



Family Action Network (FAN), in partnership with Family Service Center, Family Service of Glencoe, Family Service of Winnetka-Northfield, and Catherine Siegel present:

JENNIFER SENIOR

ALL JOY

AND

NO FUN

THE PARADOX OF MODERN PARENTHOOD



Friday, September 19, 2014 -- 7:00 PM
New Trier High School, Northfield Campus, Cornog Auditorium
7 Happ Rd., Northfield

Free and open to the public. CPDUs available for educators.

INFO: familyactionnetwork.net



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Catherine Siegel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lonnie Stonitsch, FAN Co-Chair and Programming Chair, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

Friday, September 19, 2014, All Joy and No Fun: The Paradox of Modern Parenthood, 7:00 PM, New Trier High School, Northfield Campus, Cornog Auditorium, 7 Happ Rd., Northfield, 60093. Back in 1942, anthropologist Margaret Mead noticed something intriguing about America's parents: The subject of childrearing – so uncomplicated in other countries and settings – left them feeling anxious, unstrung, and vulnerable to fads. More than 70 years later, parents are still grappling with these same feelings of uncertainty.

The **Family Action Network (FAN)** launches its 2014-15 speaker series with **Jennifer Senior**, a New York City-based journalist and best-selling author. Her very first book, **All Joy and No Fun: The Paradox of Modern Parenthood**, debuted at #6 on the *New York Times* bestseller list in early 2014. The book tapped into a deep well of parental ambivalence that isn't often discussed: the effects of children on parents – their marriages, jobs, friendships, lifestyles, and mental health. Modern parenting, stripped of gooey sentiment and magical thinking, is a high-investment, competitive, demanding activity – it's a verb, a lot of "doing," and a parent is often judged by the performance of the child. It's "no fun," and it stands in contrast to parenthood, which has more to do with "being" a parent – how we feel as parents, and what meaning we forge from the experience.

In this talk, Ms. Senior will explore some of the unseen forces that are making parents so anxious, including the historic transformation of the child's role; the liberating-yet-confusing introduction of personal choice; and dramatic changes to how we live and work. She guides parents in seeing that their challenges, which they so often assume are of their own making, are in fact part of a much larger socio-economic-cultural picture, and that they are by no means struggling alone. She will discuss what can be done to think differently about raising children, examining the distinction between happiness and joy, and will shed light on why most parents still say that raising children is the meaningful thing that they'll ever do.

Ms. Senior's gift for clarity, generosity and insight earned her the Erikson Prize in Mental Health Media in 2011 and a spot on the advisory board of the Austen Riggs Center, a psychiatric facility specializing in treatment-resistant patients. In addition to her work on social science and mental health, Ms. Senior is known for her top-notch political reporting. She is a frequent guest on NPR and numerous television programs, including *Charlie Rose*, *The Chris Matthews Show*, *Hardball*, *Morning Joe*, *Washington Journal with Brian Lamb*, *CNN American Morning*, *Anderson Cooper 360*, *Good Morning America*, *CBS This Morning*, and *Today*. She is also a regular contributor to the *New York Times Book Review*.

Sponsored by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with **Family Service Center**, **Family Service of Glencoe**, **Family Service of Winnetka-Northfield**, and **Catherine Siegel**. FAN is grateful for the support of its 2014-15 financial sponsors **Compass Health Center**, **Evanston Township High School D202**, **Evanston/Skokie D65**, **New Trier High School D203**, **New Trier Parents' Association**, **North Shore Community Bank**, **Pathways.org**, **The Family Institute at Northwestern University**, **Youth Organizations Umbrella (Y.O.U.)**, the **Martin & Mary L. Boyer Foundation**, the **Mammel Foundation**, and **Tina & Byron Trott**, along with our in-kind sponsors **Acclaim Media**, **The Book Stall at Chestnut Court**, **Kirkland & Ellis, LLP**, and **Turing Group**.

