



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Clark Curtis, 704.808.1959 or clark@phoenixzonesinitiative.org

What Can We Learn from a Chimpanzee, a Rat, and a Spider?

A Facebook Live Conversation with Acclaimed Author Barbara J. King

Saturday, July 24, 2021, 12 PM EDT–1PM EDT

July 12, 2021 (Albuquerque, NM) - Phoenix Zones Initiative, a global nonprofit organization on a mission to advance the interconnected rights, health, and wellbeing of people, animals and the planet, will host a Facebook Live event, [Extending Compassion for All Beings](#). Dr. Barbara J. King is an emerita professor of anthropology at William and Mary and a widely acclaimed author of seven books. Her work focuses on animal emotion and cognition, the ethics of our relationships with animals, and the evolution of language, culture, and religion.

“Our world may transform as we see how animals rejoice in good days and endure bad ones; love their families and friends and grieve their losses; and struggle to overcome physical and emotional challenges,” says Dr. King. “When each of us takes positive steps to help, the collective impact is enormous, an arc in which we strive to create a better world for animals.”

Dr. King will be joined by Phoenix Zones Initiative CEO, Dr. Hope Ferdowsian, as they discuss:

- why the way we treat animals matters;
- what we can do to translate our compassion for other beings into treating them with the love, justice, and dignity they deserve; and
- what we need to learn about the connections between the rights, health, and wellbeing of people and animals.

“We are extremely excited and honored to have Dr. King join us for our second in a series of Facebook Live events,” says Dr. Ferdowsian. “Our mission of advancing the interconnected rights, health, and wellbeing of people, animals, and the planet through a [Just One Health](#) approach is clearly reflected through the work of Dr. King. Together, we will explore how love and grief don’t only belong to humans, and how many animals can experience rich lives, much like humans can, if given the chance. Most importantly, Dr. King will talk about how each of us has the power to take compassionate action to help others.”

Dr. King will also speak about some of the animals whose stories continue to motivate her throughout her work.

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About Dr. Barbara J. King

[Barbara J. King](#) is emerita professor of anthropology at William & Mary and a freelance science writer and public speaker. The author of seven books, including her latest work, *Animals' Best Friends: Putting Compassion to Work for Animals in Captivity and in the Wild*, Dr. King focuses on animal emotion and cognition, the ethics of our relationships with animals, and the evolutionary history of language, culture, and religion. Her book *How Animals Grieve* has been translated into seven languages. Dr. King is a Guggenheim Fellowship recipient, and her work has been featured in *Scientific American*, *Aeon*, *Undark*, *SAPIENS*, NPR, the BBC, *Times Literary Supplement*, the World Science Festival, and the annual TED conference in Vancouver. Her TED talk on animal love and grief has received over three million views and is available online at https://www.ted.com/speakers/barbara_j_king. You can also follow her on [Twitter](#). She lives in Wicomico, Virginia, with her husband and rescued cats.

About Dr. Hope Ferdowsian

[Hope Ferdowsian](#) is president and CEO of Phoenix Zones Initiative and author of *Phoenix Zones: Where Strength Is Born and Resilience Lives*. For more than two decades, as a double board-certified internal medicine and preventive medicine physician, she has cared for individuals who have experienced displacement and violence, while she has also worked on public policies to address structural inequities, abuse, and exploitation. Dr. Ferdowsian's work across six continents has included collaboration with the Office of the Surgeon General of the United States and the development of medical, public health, and educational resources for nongovernmental organizations, national governments, and intergovernmental organizations. Dr. Ferdowsian was named a Humanitarian of the Year in the American College of Physicians in 2017. She is also an associate professor at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, a co-director of the Society for Asylum Medicine, and a medical expert for Physicians for Human Rights.

About Phoenix Zones Initiative

Phoenix Zones Initiative is a global nonprofit organization on a mission to advance the interconnected rights, health, and wellbeing of people, animals, and the planet through a [Just One Health](#) approach. Led by physicians and a diverse team, Phoenix Zones Initiative focuses on widespread ethical and structural change. Phoenix Zones Initiative advances legal, economic, and public policy to uplift the most vulnerable and marginalized, including children and animals, and the organization also provides resources so others can do the same. Follow Phoenix Zones Initiative on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#), and the [Phoenix Zones Initiative](#) website.

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Media Note: Both Dr. King and Dr. Ferdowsian will be available for interview opportunities prior to and following the event. Members of the media are also urged to join the event and participate in the Q and A with the authors. Copies of *Animals' Best Friends: Putting Compassion to Work for Animals in Captivity and in the Wild* and *Phoenix Zones: Where Strength is Born and Resilience Lives*, are available upon request.