

ASSOCIATION NEWS: CMC

Monday, June 9, 2018

“Civility is a precondition of democracy” says journalist Bret Stephens



Bret Stephens

Journalist Bret Stephens is a passionate champion of polite disruption. “Intelligent disagreement is the lifeblood of any thriving society,” says the *New York Times* Op/Ed writer. Stephens is a firm believer that Americans need to embrace the discomfort that is the by-product of democratic discussion in order to properly understand all sides and form more intelligent opinions. “I try to write for people who are on the other side of the argument but write in a style that might persuade them rather than just preach to the proverbial choir and rile my base,” says Stephens. “News is new — new information, new challenges, new ideas — and it is meant to unsettle us.”

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Stephens, who was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary in 2013, believes that “journalism can only be as good as its audience” and stated, “We need an intelligent audience that is interested in a broad array of perspectives. If readers only want opinions that mirror their own, what’s the point of getting different voices on an editorial page?” A veteran journalist, Stephens served as longtime foreign affairs columnist at the *Wall Street Journal* and was the editor-in-chief of the *Jerusalem Post*. A frequent public speaker, he says he’s amazed that he even needs to deliver speeches on free speech. “Without free speech, things would just be shut down and tradition and

convention would have governed society. It’s precisely because of this belief that we benefit from hearing and tolerating and even embracing contrary points of view that you get from a Susan B. Anthony, Harvey Milk, and Rosa Parks. “People think they are perfectly entitled to say what they want and hear the opinions they want, it’s when they confront differing points of view that they want to shut it down, and that’s illiberal, that puts us on a road to a dark place.” But what’s important to Stephens, and a growing number of other journalists and thought leaders over the past few weeks, is civility. “There is a vast difference between intellectual challenge and verbal thuggishness,” he said at a

speech in February, “between a robust and productive exchange of ideas and mere bombast, between light and heat.” One of the biggest threats on the horizon, says Stephens, is the upcoming generation’s lack of civic education. “So many people these days seem to have a pretty limited understanding of the Constitution and the First Amendment says. We have some pretty great ideals, but we’re not teaching them, and that’s a real problem.” Stephens will be the keynote speaker at the Columbus Metropolitan Club’s Con-ver-sation 2018 on July 11th. He will be joined on stage by Gov. John Kasich, whom Stephens openly admires. “He represents a conservative movement that’s centered on themes of decency and compassion that I embrace and I only mourn the fact that he’s a minority voice in today’s Republican party.”

CMC forums are frequently aired on the Ohio Channel via WOSU digital and Columbus Television at channel 3 on Insight and Spectrum and channel 99 on Spectrum, WOW and AT&T U-Verse. For schedule details, visit ctv.columbus.gov.

Columbus Metropolitan Club

– Calendar of Events –

Upcoming

Wednesday, July 11
Con-ver-sation 2018, noon to 1:30 at the Boat House
CMC’s annual fundraiser featuring Pulitzer-Prize-winning New York Times journalist **Bret Stephens** and **John Kasich**, Governor State of Ohio
Sponsored by Hollywood Casino, Ulmer & Berne, Puffin Foundation West, Columbus Partnership
With support from Hilton Downtown Columbus, Dispatch Media Group

Wednesday, July 18
Hyperloop...Transforming Transport
Panel discussion featuring **Dan Katz**, Director of Global Public Policy & North American Projects, Virgin Hyperloop One, **Ferzan Ahmed**, Vice President, AECOM, **Thea Walsh**, Director of Transportation Systems & Funding, MORPC, with host **Jolene Molitoris**, former Director, Ohio Department of Transportation.
In partnership with MORPC

Wednesday, July 25
Denial, Ohio: An Update on the Opioid Crisis
Speakers to be announced.

Wednesday, July 25, evening at Villa Milano
The Friends Foundation of Worthington Libraries and CMC present
An Evening with **Dan Rather**
Presentation 7:30 p.m., Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road, Columbus, OH 43229
Evening Emcee and host for audience Q & A: Scott Light, 5:30 p.m. News Anchor and Host of “Face the State,” WBNS10-TV
Dinner with **Dan Rather** hosted by, **Alan Miller**, Editor, Columbus Dispatch
is sold-out.
Reservations for Dan Rather’s presentation at www.columbusmetroclub.org
With support from Dispatch Media Group, WBNS-10TV

Wednesday, August 1
The Future of Work
Featuring **Darrell West**, author and VP & director of governance studies at the Brookings Institute; interviewed by **David Harrison**, President of Columbus State Community College
Sponsored by Accenture, Regionomics

Wednesday, August 15
Lewis F. Von Thae, President and CEO, Battelle
Sponsored by Deloitte

Wednesday, August 29
The Columbus Foundation’s Big Table Roundtable Discussions
CMC and United Way of Central Ohio will host Big Table discussions at the Boat House in the morning.
August 29 CMC lunch forum to be announced

CMC forums are held at the Boat House at Confluence Park, 679 West Spring Street, Columbus, OH 43215. Free parking. Check-in for forums is at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon. The program concludes at 1:15 p.m. and guests are encouraged to continue the conversation in the lobby with coffee and cookies. CMC members, the deadline for early-bird registration, \$22 is Friday at midnight, prior to the standard Wednesday luncheon forum. Pre-paid reservations are required. The price is \$25 for CMC members; \$35 for CMC members’ guests; and \$45 for the general public. Reservations can be made online at www.columbusmetroclub.org or by calling (614) 464-3220 ext. 1. Anyone requesting additional information may contact Jane Scott, President and CEO; or Lanie Cuthbert, Event Coordinator.

Visit Hopewell Earthworks, Ohio’s UNESCO World Heritage Site



Jewel Harris, Acting Superintendent, Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, and Stacey Halfmoon, Director of American Indian Relations, Ohio History Connection



Ohio History Connection staff Todd Topper, Maggie Marconi, Megan Wood, Amanda Terrell, and Todd Kleismit

Featuring Brad Lepper, curator of archeology, Ohio History Connection, Stacey Halfmoon, director of American Indian relations, Ohio History Connection and Melinda Huntley, executive director, Ohio Travel Association. Hosted by Matt MacLaren, director, TourismOhio
Sponsored by Fahlgren Mortine
In partnership with the Ohio History Connection, Ohio Travel Association

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Mindy Wright, CMC board member from Nonprofit Higher Education Alliance, from sponsor Carol Merry, Fahlgren Mortine and partner Todd Kleismit, Ohio History Connection, and speakers Brad Lepper, Stacey Halfmoon, Melinda Huntley, and Matt MacLaren, and special guest Rikki Santer.

Photos by Lucy Wolfe



Jennifer Sage, history teacher at New Albany High School.



Poet Rikki Santer reads her poem, “Moon Over Newark”, about the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks.