



#fanfan\_zaki



# Building Empathy in a Fractured World Jamil Zaki, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology and Director, Stanford Social Neuroscience Laboratory, Stanford University.  
Author, *The War for Kindness: Building Empathy in a Fractured World.*

**Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 7:00 PM**  
**New Trier High School, Winnetka Campus, Gaffney Auditorium**  
**385 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, IL 60093**

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**,

in partnership with Catherine Cook School, Chiaravalle Montessori School, Family Service Center, Foundation 65, Fusion Academy, Glencoe D35, Glencoe PTO, Haven Youth and Family Services, the McGaw YMCA, North Shore Country Day School, Regina Dominican High School, Roycemore School, Science and Arts Academy, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, The Kindness Connection, Winnetka D36, the Wolcott School, and Youth and Opportunity United (Y.O.U.).

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

**#familyactionnetwork #movingconversationsforward #alwayslearning #timewellspent**

## Sponsors

Martin & Mary L. Boyer Foundation



## Partners

Butler Family Foundation

Nancy & Nick Giampietro

The Graboys Family



Kendra Nichols Wallace

## Supporters

Connections for the Homeless  
Investnet  
Fusion Academy  
Stephanie & Roger Hochschild  
Kim & Brad Keywell  
Lori & Ross Laser

Mammel Foundation  
The McCall Family  
Alison & Andrew McNally  
Mindful Psychology Associates  
Modestus Bauer Foundation  
New Trier Parents' Association

North Shore Community Bank  
Northwestern University/SESP  
Susan & Phil Rooney  
Cari & Michael Sacks  
Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)  
YWCA Evanston/North Shore

## Community Allies

Counseling Center of the North Shore  
Evanston Scholars  
Family Service Center  
Family Service of Glencoe  
Foundation 65

Haven Youth and Family Services  
The McGaw YMCA  
Northwestern University  
Young, Black & Lit

## In-Kind

Acclaim Media  
Kirkland & Ellis  
Loyola University Chicago School of Law  
The Book Stall at Chestnut Court



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JAMIL ZAKI, Ph.D.**

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

**Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 7:00 PM, Building Empathy in a Fractured World, New Trier High School, Winnetka Campus, Gaffney Auditorium, 385 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, IL 60093.**

Our modern society is practically designed to destroy empathy. As cities grow and solitary living becomes more common, we see more people than ever before, but know fewer of them. Rituals that bring us into regular contact—attending church, participating in team sports—have given way to solitary pursuits, often carried out over the Internet. When we encounter someone online, the first thing we often learn about them is what we like the least. They are enemies before they have a chance to be people.

Amid these toxic social forces, studies demonstrate that the average person’s empathy *has* eroded over the last forty years. **Jamil Zaki, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology** and **Director of the Stanford Social Neuroscience Laboratory at Stanford University**, has dedicated his career to understanding why. His research focuses on the cognitive and neural bases of social behavior, and in particular on how people respond to each other's emotions (empathy), why they conform to each other (social influence), and why they choose to help each other (prosociality). In his first book, ***The War for Kindness: Building Empathy in a Fractured World***, he uses his groundbreaking research to explain how society can address the empathy deficit and fight back against tribalism, isolation, and exhaustion.

Prof. Zaki begins by giving us an entirely new understanding of how empathy works. Empathy—our ability to connect with one another's emotions—is at the heart of humanity's ability to thrive together. But in many ways, the modern world has made it harder than ever to care for each other. Thankfully, empathy is not a fixed trait; rather, it’s a skill which we can grow through practice. In this talk, Prof. Zaki will describe insights about how we can learn to empathize better, and work towards mending the growing tears in our social fabric.

Prof. Zaki received his B.A. in cognitive neuroscience from **Boston University**, his Ph.D. in psychology from **Columbia University**, and received postdoctoral training at **Harvard University**. Among his many early career awards, Prof. Zaki was recently awarded the **Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)**, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government to scientists.

*Sponsored by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with **Catherine Cook School, Chiaravalle Montessori School, Family Service Center, Foundation 65, Fusion Academy, Glencoe D35, Glencoe PTO, Haven Youth and Family Services, McGaw YMCA, North Shore Country Day School, Regina Dominican High School, Roycemore School, Science and Arts Academy, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, The Kindness Connection, Winnetka D36, the Wolcott School, and Youth and Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)***

**Sponsors**



**Partners**



**Supporters**

- |                              |                                |                                     |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Connections for the Homeless | Mammel Foundation              | North Shore Community Bank          |
| Envestnet                    | The McCall Family              | Northwestern University/SESP        |
| Fusion Academy               | Alison & Andrew McNally        | Susan & Phil Rooney                 |
| Stephanie & Roger Hochschild | Mindful Psychology Associates  | Cari & Michael Sacks                |
| Kim & Brad Keywell           | Modestus Bauer Foundation      | Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.) |
| Lori & Ross Laser            | New Trier Parents' Association | YWCA Evanston/North Shore           |

**Community Allies**

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Counseling Center of the North Shore | Haven Youth and Family Services |
| Evanston Scholars                    | The McGaw YMCA                  |
| Family Service Center                | Northwestern University         |
| Family Service of Glencoe            | Young, Black & Lit              |
| Foundation 65                        |                                 |

**In-Kind**

- Acclaim Media
- Kirkland & Ellis
- Loyola University Chicago School of Law
- The Book Stall at Chestnut Court