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LOCAL

SUN., MAY 27, 2007 - 12:33 AM

Know your Madisonian: Jeanne Moren (Adams)

HEATHER LAROI
hlaroi@madison.com

City: Madison. A lifelong resident with no desire to live anywhere else.

Family: Married four years to Peder Moren. We each have two grown children and between us have seven grandchildren, ranging in age from 1 to 21.

Age: 65.

Occupation: Retired, after 38 years as a dental hygienist.

Community service: I'm a 25-year volunteer at Mental Health Center of Dane County, working specifically with Survivors of Suicide (those affected by a suicide death). I became involved when I used the MHC services a few years after my first husband, Bill Adams, took his own life at age 32. A suicide loss leaves friends and family with a unique grief experience and it is valuable to offer a place for them to talk and interact with other survivors. I'm also an active life member of Bethel Lutheran Church.

You've also written a book for suicide survivors. How did that come about?

I had been writing articles for 10 years about the issues faced by suicide survivors based on my experiences. With the encouragement of family and friends, I compiled these, wrote a bit more and in January I self-published a book, "The Dividing Line, Reflections on Living Beyond Suicide Loss." I have the advantage of distance from my loss, and also have met hundreds of survivors over the years who have shared their experiences and insights.

I stop what I'm doing when:

I can talk to a friend.

Greatest Madison pleasure:

My current favorite view is of Lake Mendota from our living room window. The view is constantly changing. Our view in the other direction is the scene over the city, which is beautiful day and night. One of the many joys of living Downtown.

What I miss most about my childhood:

I enjoyed spending time with my friends. Luckily, I can still do that. New ones and some of the same ones.

Things I enjoy doing:

Spending time with family and friends, cooking, sewing, walking, calligraphy and struggling at Pilates. I have also been fortunate to travel a great deal in the past few years.

Right now I'm reading:

"The Art of Aging," by Sherwin B. Nuland, but I am still laughing at "I Feel Bad About My Neck," by Nora Ephron.

What I admire most in a person:



Leah L. Jones -- State Journal

As a volunteer at Mental Health Center of Dane County, Jeanne Moren works with those who have been affected by a suicide death.

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(Here's your chance to vote for Madison's best in the Answer Book reader's choice. Check back every day for a new poll.)

- Blue Moon
- Nitty gritty
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- Dotty's
- Red Robin

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WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE ON TOMORROW'S FRONT PAGE?

- Human brain: Wired for belief?
- Call of the wild: Ringtones attract leopards
- New Blue Book: Packed with fun facts?

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I admire people who face difficult challenges and thrive beyond them.

If I could convince people of one thing:

Always have a Plan B, or know someone who can help you devise one.

(Free copies of "The Dividing Line" are available at the Mental Health Center of Dane County, 625 W. Washington Ave., or e-mail thedividingline@sbcglobal.net.)

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