



Evening
AT THE SQUARE
2021

OCTOBER 5, 2021

American Public Square at Jewell, with honorary co-chairs Stacy & Bill Pratt and Ann & Bob Regnier, is pleased to present Evening at the Square 2021, featuring Robert Putnam and Shaylyn Romney Garrett, authors of “The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again”.

As part of the evening’s events, APS is also honored to present the Founder’s Civility Award to Mary Bloch and Peggy Dunn, founding co-chairs of American Public Square.

About American Public Square

American Public Square at Jewell is a Kansas City-based nonprofit community organization working to improve the tone and quality of public discourse. Through its diverse events, programs and resources, APS offers a better understanding of divergent perspectives — a key step toward mutual respect, compromise and resolution of challenging issues.

APS accomplishes this by:

Convening
groups and creating
space for respectful
dialogue on important
topics of our age

Educating
community members
about why engaging in
this way is important and
how to do it well

Engaging
diverse segments of
our society to ensure that
multiple perspectives
are explored

APS is about building communities with its focus on civility, facts and perspective. Join the conversation at www.americanpublicsquare.org.

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WELCOME

Welcome! I am delighted you are joining us for a conversation with authors of “The Upswing”, Robert Putnam and Shaylyn Romney Garrett.

At APS, we have long been fans of Robert Putnam for his seminal work on the state of our communities in *Bowling Alone* (2000). When we learned last year that he and Shaylyn Romney Garrett were publishing “The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again”, we could not have conceived of a program that would be more aligned with our organization’s mission and purpose in the community.

In “The Upswing”, Putnam and Romney Garrett conduct a thorough and thoughtful analysis of what took place at the turn of the last century, which culminated in a decades-long movement toward greater equality and collaboration. This movement resulted in significant and genuine improvements in people’s lives across multiple factors: economic, political, social and cultural. It sustained for nearly seven decades until tides began to turn, again, to increased individualism and greater disunion among Americans.

Tonight’s conversation, like the book we are discussing, will focus on the causes of our division, but will also draw on the lessons of the past to create a roadmap to navigate away from the troubling trends of tribalism and division ever present in the public square today. We’ll have the opportunity to hear from these two powerfully-informed voices about how each of us can be architects of a 21st century “upswing.”

While society today differs in many ways from the conditions at the turn of the 20th century, I find the parallels between these moments deeply compelling. Though the context has changed, the storyline doesn’t seem to:

- WE hold the power to change our world and our communities for the better
- And WE can’t wait around for someone else to do it.

I, for one, believe in the potential of this moment, and I hope you are here because you believe in it as well. Thank you for being here and for your support of this well-timed and hopeful conversation.

Claire Bishop

APS Executive Director & COO



ORDER OF EVENTS

Welcome

Alana Muller
Community Development Director, APS

Elizabeth MacLeod Walls
President, William Jewell College

Rev. Adam Hamilton
Senior Pastor,
United Methodist Church of the Resurrection

Presentation of Founder's Civility Award

Allan J. Katz
Founder, Chair & CEO, APS

Remarks from Honorary Co-Chairs

Stacy & Bill Pratt • Ann & Bob Regnier

The Upswing: an Overview

Robert Putnam • Shaylyn Romney Garrett

Moderated Discussion

Claire Bishop
Executive Director & COO, APS

Shaun Stallworth
Civil Rights Attorney & APS Board Member

Denesha Snell
Roving Reporter & Program Director, APS

Closing Remarks

Alana Muller
Community Development Director, APS





Founder's Civility Award



For demonstrating leadership and
promoting civility in our community

2021



Mary Bloch



Peggy Dunn

FOUNDER'S CIVILITY AWARD

The Founder's Civility Award is intended to honor the accomplishments of remarkable leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to bringing together Kansas City's diverse community to engage in civil, fact-based dialogue.

American Public Square at Jewell is pleased to present the 2021 Founder's Civility Award to Mary Bloch, community activist, and the Honorary Peggy Dunn, mayor of Leawood.

At the launch of American Public Square, and for the next four years, Peggy and Mary served as the very capable and engaged co-chairs of the new organization. Their leadership and the values they demonstrated helped to shape and establish a place for APS in the Kansas City community and beyond.

Today, APS remains on solid footing largely as a result of the tone they created at the beginning. We remain so grateful for their early and continued involvement in our organization and are honored to present these two great Kansas Citians with the 2021 Founder's Civility Award.

FEATURED GUESTS



ROBERT PUTNAM

**Author, Professor of Public Policy
Harvard University**

Raised in a small town in Ohio, Robert was educated at Swarthmore, Oxford, and Yale. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the British Academy, and past president of the American Political Science Association. In 2006 Putnam received the Skytte Prize, the world's highest accolade for a political scientist; in 2013 President Barack Obama awarded him the National Humanities Medal, the nation's highest honor for contributions

to the humanities, for “deepening our understanding of community in America”; and in 2018 the International Political Science Association awarded him the Karl Deutsch Award for cross-disciplinary research. He has received eighteen honorary degrees from universities in eight countries, including in 2018, Oxford.

Putnam has written fifteen books, translated into twenty languages, including “Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Italy” and “Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community”, both among the most cited (and bestselling) social science works in the last half century. “American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us”, co-authored with David Campbell, won the Woodrow Wilson award as the best book in political science published in 2011. His 2015 bestseller, “Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis”, chronicled the growing class gap among American youth.

Before going to Harvard in 1979, Putnam taught at the University of Michigan and served on the staff of the US National Security Council. At Harvard he served as Dean of the Kennedy School, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Director of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. He co-founded the Saguaro Seminar, bringing together leading thinkers and practitioners (including President Obama) to develop actionable ideas for civic renewal. His counsel has been sought by national and grassroots leaders on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Atlantic, including Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama, Prime Ministers Blair and Cameron, and prime ministers from Ireland and Finland to Singapore and South Korea. Over the last several decades he has also worked directly with thousands of grassroots leaders in scores of local communities coast to coast across America.

Robert currently lives in Jaffrey, New Hampshire and Cambridge, Massachusetts, with his wife Rosemary.

FEATURED GUESTS



SHAYLYN ROMNEY GARRETT

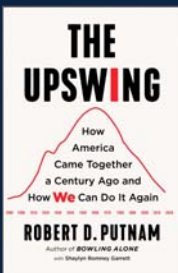
Writer, Changemaker
Co Author of “The Upswing”

Shaylyn is a writer who has dedicated her life to the pursuit of connection, community, and healing in an increasingly fragmented world. Her work includes the uniquely revealing portraits of religious communities across the United States in “American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us”.

She is a founding contributor to the Aspen Institute’s initiative, Weave: The Social Fabric Project, and writes about her personal journey back to community on her blog — “Project Reconnect”.

Shaylyn has also had a successful career as a social entrepreneur. With her husband, James Garrett, she co-founded Think Unlimited, a nonprofit venture working to catalyze social innovation in the Middle East. She lived in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for six years, during which time she partnered with Queen Rania Al-Abdullah to bring an original Arabic language curriculum on creativity and critical thinking to Jordanian public schools. Shaylyn’s work has been featured by the New York Times, FastCompany, LinkedIn, Harvard Business Review, and Arab Investor. In 2011 she was honored with the prestigious Draper Richards Kaplan Social Entrepreneurship Fellowship, and was a finalist in the global Echoing Green Competition. She was twice awarded a membership to the Clinton Global Initiative, and has been a speaker at TEDx.

Shaylyn holds a BA magna cum laude in Government from Harvard University, and is a returned Peace Corps volunteer. She is also a permaculturalist who loves to get her hands in the dirt, and thinks a lot about healthy soils as a model for thriving human communities. She lives in the beautiful red rock desert of Southern Utah with her husband James, her daughter Sophie, her son Aeon, and her loyal dog Dewey.



ABOUT “THE UPSWING”

Deep and accelerating inequality; unprecedented political polarization; vitriolic public discourse; a fraying social fabric; public and private narcissism—Americans today seem to agree on only one thing: This is the worst of times. But we’ve been here before.

“The Upswing” is a brilliant analysis of economic, social, and political trends over the past century demonstrating how we have gone from an individualistic “I” society to a more communitarian “We” society and then back again, and how we can learn from that experience to become a stronger, more unified nation.

To purchase your copy of “The Upswing,” visit [Bliss Books & Wine at blissbooksandwine.com/american-public-square-evening-at-the-square-2021](http://BlissBooks&Wine.com/american-public-square-evening-at-the-square-2021). 20% of your purchase will be donated back to APS.

MORE ABOUT THE BOOK

“America’s deep-seated divisions were healed in the past and can be again, argues this sweeping and persuasive study. . . .

This fresh, ambitious take on America’s fraying social fabric will provoke much discussion.”

— **Publishers Weekly**

“No one understands the United States better than Bob Putnam, and no one else could have written this essential book. The Upswing brings together his vast knowledge, love of data, storytelling ability, and passion. It’s an astonishing work that reminds Americans we are a great people, shows us what we can accomplish when we come together, and makes clear that we need to do so again. Now.”

— **Andrew McAfee, MIT scientist**
author of *More from Less*
co-author of *The Second Machine Age*

“In a sweeping yet remarkably accessible book, Mr. Putnam and Ms. Garrett provide a crucial missing ingredient in contemporary social commentary: They lay out a sociology of success that, drawing on our history, can help us think concretely about how to enable a revival of American life.”

— **Yuval Levin, *The Wall Street Journal***

EVENT MODERATORS



CLAIRE BISHOP

**Executive Director & COO,
American Public Square at Jewell**

Claire Bishop is the executive leader of American Public Square at Jewell. She is a Kansas City native with a passion for community-building.

Her early career focused on media, marketing and communications, where she held senior leadership roles at the marketing firm MMGY Global and global NGO Children International before joining American Public Square at Jewell as Executive Director in 2019.

As a nonprofit leader and an advocate for civic engagement across party lines, Claire spends her days leading the incredible team at APS in the pursuit of the organization's mission to improve the tone and quality of public discourse on important issues facing our community.

Claire graduated from the University of Missouri, Kansas City, with a bachelor's degree in Advertising & Communications in 2004. She has held multiple board leadership roles and volunteers at a number of local nonprofits, including Literacy KC, The Pilgrim Center, Harvesters, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater KC and Junior Achievement.

Claire currently resides in Liberty with her husband Denton, their daughter Kate, and their three dogs, Bowie, Bob and Nana.



SHAUN STALLWORTH

Attorney, Hollman Schiavone, LLC.

Shaun Stallworth is an attorney and civil rights leader with a passion for education, civic engagement, and diversity, equity and inclusion. Shaun made his way to Kansas City by way of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law where he received his Juris Doctor in 2008.

Shaun has been an active member of the bar association with experience in commercial and employment law, as well as discrimination and consumer protection litigation. He has served on a variety of leadership boards focused on increasing diversity and equity in law school and the law profession. He has been recognized as a "Rising Star" on the annual list of Missouri's top attorneys; he was selected as a "Super Lawyer" in 2016; he received UMKC's "Decade Award" in 2018 in recognition for his philanthropic and leadership service in the legal community; and in May 2020, he received the "Distinguished Counselor" award from the Kansas City, Missouri Metropolitan Bar Association.

Shaun currently practices at Holman Schiavone and is a managing member of Zimri Development. He was born and raised in the New Orleans, Louisiana metropolitan area and received his undergrad from Louisiana State University.

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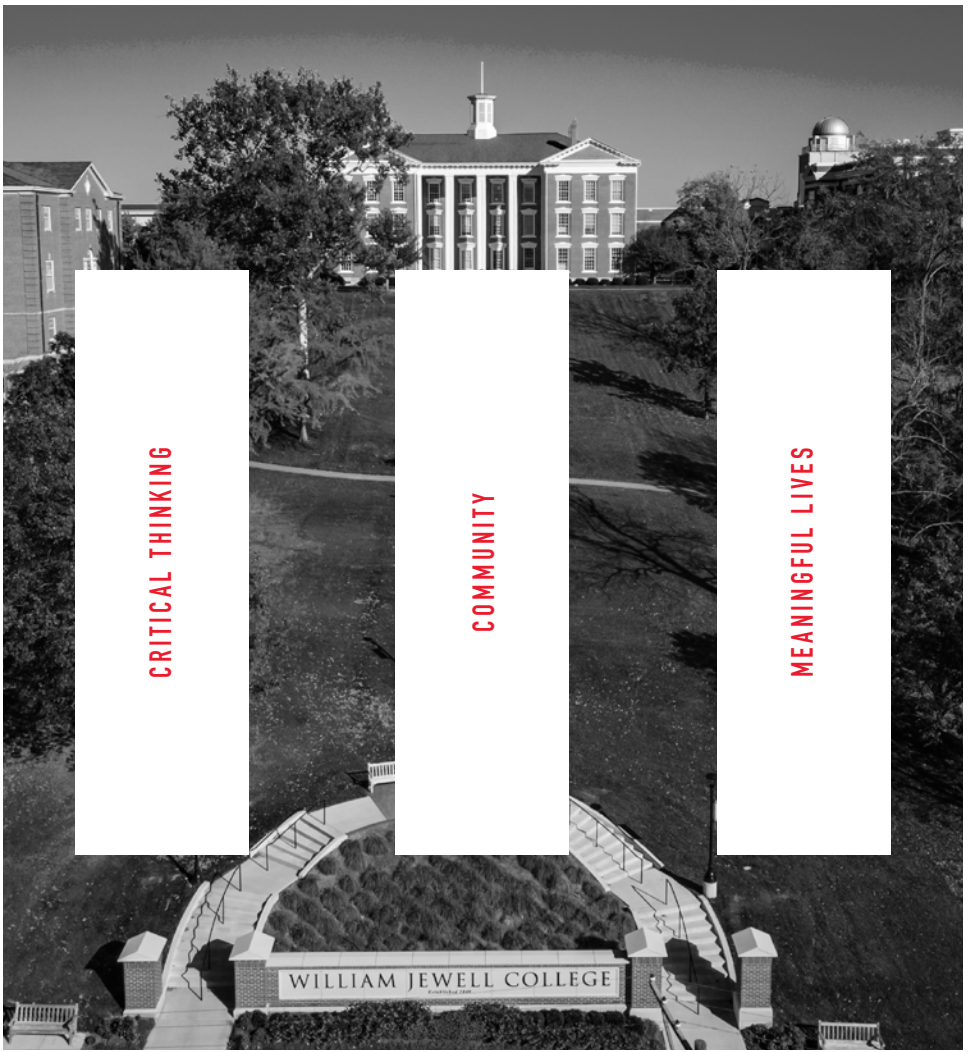
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“Our thanks to Professor
Robert Putman and
Shaylyn Romney Garrett.”





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“Congratulations to our friends, Mary Bloch and Peggy Dunn.”



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“Congratulations to Ambassador Allan Katz and the staff for an amazing year of programming.”

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“Congratulations to our friends Allan Katz & Alana Muller, on continuing the good work of APS. Wishing you many more years of success and civil conversations!”

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REGINA &
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“American Public Square –
working everyday to make
The Upswing a reality!”

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CIVILITY TOOLS

American Public Square uses Civility Tools to ensure conversations are substantive, respectful and based on facts.

Moderated Discussions

APS events are moderated by objective facilitators who ensure panelists are given time to represent their positions on tough but fair questions.

Fact Sheets

APS compiles a fact sheet in advance of each panel. This is reviewed beforehand by the panelists and distributed to the audience, which ensures the discussion begins from a "common well" of information.

Civility Bells

These are made available for the audience to ring when panelists wade into false, overly dramatic or hyper-emotional territory. When a bell rings, the speaker must stop talking.

Fact-Checkers

Programs feature real-time fact checkers to confirm the validity of comments made during the program.

Roving Reporter

Our Roving Reporter, usually a representative from a credible local media outlet, is engaged during the program to gather and curate audience questions.

No Applause

APS has a rule that no applause is allowed during a program except at the beginning and end of the event. This ensures perspective is not swayed one way or another in the midst of the discussion.

So What? Now What?

At the end of each event, panelists are given the opportunity to make closing statements in the form of answers to these questions. This allows our experts to restate their position on the topic at hand in a way that is actionable for the audience.

OUR STAFF



Amb. Allan Katz
Chairman, Founder
and CEO



Claire Bishop
Executive Director
and COO



Alana Muller
Community Development
Director



Lauren Weinhold
Development Director



Denesha Snell
Program Director



Tricia Maxfield
Civics Education
Associate



Robin Smith
Marketing and
Communication



Cindy Johnston
Executive Assistant

BECOME A MEMBER

WHY BECOME A MEMBER? While most of our events are free, organizing them is not. Gathering panelists, finding venues, and making sure the community knows about our upcoming programs takes time and resources. As a nonprofit, we rely on our Members to help create these events. If you like what we do and think conversations like this one are important, consider joining us today!

Individual Membership



STUDENT

\$25

- 1 annual Membership
- Priority registration
- Access to Member-only events



FRIEND

\$75

- 1 annual Membership
- Priority registration
- Access to Member-only events



PARTNER

\$250

- 2 annual Memberships
- Priority registration
- Access to Member-only events
- Annual report listing



PATRON

\$500

- 2 annual Memberships
- Priority registration
- Access to Member-only events
- Annual report listing



MOVEMENT LEADER

\$1,000

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- Priority registration
- Access to Member-only events
- Annual report listing
- Special reception access



CIVILITY CHAMPION

\$2,500

- 4 annual Memberships
- Priority registration
- Access to Member-only events
- Annual report listing
- Special reception access

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Corporate Membership

Is your organization interested in supporting the mission of American Public Square to disagree not less, but better? Become a Corporate Member to encourage fact-based, civil conversations in our community.

Corporate Members receive annual memberships for their staff, access to Member-Only programs, and special branding opportunities on our digital and physical marketing materials.

To join the conversation and become a Corporate Member, please contact Director of Development – Lauren Weinhold at lauren@americanpublicsquare.org.



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