



Many Reasons to be Thankful



As Thanksgiving draws near, we think of family gatherings, cooking and feasting—but what about giving thanks? Wellesley Neighbors can be very thankful that Covid-19 has barely touched us (knock on wood), and the loosening of pandemic restrictions has allowed

us many in-person events (although caution is still indicated and the future uncertain).

Also, we recently received three generous gifts from community supporters. First, the Cambridge Trust

Charitable Foundation has awarded us a \$1000 grant. Second, Dennis Sullivan and Associates, a neighbor in our office building, gave us advertising space in *Local Town Pages*, a publication that reaches Natick, Ashland, and other towns. Third, Truly Yogurt donated \$5 gift certificates to all WN members who attended the annual meeting on October 12.

Last but not least, we are thankful for member donations and, in fact, all our members, old and new, who contribute their interest, talents and spirit.

A Happy Thanksgiving to All!

A Smaller, Safer Holiday Potluck

WN President Catherine Connor invites everyone to a new kind of Holiday Potluck between Christmas and the new year (date TBA). “Many people are still avoiding big crowds, so we’re planning small mid-day potlucks of 6-8 people in members’ homes,” she says. “Instant Covid testing will be available for guests with possible exposure due to holiday travels.” Several members have already volunteered to host, but several more are needed. Hosts will ask their guests to bring the various dishes. To volunteer or find out more, contact Catherine (217-493-0396) or Adele Langevin (781-237-4888). An event page will be available online for registration. **Watch for announcement of the Potluck date and mark it on your calendar!**

Sandra Batra: Creating a Life Binder ***Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 7:30 pm on Zoom***

Are all your important life details organized in one place so you or your family can easily find them and manage your affairs in case of an emergency?

Join Sandra Batra as she explains how you can create a customized binder that incorporates all your important life details, including personal information, property, financial, retirement and insurance details, and medical and service provider information. Take control now and act so that your loved ones have the information they need if you are ever incapacitated. This action will give you and your



family peace of mind and provide them with direction and guidance. What’s more, your Life Binder will be an incredible resource that you can utilize at any time.

Sandra graduated cum laude from Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY. She was a Director in the Marketplace Division of John Hancock, Boston. Since 2008 she has been a consultant to several start-ups and currently provides presentations about the value of Life Binders at COAs and other organizations that support seniors.

From the President: Poking Around Our Website



I decided it would be good to use the pumpkin from my freezer...last year's Halloween pumpkin, which should have been finished up before now. My Pumpkin Soufflé was just the thing for an evening tinged with the cool air of fall, so I went to the drawer in which I keep recipes...recipes cut from magazines, recipes printed from

internet sites, recipes in my mother's or sister's handwriting on 3 X 5 cards...(you know, the family favorites). And even though there is a modicum of order to at least half of the recipes, being divided by category (main dish, vegetarian, pastas...etc.), I just did not want to do what I knew would be "a search." I did not even open the drawer.

BECAUSE, standing there in front of that drawer, I had what we used to call...in high school..."a brain storm." I remembered that my recipe for pumpkin soufflé had

been published in the WN newsletter. And it did not matter that I did not remember when...or know where that particular newsletter now resided in my house... Because our website is so awesome that it has an INDEX, and all I needed to do was go to the index, scroll down to recipes, and VOILA! I found it. (Of course, I found several other recipes that I wanted to try as well.)

So, if you did not know that we can not only look up our fellow members' information and profiles but also a trove of other information, easily accessed, listen up: it is a wonder. I've even taken the walk down memory lane and looked through the photo albums, some from as early as 2013! (get to it under "Documents – Photos") And under Health and Support, I not only found the information I wanted--about writing a Legacy Letter--but also useful information about hospital visits (especially unexpected ones) and... and... and...The list is too long for this article. Poke around the website yourself and see what treasures *you* find. It's fun!

Catherine

October Service and Support



Service referrals: 5 (office organization, snow-plowing, massage therapist, 2 carpenters)
Support referrals: 3 (2 technical, 1 grocery-shopping)

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



From the Executive Director: Celebrating Ten Years

On November 11 Wellesley Neighbors will have been in operation for 10 years. It was founded as Wellesley at Home by a group of energetic and determined older adults, some of whom are still members. There have been many significant events throughout our journey, including expanding to include members from Dover, Natick, Needham and Weston, changing our name to Wellesley Neighbors, and implementing our discounted and six-month introductory membership options.

It was my good fortune to be hired as part-time Executive Director in October 2011. In recognition of my service, recently I was given a beautiful bouquet and a

Clever Hand Gallery gift certificate. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for these gifts and for the privilege of getting to know and work with you all these years. As members you are key to our ability to focus on caring, connection and community. So, with reference to the lyrics of an iconic song, *Celebration*:

*Let's all celebrate
and have a good time.*

Joyce



Medicare Open Enrollment October 15 to December 7: If you are considering changes in your coverage and need guidance, Nancy Gans suggests you call Michelle Gucciardi, Assistant Program Coordinator at MetroWest SHINE. Sponsored by our Health Support Committee, Michelle spoke in June on the topic of Medicare supplemental insurance. She can be reached at mgucciardi@needhamma.gov or 781-707-8779.

Overview of Annual Meeting

On October 12 at 1 pm, we held our Tenth Annual Meeting on Zoom. An in-person meeting with lunch had been considered but judged too risky.

Officers and board members were elected as proposed by the Nominating Committee, chaired by Marlies Stueart. Officers include President—Adele Langevin, Vice President—Liz von Kessler, Treasurer—Richard Lansing, and Clerk—Lucy Phillips. New board members are Jerry Gans, Janet Giele, Dan Kemp and Susan Taylor. All new or renewed terms start January 1, 2022.

Treasurer Richard Lansing reported that “our financial health is in relatively good shape; we are on budget for the fiscal year, and we are weathering the effects of Covid...But there will be no government handouts next year, and membership has dropped from its peak of 157...We will need to become creative in the coming months.” Boosting membership is a priority.

President Catherine Connor recognized the service of Lauri Slawsby, who left the board after a partial term, and three very-long-term board members: Maureen Donlon, Sara-Jane Green and Ann Swanson.

Janet Giele then stepped forward with praise for Joyce Wadlington, now in her tenth year as WN Executive Director. On Zoom, Joyce showed us the flowers delivered that day. She also received a gift certificate for Clever Hand, an artists’ cooperative in Wellesley.



The meeting was adjourned after Joyce led her traditional “What’s on Your Mind” discussion, which always generates good ideas. *L.P.*

Welcome to New Members



Shirley A. Cassa of Wellesley grew up in Huntington, Long Island. After business school in Manhattan, she worked for the VP of a national warehousing company. Her husband Tony had a career with GE that took them to San Francisco and back to L.I. She later spent years selling real estate in Florida, also traveling widely. In part due to the pandemic, she came to Wellesley to be near her son’s family, which includes three granddaughters. Shirley continues working in real estate and lives at Phillips Park while looking for something more permanent. She’s taking COA classes in bridge and mahjong.



George and Sharon Murphy of Dover met at the University of Pennsylvania where she studied nursing and he was pre-med. He earned an M.D. at the University of Vermont and trained in Boston while she served as a Doric Dame at the State House and took art classes at Harvard. He joined the medical faculty at Penn, and she pursued her art interests at the Barnes and Chadds Ford museums; she also taught pre-schoolers. Returning to this area, Sharon worked for the Boston Atheneum; George is now Professor of Pathology at Harvard

Medical School with a focus on skin stem-cell biology; he’s also interested in golf, fishing and the history of printing. Their two daughters, both physicians, have given them four grandchildren.

Renate Olsen, Collector of Keys and Their Stories

As children, many of us collected stamps, rocks, shells, or playing cards—unlike the plugged-in children of today. Some of us still enjoy collecting, including Renate Olsen, though she didn’t start in childhood. Instead, she became intrigued by collectors she met when living seven years in England during the 1970s.

“I don’t remember people collecting things when I was a child in Germany,” she says. “It seems to be a very English thing. They even collected countries and called it an Empire!” Of course, the average English collector sticks to small treasures—like silver spoons and snuff

boxes--and Renate decided she would search for interesting antique keys.

“I’m not a passionate collector, seeking to fill a gap in what I have,” she admits. “But each key has a story, and traditional keys are slowly disappearing. Newer cars don’t need them, and hotels give you a key card.” Most of her keys are handmade, but despite their craftsmanship and charm, “their value won’t attract a burglar—and I can put them all in a paper bag!” She’s read about the history of keys and their nomenclature.

Continued page 4

continued from page 3



For example, the part that is cut to fit a specific lock is called the “beard.”

Renate found her first key at a flea market in Canterbury. She’s since found two skeleton keys, one of which is bent from pressure exerted over time on many stubborn locks. Her biggest key—about 6

inches long--came from Morocco, and a Turkish key is almost as large. Another large key is only half-crafted, with its beard still blank. Most of the keys are iron or

steel (which is stronger) but some are brass. Some are skate keys or keys to wind up old clocks. Friends who know of Renate’s hobby have brought her keys, which adds to their story.

After the family returned to their Wellesley home, Renate’s husband painted the entry hall. To his dismay, Renata appeared with a hammer and lots of tiny nails, determined to display her keys on those pristine walls. Fortunately, he soon decided he liked the idea, and Renata is glad they can be seen and enjoyed. They needn’t live in a paper bag!

L. P.

NOTE: Please let us know if you are a collector or know of other members who would like to share their collection with us in a future newsletter.

Happenings



Among the hardy souls who bundled up for a chilly dinner at Morse Tavern in Natick were (from left) Julie Rogers, Janet Giele, Catherine Connor and Mo Meyer. Just four days later, a luckier group had lunch at Spiga in Needham, including (from left) Florence Schumacher, Fred Breimyer, Lucy Phillips, Sharon Murphy, Ellen Hosbjor, Marcia Goldsmith, and Catherine Connor.



Jayoung Kim welcomed a masked and well-spaced crowd (including many WN members) to the first post-Covid concert by (masked) Wellesley Chamber Players at Dana Hall on October 24.



Catherine Connor hosted a Zoom tour of the Cohokia Mounds in Illinois, her state before she moved to Massachusetts.



November Events/Group Meetings

NOTE: Those on Zoom are labeled (Z).

Mon. Nov. 1, 3 pm—WN Board meeting (Z)
Wed. Nov. 3, 11 am—American Heritage Museum, WWII artifacts, Hudson; lunch afterwards in Hudson
Wed. Nov. 3, 5:30 pm —Women's Night Out, California Pizza Kitchen
Thu. Nov. 4, 12:30 pm—Men's Lunch (Z)
Thu. Nov. 4, 2 pm—New Yorker Group II (Z)
Tue. Nov. 9, 11:45 am—Outdoor Lunch at Cafe Mangal (Thu. Nov. 11 rain date)
Wed. Nov. 10, 2 pm—New Yorker Group 1
Fri. Nov. 12, 5 pm—Cocktail Hour (Z)
Mon. Nov. 15, 1 pm—Lunch at Morse Tavern, outdoors if weather permits
Thu. Nov. 18, 1 pm—Short Story Group (Z)
Sat. Nov. 20, 2 pm—Vokes Theatre, Wayland, “The Price,” a play by Arthur Miller
Mon. Nov. 22, 12 noon—Three Course Luncheon, Wayside Inn, Sudbury
Thu. Nov. 25—Thanksgiving

Early December Events/Group Meetings

Thu. Dec. 2, 12:30 pm—Men's Lunch (Z)
Thu. Dec. 2, 7:30 pm—Speaker Sandra Batra, see page one.
Thu. Dec. 3, 1 pm—Play Reading Group, location TBA

PLEASE NOTE: The last newsletter asked members to register online because “technology problems now prevent using the telephone option.” These problems are now fixed—but perhaps members who were wary of online registration have found it's easy enough to continue in the future... !



To welcome Halloween, these ghost maidens dance in a yard on the corner of Hampden and Brook Streets in Wellesley. After dark there's a pretend fire in the brazier and orange lights in the trees.

November 2021

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Pumpkin Loaf

Set oven at 350. In a 2 C measuring cup, mix 1 and 1/2 C flour (1 and 1/3 C if wholewheat) with 3/4 t baking soda, 1/4 t baking powder, 1/4 t salt, 1 t cinnamon, 1/4 t nutmeg, 1/8 t cloves. In a large bowl, whisk 2 eggs, 3/4 C white sugar, 1/3 C brown sugar, 1/2 C canola oil, and 1 C canned pumpkin or squash till well blended. Stir the two mixtures together well and spread in a prepared 9 x 5" loaf pan. Bake 50 minutes or until skewer comes out clean. Cool well and ice with 1 C 10X sugar mixed with dash of vanilla and c. 2 T water (add water a bit at a time till you get the right consistency). Sprinkle with 2 T chopped walnuts.

Ed. Note: Ellen Hosbjor served me this loaf and then I tried it myself, with a few tweaks. I used 1/3 C white sugar and olive oil and stirred 1/2 C nuts and raisins into the cake instead of frosting it. I used a 7 x 11" pan, in which the baking took about 25 minutes. Both versions are easy and delicious! L.P.

«Name»
«Street» «Addr 2»
«Town, State, Zip»

November Newsletter

Wellesley Neighbors
888 Worcester Street Suite 260
Wellesley, MA 02482

Board of Directors 2021

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Catherine Connor, President
Adele Langevin, Vice-President
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Richard Lansing, Treasurer

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