

Beyond War: Causes of Conflict, Prospects for Peace Conference
June 2, Dinner Program Speakers

Nathalie Applewhite: Welcome

Good evening everyone. Thank you so much for joining us tonight.

I'm Nathalie Applewhite, managing director of the Pulitzer Center.

Please do start your salads, if you haven't already!

Since 2006, I've had the honor of helping Jon Sawyer, our founding and executive director, grow an organization of 2 that "could" make a difference in the way Americans understand the world, into an organization of 20 plus that "do" make a difference, every day, in advancing that mission.

What we don't do is chase the headlines when a natural disaster or conflict breaks out.

What we do, is support journalists to tell global stories that wouldn't otherwise be told.

What we do, is inform audiences across political, economic, ethnic, racial, cultural and social divides, about what is happening beyond our borders—and in our own backyards.

What we do, is engage youth to care about issues that may seem distant and provide pathways for them to connect the global to the local and recognize their own role in an ever-shifting media landscape—and to recognize the value of quality journalism, when it's needed most.

We now support over 150 journalism projects a year, including over 30 student reporting projects through our Campus Consortium network.

We partner with the leading news media outlets to bring those stories to audiences across the country, and beyond.

We extend the reach of that reporting through hundreds of events in classrooms, and public forums.

What cuts across all the work we do is a commitment to addressing the underlying causes of the crises that do make the headlines.

Many of you have been with us throughout the day and have heard from an incredible group of speakers about conflicts both far, and near. From the horrors facing the Rohingya in Myanmar to injustices happening within our own borders.

We've also heard about possible responses through diplomatic channels at the highest levels of government, and "from the ground up" through grassroots initiatives that harness the power of the arts to build bridges.

We've considered the role of the media as a weapon of war and a possible pathway to peace.

We've heard from educators about the power of education to build bridges and create empathy. And we've put a spotlight on the role of youth as peacebuilders.

We have asked many many questions throughout the day and will continue tomorrow, and we hope the conversations we've begun continue long beyond this weekend.

Before we begin our program, I'd like to thank everyone who has made this weekend possible:

- a tremendous team at the Pulitzer Center who have gone above and beyond over the past few weeks
- a dedicated and visionary board who support us in countless ways
- all the panelists, speakers and moderators who have brought such rich and varied insights into the questions we're exploring
- the Stanley Foundation for partnering with us on two of tomorrow's workshops and many other aspects of the conference, the team at Inclusive Security, and so many others who have helped shape the program into what it became.
- all of our funders who have made our reporting on the interconnected nature of the conflicts we report on possible
- and a very special thanks to Humanity United for their support of our reporting and outreach, including this conference, on peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

And now, I'm honored to invite Ambassador Swanee Hunt to share her thoughts with us.

Ambassador Hunt has many titles including: founder and chair of Inclusive Security; founding director of the Women and Public Policy Program at the Kennedy School; author of numerous books, including most recently *Rwandan Women Rising*; and U.S. Ambassador to Austria in the 90's during the conflict in the Balkans

The Pulitzer Center connected with her thanks to Jina Moore, the east Africa Bureau Chief for *The New York Times*, a former grantee of ours, and I should add... basically my special advisor for this whole conference!

Jina, as it turns out, first connected with Ambassador Hunt as a result of a series of reports for the Pulitzer Center on peacebuilding back in 2009...so it seems that the seeds for this conference were planted long ago!

Please welcome Ambassador Hunt.