

"Epicurean Issues" By Our Friend Michele Pinto

Post by "Kalosyni" of November 22, 2022 at 8:32 AM

This brings up questions about the very structure of current civilization -- and since I am in the United States then this is my viewpoint based on American society.

Back in time, people were much more dependent on their families and their extended families. And that also meant that they had to "comply" with all the wishes that their parents asked of them, such as a son taking up the kind of work that his father thought was right for him, as well as only marrying according to the wishes of the parents.

Now we are much more independent and make choices individually in a much more self-sufficient manner, because we can generally survive without the help of our family of origin.

But because of this self-sufficiency, many people move to different parts of the country several times to change jobs. This means that new friends have to be made each time there is a move. And one's friends often move away as well. So friends are now somewhat "disposable" and maybe we don't get as close to people.

The other aspect is that everyone is busy working, and one's romantic partner takes precedence -- there is very little time left over to do much recreation, and spouses and partners have to prioritize time for romance rather than take time for making or maintaining friendships.

Thus in a busy world where there is not enough time, Facebook etc (and even this forum perhaps) takes on a role of connecting to others quickly and easily.

But I think we (here on the forum) do have ways to have deeper engagement, for established members can join Zoom discussions, and even though it isn't "in-person" there can be a quality of connection coming out of regular Zoom participation. So then this is something to consider: how attending regular Zoom can support friendships and community.

And also: we need to set up some Zoom meetings for new members to meet one another, maybe once a month.