

**CALENDAR EVENT: October 10, 2024**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***“What Happened to the American Dream?”***

**KSQD 90.7, 89.5 & 89.7FM “Be Bold America!” Sunday,**

**October 20, 2024 at 5:00pm (PT)**

**What does each political party mean by “*The American Dream*” when they invoke this touchstone of American success?**

**Our comprehending the difference between the Democratic and Republican definitions of “*The American Dream*” provides us a clear understanding of each political party’s motivations and the future they would design for America and whether or not “*The American Dream*” could be renewed.**

**Before Ronald Reagan’s presidency the middle class was 66% of the country. Now, it is 43%.**

**Which America do you want to live in? ...**

**\*When Democrats invoke the American Dream, they mean something very specific, pioneered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. They understand that a middle class is not a “normal” thing that naturally evolves in nations; the first more-than-half-of-us American middle class came about post-1940s as a result of specific policies put into place by FDR. Thus, Democrats argue, the American Dream includes the opportunity or ability to:**

— Move into the middle class with a good union job so a single wage-earner can support a family

- Buy a home for a reasonable price where the mortgage doesn't exceed a third of post-tax household income
- Live safely without fear that your home will be broken into or your child can be shot at school or on the playground
- Have decent healthcare that won't bankrupt you if somebody gets sick
- Every few years get a new car and cover the cost of maintenance and gas or electricity
- Put your kids through school and college
- Take an annual family vacation
- Save enough (or have a pension) for a comfortable retirement, augmented by Social Security, and
- Pay reasonable taxes to fund programs that support the existence of a middle class.

**\*When Republicans** — particularly billionaires and multimillionaires like Trump and Vance — **invoke the American Dream, they largely ignore the middle class. Instead, that phrase to them means the ability to:**

- Get rich beyond the dreams of King Midas
- Own multiple mansions from Florida to Colorado to Switzerland (and Trump added Venezuela on his Monday night call with Musk)
- Cavort with nubile young women and investment bankers on your very own superyacht or Lolita Express private jet
- Have private concierge doctors and nurses on call at all times
- Employ private security to guard your mansions and wield weapons of war to keep you safe from the masses
- Buy judges for the Supreme Court to get decisions that make your life easier
- Legally bribe judges and politicians at every level from the county commissioners to Congress and the president, and
- Avoid paying taxes so successfully that the average American billionaire today pays less than 8 percent in income taxes.

*\*Written by Thom Hartmann*

## Interview Guest:

**Thom Hartmann** is a New York Times bestselling author of over thirty books and has been America's #1 progressive talk radio show host for more than a decade. His influential show is carried on SiriusXM and radio stations nationwide, and it is simulcast as a television program on Free Speech TV.

Hartmann's latest series of books, titled Hidden History, tackles critical subjects such as guns, healthcare, the Supreme Court, democracy, voting rights among others. His newest release, *The Hidden History of the American Dream: The Demise of the Middle Class—and How to Rescue Our Future*, explores the erosion of the American middle class and offers actionable solutions to restore economic opportunity and fairness. With his incisive commentary and well-researched insights, Thom Hartmann continues to be a trusted voice in progressive media, engaging audiences with his articulate analysis of today's most pressing issues.

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Podcast now available on: Apple, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Downcasts, Overcast, YouTube, [jillcodyauthor.com](http://jillcodyauthor.com) and [KSQD.org](http://KSQD.org)!

## CONTACT:

Jill Cody, “Be Bold America!” Producer and Host  
#1 Amazon Bestselling author of *Climate Abandoned* and award-winning, *America Abandoned*  
[bebold@ksqd.org](mailto:bebold@ksqd.org)  
[www.jillcodyauthor.com](http://www.jillcodyauthor.com)

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