

THE CITY CLUB OF CLEVELAND



HELPING DEMOCRACY THRIVE

DISINFORMATION AND DEMOCRACY: CIVIC DISCOURSE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Friday, Oct. 29, 2021 at 12 p.m.





SPEAKER

Nina Jankowicz

Global Fellow; Former Fulbright-Clinton Public Policy Fellow, The Wilson Center

More than 150 years ago, Alexis de Tocqueville noted that it is easier for the public to accept a simple lie rather than a complex truth. With the advent of digital and social media and today's diverse, highly polarized society, it feels as though this adage is being used to quickly dismantle American democracy.

In her book, "How to Lose the Information War: Russia, Fake News, and the Future of Conflict", Nina Jankowicz takes us on a journey through five Western governments' responses to Russian information warfare tactics - all of which have failed. While America has finally begun to wake up to the threat of online warfare, Ms. Jankowicz, a Global Fellow at The Wilson Center, has spent years in Central and Eastern Europe advising governments on the front lines of the information war.

Join us, in-person at the City Club for our 2021 Annual Meeting, where Nina Jankowicz will discuss what is at stake in this moment: the future of civil discourse and democracy, and the value of truth itself.

Have questions? **Tweet** them at **@TheCityClub** or send a **text** to **330.541.5794**.



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THIS FORUM IS THE SAMUEL O. FREEDLANDER MEMORIAL FORUM ON FREE SPEECH



Samuel Oscar Freedlander was a member of the City Club most of his life, serving as president in 1962 during the City Club's 50th anniversary year. His daughter Nina Freedlander Gibans was one of the first women to become a member of the City Club and served on the board in the 1970s.

Born in Wooster, Ohio, the sixth of seven children, Dr. Freedlander's siblings contributed greatly to the community in which they lived, including inventing synthetic rubber, running the largest department store in a city the size of Wooster, and receiving the first Ph.D. awarded to a woman from the New School in New York City. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), Dr. Freedlander earned a medical degree from CWRU and then served a surgical internship and residency at City Hospital (renamed MetroHealth) where he organized City Hospitals' first Department of Surgery.

Internationally known as a thoracic surgeon, Dr. Freedlander pioneered a surgical lung procedure to treat tuberculosis. For 25 years he served as Chief of Surgery at Mt. Sinai Hospital, a position from which he retired in 1960.

During his career Dr. Freedlander was instrumental in organizing Forest City Hospital to assure career opportunities for minority doctors.

He wrote legislation in Ohio that allowed the development of HMO's and helped establish the Community Health Foundation, later known as Kaiser Permanente. During the 1960s, he was Chief Surgeon for Kaiser Permanente.

Dr. Freedlander was a great proponent of free speech and issue-oriented community involvement. It is most appropriate that an annual Forum on Free Speech be offered in his memory.

[Click here](#) for a list of Samuel O. Freedlander Memorial forums.

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YOU CAN ASK A QUESTION

What makes The City Club of Cleveland unique is our Q&A. We welcome questions from everyone.



- Once acknowledged and motioned over, walk to the microphone holder on your side of the room. The speaker does not call on audience members.
- One question per person. Make sure your question is an actual question, not a statement. Keep your question short, no follow-ups. This will allow us to fit in as many questions as possible.
- Please don't grab the microphone. This is to ensure that we are getting the best audio recording. We are recording this program, so please speak directly into the microphone.
- Nervous about asking in person? **Tweet @TheCityClub** or send a **text** to **330.541.5794**, and we will do our best to work your question in.



MASK REMINDER

Thank you for joining us in-person
at the City Club today!

As a reminder:

- Masks are required to be worn at the City Club at all times, except when consuming food or drink.
- Need a mask? We have masks available for free in the lobby. Ask any staff member for assistance.

[Click here](#) for our full guide on returning
to the City Club.



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104.9 WCLV 10 P.M.

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WVIZ Sundays 10 A.M.
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This event will be photographed, recorded, and distributed. Your participation is appreciated.

Thanks for joining us !

Today we welcome guests at tables hosted by:

Cuyahoga Community College
Eaton
Fifth Third Bank
Friends of Dave Nash
Shaker Heights High School
Ulmer & Berne



UPCOMING FORUMS

Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m. In-Person Forum at The Happy Dog

Happy Dog Takes on the Next Mayor's Inbox

On November 2nd, Cleveland voters will have chosen a new mayor for the first time in 16 years. There have been months of dialogue, discussion, and debate on the nuances of each candidate's platform. We've heard what they believe are the solutions to the many problems facing Clevelanders--issues like infant mortality, the lead crisis, criminal justice reform, public education, and more. But what if we could peek inside the next mayor's inbox? What would his first emails be about? What immediate challenges and opportunities will he be—or should be—tackling out of the gate?

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Friday, Nov. 5 at 12 p.m. In-Person Forum

Disinformation and Democracy: Civic Discourse in the Digital Age

At 17-years-old, Jarrett Adams was wrongfully convicted of sexual assault and sentenced to 18 years in a maximum security prison. In his new book, "Redeeming Justice: From Defendant to Defender, My Fight for Equity on Both Sides of a Broken System," Adams outlines the racist tactics used to convict young men of color, the unique challenges facing exonerees once released, and how the lack of equal representation in our courts is a failure not only of empathy but of our collective ability to uncover the truth.

Friday, Nov. 12 at 12 p.m. In-Person Forum

How Can We Collectively Work Towards a More Equitable Democracy?

In September 2021, voter turnout still ran below 20%. Erika Anthony is the co-founder of Cleveland VOTES and in 2019 became the Executive Director of the Ohio Transformation Fund. She has been at the forefront of civic engagement in Northeast Ohio for years. Her most recent work centers around developing relationships with trusted stakeholders that are most proximate to historically disenfranchised and marginalized residents.

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