

OCTOBER 11

“WELCOME BACK DINNER”

Bertucci's

45 Walkers Brook Dr., Reading

Time: 6:30 PM

Reservations Susan Murray

Program Patti Henni, Presenter

Patti Henni once again offered a wonderful illustrated presentation about some of the women who were among the first computer programmers. They were instrumental in programming ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer), one of the earliest electronic general-purpose computers. In 1946 the Army held a special ceremony to unveil the ENIAC and to honor the men who designed the hardware. The women, who did most of the programming and made it work, were not invited to the event and were never mentioned. It wasn't until almost 40 years later, in 1985, that their story was 'discovered' and their innovative work began to be recognized.

October Activities / Events

Sunday, Oct. 22 *22nd Annual Walk and Candlelight*
4:00 PM *Vigil for Melrose Alliance Against*
Violence. Support Joyce Zeiner!
www.maav.org

NOVEMBER 8

Location: First United Methodist Church

Time : 7:00 PM

Program: “The Widow of Wall Street”, novel
Randy Susan Meyers, Author

Randy Susan Meyers, will talk about her newest novel, *The Widow of Wall Street*. The novel tells the story of a family caught in the before, during and after of a Ponzi scheme, from 2 points of view: A man with a criminal hunger for wealth, and his wife, who's unknowingly building her life, her marriage, family, and even friendships, on disappearing sand.

An excerpt from her essay, “Why I Write” follows:

“As a writer, I've learned that reaching deep isn't always comfortable. But I push myself to write with a knife held to my own throat, so that my work will hold as much emotional truth as possible.... For me, writing transmogrifies fact into fiction, and thus, soothes my soul.....That's kind of what writing does for me—it gets the sad, the mad, and the glad out of me. Writing calms me. Writing excites me. Writing sorts out my world. And writing lets me tell stories.”

Meeting Chair: Karen Gareis

Refreshments: Monique Barnum*, Gail Infurna*,
Mary Pat DeSwarte, Patti Henni,
Alison Burke

November Activities / Events

11/23 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!**

DECEMBER 13

Location: First United Methodist Church

Time: 7:00 PM

Program: 'Eva Lou Hoops'

Eva Rhinelander, Hula Hooper Extraordinaire

Eva will perform circus acts using her skills in hula hooping, handstands and contortion. Eva Rhinelander, aka *Eva Lou Hoops*, is a 7th grader at Melrose Middle School. She has been hooping for 5 years, and recently completed her 2nd year on tour with the Circus Smirkus Big Top Tour this summer. Having started at just under 3 years old, Eva continues to take ballet in Melrose at Center Stage Dance Company. She has also performed in the Melrose Youth Ballet production of "The Nutcracker" since 2011. Nominated "Youth Hooper of the Year" by Hooping.org in 2016 and 2017, Eva inspires audiences whenever she hoops. She is also the current world record holder for longest time hooping on her nose. Currently Eva is learning Rhythmic Gymnastics which combines her love of dance and hooping with gymnastics and other props. When she's not hooping, you'll most likely find her playing with her pug or solving math problems.

.. and Bake and Craft Sale to benefit the Scholarship Fund

Meeting Chair: Alison Burke

Refreshments: Pat McConville*, Ursula Daley,
Susan Murray, Angela Singer

December Activities / Events

- Dec. 2 *Polymnia Concert-Polar Landscape*
 @ Wakefield. See www.polymnia.org
Dec. 1&2 *Melrose Home for the Holidays*
Dec. 8&9 *Melrose Symphony Holiday Pops* 8 pm.

JANUARY 10

Location: First United Methodist Church

Time: 7:00 PM

Program: *Around the World in 82 Days*

Megan Ludgate, World Traveler

In the Winter of 2017, Megan Ludgate decided to set off with no more of a plan than a plane ticket to Kilimanjaro International Airport, Tanzania and a smile. Her travels took her around the world – via East Africa and East Asia – and away from family, work and normal life for three months. While experiencing new foods, seeing spectacular sites and meeting many wonderful people, the trip and her return home pushed her to her physical and mental limits and left a greater impact than she could have ever predicted. Perhaps not quite as acclaimed as Jules Verne's book, but still filled with good adventures and exciting mishaps, the tale Megan tells will leave you laughing, crying and perhaps inspired to set off on your own journey around the world or around your town to connect with and learn from everyday strangers in new ways.

Meeting Chair: Karen Gareis

Refreshments: Judy Clark*, Rose Dittmer,
Nancy McLellan, Lorna Philley

FEBRUARY 14

Location: First United Methodist Church

Time: 7:00 PM

Program: Women in Law Enforcement

Deb Crafts, Fisher College Police Chief

Deb Crafts is a Melrose resident and the first woman college campus police chief in Massachusetts. Deb will explain why we need more women in law enforcement and share her personal story with us. In 2014, Deb participated in a panel on Boston Strong: Community Resilience in the Face of Natural Disasters and Acts of Terrorism at the American Society for Public Administration Conference in Washington DC. "Despite our best efforts to protect students and staff alike, college campuses are not immune to real-life issues involving violence and natural disasters," said Chief Crafts, "When an incident occurs, it's important for us to react swiftly and thoughtfully at the time of the event, but it's equally important that we're thoughtfully evaluating our reactions to them and what we can do better going forward." Also, as the director of public safety, Crafts oversees all campus safety initiatives concerning students, faculty, staff, visitors, and campus assets.

Meeting Chair: Alison Burke

Refreshments: Susan Bishop*, Ruth Conti,
Kendra Nedjar, Tamara Nedjar

February Activities / Events

Sunday, Feb. 4 *Super Bowl/Valentine's Brunch*
at 12 PM at Mary Pat DeSwarte's house
Sign up at December meeting.

MARCH 14

Location: First United Methodist Church

Time: 7:00 PM

Program: "Fly Girls", A Documentary
Movie Night

Female World War II pilots are celebrated in this program chronicling the forgotten history of the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs). Archival footage, interviews and rare home movies help tell the story of the more than a thousand women who joined the U.S. military to serve their country at the peak of the war. From experimental test piloting to training male fliers, this program reveals the surprising true story of these unsung heroines.

Meeting Chair: Monique Barnum

Refreshments: Jackie Coogan*, Karen Gareis,
Adele Maciejowski, Karen O'Connell

March Activities / Events

March 13-15 Pot Luck Dinners

APRIL 11

Location: First United Methodist Church

Time: 7:00 PM

Program: Randy's Story

Randy Pierce, Inspirational Speaker

At the age of 22, Randy Pierce, who had graduated from UNH and started a career as a hardware design engineer unexpectedly lost his vision due to a devastating neurological disease. At the age of 39, the neurological disorder suddenly attacked in other ways, resulting in his being confined to a wheelchair and the next two years working to get out of that wheelchair and with his new Dog Guide Quinn at his side.

In 2010, Randy set a goal to be the first blind hiker to summit all 48 of the New Hampshire 4,000-footers in 10 years. He accomplished all 48 peaks in just 37 months after he began his quest. Randy who now has a new guide dog, Autumn, has successfully completed the April 2015 and 2016 Boston Marathons. He has climbed the iconic Mount Kilimanjaro with a team of friends, reaching the summit on September 26, 2015. Randy's passion for new experiences continues to encourage him to turn adversity into growth and opportunity, inspiring others to reach their peak potential as Randy has and continues to do.

Meeting Chair: Patti Henni

Refreshments: Edna Beaton*, Susan Dole,
Connie Lewis, Maureen Hatch

April Activities / Events

MAY 9

Location: First United Methodist Church

Time: 7:00 PM

Program: TBD

Meeting Chair: Monique Barnum

Refreshments: Regina Lucas*, Virginia Lucinski,
Mary Lou Newbern, Joyce Zeiner

May/June Activities / Events

Date TBD Boston Pops Outing TBD