



Please join us at the first

Women's Auxiliary Meeting

on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 7:30 PM.

[Zoom Link](#)

"The Secrets Women Keep and Why"

Presenter - Susan Shapiro Barash

Pen name - Susannah Marren

Weren't we raised to be good girls? Weren't we taught by our mothers and grandmothers that a good girl wouldn't have a secret, let alone lie for the cause? Yet in truth, the reasons that women are deceptive, at any age or stage of life, are intriguing, understandable and societally driven. And so as wives (including second and third), mothers, friends, daughters, colleagues, daughters in law, and sisters, women have their secrets. Those worth guarding, those worth lying for. Based on my research, interviewing a diverse group of women across the country, I have found that virtually all women guard a secret, big or small, at some point in their lives. The trick is to know when to lie and how to lie to protect oneself, to maintain the status quo. For many women, this balance is a form of survival. I will take a look at the kinds of secrets women keep, how this manifests, and how it plays out in terms of pros and cons.

Questions for Discussion /The Secrets Women Keep and Why

1. Have you or a woman close to you ever felt you had no choice but to guard your secret and lie for the cause?
2. Do you find yourself – or notice female friends - making excuses, even fabricating, for a family member or for your/ her own actions?
3. Were you raised that being a mother and wife would be pure bliss?
4. What did your mother/ grandmother/ aunts teach you about having a secret?
5. Do you feel it is a different standard for women than men when it comes to societal judgments (example, what would your friends think, what would your family think unless you cover up what is really going on)?
6. What would you imagine to be the biggest secrets/lies that women tell? Example: money, success, children.

Susan Shapiro Barash / Bio

Susan Shapiro Barash is an established writer of thirteen nonfiction women's issue books, and fiction under her pen name Susannah Marren. She has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Elle*, *Marie Claire*, and has appeared on national television including the *Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *CBS*, *CNN*, and *MSNBC*. Barash has been a guest on national radio including NPR and Sirius Radio.

Barash holds degrees from Sarah Lawrence College and New York University. She has taught for over twenty years in the Writing Department at Marymount Manhattan College where her focus is on gender studies, and has guest taught at the Writing Institute/ Sarah Lawrence College. She has served as a literary panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts, as a judge for the International Emmys, and as Vice Chair of the Mentoring Committee of the Women's Leadership Board at the JFK School of Government, Harvard.