

# MARIAN MINER COOK ATHENAEUM



CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

# WELCOME

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum (the “Ath”), a signature program at Claremont McKenna College (CMC).

The Ath is CMC’s central social space for intellectual exploration and growth.

The Ath brings today’s leading thinkers and activists, innovators and entrepreneurs, politicians and poets, scientists and musicians, scholars and opinion leaders to teach and engage our community.

Remarkably, Ath programs are free of charge for our college community and are generally held Monday through Thursday during the academic year.

The Ath is uniquely student-centric.

Only student fellows introduce the speaker and manage the question-and-answer period. Only students sit with speakers at the head table, and student questions always have priority during the speaker Q & A.

The Ath is a culinary experience.

In a beautiful setting, each evening opens with a reception followed by a gourmet sit-down dinner prepared by the Ath’s in-house chef.

The high-caliber speakers, social and intellectual energy, delicious food, and captivating setting together create a transformative experience.

I look forward to seeing you at the Ath!

Very best,



Hiram E. Chodosh  
*President, Claremont McKenna College*

# TESTIMONIALS

“The CMC students I met were deeply impressive: super-smart, serious of purpose, and intellectually sophisticated, but still fun-loving and great conversationalists. The quality of their comments and questions met or exceeded anything I would expect at my home institution. All this in a stunningly beautiful campus led by dynamic, creative scholars and teachers!”

NOAH FELDMAN, 2015 SPEAKER  
FELIX FRANKFURTER PROFESSOR OF LAW  
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

“The Athenaeum is a definitive characteristic of intellectual life at CMC. It is a place to dive deeper into an idea from a class, enrich yourself with a completely new topic, and connect in a different way with peers, professors, and speakers. No other school has anything like it!”

DAVID LEATHERS, CMC '15  
ATHENAEUM FELLOW 2012–2013

“This unique and intimate setting offers a powerful format for dialogue and engagement with inquisitive college students who are dedicated to intellectual growth and civic discourse.”

MARGARET STOCK, 2015 SPEAKER  
MACARTHUR FOUNDATION FELLOW 2013  
ATTORNEY, CASCADIA-CROSS BORDER LAW

# HISTORY

Founded in 1946 and located 35 miles from downtown Los Angeles, Claremont McKenna College is a leading liberal arts college dedicated to educating students for thoughtful and productive lives and responsible leadership.

In support of this mission, the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum serves as a center for intellectual and cultural life on campus. Derived from Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, the Athenaeum is a vital and vibrant meeting place dedicated to the free inquiry and exchange of ideas across the intellectual, political, and cultural spectrum.

Unique in U.S. higher education, the Athenaeum provides an intimate and relaxed venue where intellectual discourse, civic engagement, and social exchange flourish over a shared gourmet meal with students, faculty, and other members of the community. Founding college trustee Donald McKenna, whose vision inspired the creation of the Athenaeum, believed that dynamic social and intellectual interactions underscore the essence of a college education.

Since its inception in 1970, the Athenaeum has welcomed hundreds of speakers including leading academics and intellectuals, prominent politicians and public figures, inspirational thinkers and doers, and celebrated authors and performing artists to enrich, expand, and inspire the College community.

For more information, a list of upcoming speakers or to make a suggestion, please visit [www.cmc.edu/athenaeum](http://www.cmc.edu/athenaeum).

**ATHENAEUM SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS** ▪ ARIANNA HUFFINGTON  
▪ DESMOND TUTU ▪ CORNEL WEST ▪ KENNETH STARR ▪ TEMPLE  
GRANDIN ▪ ANTONIN SCALIA ▪ JARED DIAMOND ▪ DAN SAVAGE  
▪ BONO ▪ PHILIP GLASS ▪ ANITA HILL ▪ FAREED ZAKARIA ▪ FRAN  
LEBOWITZ ▪ JEANE KIRKPATRICK ▪ ERIC SCHMIDT ▪ ANDERSON  
COOPER ▪ ART SPEIGELMAN ▪ SERGI KHRUSCHEV ▪ NOAH FELDMAN  
▪ ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR. ▪ JOYCE CAROL OATES ▪ JACKIE JOYNER-  
KERSEE ▪ CHARLES MURRAY ▪ WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR. ▪ EHUD  
BARAK ▪ ROXANA SABERI ▪ JEFFREY SACHS ▪ DORIS LESSING ▪  
DIANNE FEINSTEIN ▪ TONY KUSHNER ▪ VACLAV KLAUS ▪ JHUMPA  
LAHIRI ▪ HELEN THOMAS ▪ RALPH REED ▪ DANIEL SCHORR ▪  
OLIVER SACKS ▪ JON HUNTSMAN, JR. ▪ THOMAS FRIEDMAN ▪ JAMES  
A. BAKER, III ▪ EVE ENSLER ▪ JONATHAN FRANZEN ▪ ROBERT FORD  
▪ KARL ROVE ▪ GEORGE WILL ▪ SHELBY STEELE ▪ GERONIMO JI  
JAGA PRATT ▪ FRANCIS FUKUYAMA ▪ CZESLAW MILOSZ ▪ REBECCA  
SKLOOT ▪ JANET MOCK ▪ JONATHAN KOZOL ▪ MICHAEL ONDAATJE  
▪ HAROLD KOH ▪ ORHAN PAMUK ▪ HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR. ▪  
MILTON FRIEDMAN ▪ ROBERT GATES ▪ CAPITOL STEPS ▪ MAUREEN  
DOWD ▪ SIMON WIESENTHAL ▪ WILLIAM DERESIEWICZ ▪ REZA  
ASLAN ▪ JULIAN BOND ▪ GORE VIDAL ▪ JESSE JACKSON ▪ MARY  
ROBINSON ▪ KURT VONNEGUT ▪ BILL CLINTON ▪ JOHN IRVING ▪  
WILLIAM KRISTOL ▪ DAVID MCCULLOUGH ▪ AMOS OZ ▪ JOHN K.  
GALBRAITH ▪ CONDOLEEZZA RICE ▪ BILLIE JEAN KING ▪ ROBERT  
REICH ▪ CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN ▪ SAPPHIRE ▪ REGGIE JACKSON  
▪ SEAMUS HEANEY ▪ WANGARI MAATHAI ▪ HENRY KRAVIS '67 ▪  
DANNY GLOVER ▪ PAUL VOLCKER ▪ PEGGY NOONAN ▪ KEN KESEY  
▪ RAY BRADBURY ▪ MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM ▪ ANNA QUINDLEN ▪  
AZAR NAFISI ▪ ANNE RICE ▪ MITT ROMNEY ▪ GWENDOLYN BROOKS  
▪ NATE SILVER ▪ DAVID SEDARIS ▪ ZADIE SMITH ▪ DITH PRAN ▪  
SPIKE LEE ▪ AL SHARPTON, JR. ▪ SHIRIN EBADI ▪ T. BOONE PICKENS ▪  
CHARLAYNE HUNTER-GAULT ▪ MAXINE HONG KINGSTON ▪ GLORIA  
ALLRED ▪ JAMES EARL JONES ▪ ELIE WIESEL ▪ HELEN PREJEAN ▪ STEVE  
FORBES ▪ DAVID BROOKS ▪ MICHAEL EISNER ▪ PAUL KRUGMAN ▪



CLAREMONT  
MCKENNA  
— C O L L E G E —

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