

Tahini + Vanilla Ice Box Cake

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Team. I'm editing this post from The Rape Treatment Center of Santa Monica's conference, [The Roads to Respect](#). Headliner for this conference: The original bad b*tch, Jane Fonda. Goal of the conference: Learning how to help kids thrive as they transition into adulthood. Topics to be covered:

- Child/adolescent development through a gendered lens – how it's different for girls and for boys.
- Instagram, Vine, YouTube, Ask.fm, Tinder, and more – how the pervasive role of social media in adolescents' lives is impacting their relationships, communication skills, and self-esteem.
- Why it's important to talk with kids about Internet pornography, and how to have age-appropriate conversations.

I mean, exciting stuff, right!? And adding to the excitement is the fact that I was THIS close to getting a selfie with Jane Fonda but then her handler was all, "She's gonna take a break now. Come back at lunch." It will happen folks. IT. WILL. HAPPEN. (Update: It did not happen. We chatted, but I was too chicken to ask for a pic).





But in all seriousness, this conference is what I live for. It's what I do and what I want to keep doing for as long as I can. As much as I love food blogging, my heart is in this work. I am inspired to be an advocate for young people. I was inspired before I became a mother but was exceedingly inspired when I became a mother; especially a mother of a daughter. It's hard enough to get through the worries and angst of adolescence in a safe environment but if recent increases in

hate speech and crimes tells us anything, it's that empathy education and individuals who are willing to teach it are in need much more now than ever. This work is frustrating and sad, uplifting and motivating. It's exhausting. It can be just as soul-crushing as much as it can be soul-enduring. My commitment to this work is why I rarely post on this blog. It's absolutely why, when someone asks me where I want to see my blog go in 5 years, I think to myself, "I don't know. It is what it is". There are times when I wish I had more time to learn the art of monetizing my blog or creating those fun overhead videos showing how to cook something. But I just don't have the time. Speaking of time, I gotta jet. Jane Fonda is talking about the role of patriarchy and it's effect on developmental growth in adolescents.

For this full recipe of this easy but DELICIOUS tahini and vanilla ice box cake, head on over to Interfaithfamily.com.

P.S. I think I've lost count on just how many recipes of mine include tahini! I LOVE the stuff. Also? If you can believe it, there was a time when I didn't actually like tahini. I didn't even like halva! I remember visiting the [Mahane Yehuda](#) market in Jerusalem and being offered free samples of the stuff, left and right, and saying 'no' to all of it! I said 'No' to free tahini and halva!! What the hell?! Who was that girl!? I don't know but, needless to say, I've grown up a lot since then.









