

Joan Blades is a co-founder of LivingRoomconversations.org an open-source effort to rebuild respectful civil discourse across ideological, cultural and party lines while embracing our core-shared values, and a co-founder AllSidesforSchools.org a partnership between AllSides.com and Living Room Conversations. She is also a co-founder of MomsRising.org and MoveOn.org

She is a co-author of *The Custom-Fit Workplace*, winner of a Nautilus book award in 2011 and *The Motherhood Manifesto*, which won the Ernesta Drinker Ballard Book Prize in 2007. Last century Joan was a software entrepreneur, a co-founder of Berkeley Systems - best known for the flying toaster and game You Don't Know Jack. A mediator (attorney) by training and inclination, she is a nature lover, artist and true believer in the power of citizens and our need to rebuild respectful civil discourse while embracing our core shared values.