

# THE CITY CLUB OF CLEVELAND



HELPING DEMOCRACY THRIVE

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## BRICK BY BRICK: BUILDING HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS EVERYWHERE

Friday, Sept, 10, 2021 at 12 p.m.





## SPEAKER

### Karen Sherman

President of the Akilah Institute, and author of "Brick by Brick -- Building Hope and Opportunity for Women Survivors Everywhere"

## MODERATOR

### Cynthia Connolly

Director of Programming,  
City Club of Cleveland



Karen Sherman has spent her life advocating for women in war-torn and transitional countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Congo, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Kosovo, and the former Soviet Union. Throughout her 30-year career in global development, Sherman has met and interviewed thousands of women.

Her book, "Brick by Brick -- Building Hope and Opportunity for Women Survivors Everywhere", tells the powerful story of seven of these women, who are building lives and raising families despite the brutal challenges of war, genocide, and inequality.

Karen began writing "Brick by Brick" during the year she spent living in Rwanda with her three sons to oversee the construction of a first-of-its-kind women's opportunity center. Karen realized the struggles of the survivors she works with, were in fact the struggles of women everywhere: striving to balance work and family, fighting for real options and choices, and trying to make their voices heard. "Brick by Brick" is also a compelling personal story of Karen's own journey and growth as a mother, professional, and wife.

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

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Text "Donate" 216-616-CLUB (2582) to give.

# This forum is the **Nathu Aggarwal and Roy Blackburn Forum**

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*This forum is presented in memory of **Nathu R. Aggarwal** and **Roy G. Blackburn** who set inspiring examples and exhibited a lifelong commitment to education, in particular women's and girl's education. This forum was established in 2018.*

**Nathu R. Aggarwal** was born in 1919 in Moga, Punjab, India to a father who was a schoolteacher. He was a great believer in education having obtained a liberal arts degree followed by a graduate

telecommunication engineering degree. He loved to learn and discuss new ideas and was dedicated to doing everything with integrity all his life. In his work de-bugging and running newly-built telephone exchanges all over India, he was glad that he made it possible for people connect. After retirement he built a manufacturing and real estate business. In spite of modest means, he and his wife sent all five of his children to private schools and then to college. Their daughter became a physician, graduating from the top ranked medical college in India, and all four of their sons graduating in engineering, with two of them from the Indian Institute of Technology and one going on to obtain a doctorate.

**Roy G. Blackburn** was born in 1911 in the southeastern corner of Ohio to father who was a coalminer. Roy's mother died when he was three years old and his father died five years later from black lung disease. Orphaned at just eight years old, he worked on farms in central Ohio. He graduated from Newark High School where he would often arrive by foot. For his whole life he had great respect for education and he and his wife managed to send all three of their daughters to college while he worked at Republic Steel in Canton, Ohio and in the early years also at a second job at a grocery. All three daughters graduated from college with one becoming a teacher, and another getting a master's degree. Roy worked for Republic Steel for 45 years in various positions including production, sales, and service (notably, he was able to own fairly new automobiles all through his life including the depression years). Roy spent a large part of his life educating and mentoring young people in various forums including his church. Roy, with his generous heart, would have been happy to know that he could help support the spread of education and international understanding.

To see more Nathu Aggarwal and Roy Blackburn forums, [click here](#).



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# YOU CAN ASK A QUESTION

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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

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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.



# THANK YOU TO OUR MEDIA PARTNERS

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## **LISTEN**

90.3 WCPN Fridays 12:30 P.M.  
104.9 WCLV 10 P.M.

## **WATCH**

WVIZ Sundays 10 A.M.  
Ohio Channel Mondays 4 P.M.

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This event will be photographed, recorded, and distributed. Your participation is appreciated.

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Thanks for joining us !

Today we welcome guests at tables hosted by:

Beaumont School  
R Strategy Group

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## UPCOMING FORUMS

**Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 12 p.m. Virtual Forum**

### **An Honest Conversation: Talking About Race, Equity, and Inclusion in the Classroom**

Conversations about race, equity, and inclusion are not new to K-12 classrooms. From studying MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech to the analysis of works by poet Maya Angelou, these discussions have been necessary components in lessons on history, literature, and art for decades. Yet, in response to sudden outrage over Critical Race Theory, the Ohio state legislature has introduced two bills that ban "divisive concepts" – a broad definition that leaves much to interpretation and has put many routine classroom conversations in jeopardy.

## ENGAGE



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**Friday, Sept. 17 at 12 p.m. In-Person Forum**

### **2021 State of Downtown**

This summer, Michael Deemer was tapped to serve as the next President and CEO of Downtown Cleveland Alliance after founding President and CEO Joe Marinucci announced his retirement. This was a critical transition during a time when urban centers across the country were facing uphill battles during a challenging year. Top concerns were maintaining residential growth, boosting development, filling office space, and supporting small businesses. Hear how Downtown Cleveland has fared over the last year, and the priorities that will move Downtown Cleveland forward in this new era of leadership.

**Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 12 p.m. In-Person Forum  
at Renaissance Cleveland Hotel Grand Ballroom**

### **2021 State of Schools**

The annual tradition of hearing from CMSD CEO Eric S. Gordon, leader of the region's largest public school district – a district whose improvement many believe is key to the future success of our city and region.

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