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Musk, Epstein, Staley, Dimon, Pritzker, Obama, and the Chicago Mob Machine....

[https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2013/03/20/penny\\_pritzker\\_a\\_chicago\\_fat\\_cat\\_for\\_commerce\\_secretary\\_117545.html](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2013/03/20/penny_pritzker_a_chicago_fat_cat_for_commerce_secretary_117545.html)

[https://books.google.com/books?id=FnIDpikFPQEC&pg=PA25&source=gbs\\_toc\\_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=FnIDpikFPQEC&pg=PA25&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false)

Overlooked, by and large, is the fact that Chicago is to commodity trading what Wall Street is to financial markets. The world's most significant commodity trading exchange, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group (CME Group), is headquartered there, does its business there, establishes its policies there, and projects its power to influence institutions, the press, and government from there as the world's leading and most diverse derivatives marketplace. It proudly brays that it is to the CME Group, and, in turn, to Chicago, that "the world comes to manage risk."<sup>36</sup> It is an intrinsic part of Chicago's economy and culture. One could almost say, "as the CME Group goes, so goes Chicago." The *Wall Street Journal* reported: "Chicago-based CME accounts for more than 90 percent of listed US futures trading and has outspent rivals on lobbying in

President Obama's first chief of staff, Rahm Emmanuel, left the White House to run for and be elected mayor of Chicago, where he currently serves. Until the end of last year, the mayor was William M. Daley, secretary of commerce under President Clinton, and former Midwest chairman of JPMorgan Chase, with its overarching business ties, and most significantly, son of the fabled, all-powerful mayor of Chicago, R. J. Daley (mayoral term: 1955–76), and brother of the dauphin mayor of Chicago, Richard M. Daley (mayoral term: 1989–2011). In other words, a man with noble Chicago blood running through his veins.

With these luminaries in place, the CME Group has a head start by a mile in protecting its turf from government interference or otherwise said regulation. It has fought tooth and nail to keep things as they are with massive lobbying and all. This in spite of the growing appreciation throughout the land that commodity exchange trading has distorted, and continues to distort, the norms of supply and demand, extracting an enormous tax on consumers to the benefit of the commodity players, the banks, and their proprietary trading. In the case of the oil industry, commodity trading also results in the transfer of vast riches to the oligopoly of oil producers, funded from the pockets of the many.

The two biggest billionaire families that backed Obama for his initial senate run, all the way through his Presidential reelection campaign in 2012 are the the Pritzkers and the Crown Family, and not surprisingly, both mafia linked

<https://znetwork.org/zmagazine/investing-in-weapons-war-and-obama-by-nicolas-j-s-davies/>

## The Crowns, Pritzkers, and the Chicago origins of the Aspen Institute

<https://www.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/files/content/docs/agln/ACTII2011-ProgramBook.pdf>



### Aspen Global Leadership Network

The Aspen Global Leadership Network (AGLN) is a growing, worldwide community of entrepreneurial leaders from business, government and the nonprofit sector — currently, more than 1,300 “fellows” from 43 countries — who share a commitment to enlightened leadership and to using their extraordinary creativity, energy and resources to tackle the foremost societal challenges of our times. Allish in the community experience of participating in the Henry Crown Fellowship or one of the dozen Aspen Institute leadership initiatives it has inspired in the United States, Africa, Central America, India and the Middle East.

## MODERATOR



**MARGOT PRITZKER** is founder and president of WomenOnCall.org. Launched in February 2006, WomenOnCall.org provides women and nonprofits an on-line meeting place to forge productive and efficient skills-based volunteer opportunities. WomenOnCall.org went national in May 2010 and has over 3,000 members across the country. Margot is chair of the Zohar Education Project Inc., which she established in 1993. This is a 15-year project to translate the Zohar, the canonical work of Jewish mysticism, into English. Margot is involved in a number of initiatives that affect women and children in the developed and developing world. She has overseen the initiation and progress of schools in remote areas of the Himalayas and Afghanistan. Fulfilling cultivation of leadership amongst young people has led her to support and become involved with Ashesi University in Ghana. Through The Aspen Institute, she participates in leadership development initiatives throughout the world. She continues her involvement in international issues as a member of the board of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, as a trustee of the international Board of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and as a member of the advisory board of America Abroad Media. Margot serves as a trustee of the Bernard Zell Auhing Ermet Day School, where she was chair of the board from 1992 to 2007. She serves as a director of the Pritzker Early Childhood Foundation. She is also a trustee of the corporate and of the governing board of the Urban Education Initiative at the University of Chicago Charter School. Born in England, Margot became a United States citizen in 1994. [She resided in Chicago until 1994.](#) They have three sons. Their extensive travel and knowledge of South Asia has resulted in one of the foremost collections of South Asian art. Margot holds a BA from Northwestern University and an MA from the University of Chicago. She is a trustee of the Aspen Institute.

## History [\[ edit \]](#)

The Institute was largely the creation of [Walter Paepcke](#), a [Chicago businessman](#) who had become inspired by the [Great Books](#) program of [Mortimer Adler](#) at the [University of Chicago](#).<sup>[5]</sup> In 1945, Paepcke visited [Bauhaus](#) artist and architect [Herbert Bayer](#), AIA, who had designed and built a Bauhaus-inspired minimalist home outside the decaying former mining town of Aspen, in the [Roaring Fork Valley](#). Paepcke and Bayer envisioned a place where artists, leaders, thinkers, and musicians could gather. Shortly thereafter, while passing through Aspen on a hunting expedition, oil industry maverick [Robert O. Anderson](#) (soon to be founder and CEO of [Atlantic Richfield](#)) met with Bayer and shared in Paepcke's and Bayer's vision. In 1949, Paepcke organized a 20-day international celebration for the 200th birthday of [German poet](#) and [philosopher](#) [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#). The celebration attracted over 2,000 attendees, including [Albert Schweitzer](#), [José Ortega y Gasset](#), [Thornton Wilder](#), and [Arthur Rubinstein](#).<sup>[6]</sup>



"For the past 70 years the (Aspen) institute has helped to define and shape the spectrum of acceptable views in American politics."

"There are images of Obama holding forth as a young senator"

<https://www.economist.com/1843/2019/09/06/inside-aspen-the-mountain-retreat-for-the-liberal-elite>

Aspen Institute, Obama, and the rest of mid-20th-21st CE shit politics

The walls of the institute's buildings are a photographic "Who's Who" of Western power over the past half-century. There are images of Obama holding forth as a young senator; Margaret Thatcher and George H.W. Bush walking the grounds just after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990; Condoleezza Rice, before she became secretary of state, leaning over a seminar table. Association with Aspen can endow you with the crispness, vitality and lucidity of the mountain air. The archetypal Aspen leader is expected to be an aesthete and

For the past 70 years the institute has helped to define and shape the spectrum of acceptable views in American politics. Though it calls itself a "nonpartisan forum for values-based leadership and the exchange of ideas", it is more accurately described as a cross between a think-tank, a celebrity summer camp and a liberal-arts college. For most

[https://www.salon.com/2010/08/12/lester\\_crown\\_and\\_israel/](https://www.salon.com/2010/08/12/lester_crown_and_israel/)

In short: a top Israeli general traveled to Chicago to ask a top Obama contributor and supporter of Israel, billionaire Lester Crown, to pressure the White House to take a tougher line on Iran.

And Salon's review of White House visitor logs shows that Crown had a personal appointment with Obama confidante Valerie Jarrett in the West Wing in late April -- though it's not known whether Iran came up.

Another interesting visit to Obama aid Valerie Jarrett, this time by none other than Epstein close pal...Jes Staley

Because 27 year old law school interns are known to have audiences with old, powerful defense contractor billionaires.

<https://znetwork.org/zmagazine/investing-in-weapons-war-and-obama-by-nicolas-j-s-davies/>



rs for his presidential campaign.

Lester Crown first met Obama when he was a 27-year-old intern at the Sidley Austin law firm in Chicago in the summer of 1989. One of Obama's law professors at Harvard, Martha Minow, had recommended Obama to her father, Newton Minow, who was a partner at the firm. Minow took Obama under his wing and introduced him to his friend Lester Crown. Crown recalls that Minow called him and "said we have in our office a young man who I think is really going places and I'd like you to meet him." Crown says he has been a supporter ever since.

<https://mondoweiss.net/2013/07/obama-confidante-says-iran-would-not-use-nuke-aga>



inst-israel-but-i-still-think-he-will-pull-the-trigger/

Crown, 88, rarely expresses his views publicly. He doesn't have to. A leading philanthropist, he has the ear of the president. But speaking on July 2 [at the Aspen Ideas Festival](#), interviewed by Jeffrey Goldberg, surely the most important journalist on Jewish issues and Israel in the country, Crown acknowledged that he often interprets Obama for Israeli leaders.

Crown described the establishment of Israel as a "miracle" – "To me it isn't the eighth miracle of the world, it's the number one miracle" – and Goldberg, who once emigrated to Israel and served in the Israeli military, spoke admiringly of Crown's "loyalty or service" to Israel: "You're Lester Crown, no one in Israel can doubt your loyalty or your service to the state of Israel."

General Dynamics CEO Phebe Novakovic's name is included in an email sent among members of then President-elect Barack Obama's transition team is a list with the header "Under Secretary of Defense - Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news/2016/10/24/wikileaks-phebe-novakovic-floated-as-potential.html>



General Dynamics CEO Phyllis Kopylovic's name is included in an email sent among members of then President-elect Barack Obama's transition team in a list with the header "Under Secretary of Defense—Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics."

By James Bach

Staff Reporter , Washington Business Journal

Oct 24, 2016

Updated Oct 25, 2016, 3:47pm EDT

Her name appeared on an email exchange among members of then President-elect Barack Obama's transition team.

## Career [edit]

She worked for the [Central Intelligence Agency](#).<sup>[4]</sup> From 1997 to 2001, she worked for the [United States Department of Defense](#).<sup>[4][5]</sup>

She joined [General Dynamics](#) in 2001.<sup>[5]</sup> She became president and Chief Operation Officer in 2012.<sup>[5]</sup> She has served as the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of [General Dynamics](#) since January 2013.<sup>[4][5][7][8]</sup>

She has sat on the Board of Directors of [Abbott Laboratories](#) since 2010.<sup>[7]</sup> As of 2018, she is listed as the 25th most powerful woman in the world by *Forbes*,<sup>[2]</sup> rising from 56th in 2015 and 65th in 2014. In 2020 she was appointed a director of [J. P. Morgan Chase](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Crown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Crown)

**James Schine Crown** (born June 25, 1953)<sup>[1]</sup> is an American businessman and heir. He is president of [Henry Crown and Company](#), a family investment company.<sup>[2]</sup> He is a director of [JPMorgan Chase & Co.](#), [General Dynamics](#) and [Sara Lee](#). He is also the managing partner of the [Aspen Skiing Company](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

<https://www.ft.com/content/aac3a27a-2de4-11e8-9b4b-bc4b9f08f381>

Another board member, James Crown, has an even bigger stake in JPMorgan, worth \$1.4bn. Mr Crown, the 64 year-old scion of a Chicago family of industrialists, was a big investor in Bank One, which recruited Mr Dimon to run the bank in March 2000.

<http://www.chicagolife.net/articles/show/342>

wealthy patrons. General Dynamics, Henry and Lester Crown One family stands out as playing exactly that role in the political career of Barack Obama: the Crown family of Chicago. The importance of this relationship in Obama's career exposes some of the roots of his subservience to the government of Israel, his threats of aggression against Iran, his expansion of the JSOC/CIA targeted killing program, and his unswerving commitment to record military budgets in a time of economic and fiscal crisis. The Crowns are the children and grandchildren of Henry Crown, who made a fortune in the building materials business, had reputed links to the Chicago Mafia, and discovered the armaments business as a military procurement officer during the Second World War. Henry Crown bought a controlling interest in General Dynamics in 1959 and developed it into the largest weapons maker in the world, building the Trident submarine, the Atlas rocket, the F-16 fighter, the Abrams tank and much of America's Cold War arsenal. The General Dynamics board forced him out as CEO in 1966, but he bought back a 20 percent share in the company and regained effective control in 1970. Henry's son Lester succeeded him as chair of General Dynamics in 1986 and as president of Henry Crown & Co, the family's private investment firm. Lester is 86 now, but still takes a keen interest in politics. He is chair of the Chicago

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/obama-administration-dive\\_b\\_384963](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/obama-administration-dive_b_384963)

'General Dynamics bought out 11 smaller firms specializing in satellites, signals, geospatial intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, imagery, and technology integration...GD now has contracts with every single one of the U.S.'s 16 major intel agencies—from the CIA to GEOINT'

"...this is exactly the kind of “warfare” that the Obama administration has embraced and expanded, to the obvious benefit of General Dynamics."

<https://znetwork.org/zmagazine/investing-in-weapons-war-and-obama-by-nicolas-j-s-davies/>



"General Dynamics has built 34 of the 62 Arleigh Burke class destroyers launched since 1989.

Construction was due to be suspended, but the Obama administration has given the program a new lease on life as part of its Aegis Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) system...

...The destroyers are encircling Russia, China, Iran and other potential enemies in an effort to neutralize their ballistic missile deterrents."

<https://znetwork.org/zmagazine/investing-in-weapons-war-and-obama-by-nicolas-j-s-davies/>

Financial firms gave the largest bribes to both candidates—\$40 million to Obama and \$29 million to McCain (...) For the first time since 1994, the weapons industry gave more of its \$25.4 million to the Democrats than to the Republicans.

executives like Liz Fowler of Trumpoint moved into new offices at the Capitol to revamp their failing business model. Financial firms gave the largest bribes to both candidates — \$40 million to Obama and \$29 million to McCain — securing government backing for the biggest real estate swindle in history and condemning millions of Americans to poverty and homelessness. For the first time since 1994, the weapons industry gave more of its \$25.4 million to the Democrats than to the Republicans.

"Their investment in Obama has paid off handsomely. Obama has maintained the largest U.S. military budget since World War II, outstripping both the Vietnam War budget and Reagan's massive arms build-up by more than 25 percent in real terms."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim\\_Mattis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Mattis)

## Civilian career [ edit ]

After retiring from the military, Mattis worked for FWA Consultants and served as a member of the General Dynamics Board of Directors.<sup>[76]</sup> Between 2013 and 2017, while on the board of General Dynamics, Mattis made more than \$900,000 in compensation, including company stock.<sup>[77]</sup> In August 2013, he was appointed an Annenberg Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution<sup>[78]</sup> and in 2016 he was named the Davies Family Distinguished Visiting Fellow.<sup>[79][23]</sup>

In early 2010, Mattis was reported to be on the list of generals being considered to replace [James T. Conway](#) as the commandant of the US Marine Corps.<sup>[65]</sup> In July, he was recommended by [Defense Secretary Robert Gates](#) for nomination to replace [David Petraeus](#) as commander of [United States Central Command](#) (CENTCOM).<sup>[17][66]</sup> and formally nominated by President Obama on July 21.<sup>[67]</sup>

From 2013 to January 2017, Mattis was a board member of [Theranos](#), a [health technology](#) company that claimed to have devised revolutionary [blood tests](#) using very small amounts of blood, which was later determined to be a fraudulent claim by the US Securities and Exchange

"President Barack Obama on Thursday tapped Chicago industrialist James Crown to a spot on the President's Intelligence Advisory Board. Crown is a longtime friend and was an Illinois co-finance chair for Obama's 2008 presidential campaign."

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/politics/2014/8/28/18574149/obama-taps-chicago-s-jim-crown-for-intelligence-board>

On June 28, 2022, as if it couldn't make it's political aspirations any clearer, the Aspen Institute hosted a (live) video discussion with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky entitled "A Hero Amongst Us: An Interview with the President of Ukraine"

<https://www.aspeninstitute.org/videos/a-hero-amongst-us-an-interview-with-the-president-of-ukraine/>

Some notable Aspen Institute trustees, esp Margot Pritzker, the Chair of the Board of Trustees

<https://www.aspeninstitute.org/team/board-of-trustees/>





**Margot L. Pritzker**

**CHAIR OF THE ASPEN  
INSTITUTE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES**

[CONTACT](#) [INTERVIEW](#) [VIEW PROFILE](#)

Margot Pritzker is Chair of the Aspen Institute Board of Trustees. She was elected to th...

[VIEW PROFILE](#) →



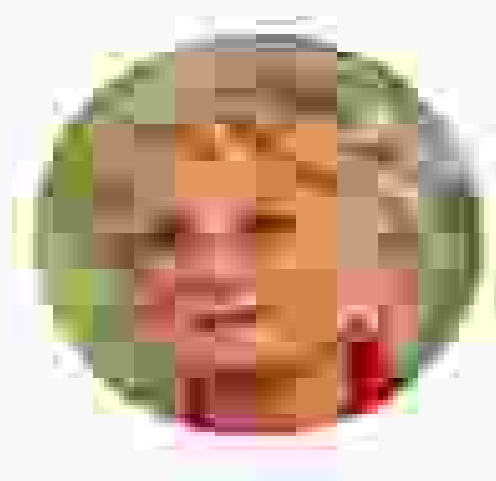
**James S. Crown**

**ASPEN INSTITUTE TRUSTEE**

**Former Director, Board of Directors of the Aspen**

James S. Crown is chairman and chief executive officer of Henry Crown and Company, a private

**[VIEW PROFILE](#)** →



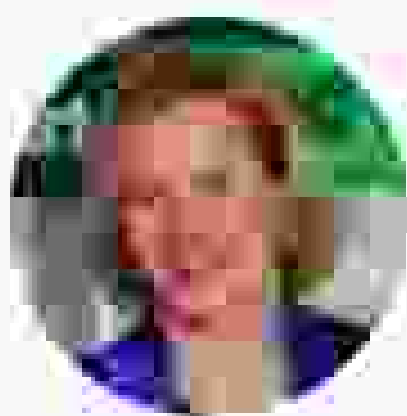
**Jane Harman**

**ASPEN INSTITUTE TRUSTEE  
AND ASPEN STRATEGY  
GROUP MEMBER**

*Former member of the U.S. House of Representatives*

During her public career, Jane Harman served nine terms in Congress, including four years...

**VIEW PROFILE** ➔



**Laurie M. Tisch**

**ASPEN INSTITUTE TRUSTEE**

[View profile of Laurie M. Tisch](#)

Laurie M. Tisch is the President of the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, which striv...

**[VIEW PROFILE](#)** →

Harmon is a standout, having to resign her US Representative seat after being caught up in an Israeli spying scandal. But still finding a home at the Aspen Institute

The Pritzkers and Crowns have led arguably one of the most politically influential gatherings of billionaires in the US after AIPAC.

Margot Pritzker--elected Chair of the Board of Trustees of Aspen Inst. in 2022. James Crown--Chair for previous 6 years

<https://www.aspeninstitute.org/news/margot-pritzker-elected-chair-of-aspen-institute-board/>

Aspen, CO, August 15, 2022 — Following a unanimous vote on Saturday, August 13, the Aspen Institute Board of Trustees announced that Margot Pritzker has been elected Chair for a three-year term. Pritzker, who has served as Chair of the Aspen Institute Leadership Committee since 2009, succeeds James S. Crown, who steps down having served two three-year terms.



<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/playbook-power-briefing/2018/06/27/dems-crowley-primary-new-york-281880>

**ASPEN PARTY CIRCUIT -- SPOTTED** at a dinner last night at Tom and Margot Pritzker's house in Aspen: John Kerry, German Ambassador Peter Wittig, Marty Baron, Peter Salovey, Jeffrey Rosen, Orville Schell, Carol Christ, David Leonhardt, David Miliband, Nicholas Thomson and Jung Pak.

-- **SPOTTED** last night at a dinner sponsored by the Paul E. Singer Foundation at Laura and Gary Lauder's house with a discussion on the Mideast with Yossi Klein Halevi, Dan Senor, Bari Weiss, Bashar Masri and Michal Rovner. Paul Singer, Terry Kassel, Judith and Leonard Lauder, Steve Case, Campbell Brown, Stuart Weitzman, Jay Lefkowitz, Evelyn Farkas, Daniel Bonner, Carole and Gordon Segal, Erik Schatzker, Reihan Salam, Tobey and Mark Dichter, Stu Eizenstat, Kyle Dropp, Max Neuberger, Talia Lefkowitz and Harry Zieve Cohen.

-- **SPOTTED** at the Southern Company reception yesterday at Aspen Ideas: Tom Fanning, Chris Womack, David Bradley, Larry Summers, Gary Lauder, Steve Case, Steve Clemons, David Brooks, Gloria Dittus, Jeff Goldberg, Kitty Boone, Eric Motley, Evelyn Farkas, DJ Spooky, Fred Humphries, Deb Fallows, Craig McLean and Gary Pinkus.

Another prominent mega group family scion, Gary Lauder. Nephew of Ron Lauder, Gary and his wife carry the torch for many of his uncle's Israel and Eastern European efforts.

<https://lauderfamilyfund.org/org-leaders>  
[hip/](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/sep/22/larry-summers-resigns-obama-treasury>

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/about/international-advisory-board/>

@threadreaderapp unroll

@threadreaderapp unroll

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m71bZTcu>  
[gHI](#)

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