

First Coast
Tiger Bay Tracks



May 2023 The First Coast Tiger Bay Club, Inc. P.O. Box 2608, Jacksonville, FL 32203

A New Perspective on Race Relations in Jacksonville

May 19, 2023



Despite substantial improvements over the years, race relations in Jacksonville—like so many other American cities—remain problematic. The **First Coast Tiger Bay Club** May forum addresses this issue in a novel way. **Susan Mango Curtis**, Northwestern University Journalism Professor Emerita, will describe how to build a strong, thriving community in Jacksonville by examining the elements that both define and separate us socially. She will draw from her experience as assistant managing editor of the Akron *Beacon Journal* when it was awarded the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for a series entitled “A Question of Color.”

This yearlong study involved more than two dozen journalists, editors, analysts, and photographers in a series of 30 articles and investigated the disparity of opportunities between Blacks and Whites in Akron. They selected five areas where the differences could be measured: overall attitudes, housing, education, economics, and crime. It was spearheaded by the local newspaper and civic leaders with open lines of communication as they sought to truly understand their neighbor’s needs. This investigative reporting into what was happening on the street—where people lived and how they were involved with work, education, crime, punishment—provided fresh insight into what was needed to heal a society deeply scarred by history.

Professor Curtis is a collaborator who thrives in an organized team environment conceptualizing and developing high-level brand initiatives. She has worked with graduate and undergraduate students at the Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, where she helps students develop visual thinking skills for innovative storytelling possibilities in digital publishing. She is a former president of the Society of News Design and recipient of its 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, she is a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists Visual Task Force and received their Journalism Educator of the Year 2020 Award.

We invite you to join Professor Curtis as she illustrates how her research framework on race relations can be applied to Jacksonville today. It may be controversial and require us to honestly address issues that can be uncomfortable. But this is a necessary step if we are ever to resolve these issues.

For instance, do you have a racial bias, implicit or explicit? Most people think they don’t and are surprised when that assumption is tested. If you want to explore this, check the [Harvard University Implicit Bias](#). The American Bar Association describes this instrument as “an online test of quick responses to a series of words and pictures; the test measures response time to the computer images as a proxy for implicit bias.” It’s quite a sophisticated test based on cognitive consistency theory and well worth the time to explore it. Just be aware that you may learn some disconcerting things about yourself, but it will be a growing experience. We hope to see all of you for this special presentation on May 19th.

Don’t Forget to Vote!

Voting for the 2023 Jacksonville general elections runs from May 1 through May 14 at the early voting [sites](#), or you can vote on election day (May 16) at your precinct. The mayoral election is the most expensive contest in Jacksonville’s history. Daniel Davis’s campaign and political committees spent \$4.25 million in the first election (March 21) which, according to the [Florida Times-Union analysis](#), was \$102 for each vote received; Donna Deegan’s campaign and committees spent just under \$800,000, which came to slightly less than \$12 per vote. In addition to the mayor’s race, the Property Appraiser and City Council At-Large District 5 will be decided by all registered voters; run-off elections will also be held for City Council Districts 2, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 14 where no candidate received a majority in the March 21 election. For a summary of the races and candidates see the [JaxToday Voter’s Guide](#).

2023 Tiger Bay Officers

Tom Collins, President
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FIRST COAST TIGER BAY CLUB meets for lunch every month, except June, July and December, on the 3rd Friday at 11:30 at The River Club, 1 Independent Drive, 34th Floor. Cost for the event, which includes the wonderful buffet and parking, is \$30 for Members and \$35 for Non-Members.

Reservations are required: E-Mail: fctigerbay@gmail.com

The First Coast Tiger Bay Club is a multi-partisan political forum that promotes free and open debate but does not support any candidates or issues.

Dr. Stephen Baker, Newsletter Editor
Henry Cordes, Publisher

Reservations are REQUIRED. Please RSVP by Monday May 15, 2023
 E-mail: fctigerbay@gmail.com .

The First Coast Tiger Bay Club is a multi-partisan political and civic forum designed to explore crucial issues of the day by interacting with outstanding speakers in an open format. The club is non-partisan, never supports particular candidates, nor take sides on issues.