



## Monthly Women's Commission Meeting

March 10, 2021

### Upcoming Events

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](#)

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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](#)

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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.](#)

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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.](#)

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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!

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**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

#### Member Introductions

In an effort to connect with the new members of the Commission, we will be taking time each month for members to introduce themselves and tell us a little about themselves. This month, Barbara, Phyllis, Emily N, Marjorie, and Pauline gave their introductions to the new Commission members.

#### International Women's Day

Commissioner Sandy Middleton shared her reflections on the March 8 International Women's Day virtual lunch, *Resilience and Regeneration: a Racial Justice and Feminist Recovery*.

- Women have been impacted in myriad ways during the pandemic.
- Child Care funding is an important area of focus. Women have lost childcare and income. There is a GREAT need for supporting fully funded childcare initiatives.
- Communities should focus on Mentor/Mentee programs for girls and young women for life skills focus and civic engagement.
- Going forward, be vigilant about looking at feminist recovery through a social justice lens.
- Coming out of this pandemic and going forward, we need to find ways to meaningfully connect with girls and women to find out what we can DO for each other -ALL of us - we all have been impacted, suffered, sacrificed.... In short: RAMP UP our efforts to take the pulse of women and girls now and post pandemic.
- Sandy shared an idea for a "You good?" check-in campaign in the city.

#### Connecting bikes with people in Cambridge

In January, through the Women's Commission, Commissioner Rhonda Greene learned of an informal request from Cambridge Police and the Homeless Services Coordination at CPSD asking for used bikes for women leaving DV situations and for homeless teens in Cambridge. Rhonda immediately volunteered to collect bikes from residents and acquaintances and has set up a site for funding new bikes and helmets. Rhonda's efforts were recognized in a write up on the state's mass.gov website: <https://www.mass.gov/news/bmc-probation->

[officer-is-appointed-to-womens-commission-and-launches-bike-program-for](#) She is currently looking at potential funding sources as well as collecting more bikes for the community.

## **New Business**

On the one-year anniversary of everything-changing-because- of-COVID, the Women's Commission is looking to mark the ways in which this pandemic has impacted women and girls disproportionately. We will be continuing to revisit what this may look like in the coming months.