

## Notes of June 10, 2021 Brookline Community Aging Network (BrooklineCAN) Membership Committee Meeting via Zoom

Members: Ellen Bick, Carol Caro, Susan Cohen, Ruthann Dobek (ex officio), Marsha Frankel, Janet Gelbart, Judith Kidd (co-chair), Melissa Trevvett (co-chair)

Update on Covid-19 Letter - Janet was thanked for doing the letter. Carol has sent the email version to the full BrooklineCAN mailing list and Sandy Spector, the Membership Assistant, will send out the print letters. One response to the email was received, in which the person expressed interest in working on a committee. Ruthann explained that one-to-one interactions to find out the person's interests are the best way to follow up. Jude volunteered to contact the former member.

We reviewed the 10-year type-of-payment data supplied by John Seay, noting the beginning of the drop-off in FY2019. A small amount of the drop-off in FY2019 can be attributed to fewer memberships underwritten by JF&CS. Ruthann clarified the JF&CS program. As part of a BrooklineCAN initiative with the Brookline Housing Authority as well as education programs attended by low-income seniors, JF&CS has funded memberships for low-income seniors who were interested in being part of BrooklineCAN from FY2018 through FY2021. The number depended on funding that JF&CS had available. When the question came up whether we would need more data to assist in our decision-making, the suggestion was made that it would be very helpful to know more about the ages of our members, both current and, say, over the last five years: 1) it would help us in deciding on and marketing programs if we had information on the age-range of members beginning at 55, by 5-year segments up to over-85, which would be a single group. For example, we are focusing on a fall program dealing with planning for retirement.

We also discussed contacting former members who are friends or acquaintances to ask them to renew their memberships. Melissa will send out a Google document and members can add their initials to volunteer to contact (email, call, talk with in person) a former member.

Ellen and Marsha updated the group on visits to senior living buildings. Their first meeting is at 11am on June 30 with Brown House residents; they will plan the others based on what they learn from the first session. Brown House is mixed income housing with some subsidized units. They plan to have print copies of the newsletter to highlight BrooklineCAN activities. One strength of the newsletter is that in addition to highlighting advocacy activities and group activities, it also addresses readers' personal interests with its book and movie suggestions. Carol will arrange for 100 additional copies to be printed. Marsha and Ellen suggested offering a free/introductory membership to those who attend and signing them up at the coffee hour. A few of the

books can be raffled off and there are brochures and magnets, and Ellen is baking cookies for the event. They will prepare a flyer to publicize the meeting. Carol will take the flyer to the Communication Committee. Format for coffee hour: Marsha will talk about how BrooklineCAN started, and Ellen will follow up with what BrooklineCAN has accomplished and how members will increase our strength. After the meetings at Brown House, 1550 Beacon and 100 Centre, the Committee will re-visit the pre-pandemic plans to target residents in commercial buildings where a large number of seniors live.

#### Reports on Possibilities for the September Kick-off Program

Jude reported on available programs for newly retired people and retirees looking to volunteer. Boston Encore Network (<https://www.encorebostonnetwork.org/>) has a tremendous number of programs available, and many cities and states have an Encore program. We could invite someone from Encore Boston to speak at the September meeting. Carol checked with her contacts at UMass Boston Gerontology. However there is no faculty member who deals with what to do in retirement; the focus of the program is policy issues.

Another project discussed was the intergenerational program between Steps To Success and the Brookline Interactive Group (BIG) in which a student interviews an older person. Jude reported that Steps chooses the students to participate; BIG trains the students to use video cameras and to edit and present their films. The Senior Center suggests seniors who might like to participate. Jude spoke with Ann Theis of BIG about the possibility of a program which involved not only seeing one of the interview videos, but also doing a live interview with a Brookline senior. Although students are currently not trained to do live interviews in a public setting, BIG would be open to talking about this.

Marsha reported that Joseph Coughlin has not responded to her email. It looked as if he has a separate website for his book, which offers a form for people to be interested in having him as a speaker. Marsha will send an email via the form to try again. If he is not available for the September, but has an opening another time, perhaps that could work for us.

Carol mentioned the possibility of Robert Weiss, a sociologist and BrooklineCAN member who has written a book on retirement (The Experience of Retirement 2005). It was noted that retirement has changed significantly since his book and that rather than featuring him on the September program, which focuses on people about to retire or newly retired, it would be good to hear from him on a program about his own experience in retirement. Carol will check on this possibility for a future program.

Susan Cohen suggested looking at the many different forms retirement takes for people, a program on the "many faces of retirement"; for example, some change jobs, some make career changes,. We agreed this would be a good program. Before the next meeting we should all give some thought to panelists who we think could represent

“faces” of retirement. What categories are we looking for? Some possible categories: contemplating retirement, actual retirement, re-upping or career shift, or long-term retirement, some do part- or full-time volunteering, some are forced into retirement, others are retiring as a result of COVID. Also think about who would be a good moderator. The moderator needs to be able to set limits, connect comments, and sum it up.

Timing: We would expect to contact members and former members about this program mid-August. We plan to have an in-person meeting. Suggestion that BIG be involved in program. Perhaps BIG could film it.

Date of the Program: Monday, October 4, 2021, 5 to 7 pm. Ruthann will confirm availability of the Senior Center on that date. Once confirmed by Ruthann, send out a “Save the Date” email to full mailing list.

**Laundry list of possible programs**

Boston Encore Network

Joseph Coughlin –speaking on stages of retirement and/or his book

Intergenerational Storytelling

Robert Weiss – retirement