

WHAT I WISH I'D ASKED - AND SHARED

Leaving a legacy for others

COURSE #:

22F-WAS

FORMAT:

Seminar

MODERATOR:

Jeanne Ballantine
Catharine Porter

DATE & TIME:

Tues – 9:30 – 11:30 AM
10 Weeks
Starting 9/27/2022

LOCATION:

Amherst Women Club
Amherst

MAX NO. OF PARTICIPANTS:

15

AUDITORS ACCEPTED:

No

MAX NO. OF AUDITORS:

0

PURPOSE:

Defining the questions we wish we'd asked departed loved ones and wish our grandchildren would ask us is the purpose of the seminar. Participants will discuss relevant topics and create personal letters (with other documentation optional) identifying information to share with our descendants.

DESCRIPTION:

This seminar will have three interactive segments: 1. Discuss topics we wish we had asked before it was too late, and those we want to pass on to the next generations. 2. Develop responses to "what I wish I'd known" and "what I want my children, grandchildren, and close friends to know." 3. Put this information into a letter to the next generation (may include photos or other memorabilia).

This three-step process will explore what we wish we had known and asked, and what we want our descendants and close friends to know about us, presented in letter form.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Two participants will read letters each week on "what I wish I had known" or letters to future generations: my growing up years; family dynamics; travels and adventures; favorite activities/foods; challenges faced in life; I am who I am because...; my contributions; advice to/hopes for next generations, among other possibilities.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Jeanne Ballantine, professor emerita, sociology/global studies, numerous publications, taught 40 years, traveled and taught abroad, wants her children/grandchildren to share her adventures—but they're not ready to ask those questions now, focusing on their own lives!

Catharine Porter, professor emerita, worked at the University of Massachusetts as a professor and ombudsperson for her career. She has been active in LIR for many years, often leading "Writing to Remember" seminars.