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2021 - 2022

Isabel Wilkerson



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We hope you enjoy tonight's discussion with Isabel Wilkerson.



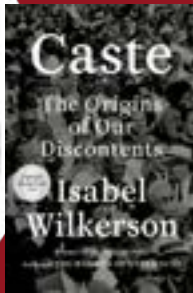
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ISABEL WILKERSON



When Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson released her latest book, *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, it was an instant hit! Oprah Winfrey chose it for her monthly book club; *The New York Times* called it "an instant American classic," and *TIME Magazine* labeled it a 2020 must-read book. The book, which sheds light on the unseen hierarchies that divide our nation and posits ways to transcend them, was adapted into a Netflix film directed and produced by Ava DuVernay. Wilkerson's first book, *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* (2010), won the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for nonfiction, among other honors.



INTRODUCTION

CASSI PITTMAN CLAYTOR

Cassi Pittman Claytor is the Climo junior professor of sociology at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and author of *Black Privilege: Modern Middle-Class Blacks with Credentials and Cash to Spend* (Stanford University Press). She is a nationally recognized scholar on the unfortunate, yet all too common phenomena of "Shopping While Black." Her research

highlights and focuses particularly on the financial lives and marketplace experiences of middle-class Black consumers. She has investigated and written on the experiences of Blacks in the consumer market, as well as the mortgage market. She has published research examining black consumers' experiences of retail racism and also on Blacks' perceptions of social mobility and racial progress after the election of President Barack Obama.

In her book *Black Privilege* she offers original analysis as to what middle-class status buys Blacks who have cultural capital, credentials and cash on hand. The book documents how for middle-class Blacks, economic life, economic transactions, and market relations are affected by their race.

In 2019 Sephora brought Pittman Claytor on board in their effort to systematically study racial bias and exclusionary treatment. She served as the research lead, designing and assisting in the orchestration of a first-of-its-kind, national study of racial bias in retail settings. The study's findings and Pittman Claytor's recommendations have been used to develop actionable steps, that Sephora and other retailers, can take to reduce retail racism.

Pittman Claytor received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and her Ph.D. from Harvard University. During her time at CWRU, she has been awarded several noteworthy fellowships, including the Woodrow Wilson Foundation's Early Career Enhancement Fellowship and the Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation Fellowship at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University.



MODERATOR / Q&A

MARGARET BERNSTEIN

Margaret Bernstein is the Director of Advocacy and Community Initiatives at WKYC Studios. A devoted champion of literacy, Margaret earned a 2016 Emmy for her #WeReadHere campaign at WKYC, which encourages parents to read every day with their children. She serves on the board of the George Gund Foundation in Cleveland.

A Los Angeles native, she earned her bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Southern California. She worked as a reporter, editor and columnist at *The Plain Dealer* from 1989 to 2013. Margaret was named National Big Sister of the Year in 2000 for her work with two Cleveland girls, Cora and Ernestine, through Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

She is also the writer of *The Bond*, a memoir on fatherlessness by the famed Three Doctors. That experience led her to write a series of storybooks designed to tighten the bond between fathers and their young children.

What's your story?



At Ulmer, we know that great libraries build strong communities. We are proud to support the William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series and the Cuyahoga County Public Library in its efforts to enhance community life through reading, lifelong learning, and civic engagement, and to help people discover new ideas to shape their own stories.

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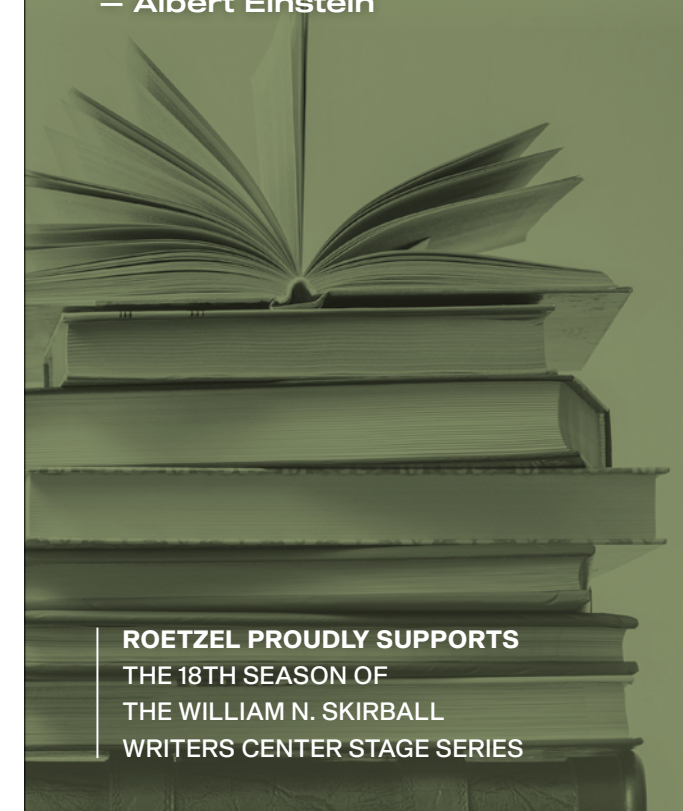
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“The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.”

— Albert Einstein

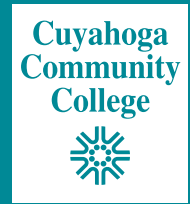


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**“The only thing you absolutely
have to know is the location
of the library.”** – Albert Einstein

PATTY
SHLONSKY &
STEVE
HINKLE



“The library was the place
I went to find out what
there was to know. It was
absolutely essential.”

Zadie Smith

*Supporting the future of our Library through the
William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage and the
Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation.*

Sari Feldman and Matt O'Dwyer



Individuals who make a commitment to the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation's future through a bequest or planned gift become members of the 1922 Society, named for the year CCPL was established. One of the easiest, most meaningful and enduring planned gifts an individual can make is a bequest to the CCPL Foundation in their will. Other legacy gifts are qualified retirement plans, life insurance policies, trusts, gift annuities or pooled income funds.

Your planned gift will be multiplied with gifts from other individuals and families to benefit programs and services available in all the branches. The new Sari Feldman Fund of the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation will support innovative programs and services that enhance library learning experiences throughout the CCPL system. These are library programs that secure CCPL's standing as one of the nation's leading public library systems but cannot be sustained through general operating funds alone. All unrestricted planned gifts given to the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation will help grow the Sari Feldman Fund to support continued and new programming.

1922 Society members will receive special access to exclusive author events, and will be publicly recognized in branches and Library publications. When the time is right for you to include a charitable gift in your estate plan, please remember the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation and know your legacy will make a difference for your community.

For more information, please contact Bridget Hawes at 216.749.9475 or bhawes@cuyahogalibrary.org.

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Mr. Stanley* I. Adelstein and
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Mort* & Iris November

Elizabeth H. Ramsey*

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Gertrude Rice*

Lynn A. Schreiber*

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David Winko*

*Deceased

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The 2021-22 William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series is presented by the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation and our Academic Partner, Case Western Reserve University.



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A round of applause for the William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series. And everyone in your audience.

Literature illuminates the human experience. It connects us to each other, brings us closer, and reminds us of the incredible heights we're capable of reaching. So from all of us at Huntington, a big thank you to Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation for reminding us how brightly we all can shine.



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LAWRENCE WRIGHT
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CONVERSATION WITH
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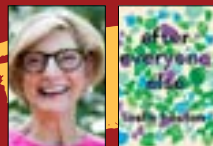
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Author Visits



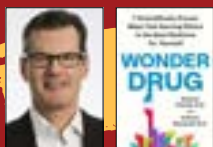
Jason Mott
June 28



Leslie Hooton
July 12



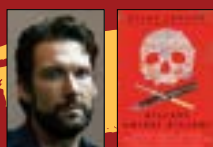
Kate White
July 18



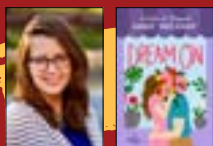
Dr. Stephen Trzeciak
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Ruth Ware
July 13



Billy Jensen
July 20



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As a frequent library patron wherever we have lived, I was delighted to learn that Northeast Ohio is home to the **nation's finest public library system**—and the **Writers Center Stage Series**.

Reading about its previous authors brought tears to my eyes as I realized what I had missed, but I join you in excitement for the joys we have to look forward to this season.

It is my honor to welcome you to **Case Western Reserve** as we experience these great conversations together.

—Karen Kaler

”



Karen and her husband, Eric Kaler, President of Case Western Reserve University.



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