

THE PROGRESSIVE FORUM

Great Minds, Great Answers

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For Immediate Release

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Senior *Time* Magazine Columnist, Joe Klein,
To Speak On “Islam, Iraq, and The War On Terror”
At Wortham Thursday April 12

PHOTO: Joe Klein

Joe Klein, senior *Time* magazine columnist and writer, will appear at The Progressive Forum on Thursday, April 12 at the Wortham Center, Cullen Theater, at 7:30 p.m. in a program entitled “Islam, Iraq, and The War On Terror.” He will sign books at the end of the evening, books will be on sale at the event.

Randall Morton, Progressive Forum president, said, “The Middle East is a timely subject, and Klein is a brilliant observer.”

Klein is a frequent guest on *Meet the Press* and *The Chris Mathews Show* and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He’s the author of many books including his latest, *Politics Lost: How American Politics Was Trivialized By People Who Think You’re Stupid*, which *The Washington Post* called “a highly entertaining tour of how political consultants progressively hijacked the presidential campaigns of the last 40 years.”

His book, *Primary Colors*, inspired by the 1992 presidential race, spent 25 consecutive weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list and was adapted into a major

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motion picture starring John Travolta and Emma Thompson. Klein has also served as a Washington correspondent for *The New Yorker*, a columnist for *Newsweek* magazine, Washington bureau chief at *Rolling Stone*, and political columnist for *New York* magazine.

Acclaimed playwright and performance artist, Anna Deavere Smith, will appear Monday, May 21, in a lecture program entitled “Snapshots: Glimpses of America in Change” which includes elements of performance as Smith slips in and out of roles to create many points of views. *Newsweek* magazine called her “the most exciting individual in American theater.” She was awarded a “genius” grant from the MacArthur Foundation for creating a “new form of theater.” She is perhaps best known as the author and performer in one-woman plays about racial tensions in American cities, *Fires In the Mirror: Crown Heights, Brooklyn, and Other Identities* and *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*. She is a tenured professor at New York University. She founded the Institute on the Arts and Civic Dialogue at Harvard (now at NYU), which explores the role of arts in relation to vital social issues. She is the author of *Letters to a Young Artist: Straight-up Advice On Making a Life in the Arts*, as well as *Talk to Me: Travels in Media and Politics*.

In the fall, Gloria Steinem will appear Monday September 17 in a program entitled “The Progression of Feminism, Where Are We Going From Here.” James Hansen, NASA climatologist, will speak on Wednesday October 24 in a program called “Climate Change: The Latest Science.” And Ken Burns will finish the year on Tuesday November 13. His latest PBS documentary about World War II, called “The War”, will be broadcast in the fall. The Progressive Forum will celebrate Veterans’ Day with Ken Burns.

The Progressive Forum is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(C)(3) civic speaker organization presenting seven events a year at The Wortham Center. Its purpose is to enrich our democracy and culture by presenting the great minds who are moving our species and life towards success, speakers from all the fields of human endeavor, the

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sciences and the humanities, as well as politics and public affairs. Its progressive viewpoint is rooted in the mainstream constitutional, enlightenment, and egalitarian values of America's founding fathers, moderate values that need affirming, now more than ever.

The Progressive Forum is pioneering a new model in the field of public affairs to deliver a higher quality experience and a larger audience that typically attends speaker events. The Forum operates like a performing arts company using the finest theaters, paying speaker fees to present the top cultural and intellectual stars, and providing convenient box office services.

The Progressive Forum premiered in June 2005 with Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Mayor Bill White, and has since presented Jared Diamond, Seymour Hersh, Molly Ivins, Al Gore, George Soros, Edward O. Wilson, Frank Rich, Garrison Keillor, and Tim Flannery.

Founder and president Randall R. Morton has owned Randall Morton International, Inc., for 31 years, an advertising and public relations agency whose clients have included leading oil equipment companies in the U.S., Japan, Mexico, and Europe. Morton created and hosted the Oilfield Breakfast Forum, which became the largest speaker platform in the oil industry whose surplus went to Houston's SEARCH Homeless Project. While earning a degree in government from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., he served as an issue writer for the Democratic National Committee.

Tickets for all events range from \$19 to \$59 with further discounts at certain price levels for students, seniors over 65, and groups of fifteen or more. Patron tickets of \$110 include a private reception with the speaker, autographed book, and preferred seat location. Tickets are available on line at www.progressiveforumhouston.org which allows you to print your tickets at your computer. For tickets by phone, call 832-251-0706. Tickets are also available at the door. There is no physical box office to purchase tickets in advance. For more information, call The Progressive Forum office at 713-664-0020.