

Former USA Today editor-and-chief to talk about workplace harrassment

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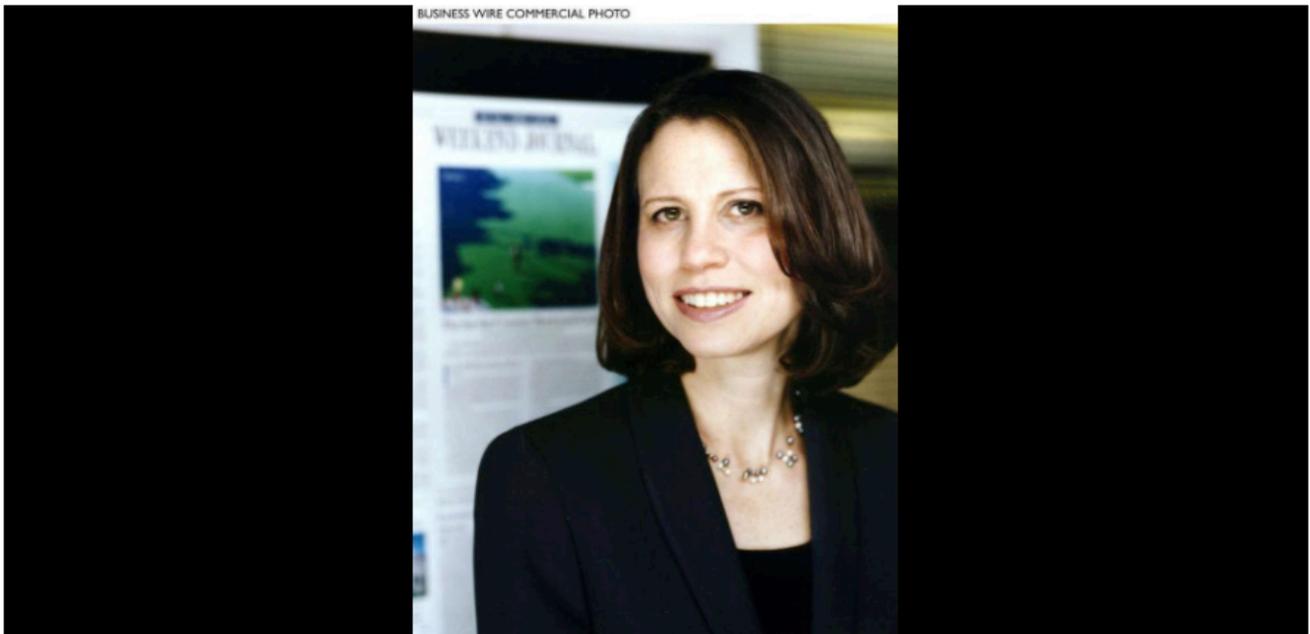


Photo: / BW

Joanne Lipman

GREENWICH — Stories about workplace harassment continue to dominate the headlines. Now Greenwich Library is bringing in a guest speaker to focus on what can be done about it.

Joanne Lipman is the former editor-in-chief of USA Today and has written “That’s What She Said: What Men Need to Know (and Women Need to Tell Them) About Working Together.”

She is slated to appear at 7 p.m. Feb. 7 the Cole Auditorium of the library, 101 W. Putnam Ave., as part of the Peterson Business Series.

“We wanted to be able to do this because of all that’s going on now,” Greenwich Library’s Business Librarian Michele Martin said Wednesday. “This is about educating men about how women work. It’s about creating a dialogue between women and men. She feels that women do a lot of mentoring and helping each other out in the workplace but that just means there are women talking to other women. Men need to be part of that dialogue too.”

According to Martin, the talk will have a heavy focus on the professional world and the gender gap in the workplace.

Lipman's book is a follow-up to a 2014 article she wrote for the Wall Street Journal outlining ongoing issues between the genders: mansplaining, a respect gap, unconscious bias and the gender wage gap and how they enable an environment of sexual harassment in the workplace.

The Journal piece was part of an overall discussion Lipman wanted to make about the potential for success in the business world once the gender divide is eliminated

Lipman stepped down at the end of 2017 as chief content officer of Gannett, which owns USA Today.

According to Lipman's website, the book is an attempt to go beyond the current conversation about sexual harassment to examine a broader culture where women are marginalized, interrupted and overlooked. Lipman says on her site that all women have experienced the "respect gap" and are made to feel invisible while men get credit for their ideas.

Martin said Greenwich Library already had a relationship with Lipman since she had come to do an author's talk around the release of her 2014 book "Strings Attached," a look at a public school music teacher and the thousands of lives he had an impact on -- while dealing with the grief and trauma of fleeing from the Nazis.

Martin said a patron who knows Lipman suggested the library bring her back for another appearance.

While the event is free to attend, space is limited and people are urged to register in advance through the library's online calendar at greenwichlibrary.org. Lipman will take questions from the audience after the discussion and sign copies of her book, which will be available for purchase outside the auditorium courtesy of Diane's Books..

"We want a dialogue and a discussion," Martin said. "We want a lot of men and women to attend this. I think this is going to provide an opportunity to hear from someone who has been studying this for years and is doing it at such an important time. This issue has really come to the fore and it's quite timely."

The Peterson Business Series will next feature Marian Salzman, the CEO of Havas PR, on March 6. Salzman is expected to lead a town hall-style meeting about the future of leadership in a shifting world and business climate. Her appearance is co-sponsored by Woman Owned Greenwich.

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