

# RNN Newsletter

## June 2020



### Just for fun - A Summer Party



We all had so much fun and a great turnout for the Garden Party in May, that we decided to have a monthly ZOOM social, of some sort, so that we can stay in touch while we are not meeting in the same physical space. So...

**Put on your sunhat or a summer shirt and join us on ZOOM!**

**Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**2:30 - 4:00 pm**

ZOOM login invitation will be sent on Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> to all RNN members

### Membership renewal

Membership renewal forms were mailed the first week of April. This is a gentle reminder that it is time to renew if you have not done so. If your form was lost in the shuffle, please email Rachel Baumgartner [arkbee13@gmail.com](mailto:arkbee13@gmail.com) and one will be emailed to you.

note: Members who joined in February need not renew for this coming year, since we have met only virtually since then.

### Stay safe but vote!

There are a few elections coming up. Mail-in voting has not yet been approved by the State of Massachusetts, but may be approved soon. Until then, you can request an absentee ballot and vote by mail. Leave enough time to let the Postal Service get the application to Town Hall, the ballot back to you and the filled ballot back to Town Hall. Possibly 2 to 3 weeks!! Remember our mail goes to Boston before it comes back to Reading. Here is the link:

<https://www.readingma.gov/sites/readingma/files/uploads/english-absentee-ballot-application.pdf>

# Interest Groups Updates

**Groups will interact using emails, watching uTube, connecting through ZOOM.**

## **Koffee Klatch Group (a message from Ginny)**



It seems very likely that we may not be able to meet, in person and in a large group, for a long time. So, with the help of folks who know how to host a meeting, we will be ZOOMING (that word will be in the dictionary soon) twice in June - Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.

A day or two before we "meet" you will receive an email with login info.

Zoom invitation will be sent to all people in the Koffee Klatch group. If you are not on the list, but would like to join our meetings, please notify Ginny [vabeauregard@yahoo.com](mailto:vabeauregard@yahoo.com)

## **Film and Arts Group (a message from Gina)**

Movie Monday is back on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm via Zoom! The way this works is that each participant watches a movie of his/her choice and presents a short synopsis and review. Many times, other participants have seen the film or have questions about it, and we enjoy a rich dialogue and shared experience.

New participants are welcome - we are a friendly group and Zoom is easy to use. If you'd like to practice before the meeting, email me, and we'll arrange a time when I can walk you through it. I'll send out the Zoom invitation next week when we're closer to the meeting date.

Looking forward To hearing about the movies you've seen. So get your popcorn and enjoy the show!



## **Hot Topics Interest Group (a message from Tom)**

The "Hot Topics" Interest Group has now completed its 3rd year as an RNN interest group. We were able to hold three meetings before the Covid-19 Pandemic disrupted life and caused cancellation of the next three scheduled meetings. We did resume meeting "virtually" using ZOOM on May 6<sup>th</sup> for 4 weekly meetings when we discussed *The Media Revolution: Changing the World*, drawing on videos of presentations by outstanding speakers at the February 2020 Camden Conference. Our three earlier meetings on *Advances in Medicine, Impacts of social media, the internet, and technology on Democracy, and Populism and Nationalism* had attendance that ranged from 8 to 16, and the meetings in May drew 8-10 members.

**Tom Mottl will step down from chairing the Hot Topic Interest Group, but will continue to offer his help/participation in planning programs for this next year if other individuals step forward and take responsibility for leading and running this interest group. Perhaps a group of 2 or 3 individuals could collaborate to act as Hot Topics co-chairs, which in Tom's opinion and experience, would offer several advantages for planning and running Hot Topics.**

## **Meditation Group (a message from Pat)**

**Loving Kindness Meditation** is a well-wishing practice that generates good-will, kindness and warmth towards oneself and others. Pat would like to offer a Guided Loving Kindness Meditation for interested RNN members via RNN's Zoom account on either Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> or Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. If you are interested, please e-mail Pat at [pbrenn42@comcast.net](mailto:pbrenn42@comcast.net).

## Hot topics in hot weather and beyond

For three years Tom Mottl has tirelessly found hot topics to discuss on a monthly basis. He has decided that it is time for him to pass the hat to another member of RNN, as he keeps himself more than busy working with seniors worldwide! Take a look at the news, the weather, climate, the town, social attitudes, electric vehicles, how to restart the economy, etc. and you will see that there are a multitude of untouched subjects! **How about becoming the Interest Group leader for Hot Topics? 48 Members will be very sad if we have to discontinue it.** As members of this group have seen in the past, there are others who will assist and plenty of participants who love the discussions. Can you do this so that Hot Topics will continue? ZOOM is a great platform for this Interest Group and it is easy to use. RNN has an account, so you have no need to use your own or limit participation.

**Thank you Tom for getting a good thing up and running!**

## Congratulations to RedSox face masks winners

Not much interest has arisen for our May contest to predict the date of the Red Sox home opener at Fenway Park in 2020. Only two entries were received and so Rachel and Roberta are winners by default! Please contact Geri [gdtolman@comcast.net](mailto:gdtolman@comcast.net) to collect your RedSox masks!

## Interesting Links for Body and Soul

Tanglewood 2020 online Festival:

<https://www.bso.org/brands/tanglewood/features/2020-tanglewood-season/2020-online-festival.aspx>

and some exercise:

from AARP

<https://tinyurl.com/y96npp8t>

and from YMCA

<https://virtualteamy.org/live-classes/>

(for larger compilation of links please see our May newsletter)