

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW

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Discussion Topics for

Gail Straub

Feminine Wisdom: What It Means and Why It Matters. As a pioneer in the field of empowerment, Gail Straub felt a sense of loss. After nearly thirty years, she realized she had been haunted by her mother's spiritual loss—even more than her premature death. What's more, Gail had followed her Mom's example of betraying her *feminine wisdom*. Through her story and the stories of women around the world, Gail can shed light on this rich realm of emotions, intuition, creativity, contemplation, and spirituality that is innately female, yet routinely abandoned by women. When Gail lost her mother, she closed her heart and mind to her emotional intelligence. She embraced busyness, speed, logic, and workaholicism. Along with sharing how she reclaimed her feminine wisdom, Gail can offer insights to help everyone—men as well as women—build and sustain an interior life. As she makes clear, feminine wisdom is absolutely critical for balancing and nurturing a world obsessed with *bigger, faster, and more*.

Why So Many Women Try to Live Their Mother's Unlived Dreams. Gail's mother, Jacqueline Walsh Straub was a gifted artist and a free spirit. She sacrificed her dreams of adventure to the demands of being a wife and working mother, and her efforts to fit into an upscale conservative society. She died at fifty-five, before getting a second chance to travel and fulfill her creative potential. As seventeen, Gail set out to explore the world—first in Paris and Paraguay with the American Field Service Student Exchange Program, then in Africa with the Peace Corps, and finally in Bali, Russia, China, and beyond as a trailblazing empowerment trainer—and challenge conventions. Years later, she was struck by how she had devoted her life to inhabiting her mother's unlived life. Drawing on her experience and many conversations with women who have followed similar paths, Gail can talk about why so many daughters are driven to do what their mother could only dream of doing.

Choosing Not to Have Children. Shortly after celebrating her thirty-eighth birthday, Gail made a choice not to have children. At the time, her business was booming, her marriage was strong, and her body was fertile. Yet, Gail decided that mothering in the traditional sense was not a calling for her. Her husband, David Gershon, supported this important life decision. Gail and David honored their choice with a small ceremony. Over the years, Gail has rarely regretted her choice, and has been asked about it by a surprising number of young women. She can discuss how her mother influenced her decision and why it is essential for a woman to make this choice fully consciously and consider what she will both gain and lose. She can also explain why she does not view herself as “childless” or “childfree” and share her commitment to spiritual parenting through teaching and mentoring.

Gail Straub is the author of *Returning to My Mother's House: Taking Back the Wisdom of the Feminine* (High Point; October 2008; ISBN: 978-0-9630347-5-1; distributed by Chelsea Green Publishing). For more information, visit: www.chelseagreen.com and www.returningtomymothershouse.com.