelong resident and graduate of Cambridge Public Schools, Ms Green recently became the Co-Chair of the Social Action Committee for the South Middlesex County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Ms. Greene has been following the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women for the City Cambridge and is grateful for the opportunity to become a commissioner as she would like to see more people of color seek involvement with boards and commissions in the city.