



Single Mothers and Covid-19: What has the Pandemic Revealed? ***Professor Rosanna Hertz, Tuesday, May 25, 7:30 pm on Zoom***

Rosanna Hertz will review the results from her survey of single mothers who live alone with their children and those who live in multi-adult households. She will discuss the importance of grandparents and what social policies are needed going forward.

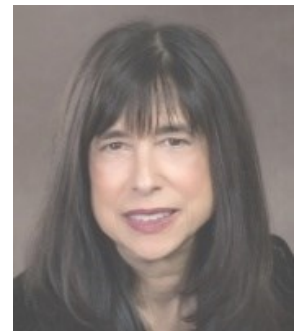
Professor Hertz has taught at Wellesley College for 35 years in both the Department of Sociology and the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. She is known for her research on the intersection of families, work and gender. For the past 25 years, she has focused on the emergence of new family forms and how they expand our understanding of kinship.

Her 2006 book, *Single by Chance, Mothers by Choice*, captured popular attention with its finding that the age-old desire for motherhood was in fact reinforced by new scientific advances in reproduction. Her new book, *Random Families: Genetic Strangers, Sperm Donor Siblings and the Creation of New Kin*, written with coauthor Margaret K. Nelson, examines the

contemporary interplay of genetics, social interaction, and cultural expectations in the formation of web-based donor-sibling kin groups.

Professor Hertz received her PhD in Sociology from Northwestern University and completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Most recently she has held appointments at Harvard Law School in the Petrie-Flom Center and at the Brocher Foundation in Switzerland.

She is frequently quoted in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Boston Globe*.



Release Your Inner Thespian!

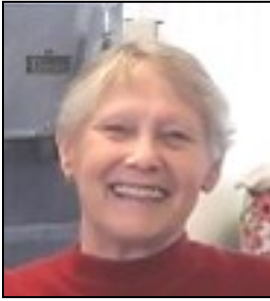


Alison Partridge, who joined WN during the epidemic, has proposed a play-reading "special interest group" and invites would-be actors to contact Lucy Phillips, who is assisting her (lucyphi@outlook.com or 508-934-6497).

"All are welcome, with or without experience," Alison says. "And members don't have to read a part in each production to participate." The first play will be something light, like *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder. Going forward, the group will choose the plays. Copies of the plays will be available from local libraries.

The group will also decide where and how often to meet—and whether to wear masks. Meetings will be in person in members' homes, perhaps on a rotating basis. "They'll be at least quarterly, and the first could be in June or July," Lucy says. "But if too many people leave for the summer, we'll try for early fall. It all depends on what we hear from interested members."

From the President: Solving Problems Together



One of our members, Jerry Gans, sent this reminder the other day when we'd been talking about shoring up memory: "One of our speakers, from the Health Support Committee Speaker Series, was an expert on the neurobiology of aging," he recalled. "In the Q & A, he was asked his opinion on such memory-strengthening activities as crossword puzzles, Sudoku, etc. He wasn't impressed with the value of these activities in advancing memory. He suggested the following activity:

Help a friend figure out the best way to deal with a pressing problem that he/she is confronting." In other words, the speaker felt the memory was better strengthened through human connection and problem solving.

It reminded me of a lunch I shared with my long-time (college) friend Jean, when I said that I did not know how to remove an app from my iPhone. We each took out our phones and began teaching one another what we knew about them. It was FUN!

I bring this up, because we in WN...we people of our age...are surrounded by technology, and as we move through the next few years together, it will be not only our phones and computers, but the wonderful new gadgets that allow us to be warned when we leave our stove turned on, or keep track of our partner whose location needs to be kept track of, etc. And those wonderful programs that allow our distant children to assure themselves of our well-being and provide help from their location.

So I am wondering if there are situations, such as that lunch with Jean that has stuck in my memory, in which we can solve problems together, improve our memory, AND have fun. Anyone want to join an "iPhone trivia" lunch? In any case, we should be open to sharing technological problems with each other, especially since we'll not only find solutions but also strengthen our memories.

Catherine

From the Executive Director: Your Service Referrals Requested

Many members call or email me to request service referrals. They tell me that they value this service, as the referrals include the names of members who recommend them. When you refer service providers you are rewarding good customer service and helping other members who need assistance.

Please take a minute and email or call me with contact information for service providers you recommend. We welcome referrals of all kinds, including accountants, architects, dry cleaners, doctors with specialties, medical alert systems, realtors and others. Your support of this request is appreciated.

Joyce



April Service and Support

Service requests--6 (optometrist, wall paperer, irrigation system, face masks, electrician and mover)

Support requests—9 (5 technical, 4 rides)

To request service or support, call Joyce at 781-283-0417, ext. 1.



Meet Susan Taylor

Susan Taylor has spent a lifetime progressively seeking, and finding, an ever “wider world.” She spent most of her childhood as a “typical suburban kid” in Freeport, Long Island, but when it came to college, a strong interest in a Liberal Arts education coupled with happy memories of visits with cousins in Pennsylvania led her to Bucknell University in that state.

Soon, however, the attractions of a big-city environment drew her to Boston University. Upon graduation she obtained a teaching certificate and taught for a year in Sudbury. Soon, however, intrigued by a friend’s job as a school psychologist, Susan shifted gears and embarked on “a long trip through a whole lot of various degrees,” including an MA and certificate of advanced graduate study in psychology and counseling from Assumption College (now University) in Worcester, Massachusetts.

While serving as a school psychologist, her interests broadened to include special education issues and ultimately “big picture” issues, such as how to provide adequate resources for all students within a school system. Additional degree work and an EdD in Educational Policy and Administration from UMass Amherst prepared her finally to address these larger issues in person. For many years, as director of curriculum, instruction and special services for the town of Scituate, Susan dealt not just with special education but with other system-wide issues such as teacher and staff development, curriculum evaluation, and curriculum development.

Her final career stop was as assistant school superintendent for Randolph. She found its diverse urban demographic and “completely different type of school system” a welcome and exciting challenge. Still

living in Scituate, she used her long commute to think about the previous day’s work and admits to using her cell phone (before that was declared illegal) to resolve late-breaking problems.

In 2000, Susan and her husband Alva moved to Natick to be near their daughter. Once they had both retired, they traveled widely—a cruise to Alaska, where they literally witnessed “purple mountain majesties” --and a sojourn in the British Isles, time in Zurich, Amtrack from San Francisco to Boston, and concerts in Prague and Vienna. For her, travel provided yet another opening to the wider world-- a way to connect real places to things she had read about.

More recently, Susan has continued to expand her horizons at Wellesley Weston Lifetime Learning (WWLL) as both an organizer and student. She has met so many interesting and talented people there—and through Wellesley Neighbors, which she joined two years ago.

Susan also enjoys music, ranging from Bach, Buxtehude and Mozart to the works of contemporary musicians. She looks forward in the post-COVID world to BSO and Tanglewood concerts.

Her large family of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren is scattered from Natick to Kentucky to North Carolina. Only a few weeks ago, she had the pleasure of holding 11-month-old Riley, her newest great-grandchild, for the first time.

To sum up: from Freeport to Bucknell, to BU, to Assumption, to UMass, to Scituate, to Randolph, to Alaska, to Europe, to Natick, “lifetime learning” has been the leitmotif of Susan Taylor’s life. *C.M.*



Welcome to Melanie Milde, who has rejoined Wellesley Neighbors and is eager to become an active member. She joined previously with her husband Paul, but his ill health limited their participation, and he died June 2020. Melanie comes from a German/Danish heritage. Her father was one of the original German rocket scientists. She studied painting and art History, trained as a hospice nurse, led a Scandinavian music group for 21 years, and finally trained as a psychotherapist. Besides private practice, she works at Children’s Charter Trauma Clinic, where she evaluates children who have been maltreated, writes reports, and testifies on the child’s behalf. She is happy it’s warm and Spring is here!



The mime Marcel Marceau (left) was featured in one of our April Zoom programs, and King's Chapel (right) was shown with other religious buildings in a Zoom history of Boston that was shared with us by Cambridge Neighbors.

Happenings



Extraordinary Efforts in an Extraordinary Time

As we get vaccinated and look toward a new normal, we should salute the many members of Wellesley Neighbors who made the past year more bearable. Among them is Rosalie Gimeno, who confronted the pandemic in Madrid, where she usually spends winters.

The crisis kept her there until June, but once back home, she got busy researching and sometimes hosting our Zoom programs. Some topics reflected her career in Spanish cultural studies, like the artists Joan Miro and (coming up) Fernando Botero. Others ranged from telomeres to the Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and Marcel Marceau.



Rosalie is on the Activities Committee, whose co-chairs, Maureen Donlon and Judy Frommer, have guided its creation of inspiring events.

They've also had their own

specialties, with Maureen hosting the Zoom cocktail hour and Judy developing "On Your Own," a list of links to entertaining venues.

The cocktail hour alternates Fridays with a tea hosted by Barbara Slavin, and both offer added attractions like a topical video or sharing of stories (e.g., everyone recalls a favorite film, limerick, book or travel experience). "Barbara has also worked with Dan Kemp and Peter

Offenhartz on the technological challenges," Maureen notes. "They've helped those producing the programs and those who initially had trouble tuning in." She and Rosalie mentioned many others—beyond their own diligent committee—who lifted the pandemic gloom:

--Joyce Wadlington, for telephoning all members, coordinating activity-sharing efforts with other villages, and cheering us with gift bags (working with Maureen and Margot Lansing and many tireless drivers).

--Mary Lefkowitz and the Health Support Committee for their stepped-up program planning on subjects like medical marijuana.

--The WN newsletter and leaders of special interest groups and clusters who made extra efforts to keep us entertained and connected.

--The committee that made the Covid-related video for the website: Polly Conlin, Dan Kemp, Teri Lilly, and Margot Lansing. Catherine Connor assisted and also arranged for free plays from the Mint Theater in NYC.

Alas, trying to "thank everyone" can never do justice to all. "But it can at least shine a light on how many members collaborated to get us through this trauma—and on the need for us all to participate in creating a caring community for the future," Rosalie says. **L.P.**



May Events and Special Interest Group Meetings

Tue. May 4, 10 am—Walkers meet near Wellesley main library*

Thu. May 6, 10 am—Walkers meet near Wellesley main library*

Thu. May 6, 12:30 pm—Men's Lunch (Zoom)

Thu. May 6, 2 pm—*New Yorker II* (Zoom)

Fri. May 7, 3 pm—Afternoon Tea (Zoom)

Tue. May 11, 10 am—Walkers meet near Wellesley main library*

Tue. May 11, 3:30 pm—Fernando Botero, Colombian Artist (Zoom)

Thu. May 13, 10 am—Walkers meet near Wellesley main library*

Thu. May 13, 12 noon—Lunch at Papa Razzi, Wellesley**

Fri. May 14, 5 pm—Cocktail Hour (Zoom)

Tue. May 18, 10 am—Walkers meet near Wellesley main library*

Tue. May 18, 12 noon—Lunch at the Heritage, Sherborn**

Wed. May 19, 3 pm—*A Picture of Autumn*, Mint Theater (Zoom)

Thu. May 20, 10 am—Walkers meet near Wellesley main library*

Thu. May 20, 12:30 pm—Short Story Group

Fri. May 21, 3 pm—Afternoon Tea (Zoom)

Mon. May 24, 3 pm—TED Talks (Zoom)

Tue. May 25, 10 am—Walkers meet near Wellesley main library*

Tue. May 25, 7:30 pm—Speaker Rosanna Hertz (see page 1)

Wed. May 26, 2 pm—*New Yorker I* (Zoom)

Thu. May 27, 10 am—Walkers meet near Wellesley main library*

Thu. May 27, 12 noon—DeCordova Sculpture Park/box lunch**

Fri. May 28, 5 pm—Cocktail Hour (Zoom)

***While the Wellesley main library is under construction, walkers will meet at the Cameron Street Lot beside the library.**

****outdoors, weather permitting**

Early June Events

Tue. June 1, 10 am—Walkers meet near main library

Thu. June 3, 10 am—Walkers meet near main library

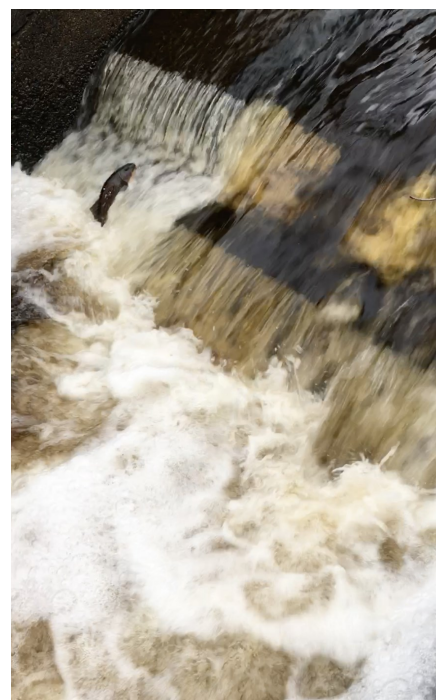
Thu. June 3, 12:30 pm—Men's Lunch

Fri. June 4, 3 pm—Afternoon Tea

May 2021

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Spring brings carefree daffodils (photo by Mickey Goldin) but also the life-or-death struggle of alewives (photo by Rosalie Gimeno) that must jump the rocks near the Brook Path to swim upstream and spawn. The little black one above, upper left, looks like he might make it!

Wellesley Neighbors
888 Worcester Street Suite 260
Wellesley, MA 02482

May Newsletter

«Name»
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