

Jewish Grandparents Network



Three Virtual Conversations Grandparenting Today Joys, Opportunities and Challenges Panelists' Bios

Today's New Jewish Family: Different, Joyful, and...Sometimes Challenging **Wednesday, May 13, 2:00 pm EDT**

Alyx Bernstein: Alyx Bernstein is a first-year student studying History and Talmud at Barnard College and the Jewish Theological Seminary. She writes about Judaism, women, queers, and more for *Tablet*, *JGirls*, and the *Columbia Current*, and is a passionate activist for queer rights and feminism. She has a passion for queer ritual, liturgy, and halacha, and is currently working on an inclusive, queer, egalitarian Friday night siddur. She is a member of the board of Keshet.

Roger Talbott: Roger Talbott and Jacquie have two sons, Matt and Jim. As a pastor in the United Methodist Church, he served churches in rural Upstate New York and in the Cleveland, Ohio Metro area. Matt lives with Melissa and their children, Ben and Zoe, in Portland Oregon. Jim and his wife, Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg, and their two children, Amina and Ziv, live about 8 blocks from Roger and Jacquie in Jackson Heights, Queens, NYC. Ziv recently celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in his basement. Roger, Jacquie, and dozens of relatives and friends attended via Zoom.

Becky Sowemimo: Becky Sowemimo is the Associate Director for 18Doors Atlanta, a non-profit Jewish organization that empowers people in interfaith relationships- individuals, couples, families and their children- to engage in Jewish life and make Jewish choices and encourages Jewish communities to welcome them. When she's not working Becky is a lead singer of the party-rock cover band Almost Famous, an avid gamer, and she and her husband Femi are expecting their first child this October!

What is Carried Forward: Sharing Values with Our Grandchildren
Wednesday, May 20, 2:00 pm EDT

Jane Isay: Jane Isay is the author of *Unconditional Love: A Guide to Navigating the Joys and Challenges of Being a Grandparent Today*, a book that examines the intergenerational dynamics involving grandparents, parents, and grandchildren. She is also the author of three additional books about family dynamics and spent 40 years as an editor for multiple publishing houses. She lives in New York City, close to her four grandchildren.

Jane Shapiro: Jane Shapiro is the founder of Orot: The Center for New Jewish Learning. She has been a teacher to many over the last thirty years, in classes ranging from weekly Torah study to Jewish thought, history and literature. As Associate Director of the Florence Melton School she worked with teachers across North America and Israel to develop good pedagogic practices. In 2017 Jane received an Educators Award from the Covenant Foundation. She lives in Skokie, Illinois with her husband David and is also mother to four sons, mother-in-law to three daughters and grandmother to four.

Hedda Sharapan: Hedda Sharapan has been with Fred Rogers Productions for 52 years, and currently serves as a child development consultant for the company's award-winning PBS KIDS series *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*. She began working with Fred Rogers on the very first taping day of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* in October 1966. Her monthly e-newsletter, "What we can continue to learn from Fred Rogers," is distributed through the Fred Rogers Center and reaches more than 16,000 subscribers.

"The Whole World is a Narrow Bridge": Grandparenting During Times of Crisis
Wednesday, May 27, 2:00 pm EDT

Marshall Duke: Marshall Duke is Charles Howard Candler Professor of Psychology at Emory University and core faculty member of the Emory Center for the Study of Myth and Ritual in American Life and is the author of numerous books. Duke's research, conducted with Robyn Fivush and others, speaks of the importance of family narratives in promoting emotional stability in children. Marshall serves on the Jewish Grandparents Network Advisory Board

Renee Cherow-O'leary: Dr. Renee Cherow-O'Leary is President of Education for the 21st Century, a media consulting group in New York City and Los Angeles, that develops curriculum and educational materials for multiple platforms, conducts qualitative research for educational organizations. Renee is currently a professor in the Arts, Culture and Media Program at Rutgers University, Newark, and has served as Professor of English Education at Teachers College, Columbia University and as a

Visiting Scholar at the Arts in Education Program at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. She is on the board of Lab Shul in New York City and helps to facilitate GENERate, a program for older adults there. She has also led Wise Aging groups and has designed and taught a course for the Marlene Meyerson JCC in New York entitled "Interdisciplinary Views of Aging." Renee is the grandmother of three.

Esther Netter: Esther Netter is Founder and Chief Executive Officer of ShareWell, home of the Cayton [Children's Museum](#) and [youTHink](#). "The Cayton", the first museum of its kind in Los Angeles, is designed around core universal values, giving children, youth and families a unique space to practice being their best selves. She is Savta (Hebrew for grandmother) to four grandchildren and a member of the Jewish Grandparents Network National Advisory Board.

