

## December 2023

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### OFFICERS

**President**

Elizabeth K. Wessel

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**Vice President**

John C. Smarge

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### DIRECTORS

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Arthur D. Collins

Sandra M. Edwards

Linda Flewelling

Leslie M. Frecon



**Jessica Buchanan**

NGO worker rescued by  
Seal Team 6

*Friday, December 8, 2023*

**Naples Grande Beach Resort**

On October 25, 2011, while on a routine field mission in Somalia, working as the Education Advisor for her non-governmental organization, Jessica was abducted at gunpoint and held for ransom by a group of Somali pirates for 93 days. Forced to live outdoors in deplorable conditions, starved, and terrorized by more than two dozen gangsters, Jessica's

health steadily deteriorated until, by order of President Obama, she was rescued by the elite SEAL Team VI on January 25, 2012. Jessica's ordeal is detailed in her New York Times bestselling book, *Impossible Odds: The Kidnapping of Jessica Buchanan and Her Dramatic Rescue by SEAL Team Six*.

Jessica has been named one of the "150 Women Who will Shake the World" by *Newsweek*, and her story has been one of the most highly viewed 60 Minutes episodes to air, to date. Jessica has shared her story of overcoming impossible odds on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, The Today Show, Stephen Colbert, The Unbeatable Mind with Navy SEAL Mark Divine, and All the Wiser with Kimi Culp, just to name a few. Jessica's story was the subject of Wondery's Season 2 Against The Odds and her TEDx Pearl Street talk, "Change is Your Proof of Life" has been the foundation for which she travels the world, inspiring audiences to access their resilience by identifying their own autonomy and choice in the middle of their own life changing event, even when they feel they are out of options.

**Guest Ticket Request for December 8, 2023  
NGO worker rescued by Seal Team 6**

**Jessica Buchanan**

To place a request for one guest ticket, please submit to:

**[forumclub@theforumclub.org](mailto:forumclub@theforumclub.org)**

If guest tickets are available, requests are processed in order of receipt and must be received by

**December 1, 2023**

J. Douglas Gray  
James P. Johannsen  
Roy Kapani  
Richard H. Lenny  
James R. Lozelle  
Janet P. Rathbun  
Kenneth R. Reeves  
Jeanne L. Seewald  
Cherry W. Smith  
Adria D. Starkey  
Jay B. Stephens  
William H. Strong  
Inge G. Thulin  
Gary L. Tice  
Robert S. Troth

**They will be mailed by that date, and you will be billed for \$90, or notified if there is no space.  
Tickets are non-exchangeable and non-refundable.**

## FORUM CLUB SPEAKER SELECTION

*The Program Committee's goal is to bring the best speakers to the Forum Club. The criteria for the speaker selection requires that each speaker have a reputation as an outstanding well-respected leader and role model in his/her area of expertise.*

*To offer program variety, speakers are selected from the government, corporate, financial, international, media, health care, technology, and other fields.*

*This year's Program Committee, chaired by President-Elect Beth Wessel, has begun its efforts to secure speakers for next season.*

*While the Forum Club provides for transportation and hotel expenses, it does not offer its speakers honoraria. The Club encourages all members to assist in securing potential speakers with whom they have contact. If you have a suggestion of a potential speaker, please contact the Forum Club office or Program Committee Chair, Francis Rooney.*

## 2023-2024 SPEAKER PROGRAM

### **GENERAL JOHN W. RAYMOND**

**November 17, 2023**

U.S. Space Force

### **JESSICA BUCHANAN**

**December 8, 2023**

NGO worker rescued by Seal Team 6

### **CHRIS KEMPCZINSKI**

**January 12, 2024**

President & CEO, McDonald's Corporation

### **MICHAEL SCHWIMMER**

**January 26, 2024**

President & CEO, Big League Advantage

### **WILLIAM BARR**

**February 16, 2024**

Former United States Attorney General

### **GENERAL KEITH B. ALEXANDER**

**February 23, 2024**

Director NSA, Cmdr. U.S. Cyber Command

### **DAVID RUBENSTEIN**

**March 8, 2024**

Co-Founder & Co-Chairman, The Carlyle Group

### **DAVID BEASLEY**

**March 22, 2024**

Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme

### **REINHOLD SCHMIEDING**

**April 5, 2024**

Founder & CEO, Arthrex

### **BEN SASSE**

**April 12, 2024**

President, University of Florida & Former Senator, Nebraska

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Forum Club's mission is to:

- *Provide a congenial meeting atmosphere for members to enjoy prominent speakers in fields such as academia, business, economics, finance, government, health, international relations,*

- Promote the highest civic, moral and ethical standards
- Share the "Forum Club Experience" with outstanding high school students in Collier County.
- Provide scholarships to Collier County high school students

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Edward M. Liddy 2022-2023	Wade F. Keller 2009-2010	Raymond Mueller* 1996-1997
Susan S. Jones 2021-2022	Alan M. Horton 2008-2009	Donald J. York* 1995
Clark T. Randt, Jr. 2020-2021	Malcolm B. Chancey Jr. 2007-2008	John M. Passidomo 1994
Joseph G. Fogg, III 2019-2020	W. Wallace Abbott* 2006-2007	William C. Sinclair* 1993
Verne G. Istock 2018-2019	Carl J. Kuehner 2005-2006	Joe B. Cox 1992
Richard S. Bodman 2017-2018	Richard I. Wilson* 2004-2005	John T. Duffner* 1991
Melvin C. Short Jr. 2016-2017	William E. Hoglund* 2003-2004	Alan R. Korest* 1990
Shelly Church 2015-2016	L. Lindsey Halstead* 2002-2003	Tom Shea* 1989
Thomas B. Wheeler 2014-2015	Edward J. Putzell Jr.* 2001-2002	Corbin A. Wyant 1988
William F. Allyn 2013-2014	Linda C. Flewelling 2000-2001	Robert D. Stakich* 1987
Thomas A. Bringardner 2012-2013	Thomas E. Ingram 1999-2000	Brenda C. Wilson 1986
David A. Rismiller* 2011-2012	Carol E. Girardin 1998-1999	Leonard F. Llewellyn* 1985
Ulla Norris 2010-2011	R. James Harvey* 1997-1998	William S. Gentry* Founder

\*deceased

## INQUIRIES

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