

# SPEAKER TOPIC

Request Judith Brenner to speak to your Rotary Club, Book Club, or Organization. Author excerpt reading, Q&A, and your group discussion in a safe place where all opinions are welcome with an open mind.

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**Speaker fee preference:** (Cover cost of travel).

## **A Discussion about Domestic Violence--plus the ADA--with a Look Back at Chicago's Polio Epidemic; based on the book, *The Moments Between Dreams* by Judith F. Brenner**

Readers of historical fiction are finding that *The Moments Between Dreams* by Judith F. Brenner (Greenleaf Book Group, 2022) is a discussion starter because of the dual themes of perseverance and courage. The book tackles surviving the polio virus and surviving domestic abuse. The Chicago setting of this story is based on reality, demonstrating empowerment and hope as a mother and daughter work to stop the cycle of domestic violence, and gender discrimination in their home and city. Learn why advocates and survivors endorse the novel because of its relevance today.

Topics include Domestic Abuse/Domestic Violence, Disability Rights, a history of polio and the virus parallels to COVID during times of mistrust or lack of a vaccine. Here are modern day dilemmas related to this historical fiction book, *The Moments Between Dreams*.

### *DID YOU KNOW?*

- ◆ The American Disabilities Act (ADA) is only enforceable by "testers" who file lawsuits when a disabled person is unable to be accommodated. (Source: <https://www.scotusblog.com/2023/10/civil-rights-tester-case-heads-to-high-court/>) The character in *The Moments Between Dreams* is turned down from jobs because of her limp and faces difficulty getting around Chicago during winters, prior to the ADA. People are still facing limited accessibility. This author had a broken elbow and found a general lack of automatic door openers when doing a book tour. Her own mother faced these situations from a wheelchair as a polio survivor.
- ◆ President Biden recently approved funding for the US National Plan to End Gender-based Violence. (Source: <https://nnedv.org/content/violence-against-women-act/>)
- ◆ Federal government statistics show a correlation between Intimate Partner Violence threats and resulting deaths when Firearms are present in the home of an abuser. Also, studies are documenting recent mass shootings start with a connection to domestic violence. (Source: whitehouse.gov)
- ◆ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics found that when a relationship between a victim and the suspect was known, over half of all homicides of women were perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner—that's a 51% female death rate compared to a 7.2% male death rate due to Intimate Partner Violence.

Let's bring these topics above a whisper! There is no shame in letting people know one needs help to find resources, or make a change.

**Bio:**

Judith F. Brenner owns Creative Lakes Media, LLC, an editing services company. She is an author of six books, and publishes Sharpeners-Report.com. Her essays have appeared in *WINK* literary magazine, and *Minnesota Parent* magazine. She completed the Iowa University MFA Workshop, is a member of Loft Literary Center and the Professional Editor's Network, the Chicago Writers Association, The Midland Author Society, and the Palm Springs Writers Guild.