

# Mary C. Curtis

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## Summary

Award-winning journalist, speaker, podcast host and educator. A creative thinker and enterprising writer/reporter who has adapted core journalism skills and values to print and electronic media. A public speaker and media expert who offers insight and commentary on journalism, diversity, politics, culture and other topics making headline news. My goal -- to quote the Nieman mission -- is "to promote and elevate the standards of journalism," in my writing, editing and teaching.

## Highlights

- Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, 2006
- Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs, journalism's first social media fellowship, at Ohio State, 2011
- Political reporting and commentary in presidential contests since 2008
- Hosting variety of civic and cultural programs for organizations such as Blumenthal Arts, Women's Inter-Cultural Exchange, National Association of Black Journalists, League of Women Voters.
- Chosen to be included in The HistoryMakers, the single largest archival collection of its kind in the world designed to promote and celebrate the successes and to document movements, events and organizations that are important to the African American community and to American society; it is available digitally and permanently archived in the Library of Congress.
- Expanded print skills into radio, TV and online outlets, with commentary on MSNBC, NPR's "All Things Considered," PRI's "Here & Now," appearances on BBC World News, CNN and MSNBC
- Thomas Wolfe Award, "My Rebel Journey," narrative report on Confederate heritage groups
- Senior Facilitator with The OpEd Project, which increases the range of voices in opinion writing, facilitating "Write to Change the World" seminars, at Yale University, Cornell University, and the Ford Foundation and at the Aspen New Voices Fellowship in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Award recognition from such professional organizations as National Society of Newspaper Columnists, Society of Professional Journalists, Society for Features Journalism, National Federation of Press Women, SPJ DC chapter and the National Association of Black Journalists
- Recipient of the 2022 Ernie Pyle Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists
- Contributed to books, including essays in "We Refuse to Be Silent: Women's Voices on Justice for Black Men," "Now What: The Voters Have Spoken, Essays on Life After Trump," "Covering Politics in the Age of Trump" and "Love Her, Love Her Not: The Hillary Paradox."

## Experience

**Columnist**, *Roll Call*, on intersection of politics, culture and race, December 2015-present

**Podcast Host**, *CQ Roll Call Equal Time with Mary C. Curtis*, June 2020-present

**Commentator**, *NPR*, *NPR-affiliate* Charlotte, NC's *WFAE*, 2015-present

**Senior facilitator**, *The OpEd Project*, September 2013-present

- Teaching/coaching. "Write to Change the World" workshops. Aspen New Voices Fellows, faculty at Yale University, Ford Foundation for writing, TV/radio appearances

**Contributor**, *She the People* blog, *Washington Post*, January 2012-December 2014

**National Correspondent**, *AOL PoliticsDaily.com*, Charlotte, NC, April 2009 to April 2011

- Enterprise reporting and commentary. Coverage includes National Tea Party convention in Opryland, National Rifle Association conference, Glenn Beck's "Restoring Honor" rally in Washington

**Commentator**, *WCCB News Rising Charlotte*, 2009 to 2021

- Regular segments on CW affiliate (WCCB-TV), political commentary/special reports

**Independent journalist**, October 2008 to Present

- *The Root*, including, on the 2010 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Greensboro Woolworth sit-in, interview with Franklin McCain, one of the four original North Carolina A&T student demonstrators
- *MSNBC*, Up, Politics Nation
- *WFAE-FM (Charlotte NPR affiliate)*, including host/co-producer 2020 "Candid Conversation on Race"
- *NBCBLK*, columns
- *NPR*, Code Switch columns, guest spots, "Angels in North Carolina" report on WNYC's "Studio 360"

**Syndicated Metro/National Columnist**, *The Charlotte Observer*, Charlotte, NC, 2007 to 2008

**Dance Writer/Critic**, *The Charlotte Observer*, Charlotte, NC, 2006 to 2008

**Executive Features Editor/Columnist**, *The Charlotte Observer*, Charlotte, NC, 1994 to 2007

- Led development of lifestyle and arts sections, creation of Faith & Values and Garden sections and entertainment tab; managed staff of writers, editors, designers
- Write columns syndicated through Knight-Ridder and McClatchy-Tribune wire

**Editor**, *The New York Times*, 1985 to 1994

- Deputy Education Editor (1993-94)
- Home Section Editor (1991-93): Guide coverage of home, style and family issues; manage a team of style reporters
- The Living Arts Editor (1989-91): Develop coverage of the national edition's arts and lifestyle section
- The Living Arts, Deputy Editor, (1988-1989): Part of the team that developed the section and implemented the roll-out
- Culture, Copy Editor/Sunday editor (1985-1987): Handled breaking culture news stories throughout the paper, including 1A

**Features Editor for Arts and Entertainment**, *The Baltimore Sun*, Baltimore, MD, 1983 to 1985

## Awards and Honors (partial listing)

**2022**, National Headliner First Place Award for Commentary

**2019-2021** SPJ DC Dateline Award, columns

**2018-2020** The Association for Women in Communications Clarion Award, Online Journalism

**2020**, Society for Features Journalism, 1<sup>st</sup> place, columns

**2014, 2008, 2004** 1<sup>st</sup> place, National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence contest, columns and multimedia series on desegregation of Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools

**2014** 1<sup>st</sup> place, Green Eyeshade Award, Society of Professional Journalists, political reporting

**2008** McClatchy President's Award, for "50 years after integration," Charlotte Observer series on the violent and nonviolent history of Charlotte-Mecklenburg public school integration

**2005** 1<sup>st</sup> place, Carmage Walls commentary award, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association  
**2004** Thomas Wolfe Award, for "My Rebel Journey," an examination of Confederate heritage groups  
**2004** Inducted into the Hall of Fame, Region IV National Association of Black Journalists

## Publication Contributor (partial listing)

**2021**, "Covering Politics in the Age of Trump," essay contributor  
**2021**, "Now What? The Voters Have Spoken: Essay on Life After Trump," essay contributor  
**2015** "Love Her, Love Her Not: The Hillary Paradox," essay contributor  
**2014** "Let There Be Light: Exploring How Charlotte's Historic West End Is Shaping a New South," essay contributor  
**2013** Media Ethics at Work (CQ Press), contributor  
**2009** "The Final Four of Everything," (Simon & Schuster) "bracketology" anthology, contributor

## Public Speaking (partial listing)

**2021**, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration Southern Poverty Law Center, host  
**2017-2021** "The Muse and the Marketplace" writing conference, sponsored by GrubStreet, Boston, presenter on writing about sensitive topics at largest writing conference in North America  
**2018, 2021** Renaissance Weekend, Charleston, S.C.; Monterey. Presented on panels on politics  
**2015** "Power of Narrative" conference, Boston University, presenter  
**2015** W.K. Kellogg Foundation America Healing Conference: All Children Must Thrive, panel moderator for "Healing Relationships between Law Enforcement and Communities of Color," Asheville, N.C.  
**2015** Speaking in Berlin, Germany, on race, policing and the U.S. presidency, sponsored by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung  
**2014** A Celebration of Patricia McBride, Kennedy Center honoree, host/producer Charlotte onstage event, featuring McBride  
**2012** Columbia College, Chicago, keynote address for creative non-fiction conference  
**2012** University of North Carolina, "The Changing Face of the American South" conference  
**2012** Jackie Robinson Foundation, "Impact of Minorities on 2012 Elections"  
**2012** Johnson & Wales University, "How Have Electronic and Social Media Affected Political Campaigns?"  
**2010/2011** Onstage pre-performance interview of Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux, N.C. Dance Theatre Director's Choice program  
**2009** Participant in conference, "The Madisonian System and Modern America: Is It Broken, and Can We Fix It?" sponsored by Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier home and the Brookings Institution  
**2008** Harvard Law School panel, "Will the 2008 Campaign Pave a Path Towards Inclusive Politics? America's Leading Journalists Discuss Race, Ethnicity, Age, Gender and Division"

## Professional Organizations

*National Society of Newspaper Columnists; Society of Professional Journalists; Trotter Group of African American columnists; National Association of Black Journalists; JAWS (Journalism & Women's Symposium);*

## **Community Associations**

*Freedom School Partners, literacy program; Women's Inter-Cultural Exchange*

## **Education**

**Nieman Fellowship**, Harvard University, 2005-2006

**Fordham University**, *New York, NY*

- Bachelor of Arts, Communications, summa cum laude; Honors Program