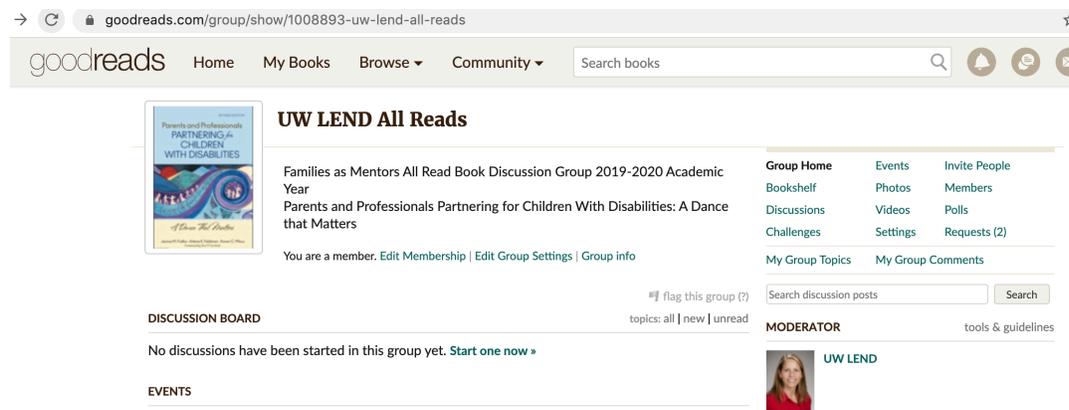


# UW LEND All Reads Online Book Club for Families as Mentors

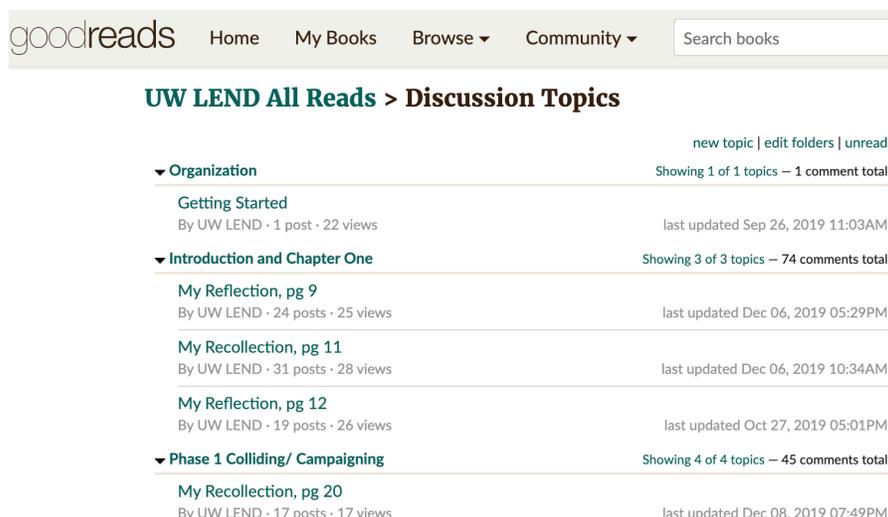
## Briefly Describe the Activity and it's Purpose:

We have had a strong **Families as Mentors** program that consistently reached 25-40% of our trainees. Seeking to impact more trainees we piloted this on-line book club as a required activity for our 2019-2020 cohort. We chose Parents and Professionals Partnering for Children with Disabilities, A Dance that Matters by Janice Fialka, Arlene Feldman and Karen Mikus. It is case study based, practical and concise. This book gives real life examples of situations that trainees may find themselves participating in (ie: providing evaluation feedback or an IEP meeting) from both family's perspective and a professional's perspective, providing valuable insight. Providing insight from both perspectives is rare to find in the literature. After conferring with author Janice Fialka ( <http://www.danceofpartnership.com/> ) and Great Lakes LEND faculty Rylan Rodgers, we decided to use the GoodReads online book club platform for our discussion ( <https://www.goodreads.com> ) We implemented the pilot for the fall quarter 2019.

### 1. Created an invitation only GoodReads account for UW LEND All Reads



2. Purchased the Books from Janice Fialka <http://www.danceofpartnership.com/books.htm>
3. Introduced the "All Reads" concept and expectations at orientation
  - Provided the book for all trainees
  - Set the expectation that everyone was to participate by commenting at least 3 times through the GoodReads platform
  - Sent invitations to the GoodReads platform to join the Book Club Discussion
4. Outlined discussion points of the book through GoodReads discussion boards:



5. Monitored and responded to online discussion, encouraging engagement though out the fall quarter
6. Planned a Dance Party culminating event, inviting Janice Fialka to join through Zoom. During the Zoom session, Janice shared more about her approach to the dance of partnership, responded to questions and encouraged comments and sessions learned as a result of reading the book and sharing ideas online.

### **What are the Expected Learning Outcomes for Trainees?**

The Book Club provided an opportunity for trainees to:

1. Engage in a Families as Mentors activity at an individualized schedule
2. Gain practical ideas from others' experiences
3. Learn perspective that comes from Family Centered Care

### **Briefly Describe the Positive Impacts this Activity has had on Trainees:**

Interaction and Feedback from trainees and staff was overwhelmingly positive:

“Thank you Sue for leading us in these discussions. This is truly one of the most meaningful books I have ever read.”

“I agree how wonderful it is that the book concludes with such simple yet impactful concepts - kindness and listening. I am really reminded that the practice of truly successful, compassionate, and cohesive partnerships requires these in all stages of the "dance". I have definitely been in family partnerships at all stages of this learning process, and now I feel more empowered to move forward when we get stuck. I feel recharged after reading to look at some of my family relationships from a different lens. As a clinician, this book also feels like a return to the values I identified when I initially chose a career path in early childhood.”

“This book was a very special read for me. The book reminded me why I chose to work with families and children with disabilities and has inspired me to be a better clinician. “

“This book helped me to not only identify better ways to navigate my career as a therapist working with families, but helped me to realize many things and perspectives that I had no considered as thoroughly before. I feel better equipped to dance with families in this partnership that is so fulfilling!”

### **Briefly describe any lessons learned or challenges associated with implementing this activity:**

We found the activity to be highly effective and plan to continue it with future cohorts with a few modifications:

1. Involve Janice in a Zoom session both prior and post book reading to establish a common platform, some rapport and to set the stage for the focus on partnership.
2. Offer a GoodReads tutorial for those that desire it.

### **For more information please feel free to reach out to:**

Sue Adelman  
Family Leadership Program  
adelms@uw.edu