



The Empathy Diaries: An Evening with Sherry Turkle, Ph.D.

Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology, MIT.
Author, *Alone Together*, *Reclaiming Conversation*, and *The Empathy Diaries*, among others.

Rabbi Wendi Geffen

Senior rabbi, North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, IL.

Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 7:00 PM Central

www.bit.ly/TurkleFANWebinar

PLUS: After-Hours Event!

Purchase a copy of *The Empathy Diaries* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall to receive a link to an interactive "After-Hours" event hosted by Prof. Turkle and Rabbi Geffen. Details on the webinar registration page.

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

in partnership with Baker Demonstration School, Beacon Academy, Catherine Cook School, Chiaravalle Montessori School, Compass Health Center, Connections for the Homeless, Countryside Day School, Evanston Township High School D202, Fusion Academy, Haven Youth and Family Services, Kenilworth D38, Mindful Psychology Associates, New Trier High School D203, New Trier Parents' Association, North Shore Country Day School, Pope John XXIII School, Porter-Gaud Parent Association, Regina Dominican High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Sacred Heart Schools, the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University, Science and Arts Academy, Stevenson High School D125, VillageMD, Wintrust Bank, Wolcott College Prep, and Woodlands Academy.

This event is #freeandopentothe public and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+ familyactionnetwork.net
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SHERRY TURKLE, Ph.D.

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Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 7:00-8:00 PM, The Empathy Diaries: An Evening with Sherry Turkle, Ph.D., a FAN webinar feat. Sherry Turkle, Ph.D. Interviewer: Rabbi Wendi Geffen.

REGISTER: www.bit.ly/TurkleFANWebinar.

BONUS AFTER-HOURS EVENT: Attendees who purchase a copy of *The Empathy Diaries* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall are invited to attend an AFTER-HOURS event hosted by Prof. Turkle and Rabbi Geffen that will start immediately after the webinar. Details on the webinar registration page.

Since the earliest days of computer culture, MIT researcher and preeminent media scholar **Sherry Turkle, Ph.D.**, the Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology at MIT and the founding director of the MIT Initiative on Technology and Self, has been sounding an alarm about our engagement with digital technology. In her 2011 book *Alone Together*, Prof. Turkle diagnosed how living behind our screens undermines our social connections and emotional lives. Her 2015 *New York Times* bestseller *Reclaiming Conversation* proposed a solution: to look up from our screens and talk to each other. Yet the past year has forced many of us into more screen-dependent isolation than ever before. What does Sherry Turkle make of our post-pandemic landscape?

In her new memoir *The Empathy Diaries*, Prof. Turkle explores a counterintuitive pattern across her lifetime of work devoted to keeping people connected: that empathy and connection can arrive when we feel the most alone and unfamiliar. Reflecting on her coming-of-age and a path-blazing career, *The Empathy Diaries* is full of honest and surprising lessons that meet our moment when empathy seems in short supply. Prof. Turkle traces her interest in empathy back to her childhood in postwar Brooklyn, when a turbulent relationship with her family showed her the importance of open communication from an early age. She reflects on her college days studying at Radcliffe and in Paris in the late 1960s, when social norms were rapidly being upended. She writes compellingly about her struggles in the 1970s as a young woman researcher in a male-dominated discipline, and of her battles to achieve tenure at MIT where she was often (and incorrectly) labeled as “anti-technology.”

Throughout, Turkle shares insight on her most personal relationships – with family, spouses, friends, and with colleagues as diverse as Jacques Lacan and Steve Jobs – as object lessons in developing the empathy necessary to make and maintain deep connections.

Prof. Turkle will be in conversation with **Rabbi Wendi Geffen**, senior rabbi at North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, IL, where she has been a part of the rabbinic team since 2002. A visionary, thought leader, and distinguished orator and teacher, Rabbi Geffen is passionate about Judaism, Torah, and the ways these ancient sources of wisdom add meaning to our lives and enable us to better our world today.

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