



Psych Up Live
Thursday at 11 AM Pacific
July 7th 2016: Blended: Personal Stories of the Stepfamily Experience

In this episode, Samantha Waltz, the author of the powerful book, *Blended: Writers on the Stepfamily Experience* and three of her wonderful contributing writers, Betsy Graziani Fasbinder, Gigi Rosenberg, and Emma Kate Tsai will share their personal experiences of being parents or children in stepfamilies. As three of the thirty professional writers who share their blended experience in this book, their voices convey more than the facts or dynamics of stepfamilies. They convey in a personal way the challenges of connection, the promise and pain of children who have lost parents from divorce or d

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Featured Guests



Samantha Waltz

Samantha Waltz, the editor of *Blended: Writers on the Stepfamily Experience*, has been writing since childhood. She sold her first story at age eleven to a local newspaper, followed by first prizes in fiction and non-fiction and publication in *American Girl* when she was in her teens. She later worked as a guest editor and then an editorial assistant for *MADMOISELLE*. Her books include *Parenting: Four Patterns In Child-Rearing*, (New York: Hart Publishing) and *Parenting Gifted Children* (Salem: Oregon State Department).

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Betsy Graziani Fasbinder

Betsy Graziani Fasbinder became a second when she married a widower with a young son. Their story in *Blended* is one of a collection that will be published in May 2017 and tells the story of how love and loss are not opposites, but intimate cohabitants in a family. She is the author of the critically acclaimed novel, *Fire & Water* (She Writes Press 2013). Betsy has been a licensed psychotherapist in California since 1992. She lives with her husband in their recently empty nest in Marin County, California with Edgar, her salt-n-pepper doodle as her faithful writing companion.

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Gigi Rosenberg

Gigi Rosenberg's articles and essays have been published by *Psychology Today*, *Parenting*, *Writer's Digest*, *Poets & Writers* and *Seal Press*. She's been a guest commentator on Oregon Public Broadcasting and has performed her dramatic monologues at Seattle's On The Boards. She's author of *The Artist's Guide to Grant Writing* (published by Watson-Guptill) and editor of *Professional Artist*, an award-winning business magazine for visual artists. Her current project is *My Secret Father*: a memoir. For the latest, visit [gigiroseberg.com](#)

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Emma Kate Tsai

Emma Kate Tsai is a writer, editor, and preparatory school English teacher in Houston, Texas. Her work has been published in literary journals such as *Brevity*, *Brain Child* magazine, and *Intellectual Refuge*, and in the print anthologies, *Blended: Writers on the Stepfamily Experience* and *Drinking Diaries: Women Serve Their Stories Straight Up*. She is currently working on a memoir about identity as an identical twin and the fractured relationship identical twinship can cause.

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