Mid-Manhattan Library welcomes

Mary Catherine Bateson

Discussing

Composing a Further Life

The Age of Active Wisdom

“We are not what we know but what we are willing to learn.”
—Mary Catherine Bateson

Wednesday, December 8th, 2010
6:30 p.m. on the 6th floor

New York Public Library
Mid-Manhattan Library
40th Street and 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10016
212-340-0837

Renowned cultural anthropologist, Mary Catherine Bateson, daughter of Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson, examines the personal and social implications for a pro-active later life. Ms. Bateson interviews a film star, a retired boatyard worker, a gay couple and others, who all live active and satisfying lives. While facing the changes and challenges of “Adulthood II”, she asserts that this period of life is an "improvisational art form calling for imagination and the willingness to learn."

About the presenter:

Mary Catherine Bateson is a writer and cultural anthropologist. She has retired from teaching but continues as a visiting scholar at Boston College’s Center on Aging and Work. She was educated at Radcliffe (BA 1960) and Harvard (PhD 1963). She was Dean of the Faculty at Amherst College 1980-83. From 1987 to 2002, Ms. Bateson was Clarence J. Robinson Professor in Anthropology and English at George Mason University, becoming Professor Emerita in 2002. She has also taught at Harvard, Northeastern, Amherst, and Spelman College, as well as overseas in the Philippines and Iran.

Ms. Bateson’s original research interest was in the Middle East. More recently she has been interested in how women and men work out distinctive adaptations to culture change, learning from those around them and improvising new ways of being. She is currently exploring how extended longevity and lifelong learning modify the rhythms of the life cycle and the interaction between generations.

Her books include: With a Daughter’s Eye: A Memoir of Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson; Composing a Life; Peripheral Visions: Learning Along the Way; Full Circles, Overlapping Lives: Culture and Generation in Transition; and Willing to Learn: Passages of Personal Discovery; and Composing a Further Life: The Age of Active Wisdom, September 2010.

Ms. Bateson is married and has a married daughter and two grandsons. She lives in Southern New Hampshire.

Website: www.marycatherinebateson.com

Elevators access the 6th floor after 6 p.m.
All programs are FREE and subject to last minute change or cancellation.