

# RNN Newsletter

## May 2021



**We are all invited to the  
Garden Party!**

**Sunday, May 16th at 4:30pm on Zoom**

By the advice of our health experts the party will be held on Zoom. We do not want to take any chances now and hope that the situation will be more certain as the summer wears on so that we will be able to meet in person. However, prepare yourselves for a chance to visit with other RNNers as we share food and drinks on Zoom during the Garden Party! **On Saturday, May 15th, between 11am and 2pm, the RNN Elves will deliver a little package for you to enjoy!**

### **RNN Elections**

Thank you all who attended RNN Business Meeting in April. The RNN Election results have been announced and transition to the new leadership accomplished during that meeting. Our heartfelt thanks go to Louise and Rob Ward for all the time, energy and creativity they have contributed to RNN. Best wishes for your Greenfield endeavor! For those who could not join in the meeting, here is the list of the new RNN leadership:

Chair:	Rachel Baumgartner
Co-Chair:	Geri Tolman
Assistant Chair:	Keith Manville
Secretary:	Mary Ann Kieran
Treasurer:	Joanne Wooldridge
Assistant Treasurer:	Roberta Lasky
Outreach:	Joanne Wooldridge
Member-at-large	Pam Amidon

#### Appointed positions:

Hospitality - Lynda Hersey

Newsletter - Hanna Rudnicki

Lend-a-Hand - Jack Leonard and Colleen O'Shaughnessey

Programs: Eileen Collins, Moira Linehan Ounjian, Kathy Zeek and Jill Mayberry

Webmasters: Steve and Rachel Baumgartner

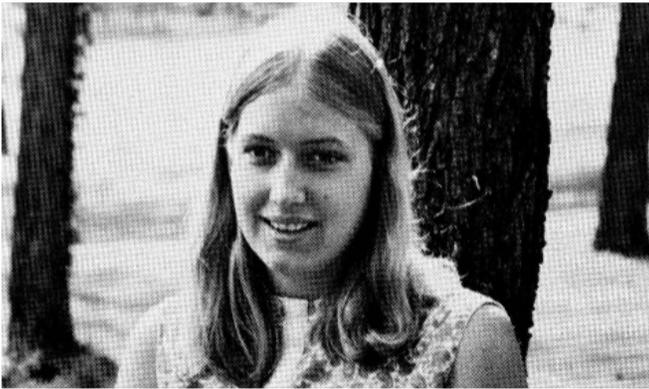
**Congratulations to all!**

## Members' Bios in RNN Monthly Newsletter

As announced in April, we will be publishing one or two self-written bios each month. Please consider participating and send your bio along to Hanna Rudnicki ([hprudnicki@gmail.com](mailto:hprudnicki@gmail.com)) our newsletter editor with a picture of yourself as a twenty or thirty year old. Always fun to see how we looked back then!

In our May Issue we present Rachel Baumgartner who has just been elected RNN Chair. She and Steve will continue to be our Webmasters!

### From Rachel:



This is such an appropriate time to consider what happened to me since my previous “senior” picture was taken!

Last weekend I had several zoom sessions of my 50th class reunion from College! It was like reliving the civil unrest and social changes that occurred from 1967-1971!

After college I taught elementary school in Baltimore City and Belmont, MA. Steve and I moved to Reading in 1976 right before our first daughter was born. Friends were easy to find through Steve’s work col-

leagues and the Newcomers and Neighbors group. For many years I had a custom sewing business while I was a “stay at home” Mom doing volunteer work for Creative Arts for Kids, WGBH, my college Alumni Association, the school PTOs, school councils, Understanding Handicaps (now Disabilities) and the Friends of the Library! In my late 40’s I realized that I did not want to go back to teaching but continue working with children as a librarian. So off I went to grad school near age 50, learning computers and how to do academics again, I landed a job first in Everett and then in Reading where I worked in Children’s and Local History until I retired in 2017. I love growing things, mostly flowers, and being outside - gardening, playing tennis, walking and sailing. RNN has given me a chance to reconnect to friends I knew in former volunteer work and activities as well as making new friends who along with me are trying to figure out what we are going to do when we grow up again!

A more recent “senior” picture with Steve having our once a week ice cream - Klondike Tuesday!



## Interest Groups Updates

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



Hello Koffee Klatch Friends. Our May meeting is on Wednesday, May 19th at 10am. I'm hoping that we might be able to meet in person for the June meeting. So, let's plan on sharing our thoughts about that when we meet this month.

A day or so before the Zoom meeting you will receive another email with log on information.

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

The RNN Meditation Group will meet on Friday, May 28th at 2:00 pm. The meeting will take place in person or on Zoom, depending on the choice made by the group members. Please join us. If you are not already on the RNN Meditation Groups list, contact Pat Brennan at [pbrenn42@comcast.net](mailto:pbrenn42@comcast.net).

### **Film and Arts Group**

**new group Leaders are: Charlotte Hart, Joy Nemergut and Jeanne Thomases**

***Thank you, Gina, for your creativity in leading this group pre- and amid-pandemics. We wish you great adventures in New Hampshire!***

As of Spring 2021, members will receive a monthly email about joining a Zoom Movie Discussion Group to take place on the first Monday of each month at 10am. In the future, members will arrange monthly outings to experience films, plays, music or museums.

Our first meeting on Zoom is on Monday, May 3rd at 10am.

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

***Hot Topics is seeking new coordinators. Tom is very willing to help. Perhaps there are two or three of you who would enjoy coordinating this discussion group activity?***

The Hot Topics Interest Group will meet on Wednesday, May 12th from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. We'll watch this video - 21 Lessons for the 21st Century | Yuval Noah Harari | Talks at Google. Yuval Harari is an Israeli historian who is the author of the popular science bestsellers *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* (2014), *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow* (2016), and *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* (2018). These books and Harari's writings generally, examine free will, consciousness, intelligence, happiness and suffering. In this talk at Google Yuval Harari talks about how two technologies, artificial intelligence and biotechnology, have the potential to change our lives and the nature of democracy. This seems like a fitting "hot topic" for our last meeting of the year and provides some interesting ideas to think about this summer!!

### **Lunch Bunch (formerly known as Foodies)**

***Libby Woods and Pam Amidon would enjoy having a third person to help coordinate the group.***

## Lend a Hand (LAH)

LAH will be available for two categories:

- 1) Help a Homebound member, including: Visit/ call; providing a meal and/or some groceries; run an errand
- 2) Basic Technology: For example, help with computer, cell phone, TV via phone or a video connection.

Currently, for the sake of continued safety, RNN will not plan to use 'Provide A Ride'; 'Accompany Member to an Appointment' or 'Help Around the House' (with possible exception if the chore is outside and safe).

LAH Co-coordinators: ***Jack Leonard and Colleen O'Shaughnessey***

In May we are transitioning to our new LAH contacts. If you have a need, please get in touch with Rob or Pam this month as Jack and Colleen learn the tricks of the trade!

Rob Ward - call/text at 781-864-1257; or e-mail: [rsward23@verizon.net](mailto:rsward23@verizon.net)

Pam Amidon - call/text at 617-429-6902

## Membership

Our New Members are Sharyn Taitz (spouse of Mark Taitz) and Jack Lindstrom (spouse of Marilyn Lambert).

Welcome, Sharyn and Jack! See you at the Garden Party!

Just a reminder that if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2021-21, it's that time!  
If you lost your membership form please email Rachel for a new one. [arkbee13@gmail.com](mailto:arkbee13@gmail.com)

## From our friends at Elder Services come "Pleasantries".

New "Pleasantries" just out! As always, it is loaded with stuff! To read it click on the link below:

[https://www.readingma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf1116/f/pages/may\\_2021\\_newsletter.pdf](https://www.readingma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf1116/f/pages/may_2021_newsletter.pdf) From our members...

## **From our members.....this is from Rachel:**

If you are a member of AARP check this out:

### **Caregiving in Uncertain Times: Finding Support & Connection**

Caring for a loved one can be challenging in the best of circumstances. Now, navigating what to do and how to do it is harder than ever. Connect with a live instructor, get a free caregiving resource guide for your area and participate in group discussions. Learn how AARP is working in your state to help family caregivers.

#### **TOPICS WE'LL EXPLORE INCLUDE:**

- Creating a caregiving plan
- Taking inventory of essential items
- Engaging others as a caregiving support team
- Staying connected by using technology
- Using telehealth services

**Sunday, May 23, 3 p.m. ET**

## ...also a reminder from Rachel:

ANNOUNCING THE PANDEMIC PEACE AND PROMISE PHOTO PROJECT: Let's collaborate on a community-wide project for posterity! It's been a year since the pandemic upended our lives. Let's mark that occasion by documenting what's brought us peace and helped us maintain our sense of promise during this strange time. What's brought you hope and peace? Pictures of our graduating seniors planted on the lawn of Town Hall? Walks in the forest? Baking? Food drives?

I am working with the Reading Public Library to create a digital archive of these photos. We hope to print them in a book and to put together a traveling collection as well. Please fill out a release and get info about submitting your image here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeU0mXFINi8-xTLS76Pc8vnTm-M5p-DVpGs4nttcEjc8k3HyA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&gxids=7628>

We will be accepting submissions through June 4th (graduation day).

\*Please share this link on your own Reading-related pages.

This is a volunteer project. To learn more, please visit us on FB @PandemicPeacePhotos or email us at [PANDEMICPEACEPHOTOS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PANDEMICPEACEPHOTOS@GMAIL.COM).

Sherri VandenAkker, Reading Resident

## ....and this one is from Hanna:

[https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/health/pfizer-coronavirus-vaccine.html?campaign\\_id=9&emc=edit\\_nn\\_20210429&instance\\_id=29931&nl=the-morning&regi\\_id=107262789&segment\\_id=56785&te=1&user\\_id=77a590984d356fbb907c8-ca4f2b2b5fd](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/health/pfizer-coronavirus-vaccine.html?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20210429&instance_id=29931&nl=the-morning&regi_id=107262789&segment_id=56785&te=1&user_id=77a590984d356fbb907c8-ca4f2b2b5fd)