

THE PROGRESSIVE FORUM

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For Release

Great Minds, Great Answers

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Premier Climatologist James Hansen To Appear December 7, 2009

Premier climatologist Dr. James Hansen will appear at The Progressive Forum Monday December 7, 2009, at the Wortham Center, Cullen Theater, at 7:30 PM. It's the national launch event for his first book, *Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity*. The event takes place on the opening day of the Copenhagen Climate Conference where nations will be focused on forging a successor to the Kyoto Treaty.

Tickets range from \$14 to \$54. A limited number of \$74 tickets are available which include a pre-event reception with Dr. Hansen, a complimentary signed book, and center front seating. Dr. Hansen will sign books and greet fans at the end of the evening. 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.

This event was originally scheduled for October 29 and was rescheduled because of temporary health issues of Dr. Hansen.

Randall Morton, Progressive Forum president, said, "This is the second time Houston has provided the national launch event for a leading book on global warming. The Progressive Forum also served as Al Gore's U.S. national launch event for *An Inconvenient Truth* June 7, 2006.

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"Moreover, The Progressive Forum has presented the leaders on global warming. This is Hansen's second appearance, he first appeared October 24, 2007. Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature*, the first book for the general public on

global warming, appeared April 28, 2008. Tim Flannery, author of *The Weather Makers*, appeared March 19, 2007.

“Other environmentalists speaking on climate related subjects have included Robert Redford who appeared March 27, 2007 and introduced his documentary, *Fighting Goliath: Texas Coal Wars*, on 32 Texas cities opposing coal plant permits; Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. who appeared June 13, 2005 and discussed coal plant pollution; biologist Edward O. Wilson who appeared September 27, 2006 and discussed his book, *The Creation: An Appeal To Save Life On Earth*; Jared Diamond who appeared February 24, 2006 and discussed his book, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*; and Lester Brown who appeared April 28, 2009 and discussed his book, *Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing To Save Civilization*.

Storms of My Grandchildren details Hansen’s his experiences in the world of government, science, and special interests. He makes the case that the planet that gave rise to civilization is in “real peril” and is close to tipping points “that would be irreversible if we do not promptly slow fossil fuel emission.” Hansen lays out the science and provides clear solutions.

James Hansen was the first to make the public aware of global warming in his Congressional testimonies in 1988 and 1989. He is director of NASA’s Goddard Institute

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for Space Studies in New York City. He is also adjunct professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Hansen’s most recent research indicates that the climate is even more sensitive than previously thought, that the safe level of atmospheric CO₂ is 350 ppm (parts per million) and must be returned below this level over time. The current CO₂ concentration is about 387 ppm and is rising steadily.

The Progressive Forum is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(C)(3) civic speaker organization presenting seven events a year at The Wortham Center. It's the only civic speaker organization in the nation 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.

This year of 2009 marks the fourth year of The Progressive Forum. Past speakers include Al Gore who launched *An Inconvenient Truth* at The Progressive Forum, his first U.S. book event for that title. Others have included Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Jared Diamond, Seymour Hersh, Molly Ivins, George Soros, Edward O. Wilson, Frank Rich, Garrison Keillor, Joe Klein, Tim Flannery, Anna Deavere Smith, Gloria Steinem, James Hansen, Ken Burns, George Lakoff, Robert Redford, Bill McKibben, Elizabeth Edwards, Larry Wilmore, T. Boone Pickens, Lester Brown,

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Nancy Pelosi, Brian Greene, and Karen Armstrong.

The Progressive Forum originated a new model in civic speaker organizations in Houston to deliver a higher quality audience experience in a theater rather than a hotel luncheon, as well as generate a much larger audience than traditional speaking events. The Progressive Forum operates as a performing arts company by using the finest theaters, paying speaker fees to top intellectual stars, and marketing throughout the region. It offers convenient box office services through its website allowing ticket buyers to print tickets at their computer, in addition to traditional phone sales.

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."

Founder and president, Randall R. Morton has owned Randall Morton

International, Inc. for 34 years, an advertising and public relations agency whose clients have included leading oil equipment in the U.S., Japan, Mexico, and Europe. Morton created, produced, and hosted the Oilfield Breakfast Forum from 1994 to 2003, a speaker platform which is still the largest in the oil industry today. While earning a degree in government from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., he served as an issue writer for the Democratic National Committee.