

THE PROGRESSIVE FORUM

Great Minds, Great Answers

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Contact: Randall R. Morton
President
713-664-0020 office
rrmorton@ProgressiveForumHouston.org

Bill Moyers at The Progressive Forum November 17, 2011

Widely acclaimed as one of America's most prolific independent journalists, Bill Moyers will speak at The Progressive Forum Thursday, November 17, at the Wortham Center, Brown Theater, at 7:30 PM. He will sign copies of his new book and greet fans after the lecture. Tickets range from \$14 to \$54. A limited number of \$124 tickets are available which includes a pre-event, green room, reception with Moyers at 6:15 PM and center-front seating. Tickets are available at www.progressiveforumhouston.org or by calling 832-251-0706. There is no physical box office except at the theater on event night.

The exclusive event sponsor is Berg & Androphy. The promotional partner is HoustonPBS.

Bill Moyers has received every major media award for his life's work, including over 30 Emmys from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he has also received the Career Achievement Award from the International Documentary Association and has been honored by the Television Critics Association for outstanding career achievement. He was elected to the Television Hall of Fame in 1995 and a year later received the Charles Frankel Prize (now the National Humanities Medal) from the National Endowment for the Humanities "for outstanding contributions to American cultural life."

Born in Hugo, Oklahoma, in 1934, Moyers grew up in Texas and began his career in journalism as a cub reporter for his hometown daily newspaper in Marshall, Texas, the *Marshall*

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News Messenger. He went on to study journalism at North Texas State College in Denton, Texas and in 1954 became a summer intern for then Senator Lyndon Johnson. Soon after, he transferred to the University of Texas at Austin, where he wrote for *The Daily Texan* newspaper, graduating in 1956 with a degree in journalism.

Moyers was an organizing founder and deputy director of the Peace Corps, served as special assistant and press secretary to President Lyndon Johnson and in 1967 he became publisher of the Long Island New York daily newspaper, *Newsday*. He worked as editor and chief correspondent for *CBS Reports* and later as senior news analyst and commentator for the *CBS Evening News with Dan Rather*

In 1986, he left CBS to form Public Affairs Television with his wife, Judith Davidson Moyers. Together they have produced hundreds of hours of programming for public television including: *Facing Evil, In Search of the Constitution, The Secret Government...The Constitution in Crisis, God and Politics, Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth, A World of Ideas, The Public Mind, A Gathering of Men with Robert Bly, Amazing Grace, 20 Years of Listening to America, Hate on Trial, Families First; Listening to America, The Language of Life, The Wisdom of Faith with Huston Smith, Genesis, Close to Home: Moyers on Addiction, Facing the Truth, Free Speech for Sale, Fooling with Words, On Our Own Terms, Trade Secrets, Earth on Edge, Trading Democracy, America's First River: Moyers on the Hudson, Becoming American: The Chinese Experience, NOW with Bill Moyers, Bill Moyers on Faith and Reason, and Moyers on America.*

He retired his most recent series, *Bill Moyers Journal* in April of 2010. He currently serves as president of the Schumann Media Center, a non-profit organization that supports independent journalism. He is the author of several best-selling books including *The Power of*

Myth, Healing and the Mind, Moyers on America: A Journalist and His Times; Moyers on Democracy; and most recently, *Bill Moyers Journal: the Conversation Continues.*

The Progressive Forum is a nonprofit 501(C) (3) civic speaker organization presenting its events at The Wortham Center. It's the only civic speaker organization in America dedicated expressly to progressive values. Its purpose is to enrich our democracy and culture by striving to present the greatest minds from all the fields of human endeavor, the sciences and the humanities as well as politics and public affairs, great minds it believes are advancing the success of individuals, our species, and life on the earth.

The Progressive Forum premiered on June 13, 2005, with Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Houston Mayor Bill White in a program called "Our Environmental Challenges." Al Gore launched *An Inconvenient Truth* at The Progressive Forum June 7, 2006, his first U.S. book event for that title. On September 17, 2008, Gloria Steinem celebrated the 30th anniversary of the historic National Women's Conference held in Houston. On March 27, 2008, Robert Redford introduced a film he produced and narrated, *Fighting Goliath: Texas Coal Wars*, a documentary about 32 Texas cities banding together opposing coal plant permits. On June 12, 2009, Nancy Pelosi became the first sitting U.S. House Speaker to make a public appearance in Houston in modern times. On December 7, 2009, The Progressive Forum produced the national launch event for the first book by premier climatologist James Hansen of NASA, *Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth about the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our last Chance to Save Humanity*. And on November 16, 2010, The Progressive Forum presented John Paul Stevens, the first U.S. Supreme Court Justice to appear in a public event in Houston.

Other speakers have included Karen Armstrong, Lester Brown, Ken Burns, Richard Dawkins, Jared Diamond, Sylvia Earle, Elizabeth Edwards, Tim Flannery, Jane Goodall, Brian Greene, Arianna Huffington, Seymour Hersh, Molly Ivins, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., George Soros, Edward O. Wilson, Frank Rich, Garrison Keillor, Joe Klein, Anna Deavere Smith, George Lakoff, Richard Leakey, Bill McKibben, Eric Schlosser, T. Boone Pickens, Larry Wilmore, and Edward O. Wilson. Michael Pollan is confirmed for October 27, 2011.

The Progressive Forum originated a new model for civic speaker organizations in Houston, designed to deliver a larger audience in a theater with a higher quality experience compared with hotel luncheons by traditional speaker organizations. The Progressive Forum model is similar to a performing arts company by using the finest theaters, paying speaker fees to present top intellectual stars, and marketing throughout the region with public media. It offers convenient box office services through its website, as well as traditional phone sales.

Founder and president, Randall R. Morton has owned Randall Morton International, Inc. for 35 years, an advertising and public relations agency whose clients have included the leading oil equipment companies in the U.S., Japan, Mexico, and Europe. Morton created, produced, and hosted the Oilfield Breakfast Forum from 1994 to 2003, a another speaker series which is still the largest in the oil industry. In 1971, he earned a B.A. degree in government from Georgetown University, and attained a national ranking of three as a pass receiver in nonscholarship football. While at Georgetown, he served as an issue writer for the Democratic National Committee. In 1976, he earned a second B.A. in communications from Tulsa University, serving the following year as adjunct professor teaching advertising design and copy.

