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Monthly Newsletter

July 2020

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Kim Mendels, Director, mendels@hope.edu

MONTHLY PROGRAM

Monthly Program Chair: Claudia Berry, jcberry@sirus.com, 616.399.2538

Date: July 7, 2020
Time: 9:30 am Program
Place: HASP Virtual Classroom, hope.edu/virtualhasp
Program: **Better Angels. Building a House United to Save our Republic**, Presenter: Donna N. Murphy

Political polarization may have reached its worst level in the U.S. since the Civil War. This presentation will first discuss polarization. We will then set forth the ways Better Angels works to diminish it by bringing people together from across the political spectrum in various face-to-face workshops and Better Angels Debates, enabling us to listen to and learn about each other. We will also detail Better Angels' efforts to ramp up online experiences, and undertake a nation-wide bus tour leading up to the presidential election. Attendees will take a survey to learn how polarized they themselves are.

Donna N. Murphy is Lead Organizer for Better Angels. As a key member of its leadership team, she works to create the infrastructure necessary for a nationwide, volunteer organization through identifying and supporting state coordinators, moderators, organizers and debate chairs. She also helps shepherd new initiatives from inception through their successful launch. Murphy first became active when she organized a Red/Blue workshop in Leesburg, VA during the Better Angels summer bus tour in 2017. She was Better Angels' first regional coordinator, working with volunteers in Virginia, DC and Maryland, and then helped other states to get up and running. She took over as Lead Organizer in the fall of 2018.

Murphy has worked as an economist in the public and private sector, most recently at the U.S. State Dept., lived in Asia for nine years, and is the author of one spiritual novel and two books about English Renaissance literature. She lives in Fairfax, VA.

Upcoming Monthly Programs

August 4, 2020

David Knibbe, Executive Director Evergreen Commons – “Being Older”

September 8, 2020

Travis Williams, Executive Director Outdoor Discovery Center – “Climate Change, a Moral Issue”

There is a variety of recorded lectures, classes and monthly programs available to you at our new [HASP YouTube Channel](#). You can also explore [Hope College on YouTube](#) for additional content.

THANK YOU.....HASP DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD.

Thank you HASP colleagues for nominating me for this years' service award. I am humbled to receive it and to receive it along with so many of you who give your time to HASP and our community. Volunteering is the gift that keeps on giving....and HASP is the role model for that attribute!

During this COVID period in our lives you cannot pick up the newspaper or a magazine without reading an article on the virus itself and what we can do to protect ourselves and others. There have been multiple articles concerning the changes that have occurred... self-help suggestions that might help us get through this strange and uncertain time. I have read many, but the one that struck home was an article in the *NYT's at home section* entitled "**Build Your Resilience Toolbox.**" The author defines resilience as the ability to recover from difficult experiences and setbacks, to adapt, move forward, and sometimes even experience growth. The author adds, "the tools common to resilient people are cognitive and emotional flexibility, social connectedness, not dwelling on the negative, and looking for opportunities."

We have certainly put resilience to the test within HASP utilizing the tools above! I am proud to be a member of this "resilient community!"

Keeping HOPE, Terri Holden

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Chair: Carla Ver Schure, verschure@sbcglobal.net, 616.392.5666

We do not process new members in May or June and the process looks a little different while we are working remote. Please contact Kim Mendels, mendels@hope.edu or Susan Timmer, timmer@hope.edu, for assistance.

We welcome the following new member in July:

MARY JO O'CONNOR

Profession: Information Technology
Education: National Institute of Technology
Hobbies: Painting, drawing
Mentor: Steve O'Connor

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the following HASP members:

Fred Kelley, who died unexpectedly on June 21, 2020. Fred's wife Ginny Kelley is also a HASP member.

Fiscal year 2020-2021 Membership Renewal/Cancellation

Beginning now you may renew or cancel your HASP membership for Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021) online. **Annual membership dues/renewal** is online again this year and the information and link was sent to you in Constant Contact. Dues will remain \$100 per member for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, through June 20, 2021. We will send the link out weekly until the renewal deadline of July 20, 2020. The process is fairly simple, you click if you are renewing membership or cancelling and it will direct you appropriately.

Renewals: Complete the personal information section and indicate any interest in committees or curriculum or office assistance.

Cancellations: If you no longer find yourself able to be a HASP member, we ask that you fill out this portion.

Payment- when renewing, you may pay in one of two ways:

- Mark the box to pay online via credit card OR
- Mark the box that you will send a check into the office

Renewal Deadline: Please renew and pay by July 20, 2020

Honorary/Lifetime Members or Distinguished Service Award recipients: If you are an honorary/lifetime member or a Distinguished Service Award recipient and do not pay dues, please mark the box that says that you are paying by check but do not send in a check and we will make note that you do not need to pay.

Please send us an email at hasp@hope.edu if you would like assistance and we will call you and take care of it over the phone for you.

CURRICULUM

Curriculum Chair: Sharon Arendshorst, snarendshorst@gmail.com, 616.335.3132

I hope that you are all enjoying the adventure of attending HASP courses online this summer. The Curriculum Committee would welcome your feedback: What are the positives? What are the challenges? What suggestions do you have for potential future online learning classes? Email me your thoughts at snarendshorst@gmail.com.

As you are enjoying this beautiful summer and new learning opportunities, your curriculum sub-committees are developing classes for fall. We plan to offer a full range of courses in all areas, including a special focus on sustainability issues. We continue to monitor best practices in resuming HASP classes, and are exploring a variety of options for fall. Regardless of the presentation formats, be assured that there are exciting classes in the works that you won't want to miss! Until then, log into virtual HASP on the HASP website (<https://hope.edu/offices/hope-academy-senior-professionals/virtual-hasp/index.html>) to connect with our summer online offerings.

All committees accept course ideas and proposals year-round!

Curriculum Chair: Sharon Arendshorst, snarendshorst@gmail.com

Fine Arts: Sarah Briggs – sarahbriggs969@gmail.com 517-449-5818

Humanities: Co-Chairs David Brower – davidangusbrower@hotmail.com 616-688-7356
and Judy Parr – parr.judyandbill@gmail.com 616-546-3424

Science, Technology & Medicine: Bruce Bassett, bruce-b@sbcglobal.net, 847.542.7449

Social Sciences: Mike Economos – mikeeconomos@gmail.com 269-857-1248

Gardening SIG:

While we have all been staying at home, gardens have been growing! The Garden SIG is anxious for some outdoor beauty. A tour of The Summer Lavender Farm (2975 65th Street / Douglas, MI) is planned for June 29th at 1PM. The only COVID-19 regulation is BRING A MASK. And please wear your HASP name tag.

Interested in this group? Please email Susan Miller

semiller976@hotmail.com

SERVICE

Service Chair: Maura Reynolds, mreynolds@hope.edu, 616.392.2874

On hold due to COVID-19...but clearly, an important goal of the service committee this year will be to reimagine our role in HASP and with Hope College and the larger community. I look forward to these discussions with our new and continuing members.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events Chair: Judie Zylman, jazie3@gmail.com, 616.566.0412

On hold due to COVID-19...but we are still considering a special event to replace the Spring Fling sometime this fall. We are rescheduling the following COVID cancelled events into the 2021 calendar: Dow Spring Garden in Midland, Shipshewana Day Trip, and Niagara on the Lake and the Van Gogh exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Art for 2022.

COMMUNICATIONS

The HASP 2020 Review was sent out via email and hard copies are available to order via email, hasp@hope.edu.

Thank you to all of you who picked up your copy from my front porch! My street is now all torn up for construction so we will make arrangements to deliver the remaining hard copies that were ordered.

Thank you! Kim Mendels