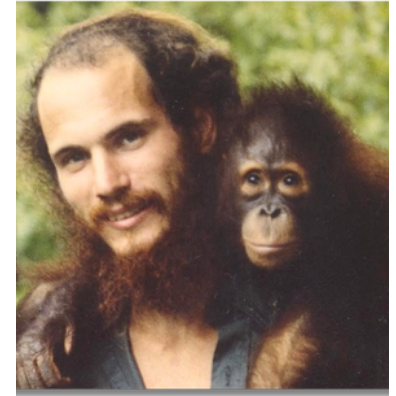
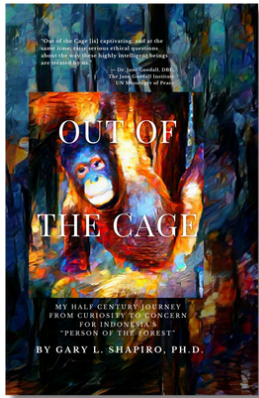


Speaker Profile



LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM A HALF-CENTURY JOURNEY

Out of the Cage by Gary L. Shapiro is a transformative narrative that spans five decades, recounting a journey that began in a zoo and the dense jungles of Borneo and has since influenced global conservation efforts. ***Out of the Cage*** redefines our understanding of the human-orangutan relationship, offering a profound exploration of animal intelligence, empathy, and the legal personhood of great apes.

In this groundbreaking work, Shapiro shares his pioneering experience of teaching sign language to orangutans in their native habitat—a feat that not only deepened our understanding of these remarkable creatures but also challenged the boundaries of communication between species. Through vivid storytelling, he introduces us to individual orangutans whose lives and personalities mirror our own, illustrating how these powerful connections can inspire a new era of coexistence and conservation.

Drawing on his diary, lived experience, published research, testimony, and other first-hand accounts, ***Out of the Cage*** offers a compelling case for why the survival of orangutans is intimately tied to our own. Shapiro makes the argument that in an age of ecological uncertainty, fostering empathy and legal recognition for orangutans could be key to ensuring their future—and ours.

This book is more than a memoir; it is a **call to action**. As technology and urbanization continue to distance us from the natural world, ***Out of the Cage*** urges us to reconnect with our wild roots and recognize the sentience and rights of the creatures with whom we share this planet. Inspiring and enlightening, Shapiro's story is a beacon of hope in the fight to preserve life on Earth.

Topics of Expertise:

Orangutan Conservation:

From the field in Borneo and Sumatra to global efforts, Dr. Shapiro discusses how conservation can help protect one of our closest relatives in the animal kingdom.

Human-Animal Communication:

Drawing on his pioneering work teaching sign language to orangutans, Dr. Shapiro offers insights into the intelligence and emotional depth of these creatures.

Ecotourism & Wildlife Advocacy:

As a leader in eco-tourism, Dr. Shapiro shares his experiences guiding conservation-focused tours and inspiring global wildlife advocacy.

Education for Conservation:

Passionate about education, Dr. Shapiro speaks about the role of education in empowering local communities to become stewards of wildlife and the environment.

Great Ape Personhood:

Dr. Shapiro explores the evolving legal and ethical case for granting great apes legal personhood status, focusing on their advanced cognitive abilities and the moral obligations we hold toward them as sentient beings.

For speaking inquiries, please contact glshapiro@gmail.com
or text (310) 780-0883