



### *After a Long Covid Winter: Signs of Spring*

Spring is here, more welcome than ever this year. After a long Covid winter, Wellesley Neighbors is thawing and blooming in many ways. The Activities Committee has kept us connected with Zoom—thanks to technical help from Dan Kemp and Barbara Slavin—but is now planning things in person and outside. “As more of us are vaccinated, the weather is getting warmer, and days are getting longer, we look forward to being back out in the world,” says Committee co-chair Maureen Donlon.

Tentative plans are afoot for May: a trip to the DeCordova Sculpture Park in Lincoln and a cocktail-time gathering for food and drinks in the airy greenhouse at Belkin’s Lookout Farm in South Natick.

Maureen’s co-chair, Judy Frommer, continues adding to “On Your Own,” a list of websites with links to music, museums, interviews and more. Try it out by clicking “here” at the bottom of the weekly email blast provided by Susan Camuti. Or log onto the website and click “here” just above the list of upcoming events.

Our two walking groups pick up again on Tuesday April 6 and Thursday April 8. Weather permitting, both groups will meet at 10 am behind the Wellesley Free Library (main branch) and walk on the nearby Brook Path. Each walker will receive an email reminder the day before. “So

put on your mask and join us!” says Nancy Gans. To participate, contact her at 781 235-2246 or [nlfans@gmail.com](mailto:nlfans@gmail.com). “We need to know who’s coming so we can wait if someone is late,” she explains. “However, we don’t wait very long!” Also, until indoor spaces are less risky, they’ll be walking *only* when weather is amenable to being outdoors.

Other special interest groups have been meeting all winter on Zoom but will soon be meeting again in person. *Please note that the newsletter starts with this issue to include group meetings in the page 5 list of events.*

A play-reading group is in the planning stages, co-chaired by new member Alison Partridge and Lucy Phillips. Alison was schooled in England with lots of exposure to Shakespeare, some drama classes, and experience in play reading. As shown on page 4, she recently read Beatrice in Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing,” an event organized by Cambridge Neighbors.

Finally, the Health Support Committee headed by Mary Lefkowitz and Nancy Gans will announce a program starting in late April or early May: small-group in-person meetings to discuss our health proxies and contingency plans. Are they up to date? “It’s really helpful to talk about these matters with other people,” Nancy says. “But we will wait to start until everyone is fully vaccinated.”

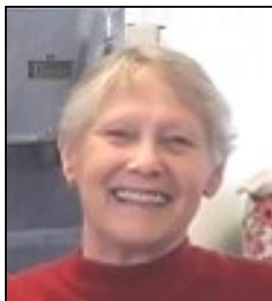


### *Staying Engaged and Healthy in the Third Age: What We've Learned and Where We're Going* *Professor Christina Matz, Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 pm on Zoom*



Dr. Matz will discuss meaningful engagement in later life and how it affects the well-being of individuals, families, organizations, communities, and society. She is an associate professor in the Boston College School of Social Work, chair of the Older Adults & Families Field-of-Practice, director of the Spier Fellows in Aging program, and co-director of the Center on Aging & Work. Among her many scholarly publications, one recently won an award for “innovative research on aging” and another was recognized for “outstanding research in measurement and evaluation.”

## *From the President: Feeling Grateful*



Ah, Spring. Hope. Renewal. Rebirth. How many words do we hear at this time of year, words that are forward-looking? Do they hold a special meaning this year? Already the spring has brought flowers, some not only unexpected but even unknown, such as the iris that I did not know existed as a cultivar, a mound of flowers, bright and surprising, and unequivocally iris (at right). I tried to tell myself they were crocuses--but they aren't.



And, with the appropriate time after my vaccination shots passed, I have for the first time in a year enjoyed both little boy hugs and little boy visits—even Chinese Checker games, although all while wearing masks. There have even been lunches shared with (also vaccinated) friends in the sunshine on restaurant patios.

Our world is opening up. Yes, we need to continue to be careful for ourselves and yes, we still need to be careful for others, as epidemiological knowledge is not yet advanced enough to tell us whether we can harbor the dreaded virus even though we ourselves don't become ill. But masks seem a small price to pay for what is unfolding. That we can once again enjoy not only the flowers but the delights of basking not only in sunshine but also in the physical presence of our friends, with laughter and conversation, is somehow amplified by and more treasured because of its long absence. Gratefulness abounds.

*Catherine*

## *From the Executive Director: Looking Forward*

Two shots in my arm and warmer weather have lifted my spirits. It's New England, and even the thought of a late snow-storm doesn't dampen my enthusiasm. It's been seven months since I saw my grandchildren, and soon we'll be able to hug. I can visit with friends and catch up on news. I'll be outside more, reading on the deck and taking longer walks. I'll have a meal at a restaurant with outdoor dining. And, I'll be able to see many of you in person. Zoom get-togethers will still be part of my routine, but I'll complain about them less. It's wonderful to look forward to all this.



*Joyce*

***NOTE: The pandemic has reduced the need for a box to report "service and support" requests, but Joyce still welcomes your calls for support (e.g., rides) and offers service referrals at 781 283-0417, ext. 1.***

### *Friends We Will Miss...*

**Eve Munzer Slater**, March 5, 1932, to January 27, 2021. A remembrance of her life was emailed to all members on February 3.

**Kirby Langston Chandler von Kessler**, November 8, 1932, to March 12, 2021. A remembrance of his life was emailed to members on March 17.

## *Nothing is All Bad—Even the Pandemic!*

Now that the pandemic clouds are beginning to lift, we can look back on the past year and see some silver linings: things we did or discovered that we'll take into the future. Most members can probably point to some good effect, if only renewed joy in cooking or reading (and rereading) and pastimes like knitting.

The pandemic caused Joan Benzie to join WN and to rediscover the piano. "My three sons are really in touch," she says, "especially George, who lives in Needham." They promoted WN, thinking she might feel isolated, and George suggested she return to the piano. "He took me right out to Rogers on Route 9. So now I have a Yamaha upright," she says. She may take lessons but so far enjoys it mostly when she has time to fill between one thing and another.



Both Marcia Goldsmith and Liz von Kessler have bought small portable treadmills (one motorized and one not), so they can exercise when the weather is poor. They were already exercising when the lockdown started, but have increased their indoor/outdoor walking. Marcia also joined a mindfulness class at the Wellesley COA, on the suggestion of Rosalie Gimeno, a walking friend.

The pandemic has led us to all kinds of COA programs on Zoom in Wellesley and beyond, such as "Mondays at a Museum" offered by the Natick COA.

The pandemic has also encouraged us to do more shopping on-line, though this can be a mixed blessing, according to Mickey Goldin. He's noticed that some people become addicted to it—but maybe they are the same people who were addicted to in-store shopping. In any case, the pandemic has made many of us more comfortable with today's technology. Even people who "hate computers" have learned to enjoy Zoom. They may not love it but admit it's far better than nothing!

Ann Swanson has used Zoom to keep up with WN and other organizations, like the League of Women Voters. "And one day, out of the blue, a high school friend invited me to a group Zoom call, which is great except for seeing myself on the screen." (Alas, nobody likes the prolonged close-up...) She also enjoys a weekly sing with the Heritage Chorale in Framingham, though she misses "the satisfaction of sound all around me."

We've all had extra time this past year, and Marty Steinmetz has used some of his to produce CDs. Retired

from 54 years as organist and choir director at a Dedham church, he's also retired from many years as producer of a Sunday organ program for WCRB. So he produced a 2-CD set of music recorded at his church, "from the Hallelujah Chorus to rock and roll." He's now working on a set featuring

a family of soloists who've been important to that music. Next he'd like to do a CD of his own recorded organ performances.

Susan Taylor has long been active in Wellesley Weston Lifetime Learning, so she's kept up with that during the pandemic. But her biggest pandemic achievement is "throwing away my old vacuum cleaners!" When lockdown prevented her use of cleaning help, she discovered they were harder to manage than she remembered, so she bought new ones on-line. "They are much lighter and more agile, and you don't have to buy bags—you just empty a cartridge," she says. "And of course I'm getting my exercise!"

Although cleaning is not her favorite thing, she plans to persevere at least while we're still budgeting our virus-exposure time. "I'd rather spend it with my grandchildren than with somebody who cleans my house," Susan explains. She's now looking forward to a family gathering at Easter.

*L.P.*

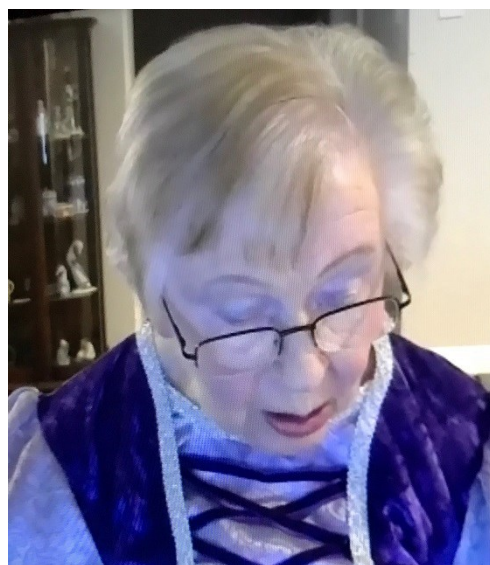
***Welcome to Paula and Allen Mitchell***, who live in Wellesley. Paula grew up in Newton, Allen in Toronto and St. Louis; they met at Washington University in St. Louis. Paula received an M.Ed. from what is now U Mass Boston and taught high school. Allen received his MD at Tufts, trained in pediatrics and pharmacology and spent 45 years at Boston University, researching the risks of medications in children and pregnant women. He published *Pediatric Alert*, a newsletter for pediatricians, and Paula published *Child Health Alert* for nurses, child-care providers, and parents. The Mitchells have a daughter and son who live nearby with their spouses and collectively 3 children.



## Happenings



*The photos in this issue are taken by many people. Mickey Goldin is our "official photographer" and took the photo on page 3, but Rosalie Gimeno took the crocuses on page 1 and the snowdrops above left. Catherine Connor took the irises on page 2 and the snowdrops above right. Adele Langevin took the picture of her husband Fred, above far right, when they were the Wayland Inn's first (and only) spring customers. (No crowding!) Below left, WNN editor Lucy Phillips is shown taking pictures of a Zoom program about Russian lacquer boxes and a Zoom reading by Alison Partridge (in purple costume) as Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing," with members of Cambridge Neighbors.*



**April Zoom Events & Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings\***

Thurs. April 1, 12:30 pm---Men's Lunch  
 Thurs. April 1, 2 pm---New Yorker II (SIG)  
 Fri. April 2, 5 pm---Cocktail Hour  
 Tue. April 6, 10 am---Tuesday Walkers (SIG), meet behind main library  
 Wed. April 7, 5:30 pm---Women's Night Out (canceled)  
 Thu. April 8, 10 am---Thursday Walkers (SIG) meet behind main library  
 Thurs. April 8, 3 pm---Marcel Marceau (discussion of videos)  
 Fri. April 9, 3 pm---Afternoon Tea  
 Wed. April 14, 2 pm---New Yorker I (SIG)  
 Wed. April 14, 4 pm---*Yours Unfaithfully* (see box at right)  
 Fri. April 16, 5 pm---Cocktail Hour  
 Tues. April 20, 3 pm---Building of St. Louis Arch  
 Thu. April 22, 12:30 pm---Short Story (SIG)  
 Fri. April 23, 3 pm---Afternoon Tea  
 Wed. April 28, 7:30 pm---Speaker: Dr. Christina Matz (see page 1)  
 Thurs. April 29, 3:30 pm---Norman Rockwell Museum, Virtual Tour  
 Fri. April 30, 5 pm---Cocktail Hour

**\*Please note the addition of special interest groups**

**May Zoom Events**

Wed. May 5, 5:30 pm---Women's Night Out  
 Thurs. May 6, 12:30 pm---Men's Lunch  
 Fri. May 7, 3 pm---Afternoon Tea

Maureen Donlon, who chairs the Activities Committee, would like to express her thanks to the many Wellesley Neighbors friends who reached out to her by providing delicious meals, flowers, cards and very welcome phone calls after her recent hip replacement surgery. "I really appreciate the care and support I received from all of you," Maureen said. "Thank you so much."

**April 2021**

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***Mint Theater VIP Visits WN April 14***

Recently, some of us have watched a play per month streamed by New York's Mint Theater, followed by a stimulating discussion of the play (via Zoom). We are delighted to announce that the producing artistic director of the Mint Theater, Jonathan Bank, will join our April 14 Zoom discussion of the play, "Yours Unfaithfully." We invite you to participate in the discussion and ask Jonathan any questions you may have about running a theater. To sign up and get instructions for watching the play (at your leisure, before the discussion), go to Upcoming Events on the WN home page. **Catherine Connor**



## April Newsletter

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