

RNN Newsletter

August 2021



Join us for August Happy Hour Tuesday August 17th 4:30 to 6 pm

In July a dozen or so RNNers met on Zoom for some social time. Conversation covered many topics and we caught up with what was going on in our network and various Reading neighborhoods and developments. If you have a chance on August 17th, join in with your favorite beverage and nibbles in hand, to see friends one more time before we start our monthly educational programs in September.

Before you know it, our 2021-2022 year will kick off with Monthly programs!

Looking forward to programs in the fall, which will be held on Zoom at least through November, our program committee (Moir Linehan Ounjian, Kathy Zeek, Eileen Collins and Jill Mayberry) has some great works planned and in the works. September will be about finding a creative outlet to keep your hands and mind alert and moving. October will focus on "The Talk" that you may need to have with your family during Thanksgiving weekend or another time - concerning wills, finances, health issues and all that stuff! November will be about food and wine pairings for holiday gatherings or dinner parties (remember them?)

Why are we still Zooming? (From Rachel Baumgartner)

A year ago, I thought for certain we would be all done with the pandemic and back to normal by now! Each day the news provides new evidence that we are not through this yet. We have all sacrificed so much and come so far to stay healthy, yet the urge to get together as a group is gnawing at all of us. I hope that summer has provided time for everyone to gather with others in smaller groups safely outside. The Delta Variant is not through with us yet, and our medically trained board members wisely advised that we continue to meet as a whole group online until we can be sure that we can meet safely. Individual members may evaluate their own risk tolerance. As an organization we cannot. We also are unable to ask if members are vaccinated or not, and are unable to use that as a permission for attendance. There are some systems being set up where a hybrid type program may be available in the future; some might attend a meeting in person, while others tuned in on ZOOM or another media platform. The Board and Steering Committee will be evaluating options like these as soon as they are available. I have heard through the grapevine that over 90% of Reading Seniors are vaccinated, but as we have recently learned, that does not mean that you cannot carry or become infected with COVID. This is frustrating, but please bear with us and stay safe.

Interest Groups Update

Koffee Klatch Group (a message from Ginny)

Hello Koffee Klatch friends. Well, after having to move to our rain date, another delightful gathering was held at Memorial Park in July. So, let's hope we can keep it going for August.



Our August gathering is set for **Thursday, August 19th, 10:00am at Memorial Park with a rain date set for Friday, August 20th.** So, please pack your lawn chair and beverage and join us.

Memorial Park has access from Salem St., Charles St. and Harrison St. Since access and parking is safest on Harrison St., we will be gathering from that point. I will try to get there a little early - maybe even use a tour guide trick by holding an umbrella over my head for visual recognition. So, please join us with your folding chair and beverage of choice.

Please let me know if you need a ride or will need assistance carrying your chair and beverage once you arrive.

Meditation (a message from Pat)

The RNN Meditation group will meet on the last Friday of the month, August 27th at 2:00 pm. We will have a Mindfulness Meditation outside once again if the weather permits. Please bring a chair and come a bit early for socialization if you wish. For more information, contact Pat Brennan at pbrenn42@comcast.net.

Film and Arts Group (a message from Charlotte, Joy and Jeanne)

A few days beforehand, the Film and Arts Group members will receive an email about joining the Zoom Movie Buff's Discussion. ** For the months of August and September, the Zoom meeting will take place on the 2nd Monday of the month (instead of the first Monday). The time has also changed to 1 pm.

In the future, members are hoping to arrange monthly outings to experience films, plays, music or museums depending on how we feel about meeting in person.

This month's Zoom meeting will be on Monday, August 9 at 1 pm, please join us! Any RNN member can receive these Zoom invitations by requesting to be added to the Film and Arts Group email list.

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?

Lunch Bunch (a message from Libby, Pam and Maria)

The Lunch Bunch (formerly known as Foodies) will probably be up and running this September. We now have two new volunteers organizing our outings, Pam Amidon and Maria Blanchard, both with fresh wonderful new ideas! Welcome friends and thanks so much for your help.

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 - call/text at (978) 866-8483; or e-mail: jjleonardjl@gmail.com

Colleen O'Shaughnessey- call/text at 781-267-4743; or e-mail: colleen.colleen.oshaughnessey@gmail.com

From our friends at Elder Services come "Pleasantries"

As of press time the August edition of Pleasantries was not available in a format that we were able to include in this newsletter. Use this link and it should take you to the town website where you can find it as soon as they upload it.

<https://www.readingma.gov/pleasant-street-center/pages/pleasantries-newsletter>

From our members.....this is from Charlotte, Joy and Jeanne:

Youth & Recreation Services Sunday Concert Series on the Common 2021!

Every Sunday, July 11th - August 22nd at 6pm
on the North Andover Town Common



- July 11:** 12 Barz Band: A 7 piece classic R&B, vocal and horn band!
- July 18:** Stoney's Wicked Din: 10 piece band playing a variety of jazz, swing, soul, latin, and blues!
- July 25:** White Street Band: An energetic blend of rock and blues that will get you up and partying!
- Aug 1:** The Backtrack Band: Step back in time and enjoy songs of the 50's, 60's and 70's!
- Aug 8:** Summer Jazz on the Common featuring the Jazz Disciples and North Andover Jazz Ensemble!
- Aug 15:** Abraxas: Santana tribute band with classic rock music from the Woodstock era!
- Aug 22:** Party On!: High energy performance featuring party rock, pop, and country music!

Covid-19 guidelines will be in place!

Youth & Recreation Council: Andrew Firmin (Chair), Kevin Driscoll, Peter Breen, Hollie Williams, Jenna Sideri, Terry Holland, Dan Moore, Jonathan Hurtig, Larry Allen
