

Frank Abagnale

Author, lecturer, consultant, and leading expert on cybercrime, embezzlement, and forgery

Sunday, January 29



THE H.N. AND FRANCES C.
BERGER FOUNDATION
— PRESENTS —
DESERT
TOWN HALL

2023



Kimberley Strassel

Thursday, February 23

Mike Pompeo

Monday, March 6

Walter Isaacson

Sunday, April 2



FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2023 season of Desert Town Hall, the desert's premier speaker series. It is truly because of you and your support that we are celebrating our 31st year.

It's hard to believe the speakers we've had here over the years. As you'll see in the first two pages of this program, the biggest and most influential names in the world have come to Indian Wells, creating lifetime memories for all those who attend. From Ron Howard and Jon Meacham, to Lady Margaret Thatcher and Condoleezza Rice, the noted list of speakers in the series' history is indeed impressive. Please drop us a line in one of our surveys and let us know who's been your all-time favorite.

World leaders, media pundits, heroes and literary giants have appeared on our stage. In these past 31 years, the world has truly come to town, thanks to Desert Town Hall.

Best of all, tonight, you're in the room where it happens. I hope we exceed your expectations.

As always, I want to thank our very generous sponsors, our hard-working board of directors, staff and volunteers for making this event possible. We couldn't do it without them—or without you, the subscribers who have enabled us to enjoy another exciting season.

It's an honor to be here with you.

With sincere appreciation,

Keith Goff
President

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DESERT FORUM, INC., A NONPROFIT
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From the City of Indian Wells

"It is a privilege that the City of Indian Wells is able to host this great event every year. Desert Town Hall is a staple in the Indian Wells community, and we look forward to partnering for many years to come."

DONNA GRIFFITH, MAYOR



"Desert Town Hall has played an instrumental role in enriching intellectual dialogues throughout the Coachella Valley. The engagement it has spurred in local communities is something to be proud of."

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"We're grateful for all of the contributions Desert Town Hall has made to Indian Wells. Its spectacular array of speakers has distinguished it as a noteworthy and dynamic attraction."

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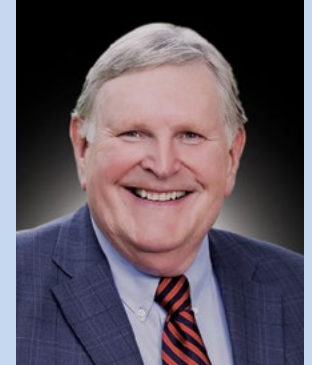


"Desert Town Hall represents a space where curious individuals from Indian Wells and beyond can not only engage in discussions on important issues but build a stronger sense of community with each other. We are incredibly proud to collaborate with Desert Town Hall."

BRUCE WHITMAN, COUNCIL MEMBER

"The City of Indian Wells celebrates the successes Desert Town Hall has had thus far and looks forward to what is on the horizon. With an impressive track record going back decades, it is undeniable that Desert Town Hall will have many more great seasons."

DANA REED, COUNCIL MEMBER





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"I remain honored and privileged to serve this organization. Choosing speakers each year is both a joy and challenge for us. We hope to consistently exceed expectations."

Keith Goff
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"Desert Town Hall is a success because of your willingness to celebrate the free exchange of ideas."

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"I appreciate the chance to learn from people who have led extraordinary lives. To have a glimpse of the world through their eyes."

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"I am mesmerized by the adventures and experiences the speakers share – like from my all-time favorite, Nando Parrado."

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"We're proud to host this world-class event at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa since 1993, the very first year."

Tim Pyne
Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa

"Desert Town Hall opens a window to the world with a range of topics. You might agree or disagree with the speaker, but you learn."

Brian S. Harnik
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"We highly value feedback we receive from our subscribers, including suggestions for future speakers."

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Frank Abagnale

Author, lecturer,
consultant, and leading
expert on cybercrime,
embezzlement,
and forgery

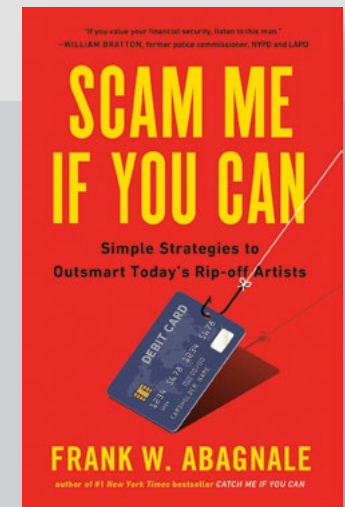


Frank Abagnale's transformation from one of the world's most notorious con men to a highly sought-after international cybercrime and fraud prevention consultant is remarkable.

He captivates audiences by drawing on his best sellers, *Scam Me If You Can*, *The Art of the Steal*, and *Stealing Your Life*. He takes you behind the scenes to reveal simple strategies that can thwart today's cyber criminals. Today his perspective and counsel have guided not only the FBI but more than half of the Fortune 500 companies in America.

Mr. Abagnale keeps a keen eye on the latest techniques developed by high-tech criminals to deceive and steal. He provides a deep understanding of today's evolving security landscape and takeaways for stopping scammers in their tracks. But more importantly, he shares his vision of how to make the world a safer place.

Mr. Abagnale's unique expertise and first-hand experience have made his contributions to the world of cyber security immeasurable. The FBI and more than 14,000 financial institutions,



corporations, and government agencies worldwide utilize Mr. Abagnale's fraud prevention programs. Although most of his work is with the U.S. government, he refuses to be paid for it. He is a premier cyber security speaker, appearing at the FBI Academy and Bureau field offices and as a faculty member at the National Advocacy Center.

A best-selling author of five books, including the most recent *Scam Me If You Can: Simple Strategies to Outsmart Today's Rip-off Artists*, Mr. Abagnale has also contributed articles for *ThreatAdvice*, *Financial Fraud Law Report*, and *USA Today*.

Kimberley Strassel

Author, columnist and
editorial board member,
Wall Street Journal



Kimberley Strassel is an editorial board member for *The Wall Street Journal*. She writes editorials and the weekly *Potomac Watch* political column from her base in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Strassel joined Dow Jones & Co. in 1994, working in the news department of *The Wall Street Journal* Europe in Brussels and then in London. She moved to New York in 1999 and soon joined the *Journal's* editorial page, working as a features editor and then as an editorial writer. She assumed her current position in 2005.

Ms. Strassel, a 2014 Bradley Prize recipient, regularly participates in Sunday political shows, including CBS's "Face the Nation," "Fox News Sunday," and NBC's "Meet the Press." She is the author of the national best-seller, *The Intimidation Game: How the Left Is Silencing Free Speech*, which chronicles recent attacks on conservative nonprofits, businesses, and donors.

An Oregon native, Ms. Strassel earned a bachelor's degree in Public Policy and International Affairs from Princeton University. She lives in Virginia with her three children.



Mike Pompeo

Politician, diplomat,
businessman, 6th Director
of the CIA, and 70th
Secretary of State



Michael R. Pompeo served as the 70th United States Secretary of State from April 2018 through January 2021. He served from January 2017 to April 2018 as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

As our nation's senior diplomat, Mr. Pompeo helped craft U.S. foreign policy based on our nation's founding ideals, putting America first. America became a massive energy exporter and a force for good in the Middle East, cementing real peace through the work of the Abraham Accords. Mr. Pompeo emphasized renewing alliances with key allies, including India, Japan, Australia, and South Korea.

Mr. Pompeo's time at the State Department marked the end of naive engagement with the Chinese Communist Party, pulling back the curtain shielding the egregious acts of the CCP that threaten American jobs and freedoms. He focused efforts on calling out and punishing perpetrators of attacks on basic human dignity in places like Venezuela, North Korea, Iran, Nigeria, China, and elsewhere. Mr. Pompeo also led a team that executed America's largest-ever global repatriation effort in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Before joining the Trump administration, Mr. Pompeo was serving in his fourth term as congressman from Kansas' 4th District. He served on the House Intelligence Committee, Energy and Commerce Committee, and the House Select Benghazi Committee.

Before serving in Congress, Mr. Pompeo spent a decade leading two manufacturing businesses in Wichita, Kansas. Mr. Pompeo founded Thayer

Aerospace, a global supplier to the world's leading commercial and military aircraft builders, serving as CEO. He later became president of Sentry International, an oilfield equipment manufacturing, distribution, and service company.



After graduating first in his class at the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1986, Mr. Pompeo served as a cavalry officer patrolling the Iron Curtain before the fall of the Berlin Wall. He also served with the 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry in the U.S. Army's Fourth Infantry Division.

After completing his active duty, Mr. Pompeo graduated from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. Mr. Pompeo worked as an attorney at Williams & Connolly immediately following Harvard.

Mr. Pompeo now serves as a distinguished fellow at the Hudson Institute. In 2021, he founded Champion American Values PAC, supporting political candidates across the country who will champion the U.S. and its founding principles first.

Mr. Pompeo is originally from Orange, California. He is married to Susan Pompeo and has one son, Nick.

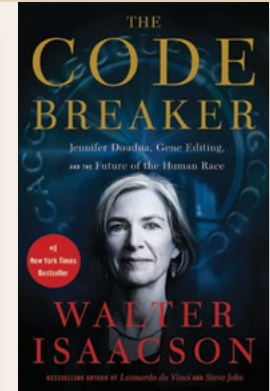
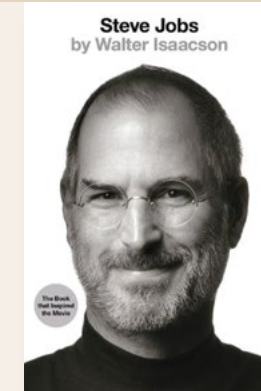
Walter Isaacson



Best-selling author, acclaimed historian, journalist, and professor of history at Tulane University

Walter Isaacson is a best-selling author, acclaimed historian, journalist, and professor of history at Tulane University. He is the former president and CEO of the Aspen Institute, where he is now a distinguished fellow. He also served as chairman and CEO of CNN and a managing editor at Time magazine. An accomplished biographer, Isaacson has written acclaimed books on Leonardo da Vinci, Steve Jobs, Benjamin Franklin, Albert Einstein, Henry Kissinger, and, most recently, Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna. He is also the co-author of *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made*.

Mr. Isaacson's definitive biography of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs was published in 2011, becoming a *New York Times* best seller and serving as the inspiration for the movie *Steve Jobs*, starring Michael Fassbender, Kate Winslet, Seth Rogen, and Jeff Daniels. Based on more than 40 interviews with Steve Jobs conducted over two years, Mr. Isaacson's riveting account tells the story of a roller-coaster life and an intense, creative personality whose passion for perfection and ferocious drive revolutionized six industries: personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, and digital publishing. His most recent #1 *New York Times* best seller, *The Code Breaker*, is a gripping account of how Nobel Prize winner



Jennifer Doudna and her colleagues launched a revolution that will allow us to cure diseases, fend off viruses, and have healthier babies. Kirkus calls it "A vital book about the next big thing in science—and yet another top-notch biography from Isaacson."

In 2014, Mr. Isaacson was selected by the National Endowment for the Humanities to deliver their Jefferson Lecture, the government's highest honor for achievement in the humanities. He has also been named as one of the *Time 100*, the magazine's list of the most influential people in the world, and received the 2012 Gerald Loeb Award for his book, *Steve Jobs*. In partnership with Dell Technologies, he hosts a podcast called "Trailblazers" that explores stories of digital disruption. Mr. Isaacson is also a co-host of Amanpour & Company on PBS and CNN. He lives in New Orleans.

Youth Town Hall

Thanks to the support of sponsors and the community, 600 local high school students experience an unforgettable evening. Youth Town Hall is a special reception before the evening's main event, allowing students from 21 area high schools to interact with Desert Town Hall speakers in an intimate setting.

Speakers spend about 15 to 20 unscripted minutes talking to the students and answering their questions. A live video feed enables students and chaperones to watch the speaker's presentation from the main stage.

Youth Town Hall is led by student ambassadors who are solicited from participating schools. Students are encouraged to submit applications, which are then reviewed, and students are selected.

Students get to practice their interviewing and reporting skills at Youth Town Hall.



Thank you to The Coeta & Donald Barker Foundation for helping to make a difference in these young lives.

Youth Ambassador Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Desert Town Hall scholarships are granted to Youth Ambassadors who demonstrate passion, leadership, community involvement, and a desire to make the world a better place.

YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Belinda Castaneda

Junior I Indio High School

Ben Van Dijk

Sophomore I Rancho Mirage High School

Calixto Herrera

Senior I Palm Springs High School

Daisy Zavala

Senior I La Quinta High School

Damian Torres-Aguilar

Junior I Coachella Valley High School

Emily Ahlgren

Junior I Xavier College Prep

Enri Lala

Senior I La Quinta High School

Gracie Van Dijk

Senior I Rancho Mirage High School

Jensen Fiskin

Junior I Palm Desert High School

Lauren Thoman

Junior I Xavier College Prep

Mariel Del Rosario

Senior I Palm Springs High School

Matthew Correa

Senior I Xavier College Prep

Maximos Labib

Junior I Palm Desert High School

Maxine Press

Senior I Xavier College Prep

Melissa Perez-Rodriguez

Junior I Coachella Valley High School

Mia Garcia

Sophomore I Shadow Hills High School

Natalie Vasquez

Senior I La Quinta High School

Priscila Marquez

Junior I Cathedral City High School

Tallulah Rector

Junior I Palm Desert High School

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Graduated

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Desert Christian Academy

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Horizon School

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La Quinta High School

Mount San Jacinto High School

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Shadow Hills High School

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