



*"Let There Be Light"*

# THE FORD HALL FORUM



Jeff Thiebauth

*Jesse Jackson*



AP/Wide World Photos

*Henry A. Kissinger*



AP/Wide World Photos

*Corazon Aquino*



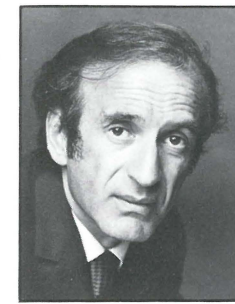


AP/Wide World Photos

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Margaret Mead



Philippe-Halsman

Elie Wiesel

## What is the Ford Hall Forum?

Since 1908, the Ford Hall Forum has provided a platform from which the current political, social, intellectual, and cultural issues of the day could be discussed and debated. It is a voluntary assembly of the active and thoughtful people of our community without regard to economic, religious, or political differences, for the purpose of exploring all matters of public concern.

The Forum seeks to educate the public by illuminating the basic issues of our times. Its operating concept is simple: to bring to the platform leading authorities and specialists on diverse subjects, and to insist upon the right of audience members to pose questions directly to the speakers.

Now the oldest free public lecture forum in America, the Forum extends its influence nationally over public radio, reaching up to 1,000,000 people.

## No Viewpoint Unchallenged

Audiences have been admiring, friendly, and critical, but no viewpoint goes unchallenged. Often two or more speakers present their different opinions and debate a current issue. Whether speaking alone or with others, every speaker is subject to the scrutiny of a lively and involved audience. Among the areas covered are politics, anthropology, sociology, philosophy, science, education, economics, literature, international relations, medical ethics, law, morality, and the burning issues of the day. The entire spectrum of attitudes and opinions from ultra-liberal to arch-conservative is presented. Indeed, it has been a source of constant gratification to the Forum over the years to be the target of criticism from forces of Left and Right for presenting unpopular points of view. This is precisely what the Forum is all about.

## Who Listens?

The Ford Hall Forum serves a diverse constituency. Its audience is comprised of the elderly, the middle-aged and the young of all races, religions, ethnic backgrounds and economic levels, not only in Boston and New England, but throughout the country. Generations of students attending Greater Boston colleges have found the Forum to be a vital adjunct to their education, and a source of intellectual ferment. The Forum has members who have attended its sessions for as long as 40 years, and children and grandchildren of early Forum members are now regular attendees of the programs. Also, through its continuing efforts to interest and involve the public, the Forum welcomes many new people to its programs for the first time each year.

## The Importance of the Forum

An informed citizenry is vital to a democracy. Yet most Americans obtain their news from television, edited into brief segments that can't explore an issue in depth or fully examine a speaker's statements. The Forum, in contrast, presents expert speakers with the time to explain their beliefs and support their assertions.

In addition, conventional forms of communication—the printed word, radio and television—give an audience no means of responding or questioning. The Forum supplies this added dimension through the unique opportunity to question and challenge these experts and opinion-makers.

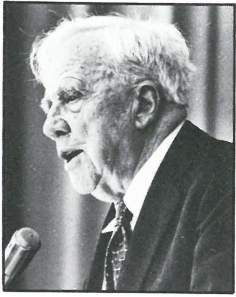
Another unusual aspect of the Forum is its use of audience participation in the selection of speakers through regularly distributed program request forms. These, plus unsolicited letters of recommendation, are used in choosing topics and speakers. They keep the Forum in touch with citizens' deep concerns about current issues and place Forum programming at the forefront of public opinion.

Even as it changes to keep pace with the times and adds services to reach more people, the Forum remains true to its original principles: it is free to the public, it provides an open question period for members of the audience, and it presents many points of view in a non-partisan atmosphere.

## Among Past Speakers

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bella Abzug             | Salvador E. Luria          |
| Corazon Aquino          | Archibald McLeish          |
| Isaac Asimov            | Thomas Mann                |
| Howard Baker            | Thurgood Marshall          |
| Bruno Bettelheim        | Margaret Mead              |
| Sissela Bok             | Arthur Miller              |
| Louis Brandeis          | Bill Moyers                |
| Jimmy Breslin           | Roger Mudd                 |
| Kingman Brewster, Jr.   | Ralph Nader                |
| Patrick Buchanan        | B. K. Nehru                |
| William F. Buckley, Jr. | Reinhold Neibuhr           |
| Ralph J. Bunche         | Robert Novak               |
| Helen Caldicott         | Vance Packard              |
| Ramsey Clark            | Linus Pauling              |
| William Colby           | Leonard Peikoff            |
| Henry Steele Commager   | Roscoe Pound               |
| Norman Cousins          | Yitzhak Rabin              |
| Clarence Darrow         | Ayn Rand                   |
| Robert F. Drinan        | James Reston               |
| W. E. B. DuBois         | Walter Reuther             |
| Will Durant             | Elliot Richardson          |
| Abba Eban               | Pat Robertson              |
| Pierre Mendes-France    | Eleanor Roosevelt          |
| Barney Frank            | William A. Rusher          |
| Felix Frankfurter       | Carl Sandburg              |
| Douglas Fraser          | Margaret Sanger            |
| Robert Frost            | Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. |
| Buckminster Fuller      | Daniel Schorr              |
| John Kenneth Galbraith  | Pete Seeger                |
| David Gergen            | John R. Silber             |
| Germaine Greer          | Upton Sinclair             |
| Dick Gregory            | B. F. Skinner              |
| David Halberstam        | Lincoln Steffens           |
| Averill Harriman        | Gloria Steinem             |
| Seymour Hersh           | I. F. Stone                |
| Jesse Jackson           | Lester Thurow              |
| Herman Kahn             | Barbara Tuchman            |
| Marvin Kalb             | Gore Vidal                 |
| Alexander Kerensky      | Harold Washington          |
| John Kerry              | Tom Wicker                 |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. | Elie Wiesel                |
| Henry A. Kissinger      | Roy Wilkins                |
| V. K. Krishna Menon     | Thomas Winship             |
| Robert M. LaFollette    | Bob Woodward               |
| Max Lerner              | Andrew Young               |
| William Loeb            | Whitney M. Young, Jr.      |
| Sir Bernard Lovell      | Adm. Elmo Zumwalt          |





Courtesy of the Boston Globe

Robert Frost



Courtesy of the Boston Globe

Eleanor Roosevelt



“The Ford Hall Forum has... been a voice of reason and intelligence, of wit and humor, of caring. May its voice never be stilled.”

*The Boston Herald*

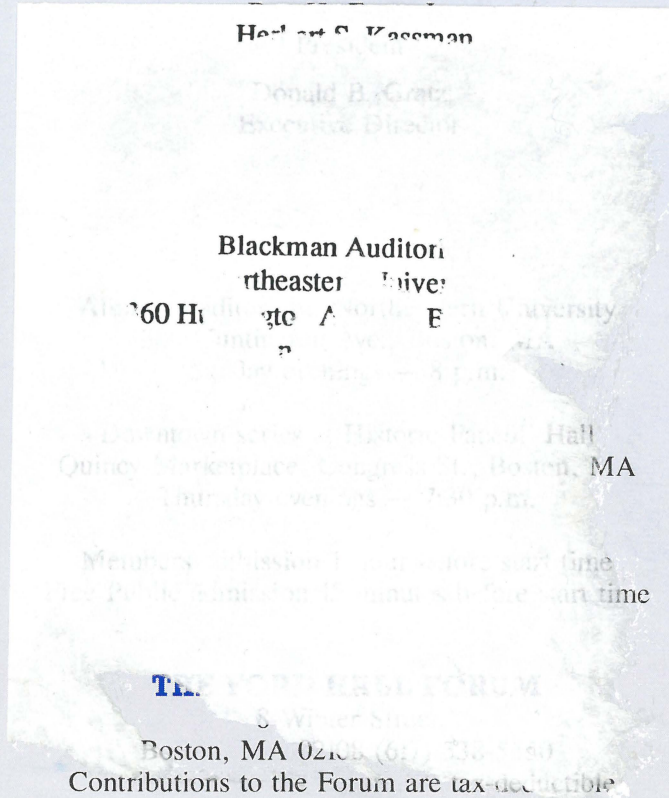
“Among all of Boston’s great cultural institutions, and there are many, probably the one most indispensable in the last analysis is the Ford Hall Forum.”

*The Boston Globe*

### Support the Ford Hall Forum

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### THE FORD HALL FORUM



Jeff Theibauth

Jesse Jackson



AP/Wide World Photos

Henry A. Kissinger



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Corazon Aquino



An audience at Ford Hall

Boston, MA 02108 (617) 338-1840  
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