

QUEENS

UNIVERSITY CHARLOTTE

LEARNING SOCIETY

2026 - 2027 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP



A LEGACY OF SPEAKERS

THE PAST THREE YEARS

*Daniel
Pink*

*Nicholas
Thompson*

*Nita
Farahany*

*Abraham
Vergheze*

Dan Buettner

*David
Wallace-Wells*

Isabel Wilkerson

Jared Diamond

QUEENS
UNIVERSITY

Dear Queens Learning Society Members,

As we reflect on the past year with the Queens Learning Society, we are reminded of the powerful moments that define our work. Those quiet, stirring pauses in an auditorium after a speaker's words shift how we see the world. Your presence and support make those moments possible. Your belief in the power of ideas is at the heart of what makes the Queens Learning Society thrive.

When a small group of Charlotte citizens founded this organization in 1988, they imagined a community where curiosity would be celebrated and world-renowned voices could ignite conversation. More than three decades later, that vision continues to grow thanks to members like you.

Together, we've welcomed visionaries like Yo-Yo Ma, Isabel Wilkerson, and Dan Buettner. And just as importantly, we've watched Queens students sit in the front row, ask bold questions, and walk away changed. That ripple effect — from the stage, to you, to the next generation — is why The Learning Society matters.

As we begin planning for the upcoming season, we hope you'll continue to support our journey. Your membership ensures that these meaningful experiences will continue to impact our students, inspiring them to carry these lessons forward.

Renew your membership online at queens.edu/learningsociety/ or by scanning the QR code in this mailer. We would be honored to have you with us for another year of discovery.

With deep appreciation,
Queens Learning Society

A portrait of Justin Trudeau, the former Prime Minister of Canada, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt. The background is a blurred green, suggesting foliage.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JUSTIN TRUDEAU

FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

OCTOBER

27

2026

In his keynote address, Mr. Justin Trudeau will reflect on a timely and important theme: that in an era of unprecedented global challenges and rapid technological change, the foundation of progress remains deeply human—our ability to build and strengthen communities through democratic principles, shared values, and collective responsibility.

Justin Trudeau's tenure as Canada's 23rd Prime Minister coincided with a period of unprecedented global challenge and change. After leading the third-place Liberal Party of Canada to a historic majority government in 2015, Trudeau set about delivering an ambitious agenda that included appointing Canada's first gender-balanced cabinet, lifting more than 435,000 children out of poverty through the Canada Child Benefit, launching a national \$10-a-day childcare program, advancing Indigenous Reconciliation, and taking robust action to fight climate change, including through policies that attracted investment in clean economic growth and jobs.

Before entering politics, Trudeau studied literature at McGill University, completed the University of British Columbia's education program, and spent several years teaching in Vancouver. He also served as the Chair of Katimavik, on the board for the Canadian Avalanche Foundation, and as an advocate for youth and the environment, taking part in events and conferences around the country.

Trudeau has received numerous international awards including the Atlantic Council's Global Citizen Award, National Geographic's Planetary Leadership Award, and Rotary International's Polio Eradication Champion Award.



Public tickets go on sale September 2026 through etix.com

VENUS WILLIAMS

FEBRUARY

24

2027



With 7 Grand Slam titles, 5 Wimbledon championships, and 4 Olympic gold medals, tennis champion Venus Williams is arguably one of the most accomplished and inspiring women in the history of sports.

Beginning her rise to the top at the age of 14, Venus quickly took the tennis world by storm—rising to the top-ranked position, breaking countless records, and winning numerous championships.

Off the court, Venus has combined her sharp business acumen with her competitive spirit to build several successful ventures spanning art, design, wellness, and entertainment. She is the founder of V Starr, an award-winning full-service commercial and residential design firm. Venus launched her plant-based protein company, Happy Viking, in December 2020. Additionally, she is an investor and ambassador for the walking and wellness app WeWard.

Most recently, Venus partnered with her sister Serena on an exclusive X Originals video podcast series, Stockton Street, which premiered in September 2025. Venus released her health and wellness book, *STRIVE*, in August 2024 with Amistad and HarperCollins. Throughout her career, Venus has been a steadfast advocate for equality. In 2006, UNESCO, the United Nations' cultural organization, named her its first "Promoter of Gender Equality." In 2007, it was her unwavering fight that led Wimbledon to award women players the same pay as their male counterparts.

In 2023, Venus received the inaugural US Open Billie Jean King Champion of Equality Award, recognizing her continued dedication to promoting equality and leveling the playing field for athletes



Public tickets go on sale November 2026 through [etix.com](https://www.etix.com)

The Queens Learning Society is more than a lecture series—it is a signature expression of the university's commitment to intellectual curiosity, meaningful dialogue, and student-centered learning.



Before each public lecture, visiting speakers participate in an exclusive discussion with Queens students. In this intimate setting, students engage directly with accomplished leaders, asking questions, exploring ideas, and gaining insights that extend far beyond the classroom. These exchanges provide a rare opportunity to connect with some of the most influential thinkers of our time, fostering confidence, critical thinking, and intellectual engagement.

This unique model transforms students from passive observers into active contributors, reflecting the university's belief that learning is most powerful when students are fully engaged in the exchange of ideas.

A transformative investment is helping ensure that this tradition of student engagement continues to grow. In 2026, community philanthropists Bob and Susan Salvin established the Salvin Impact Fund for the Learning Society with a \$1.5 million gift. The fund was created to deepen student engagement with global thought leaders while expanding the program's reach and visibility throughout the Charlotte region.



The Salvins' generosity reflects a shared commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for students and strengthening connections between Queens and the broader community. Their investment will enhance the very elements that make the Learning Society unique: direct student interaction, intellectual exploration, and community engagement. By supporting expanded student lecture opportunities and outreach initiatives, the fund will ensure that even more students have access to conversations that challenge assumptions, broaden perspectives, and inspire future leadership.

For Learning Society members, these events offer more than access to exceptional speakers. Membership supports a program that creates life-changing opportunities for students while bringing the community together around meaningful conversations and lifelong learning.



2026-27 MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

PRICING:

SCHOLAR'S CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP <i>(previously general membership)</i>	
INDIVIDUAL \$950 total cost per year <i>(\$650 tax deductible)</i>	HOUSEHOLD \$1,900 total cost per year <i>(\$1,300 tax deductible)</i>
PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP	
INDIVIDUAL \$2,500 total cost per year <i>(\$2,185 tax deductible)</i>	HOUSEHOLD \$5,000 total cost per year <i>(\$4,375 tax deductible)</i>

SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN,
UPGRADE, OR RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP ►►

More info:

-  queens.edu/learningsociety
-  learningsociety@queens.edu
-  704-337-7771



BENEFITS:

	SCHOLAR'S CIRCLE	PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE
TWO LECTURE EVENTS		
Access to Two Lecture Events	✓	✓
Reserved Seating	✓	✓
Premier Reserved Seating		✓
VIP Parking	✓	✓
General Pre-Lecture Reception (no speaker)	✓	
General Post-Lecture Reception	✓	✓
Pre-Lecture Reception with Speaker		✓
Speaker Meet & Greet		✓
Early access to public ticket sales for friends and family	✓	✓
Exclusive Photo Line Access (Speaker Permitting)	✓	✓
Private Car Transport		✓
MEMBER SALON		
Intimate gathering with local thought leaders	✓	✓
MEMBER COCKTAIL		
Seasonal celebration with cocktails and conversation	✓	✓

2025-26 LEARNING SOCIETY MEMBERS

Active Founding Members

Georgia and Bill Belk	Barbara Karro and Bill Gorelick	Carolyn '54 and Sam McMahon	Mattye and Marc Silverman
Anne Marie Black '92	Sandra Levine	Dale and Larry Polsky	Gail Brinn Wilkins and Howard Freese
Peggy and Jim Hynes	Jane and Hugh McColl		

President's Circle Members

Sharon Blalock and Marcia Tillotson	Stacy and Todd Gorelick	Sandra Levine	Sharon and Larry Sullivan
Sally and Brian Bridgford	Mozelle Griffith	Kaye and Dennis McGarry	Ann and Michael Tarwater
Jan Hall Brown	Heide and Oscar Groomes	Lydia McNeary	Marcia Tillotson and Sharon Blalock
Lauren and Malcolm Campbell	Carol and Watts Hamrick	Indun Patrick and Wayne Smith	Rita and Bill Vandiver
Jeanie and Tom Cottingham	Lucy and Hooper Hardison	Mary Margaret and Fritz Porter	Elizabeth and Hans Warren
Linda and Bill Farthing	Carol Holmes	Tamea Price	Anne and Fletcher Wright
Betsy Fleming and Ed Weisiger	Christie and Jon Hunt	M.A. Rogers	
	Barbara Laughlin	Susan and Bob Salvin	

Scholar's Circle Members

Amanda and Yeatts Anderson	Ann Brookshire and Joe Grier	Siu Challons-Lipton and Jordan Lipton	Daniele Donahoe and Erik Rosenwood
Leslie Aronovitz	Frannie and Herb Browne	Sarah and Jim Charles	Mary Hahn and Kris Fetter
Anne and John Barry	Kathy and Peter Browning	Nan and Hal Clarke	Leigh and John Finley
Laura Batten	Karen Broyhill	Jean and Gene Cochrane	Amy and Sid Fletcher
Georgia and Bill Belk	Vicki and Pete Brunnick	Paige and Mark Cohen	Dorlisa and Peter Flur
Sarah and Tim Belk	Paige and Steve Burgess	Jane and Tom Coyle	Chakana Fowler
Anne Marie Black	Madelyn and Kevin Caple	Angela and Jesse Cureton	Eileen Friars and Scott Pyle
Joye Blount and Jessie Knight	Tracey and Scott Chagnon	Pamela and Bob Davies	Mary and Sean Gallivan
Katie and Spencer Borders		Jennifer DeWitt	
Bonnie and Thor-Erik Borresen			

Jen and Tim Gelorme	Becky and Mark Linsz	Pam Pearson and Chuck Peach	Elissa Vona
Karen Gerkin and Ben Wilhelm	Deborah Majewski and Dan Ward	Diane Peery	Judy Schindler and Chip Wallach
Liz Hames	Nancy and John Maloney	Nancy Poe	Diane and Loren Weil
Sandy Hamilton	Ashley and Scott Mattei	Dale and Larry Polsky	Leslie and Mitchell Wickham
Hayley and John D. Hannon	Julia and Ben Mayes	Louise and William Rice	Gail Brinn Wilkins and Howard Freese
Suzy and Steve Hannon	Jane and Hugh McColl	Inez Serventi and Douglas Robinson	Katie Wireman
Sharon and Rob Harrington	Kathy and Bill McCollum	Sally Robinson	Karen and Manuel Zapata
Josephine Hicks and Susan McConnell	Susan McConnell and Josephine Hicks	Lynn Rogers	Sally and Andy Zoutewelle
Kathy and Steve Horvath	Yvonne and Dick McCracken	Amy Sandrene	Mary and Bob Long
Fran and Greg Hyde	Lauren and Wilson McCrory	Laura and Mike Schulte	Gail Brinn Wilkins and Howard L. Freese
Courtney and Bill Hyder	Melissa and Mike McGuire	Ylida and Bertram Scott	Sharon Willis
Michelle and Travis Icard	Stacie and Daniel Menichella	Swan Sewell	Katie Wireman
Lisa and Wheeler Jervis	Arrington Mixon	Anita and Marvin Shapiro	Karen and Manuel Zapata
Ghazale and Andy Johnston	Carmalita and Tripp Monroe	Mattye and Marc Silverman	Sally and Andy Zoutewelle
Tammy and Greg Jones	Nancy and David Morris	Caroline and Bob Sink	
Vik Kakkar	Sheila and Sean Mullen	Lori and Eric Sklut	
Kelly Katterhagen and Larry Nabatoff	Janet Nelson	Kati and Chris Small	
Alison and Pete Keane	Alison and Jonathan O'Connor	Jan and Jack Sullivan	
Ginger Kelly	Cathy and Joseph Oliveto	Jane and Chris Thomas	
JoEl and Vernon Knight	Sarah and Amit Om	Karey and Ray Tom	
Jeanne and Brad Kutrow	Amy and Dale Owen	Kathy and Joe Tronco	
Anne and Chris Lam	Amy Parker	Jane and Trey Tune	
Kelly Leech		Alison and Wells Van Pelt	
		Kathy and Trey Vinson	

Membership roster as of March 6, 2026.
Please inform us of any changes by emailing LearningSociety@queens.edu.

QUEENS
UNIVERSITY CHARLOTTE

THE LEARNING
SOCIETY

1900 Selwyn Ave.
Charlotte, NC 28274