



# Ours Was the Shining Future: The Story of the American Dream

## David Leonhardt

Pulitzer Prize-winning senior writer at the *New York Times*, where he writes its flagship newsletter, "The Morning."

## Matthew Desmond, Ph.D.

Maurice P. During Professor of Sociology at Princeton University and award winning author of *Evicted* and *Poverty, by America*.

**Thursday, November 2, 2023, 7:00 PM (on Zoom)**

**Register: [www.bit.ly/LeonhardtFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/LeonhardtFANWebinar)**

### PLUS: After-Hours Event!

Purchase a copy of *Ours Was the Shining Future* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall to receive a link to an interactive "After-Hours" event hosted by Leonhardt. Details on the Zoom registration form.

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with

- The Avery Coonley School, Baker Demonstration School, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet School, Catherine Cook School, Chicago Jewish Day School, Compass Health Center, Connections for the Homeless, Countryside Day School, Evanston Township HS D202,
- The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Family Service Center, The Frances Xavier Warde School, Francis W. Parker School, Gorton Center, Grayslake Community High School D127, Hyde Park Day School, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest Country Day School, Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools, Latin School of Chicago, Leo Catholic High School, Loyola Academy, Lycée Français de Chicago, Mindful Psychology Associates, New Trier High School D203, New Trier Parents' Association, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Psychgeist Media, Rebel Human, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Santa Clara University School of Law, Science & Arts Academy, Stevenson High School D125, University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, Wilmette Public Library, Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District, Wolcott College Prep, and Woodlands Academy.

This event is #freeandopentothe public and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+. [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)

<b>Sponsors</b> 		
<b>Partners</b> 		
<b>Supporters</b> The Anderson Family Joanne & Jeff Burgess Gorton Community Center Stephanie & Roger Hochschild Maureen & Collin Kebo The McCall Family New Trier Parents' Association Northwestern University/SESP	<b>Community Allies</b> Connections for the Homeless Evanston Scholars Family Service Center Foundation 65 Haven Youth and Family Services Karen & Steven Malkin Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools (LMAIS) Mindful Psychology Associates New Trier Multifaith Alliance Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations Cari & Michael Sacks Julene & John Stellato Wilmette Public Library Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District Wintrust Financial	<b>In-Kind</b> Acclaim Media Deft Kirkland & Ellis Psychgeist Media The Book Stall



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DAVID LEONHARDT – ON ZOOM**

**CONTACT:** Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

**Thursday, November 2, 2023, 7:00 PM, Ours Was the Shining Future: The Story of the American Dream, a FAN webinar featuring David Leonhardt, in conversation with Matthew Desmond, Ph.D.**

**REGISTER:** [www.bit.ly/LeonhardtFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/LeonhardtFANWebinar).

**BONUS AFTER-HOURS EVENT:** Attendees who purchase a copy of *Ours Was the Shining Future* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall are invited to attend an AFTER-HOURS event hosted by Leonhardt that will start immediately after the webinar. Details on the webinar registration page.

Two decades into the twenty-first century, the stagnation of living standards has become the defining trend of American life. Life expectancy has declined, economic inequality has soared, and, after some progress, the Black-white wage gap is once again as large as it was in the 1950s. How did this happen in the world's most powerful country? And what happened to the "American dream"—the promise of a happier, healthier, more prosperous future—which was once such an inextricable part of our national identity?

In his first book, *Ours Was the Shining Future: The Story of the American Dream*, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer **David Leonhardt** draws on decades of writing about the economy for *The New York Times*, examining the past century of American history, from the Great Depression to today's Great Stagnation, in search of an answer. To make sense of the rise and subsequent fall of the American dream, Leonhardt tells the story of the modern American economy as an ongoing battle between two competing forms of capitalism: one that envisions prosperity for most, and one that serves the individual and favors the wealthy. In vivid prose, *Ours Was the Shining Future* traces how democratic capitalism flourished to make the American dream possible, until the latter decades of the twentieth century when, bit by bit, the dream was corrupted to serve only the privileged few.

Leonhardt is a senior writer at *The New York Times*, where he writes its flagship newsletter, "The Morning." He has also been the newspaper's Washington bureau chief, an op-ed columnist, a staff writer for *The New York Times Magazine*, and the founding editor of "The Upshot."

Leonhardt will be in conversation with **Matthew Desmond, Ph.D.** (FAN '16, '23), the Maurice P. During Professor of Sociology, and the founder and principal investigator of The Eviction Lab at Princeton University. He is the author of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize winner *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* and *Poverty, by America*, both *New York Times* bestsellers.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available on FAN's website and YouTube channel.

Sponsored by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with **The Avery Coonley School, Baker Demonstration School, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet School, Catherine Cook School, Chicago Jewish Day School, Compass Health Center, Connections for the Homeless, Countryside Day School, Evanston Township HS D202, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Family Service Center, The Frances Xavier Warde School, Francis W. Parker School, Gorton Center, Grayslake Community High School D127, Hyde Park Day School, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest Country Day School, Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools, Latin School of Chicago, Leo Catholic High School, Loyola Academy, Lycée Français de Chicago, Mindful Psychology Associates, New Trier High School D203, New Trier Parents' Association, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Psychgeist Media, Rebel Human, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Santa Clara University School of Law, Science & Arts Academy, Stevenson High School D125, University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, Wilmette Public Library, Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District, Wolcott College Prep, Woodlands Academy.**