

The 2008 NPT Power & Influence TOP 50

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There's nothing quite like an economic downturn to get the sector moving. During the past year retail outlets started limiting food quantities available for purchase and the price of gasoline is heading toward \$5 per gallon. The government reported that more than 60,000 jobs were lost in the economy just during the month of June.

The economic situation in the United States is putting pressure on nonprofits to do more with less – in some cases considerably less. The latest fundraising reports showed both revenue and the number of donors declining for the first time since the fall of 2001, when this sort of statistic started being tracked by Target Analysis Group.

Abroad, a weak dollar against other currencies, such as the Euro, is straining the ability to fund projects. Organizations with international operations are either cutting back or dipping into a rainy day fund to keep programs open.

And, it is also clear that a changing of the guard has begun in the sector. The announced retirement of several influential leaders will be bringing a younger generation to the executive suites at charities.

In this 11th annual *NPT Power & Influence Top 50*, we celebrate some of the sector's top executives and thinkers. These executives were selected for the impact they have now and for the innovative plans they are putting in place to evolve the charitable sector. We also offer a roll call of the executives who have shaped this listing and the sector.

The executives will be honored for their work at *The NPT Power & Influence Top 50 Gala* next month at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. It will be a night of high level exchange between executives who can move a nation.

Here's *The NPT Power & Influence Top 50, Class of 2008*.

Diana Aviv

President & Chief Executive Officer
Independent Sector
Washington, D.C.

She took a lot of abuse from some in the sector for trying to work with federal legislators instead of openly fighting with them. There is now no doubt that she was right because most of the threatened federal regulation has been stalled. There is still danger, but it might be under control.



Kelly Browning

Executive Vice President
American Institute For Cancer Research
Washington, D.C.

Browning makes the list for his work as vice chair of the Direct Marketing Association in battling the do not mail activists. Imagine not being able to send a fundraising letter. There are actually some nonprofits funding the attempts to establish such roadblocks.

Gary Bass

Founder & Executive Director
OMB Watch
Washington, D.C.

Bass is an effective advocate for strengthening government transparency and using information technologies to empower citizens and community groups to challenge unchecked institutional power. He loudly has spoken out against the erosion of the public's right to know.



Phil Buchanan

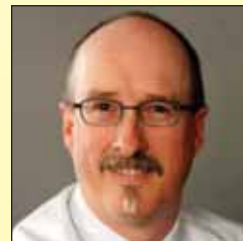
Executive Director
Center For Effective Philanthropy
Cambridge, Mass.

Starting with the belief that there isn't enough good information to inform philanthropic decision-making, Buchanan is advocating for new performance assessment tools and transparency, pushing the idea of providing good information to inform philanthropic decision-making.

Elizabeth Boris

Director
Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy, Urban Institute
Washington, D.C.

When Congress needs the sector quantified, she has the numbers and from that mantle she espouses the importance of nonprofit advocacy and civic engagement, its importance to democracy and how it will take more money from foundations to keep things afloat.



Gavin Clabaugh

Vice President, Information Services
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Flint, Mich.

He has spent his professional life making technology accessible to and understood by nonprofits. He has embraced the new technologies (see Gavin's DigitalDiner) and uses his bully pulpit at Mott to emphasize technology within both the grant-making community and the sector.

Paul Brest

President
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Menlo Park, Calif.

He's trying to get foundations to provide more information and demand the same from grantees. He believes that most foundations are significantly underinvested in providing the infrastructure for doing evaluation and thus providing data. Better information leads to better philanthropic decisions.



Kathy Cloninger

Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts of the USA
New York, N.Y.

Talk about changing an organization. Imagine the Girl Scouts without the uniforms. That's shaking up a national organization if there was ever an example. Cloninger has long been a sector leader, starting locally and now internationally.

The 2008 NPT Power & Influence TOP 50

Robert Egger

Founder
D.C. Central Kitchen
Washington, D.C.

Some would call him a shameless self-promoter, others a serial networker. Whichever, he energizes the national conversation. He was a co-convenor of the Nonprofit Congress and a founder of the V3 Campaign, which is working to get the voice of the sector recognized in every election in America.



Sara K. Gould

President & Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Foundation for Women
New York, N.Y.

She led the Collaborative Fund for Women's Economic Development, which provided more than \$10 million to groups creating jobs for low-income women. She has provided thousands of grassroots leaders with the skills and resources to help women achieve greater economic independence.

David Eisner

Chief Executive Officer
Corporation for National and Community Service
Washington, D.C.

Government-sponsored volunteerism is booming in large part because of his leadership. He embodies the belief that volunteering is no longer just nice to do. It is a necessary aspect of meeting the most pressing needs facing the nation: crime, gangs, poverty, disasters, illiteracy, and homelessness.



John H. Graham IV

President & Chief Executive Officer
ASAE & The Center For Association Leadership
Washington, D.C.

Graham sees opportunity in challenge, and there are few greater than what he did to put ASAE back together. He is committed to creating healthy associations that are committed to social responsibility. ASAE has the muscle to get its members to the right legislators and that wasn't always the case before him.

Lewis M. Feldstein

President
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Concord, N.H.

He is without question the "dean" of the community foundations field. He breathes civic engagement and that has made his organization the most influential in his state and one of the most influential throughout New England. His book *Better Together* is a must read.



Florence Green

Executive Director
California Association of Nonprofit Organizations
Los Angeles, Calif.

California has been in the middle of challenges to the sector, such as a legislative mandate for board composition. Green has been able to navigate the state's nonprofits out of high water and multiple state administrations that have been less than warm to the sector.

Israel L. Gaither

National Commander
Salvation Army
Alexandria, Va.

Gaither was quoted in a *USA Today* article saying, "You can't manufacture integrity." He's running a multi-billion dollar business that just happens to be religious-based and treats it as such. It's mission/purpose first, rather than trying to do everything and getting into trouble.



Steve Gunderson

President & Chief Executive Officer
Council on Foundations
Washington, D.C.

There were a lot of snickers (behind his back) when Gunderson started talking about the differences in charity and philanthropy and attempting to redefine philanthropy by foundations. Nobody is chuckling now, as the ideas have begun to take root among the largest foundations.

Brian Gallagher

President & Chief Executive Officer
United Way of America
Alexandria, Va.

The deathwatch is over for the UWA thanks to Gallagher's refocusing on primary needs of communities and fundraising for those specific needs. He has pushed for consistent metrics and redesigned UWA from a fundraising entity to a community change mission.



Wade Henderson

President & Chief Executive Officer
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Washington, D.C.

He is the leader of all of the credible civil rights leaders. Under Henderson's guidance, the LCCR has become one of the nation's most effective defenders of federal affirmative action policy and one of the strongest advocates for passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Melinda Gates

Co-Founder
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Seattle, Wash.

With the retirement of long-time CEO Patty Stonesifer, Gates has taken a lead role in defining direction and goals as the new CEO gets his feet wet operationally. It is, after all, just a little family foundation, that just happens to wipe diseases off continents.



Melanie L. Herman

Executive Director
Nonprofit Risk Management Center
Leesburg, Va.

There are risks to running the charitable sector and Herman is on the front line of providing a security blanket of information. Her ability to work with other umbrella organizations is making risk a key issue, even at the smaller organizations where the info is needed the most.

Charles Gould

President
Volunteers of America
Alexandria, Va.

Gould is passionate about VOA's mission but also recognizes that the organization cannot go it alone. He is first among equals in collaborating across the sector to actually get work done, like opening housing units in New Orleans and the Gulf region.



Tanya Howe Johnson

President & Chief Executive Officer
National Committee on Planned Giving
Indianapolis, Ind.

Can you say Baby Boomers? Her members can. Planned giving and bequests are hot. Obtaining them and doing it in an ethical manner is what she preaches, especially when it comes to developing guidelines for reporting and accounting planned charitable gifts.

The 2008 NPT Power & Influence TOP 50

Belinda Johns

Deputy Attorney General
State of California
Sacramento, Calif.

With California currently being the epicenter of nonprofit state regulation and legislation, Johns is the busiest regulator in the country. But, she's also one of the most level-headed and with more than 15 years on the job she is the key state regulator of the sector.



William C. McGinly

President & Chief Executive Officer
Association for Healthcare Philanthropy
Falls Church, Va.

His benchmarking programs for hospital performance are starting to take hold. AHP established a confidential database that allows for timely comparisons with peer institutions on core benchmarks on financial modeling necessary to plan for expanded fundraising growth.

Irv Katz

President
National Human Services Assembly
Washington, D.C.

From almost nothing, Katz has cobbled together an organization with the clout that should require deeper pockets. The major health and human service players are part of an organization where coalition building is key. They spark the national conversation and Katz is the ringmaster.



Kathryn E. Merchant

President & Chief Executive Officer
The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Cincinnati, Ohio

Her leadership is moving beyond building assets for the greater Cincinnati area to building a national network for community foundation services. She might be the only executive to navigate the choppy waters between the Council on Foundations, GivingNet, and the state's regional association.

Marguerite Kondracke

President & Chief Executive Officer
America's Promise Alliance
Washington, D.C.

Once a rest stop for Republicans waiting for their next job, Kondracke has made the America's Promise into a force in youth development and is delivering innovative programs, such as Katrina's Kids, that actually can be benchmarked.



Clara Miller

President & Chief Executive Officer
Nonprofit Finance Fund
New York, N.Y.

Miller preaches the stupidity of "paying" customers (funders) insisting on paying below cost for services from nonprofits. Investment and risk capital will vanish, effectiveness will decline, and vulnerable people will suffer. Her goal: A sector well capitalized, viable and positioned to carry out mission.

Wendy Kopp

Teach For America
Chief Executive Officer and Founder
New York, N.Y.

Kopp's work has been a model in how to grow an organization to scale, how to create a capital investment fund and create new sources of financial support. She has emerged as a leader for a new generation of nonprofit managers. Her book describing her journey has influenced the field.



Steven T. Miller

Commissioner
IRS Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division
Washington, D.C.

If he says that he's from the IRS and here to help you, don't wait for the punchline. He is doing just that. Miller is accessible and would rather see that things are done right than waste time and money prosecuting. He will go after you, though, if he must.

Gara LaMarche

President & Chief Executive Officer
The Atlantic Philanthropies
New York, N.Y.

The two most commonly used words in some parts of the sector these days are Atlantic Philanthropies. With the retirement of Ford Foundation's Susan Berresford and his jump from the Open Society Institute, LaMarche is probably philanthropy's leading social justice grantmaker.



William L. (Larry) Minnix, Jr.

President and Chief Executive Officer
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
Washington, D.C.

Always seeking the "big idea," Minnix makes sure the "silent generation," the growing population in long-term care, has a voice in policy-making. It's quite the voting bloc as the November elections get closer. He's making their voices be heard by the candidates.

Sr. Georgette Lehmuth

President & Chief Executive Officer
National Catholic Development Conference
Hempstead, N.Y.

The Catholic fundraising community is making a huge comeback and NCDC under Sr. Georgette is a big reason. She is a powerhouse in the fundraising mail discussions with the U.S. Postal Service and is reaching out to both secular and religious organizations for collaborative education efforts.



William D. Novelli

Chief Executive Officer
AARP
Washington, D.C.

Is anyone going to jerk-around the 50-plus community in an election year? It won't happen with Novelli on the job. Frankly, he scares the "you know what" out of most legislators and has the bank account to back up his "suggestions."

Paulette V. Maehara

President & Chief Executive Officer
Association of Fundraising Professionals
Arlington, Va.

The fact she leads the largest organization of fundraisers on the planet doesn't get her on this list. Maehara is an association executive unafraid to stand up for what she believes. She's not always right, but that's OK. With her, it's all about ethical behavior when it comes to dealing with donors.



Michelle Nunn

Chief Executive Officer
Points of Light Institute
Atlanta, Ga.

At the old Points of Light Foundation, inside politics was a blood sport. But Nunn and the Hands on Network won the battle during a merger and all of a sudden she sits atop the largest volunteer network in the world.

The 2008 NPT Power & Influence TOP 50

Wayne Pacelle

President & Chief Executive Officer
Humane Society of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Many animal rights groups are flashier but nobody capitalizes on an opportunity like Pacelle. To him, it's a passion for advocating change - not only for the benefit of animals, but for the public good as well. Forget, for a moment, that the group is a fundraising powerhouse.



Sterling Speirn

President and Chief Executive Officer
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Battle Creek, Mich.

Speirn led a strategic planning process that resulted in a new matrix grant-making system. He created cross-organizational teams while leaving the program leaders and staff in place. If the matrix system succeeds, it could be a model for cross-functional approaches in other foundations.

Jon Pratt

Executive Director
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
St. Paul, Minn.

This guy is everywhere - every major sector panel, steering committee, and association. A policy wonk with a sense of humor, he finds ways for the MCN to be effective as a national entity and at the local level. He is sought after for his insight on economic trends, philanthropy and legal issues.



Vincent Stehle

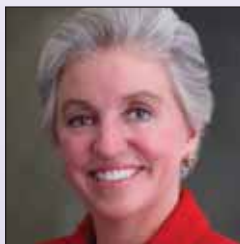
Program Director for Nonprofit Sector Support
Surdna Foundation
New York, N.Y.

When almost anything creative having to do with nonprofit access to and innovative use of media or technology appears in the public eye, check back to who funded it three years before and you'll probably find Stehle's support.

Rebecca W. Rimel

President & Chief Executive Officer
Pew Charitable Trusts
Philadelphia, Pa.

A modern day Prometheus, she believes that philanthropy, like fire, is a tool that can be used forever to help all mankind, not just a few people. That doesn't mean funding shouldn't be strategic. She understands the balance and the foundation funds that way.



Dorothy Stoneman

Founder & President
YouthBuild USA
West Somerville, Ma.

A legendary leader of youth development work, she has endless reservoirs of idealism, determination and social vision. As chairman of the National YouthBuild Coalition, she leads a group with more than 1,000 member organizations in 43 states, Washington D.C., and the Virgin Islands.

Jill Schumann

President & Chief Executive Officer
Lutheran Services in America
Baltimore, Md.

It's a simple phrase: How shall we be known? It's a question she asks LSA members while pushing for accountability from roughly 280 Lutheran health and human service groups. In all 50 states, it is estimated that LSA touches one in 50 people. That's a powerful network to deal with social policy.



H. Art Taylor

President & Chief Executive Officer
BBB Wise Giving Alliance
Arlington, Va.

Loudmouth "watchdogs" come and go. Taylor's conciliatory approach to getting nonprofits to comply with standards of operation - like having an independent board - gets more work done than the screamers. The BBB seal of approval for charities is becoming the gold standard.

John R. Seffrin

Chief Executive Officer
American Cancer Society
Atlanta, Ga.

Seffrin and ACS fired one of the first shots on healthcare during the presidential primary season with a series of ads that moved the conversation about insurance and access to care. The message: Advances in prevention and research have little impact if you can't afford screening and treatment.



Eugene R. Tempel

Executive Director
Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University
Indianapolis, Ind.

Was there a Center on Philanthropy before Tempel? With all humility, he'll say, "of course." Well, there was a building and a core program. It was Tempel who has made the CoP into a world-class education and research destination for philanthropy.

Lorie A. Slutsky

President
New York Community Trust
New York, N.Y.

Slutsky raises the \$1-million question when she asks "How do we get a grid or a ratio to acknowledge that infrastructure - the human kind - is the most important factor in our ability to carry out our missions?" She recognizes infrastructure includes people and funds it.



Marnie Webb

Co-Chief Executive Officer
CompuMentor
San Francisco, Calif.

Webb works to optimize TechSoup, CompuMentor's Web resource and its TechCommons program to help address the sector's systemic technology challenges. She is also one of the driving forces behind the NetSquared Initiative, which brings the social Web to nonprofits across the globe.

Fr. Larry Snyder

President & Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities USA
Alexandria, Va.

The organization has focused on poverty issues since Fr. Snyder took over in February 2005. He is showing excellent leadership in both the high-touch services and as a strong policy advocate in the states as well as on Capitol Hill.



M. Cass Wheeler

Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association
Dallas, Texas

Wheeler is one of the sector's most respected practitioners of leadership, with a hand in most steering committees that matter. At AHA, he merged 56 affiliates into 10 regional centers under one structure while increasing emphasis on outcomes in preventing and treating heart disease and stroke.

The Power & Influence TOP 50 1998-2008

Edward H. Able Jr. 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005
 Alan Abramson 1999, 2000, 2001
 Jimmie R. Alford 1998, 1999
 Audrey Alvarado 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007
 Nan Aron 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
 Diana Aviv 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Putnam Barber 1998, 1999
 Gary Bass 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 W. Todd Bassett 2005
 Betty S. Beene 1998, 1999, 2000
 Frances Beinecke 2007
 Daniel Ben-Horin 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
 Peter V. Berns 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005
 Susan V. Berresford 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007
 Shay Bilchik 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006
 Joan Blades 2004
 Elizabeth Boris 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2008
 Jerr Boschee 2004, 2005, 2006
 Wes Boyd 2004

Paul Brest 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Kelly Browning 2001, 2006, 2008
 Phil Buchanan 2007, 2008
 Katie Burnham 1998, 1999
 Robbie Callaway 2001
 Gregory B. Capin 1998
 Ron L. Carroll, 1998
 Emmett D. Carson 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
 Hodding Carter III 2002, 2003, 2004
 Lee Cassidy 1998, 1999
 Raymond G. Chambers 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002
 Gavin Clabaugh 2007, 2008
 Christopher G. Cleghorn 1998
 Kathy Cloninger 2007, 2008
 Rick Cohen 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
 Johnetta Cole 2003
 Charles W. Collier 2004
 Errol Copilevitz, 2003
 Susan Corrigan 1998, 1999
 Leslie Crutchfield 1998
 Steven A. Culbertson 2002, 2003
 Harvey P. Dale 2000, 2001, 2002
 James Dale 2000
 Ami Dar 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005
 Pamela Davis 2002
 Carla Dearing 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
 Morris Dees 2001
 Horace Deets 1998, 1999, 2000
 Neal Denton 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005
 Dr. James Dobson 2006
 Amy Domini 2003
 Marian Wright Edelman 1998, 2001

Rev. Dr. Robert W. Edgar 2003, 2004, 2005
 Robert Egger 2006, 2007, 2008
 Pablo Eisenberg 1998
 David Etsner 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Jed Emerson 1998, 2000
 Karl Emerson 2001, 2003, 2006
 Sara L. Engelhardt 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
 Mark Everson 2005, 2006, 2007
 Lewis M. Feldstein 2008
 Joel L. Fleishman 2000, 2002, 2003
 Millard Fuller 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
 Israel L. Gailther 2006, 2007, 2008
 Brian Gallagher 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Bill Gates 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005
 Melinda Gates 2006, 2008
 Cynthia M. Gibson 2003
 Tim Gill 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004
 Kenneth L. Gladish 2001, 2005
 Peter Goldberg 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
 Stephen Goldsmith 2001, 2002, 2003
 Robert K. Goodwin 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
 Charles Gould 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Sara K. Gould 2008
 Fred Grandy 1998, 1999, 2000
 John H. Graham IV 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Charles Grassley 2004, 2005, 2006
 William H. Gray 2001
 Florence Green 1999, 2000, 2008
 Steve Gunderson 2006, 2007, 2008
 Peter Dobkin Hall 1998, 1999
 Charles R. Halpern 1998
 Darrell Hammond 2004

Max Hart 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001
 John Havens 2001, 2002, 2003
 Jay Hein 2007
 Wade Henderson 2008
 Melanie L. Herman 2007, 2008
 Virginia A. Hodgkinson 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002
 George T. Holloway 1998
 Bill Horan 2007
 Ernest J. Istook Jr. 1998
 Belinda Johns 2007, 2008
 Dorothy Johnson 1999
 Nancy L. Johnson 1998
 Tanya Howe Johnson 2007, 2008
 David R. Jones 2005, 2006
 Fr. Fred Kammer 1998, 1999, 2000
 Ann E. Kaplan 1998, 1999, 2000
 Irv Katz 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Barbara Kibbe 2000, 2002
 William H. Kling 2007
 Marguerite Kondrake 2008
 Weny Kopp 2008
 Alice Korngold 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004
 Gara LaMarche 2008
 Sr. Georgette Lehmuth 2006, 2007, 2008
 Christine W. Letts 2003
 Valerie S. Lies 2005
 Lindy Litrides 1998
 William Lockyer 2004, 2005
 Roger Lohmann 2007
 Robert F. Long 1998, 1999, 2000
 Charles MacCormack 1999
 Paulette V. Maehara 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Jan Masaoka 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
 William C. McGinly 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Sara E. Melendez 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001
 David R. Mercer 1998, 1999
 Kathryn E. Merchant 2008
 Adam Meyerson 2005, 2007
 Clara Miller 2006, 2007, 2008
 Steven T. Miller 2008
 William L. (Larry) Minnix, Jr. 2008
 Marc H. Morial 2004, 2005
 Janet Murgula 2006, 2007
 Ralph Nader 1999, 2000
 Joanne E. Negstad 2000
 Doug Nelson 2001, 2002, 2003
 Paul D. Nelson 2005
 Bill Novelli 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Michelle Nunn 2007, 2008
 Judith O'Connor 2000, 2001, 2002
 Marvin Olasky 2002
 Michael S. Olson 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
 David E. Ormstedt 1998, 1999, 2001
 Susan Packard Orr 1999, 2002
 Peggy Morrison Outon 2006
 Marcus Owens 1998, 1999, 2001
 Wayne Pacelle 2008
 Geoffrey W. Peters 2005, 2006
 Carol A. Portale 1998
 Richard Posner 1999
 Colin L. Powell 1998, 2000
 Jon Pratt 1999, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Hugh Price 2001, 2002
 Patricia Read 1999, 2000
 Tom Reis 2002
 Loren Renz 2001
 Dorothy S. Ridings 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005
 Rebecca W. Rimel 1998, 1999, 2000, 2007, 2008
 Mark Rosenman 2000
 Ann Mitchell Sackey 1998
 Lester M. Salamon 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
 John Seffrin 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Paul G. Schervish 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004
 Arthur "Buzz" Schmidt Jr. 2000, 2001, 2002
 Jill Schumann 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Bill Shore 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004
 Karen A. Simmons 1998
 Edward Skloot 2003
 Theda Skocpol 2004
 Lorie A. Slutsky 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Fr. Larry Snyder 2008
 Stephen Solender 2001
 George Soros 1998, 1999, 2002
 Sterling Speim 2003, 2004, 2008
 Roxanne Spillett 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
 Eliot Spitzer 2003, 2004
 Richard Steinberg 1998
 Vincent Stehle 2008
 Patty Stonesifer 2006, 2007
 Deborah Strauss 1999, 2000, 2001, 2005
 Dorothy Stoneman 2008
 H. Art Taylor 2006, 2007, 2008
 John Taylor 2005, 2006, 2007
 Eugene R. Tempel 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 Julie Thomas 2007
 Linda Chavez-Thompson 2001
 James Towey 2004, 2005
 Marnie Webb 2008
 Bennett M. Weiner 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001
 M. Cass Wheeler 2006, 2007, 2008
 Roy L. Williams 2001, 2005, 2006
 Harris Wolford 2002
 Julian Wolpert 1999, 2000
 Dennis R. Young 2004



Getaways



Hotel Stays



Resorts & Spas



Golf Vacations



Travel Packages



Major Sporting Events



Cruises



European Adventures



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