



Summer 2008 Newsletter

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DWN Calendar

Dear Friend of Discovering What's Next®,

Three years ago at this time, DWN officially was launched as a 501(c) 3 not for profit community organization. This was a major step as we established our first Board of Directors and soon afterward, trained a dedicated corps of Transition Navigators® and opened a resource and connection center, the DWN HUB. Now embarking on yet another stage, as we solidify our infrastructure and prepare for growth, we are pleased to introduce our first Executive Director, Diane Boettcher. We hope you will make some time to meet Diane and share your good wishes and ideas with her.

We also extend our best wishes and gratitude to three Board members who have recently "retired" from the DWN Board - Doug McCraith, Corinne Schillin, and founding Board member Shirley Selhub. We will greatly miss their talents and dedication as Board members but look forward to their continued involvement in other ways.

On a personal note, I am rapidly closing in on the end of one decade and the beginning of the next. I'm turning 60! Being so entwined with DWN has taught

me to embrace these milestones and perhaps use them as a time to pause and reflect before moving forward quickly once again. I'm hoping to do just that. Stay tuned.

Enjoy the summer and read on,



Carol Greenfield
President and Founder

A Message from Diane:

It is with great enthusiasm that I begin my tenure as the first Executive Director of Discovering What's Next®.

For 36 years, I worked in six different Massachusetts public school systems as a guidance counselor, guidance director, and K-12 administrator. It's clear to me that DWN's mission addresses issues similar to those of the guidance department in schools. Only the next step happens at age 50+ rather than 18!



In the next few months, we have plans to expand the role of the Transition Navigators® and present workshops on the newly developed Transition Model. We'll continue our popular Transition Talks® and MeetingUps. My goal will be to nurture and organize our volunteers and expand their current activities, and support the great work of the DWN board.

Let me hear from you! You'll find me at the Hub many Tuesdays and Wednesdays this summer. I want to hear your stories, analyze what's working best and what's needed, and plan programs you'd like to see.

On a personal note: I grew up in Queens, NY and moved to the Boston area after graduate school. I've lived in Winchester for the past 30 years with my husband and two (now grown) children. I've always loved my work and since "retiring" (I have trouble saying the word), I've continued to teach graduate students, consulted on educational assessment issues, worked in a retail store, and continue to be involved as a board member of my temple in Winchester. This summer, I'm even going on my first organized bicycle tour in Tuscany.

Since leaving the Watertown School System three years ago, I've been on my own journey of discovering what's next. It's led me to this opportunity to serve DWN.

Sincerely,

Diane Boettcher

DISCOVER WORK - "Ask the Career Experts"

DWN's collaboration with the employment coaches and career professionals at **JVS CareerMoves** will continue throughout the summer and fall of 2008. Whether you're considering a career transition or just looking for something else to do, make an appointment for a free, private consultation on June 26, July 31, or August 28. E-mail info@discoveringwhatsnext.com or call the Hub at 617-796-1419

We are conducting a survey of those who've taken advantage of this program. If you have spoken with George Zeller, Amy Mazur, or Judy Bottkol from JVS, DWN would like to communicate by phone or e-mail. Your responses to a few questions will help us determine ways in which this collaboration can continue to provide the best service. Please call Carole Noveck at 617-930-3310 or email cegn@rcn.com. If Carole is not available when you call or write, just leave your name, phone number and/or email address. Thank you for your cooperation.

DISCOVER VOLUNTEERING - Why Volunteer?

Why volunteer? You have knowledge, skills and talents you've worked on for years, right? Why not continue to use them to help others who need what you know? Ah, you want to try something new now! After a career of teaching, IT, or finance, you'd like to spend more time on the gardening you love, graphic design or fitness.

You can do either or both... through volunteering! DWN and SOAR55 have partnered to help you find the kind of volunteer experience that will match your interests, talents and time available. SOAR is part of a network of federally sponsored programs that connects people over 55 with volunteer opportunities in our community.

You can come to the DWN Hub on June 26th to meet with a SOAR representative to see what might be possible for you. To make an appointment, e-mail info@discoveringwhatsnext.com or call the Hub at 617-796-1419.

DISCOVER WONDERFUL PEOPLE: Barbara Simkowski's New, Unimaginable Future

Barbara Simkowski, longtime Director of Newton Community Education, is leaving the Boston area for the Bay area as she discovers what's next. DWN has been most fortunate to have Barbara and NCE as one of its community partners from the start. Barbara "got it" from day one and we all wish her well as she brings her talents, skills and expertise to her next phase of life.

Barbara credits DWN for filling her head with ideas for five years. She remarks that "having been around people who have switched careers, or followed their dreams, or retired from one career to start something entirely different, has given me encouragement to try. The message of the possibility of satisfaction in a new, unimaginable future, is a message that got through to me as early as 2003, about when I began to hear about DWN. Though I participated as a community partner, every part of me was listening to the stories told by people who had changed. And it was those stories that stayed with me, meant the most, and reassured me about my own decisions."

If you would like to send your own good wishes to Barbara, or just say hi, her email is Barbara_simkowski@mac.com.



Barbara's Story:

"As someone who is most definitely in the discovery phase of "Discovering What's Next," I suppose I can talk about the amount of courage it takes to quiet down the fear and anxiety of not knowing exactly what is going to come next. The decision to make a big change-whether it is a retirement, a relocation, or a shift in career-is fraught with the anxiety of letting go of what was. But I think it is a mistake to hold on too tightly to

things that are more secure -- if your heart is telling you to let go.

Sometimes, the sensible voices telling us to stay put, hold onto a known quantity (even if it is not what you want) or abide with things because "you might not know what you are giving up until it is gone" are simply wrong. Or maybe they aren't. The point is, you cannot know. No amount of making lists of pros and cons, no financial calculator, can give you a clear-cut answer about what to do. The unknown is just that."

Follow the rest of Barbara's "Westward Ho" journey [at the DWN website](#).

DISCOVER COMMON INTERESTS: MeetingUp FAQ's about Social Security

"Should I wait or what?" FAQ's about Social Security will be clarified by Kurt Czarnowski, Regional Communications Director of the Social Security Administration, on June 25, 3-4:30 pm at the DWN Hub.

- . When should I retire?
- . How does work affect my retirement benefits?
- . How do they calculate benefits in the first place?
- . How are benefits taxed?
- . How does Medicare fit in?
- . How does my public pension affect my benefits?

Bring your questions, we'll add them to ours, and we'll all get more informed.

DWN MeetingUps are free, but we do ask that you sign up.

To register, RSVP to info@discoveringwhatsnext.com or call 617-796-1419.

MeetingUps happen when one or two people find a subject of shared interest and want more info. Would you like to fire up a MeetingUp? It's easy.

1. Come up with a topic that's likely to be of interest to the rest of us.
2. Arrange for an "expert" (it could be you!) to come and speak to us. Select a day

and time.

3. Fill in and submit the idea template that's on our DWN website.

Next thing you know, DWN sets it up. We send out word to everyone who receives our DWN newsletter and interested fellow discoverers show up. We meet each other, we get a little education. And best of all, we have a nice time.

DISCOVER CREATIVITY: The New Art Center at The Hub

From June 16th - August 16th. The New Art Center is displaying the work of Janet Blagdon. NAC is a non-profit organization dedicated to artistic creation and education through classes, exhibitions, and public programs. The current partnership with Discovering What's Next® brings together two organizations dedicated to community enrichment, with the mutual benefit of introducing DWN members to artistic opportunities at NAC, and NAC students and artists to the resources DWN has to offer. For more information, contact Kate Wisnioski: kate@newartcenter.org

DISCOVER THE JOY OF GIVING: DWN's Campaign for Growth

Discovering What's Next® launched its first Campaign for Growth toward the end of March. The campaign is intended to raise funds to build the infrastructure needed to enhance the delivery of programs and experiences for our growing number of participants. We have been fortunate to receive early support from a number of forward-looking community businesses and organizations. These include Aronson Insurance Agency, Eastern Bank, Golden Living, HouseWorks, Jewish Vocational Services (JVS), Newton Wellesley Hospital, SecurePath by Transamerica and Village Bank. We have also received support from individuals who believe in DWN's mission to engage mid-life and older adults in the creative exploration of their next life stage.

To date we have raised \$15,000 through pledges and direct contributions. The Campaign for Growth is deeply appreciative of our supporters. If you are interested in supporting our Campaign for Growth, please contact Fred Mandell, Campaign Chairperson, famandell@verizon.net (781-444-4554) or Diane Boettcher, Executive Director, dianeboettcher@discoveringwhatsnext.com (617-796-1419). Make the tax-deductible checks payable to **Discovering What's Next** and mail to 330 Homer Street, Newton, MA 02459.

DWN CALENDAR

- Next Transition Talk® date: June 24, 7 - 8:30 pm
- SOAR at DWN Hub: 9 - 11 am on 6/26, 7/31, 8/28
- JVS CareerMoves at DWN Hub: 9 - 11 am on 6/26, 7/31, 8/28

Please check the DWN website [Calender section](#) for more details.



Carol Greenfield, President
Discovering What's Next®