

THE PROGRESSIVE FORUM

Great Minds, Great Answers

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For Immediate Release

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Breast Cancer Survivor Elizabeth Edwards
To Speak May 21 at The Progressive Forum

Breast cancer survivor, Elizabeth Edwards, will speak at The Progressive Forum, Wednesday May 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wortham Center. Her speech will focus on her book, *Saving Graces: Finding Solace And Strength From Friends and Strangers*, which will be on sale at the event. Elizabeth Edwards is wife of former Presidential hopeful, John Edwards.

Tickets start at \$14 and are available at www.progressiveforumhouston.org or at 832-251-0706. Discounts are available for students, seniors 65 and over, groups of ten or more, and educators including teachers and administrators at all levels. A valid ID is required at the door. A limited number of \$149 tickets includes a pre-event reception with Elizabeth Edwards at 6:45 p.m. and a signed book.

Randall Morton, Progressive Forum president, said, "We're looking forward to an evening of insight and inspiration. In a nonpolitical event, Elizabeth Edwards, will discuss the sources of her strength and hope. She and John lost a 16 year old son for whom they established a foundation, as well as battled the forces of cancer together."

The event sponsor is Ginni and Richard Mithoff. Event hosts are Jess and Beth Sanders Moore.

The daughter of a decorated Navy pilot, Mary Elizabeth Anania was born July 3, 1949. In her early years, she attended school in Japan, where her father was stationed. She was an English major at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She graduated from UNC Law School in

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May 1977, and married John Edwards that year.

Edwards is an accomplished attorney, she clerked with a U.S. district court judge in Norfolk, Virginia. She worked for the North Carolina Attorney General's Office in the early 1980s. For 12 years, she worked at a Raleigh law firm, and taught legal writing as an adjunct professor at UNC Law School. She volunteered with parent teacher associations at her children's schools, and has been active in their youth soccer leagues.

In 1996, she and John established the Wade Edwards Foundation, and helped build a computer learning center, the Wade Edwards Learning Lab, for youth in Raleigh. Recently, the foundation opened a similar computer lab in Goldsboro. The Wade Edwards Foundation also runs a statewide short fiction contest for North Carolina's high school juniors, awarding \$10,000 a year in scholarships and grants to high school English programs. Mrs. Edwards volunteered at the lab nearly every day until the family came to Washington following John's 1998 election to the U.S. Senate.

Elizabeth Edwards is the mother of four children: Catharine, a senior at Princeton University, a five year old daughter, Emma Claire, and a three year old son, Jack, plus her son Wade who died in 1996.

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 first 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, those it believes are advancing individuals, our species, and life on the earth towards success. 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. It's the nation's first civic speaker organization expressly dedicated to progressive values.

This year of 2008 marks the third full season 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, and Bill McKibben.

Markos Moulitsas, founder and editor of the most widely read political blog, *Daily Kos*, is scheduled for September 22. And *Newseek* columnist Eleanor Clift will appear October 22.

All Progressive Forum events are carbon neutral through a donation from DrivingGreen.com towards methane capture projects which offset 51 tons of greenhouse gasses per event including the speaker's air and ground transportation, venue air conditioning and power, and audience driving to and from the theater.

The Progressive Forum originated a new model in the field of public affairs in Houston to deliver a higher quality experience to much larger audiences that typically attend speaking events. The Progressive Forum operates like 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.

Founder and president, Randall R. Morton has owned Randall Morton International, Inc. for 32 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.