

# Women Transcending Boundaries Monthly Newsletter

Bringing women of faith together after 9/11



All information also available on our website

**APRIL 2020**



Due to the CoronaVirus, all of our events have been postponed or canceled until health authorities determine it is safe to gather again. Please notice that the Book Club IS meeting via Zoom. If you need information on how to ZOOM into the meeting, please contact Jennifer: robertscrittenden@verizon.net or 315-345-9217 (cell)

## *What if...*

**"What if...**

**Amongst all the fear and confusion, there's this...  
a different perspective. There is so much fear, and  
perhaps rightfully so, about COVID-19.**

**And, what if...**

**If we subscribe to the philosophy that life is always  
working out for us, that there is an intelligence far  
greater than humans at work...**

**That all is interconnected.**

**What if...**

**the virus is here to help us?**

**To reset.**

**To remember.**

**What is truly important.**

**Reconnecting with family and community.**

**Reducing travel so that the environment, the skies, the  
air, our lungs all get a break.**

**Parts of China are seeing blue sky and clouds for the  
first time in forever with the factories being shut down.**

**Working from home rather than commuting to work (less  
pollution, more personal time).**

**Reconnecting with family as there is more time at home.**

**An invitation to turn inwards -- a deep meditation --  
rather than the usual extroverted going out to self-  
soothe.**

**To reconnect with self -- what is really important to me?  
A reset economically. The working poor. The lack of  
healthcare access for over 30 million in the US. The need  
for paid sick leave.**

**How hard does one need to work to be able to live, to  
have a life outside of work?**

**And, washing our hands -- how did that become a "new"  
thing that we needed to remember. But, yes, we did.**

**The presence of Grace for all.**

**There is a shift underway in our society -- what if it is  
one that is favorable for us?**

**What if this virus is an ally in our evolution?**

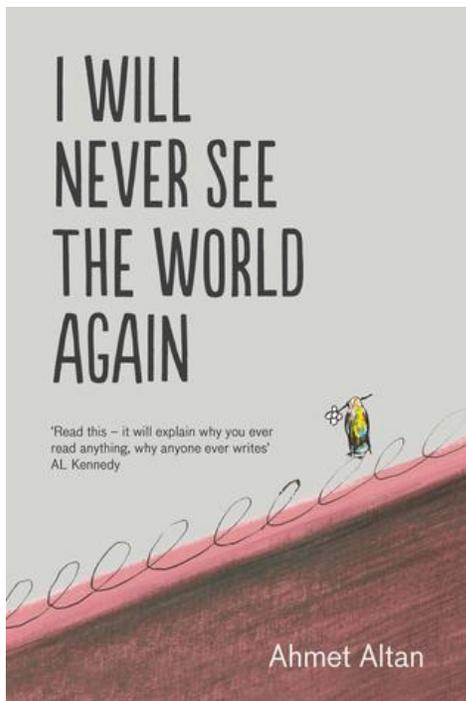
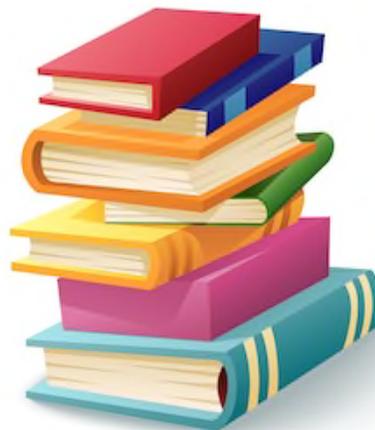
**In our remembrance of what it means to be connected,  
humane, living a simpler life, to be less impactful/more  
kind to our environment.**

**An offering from my heart this morning. Offered as  
another perspective. Another way of relating to this  
virus, this unfolding, this evolution.**

**It was time for a change, we all knew that.**

**And, change has arrived."**

**~ Gutpreet Gill**



I am happy to report that Book Club was able to move to Zoom on March 23. After three members gave up trying to set it up, another member spent about five minutes and had us up and running! Nine members were able to log onto the site and all were seen and heard. Discussion was lively and fun. During this stay-at-home time, seeing our friends and sharing our ideas about an excellent book is very uplifting.

**We will meet again on Zoom on April 27.** The book is I Will Never See the World Again by Ahmet Altan. Copies are limited, but Jennifer has some to loan. Call her (315-345-9217) to set up a time to pick one up, but only if you have time to read it right away, not just add it to your stack. We have to share limited copies with a dozen readers. It is beautifully written so will be a great read.

“Confined in a cell four metres long, imprisoned on absurd, Kafkaesque charges, novelist Ahmet Altan is one of many writers persecuted by Recep Tayyip Erdogan's oppressive regime. In this extraordinary memoir, written from his prison cell, Altan reflects upon his sentence, on a life whittled down to a courtyard covered by bars, and on the hope and solace a writer's mind can provide, even in the darkest places.” Review by GoodReads

## **UPCOMING BOOKS AND DATES:**

April 27 – I Will Never See the World Again (Seda has purchased 4 copies to distribute and there are three in the Onondaga library. Please read quickly and pass on)

May 18 –The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas(your choice, book or movie)

June 22 - The Great Fire : one American's Mission to Rescue Victims of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century's First Genocide by Lou Ureneck

July 27 – Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps that Explain Everything about the World by Tim Marshall

## **ROTTERDAM ORCHESTRA**



Watch and listen as people kept their distance but came together in a new way to share this gift for each of us: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eXT60rbBVk>

**PANDEMIC** by Lynn Ungar

What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—  
the most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.  
Center down.  
And when your body has become still,  
reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)  
Know that our lives  
are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move, invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.  
Promise this world your love—  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.

## THE REFUGEE SEWING CLASS

As with so many other programs, refugee sewing has been postponed. We had seven sessions of our recent class but were unable to have the final session which is the big giveaway of sewing machines, necessary notions, fabric, lace, and trims. Whenever the virus situation allows, we will schedule that giveaway. Then the next session will begin in September.



From The New York Times:

### **A Sewing Army, Making Masks for America**

With overrun hospitals facing an acute shortage of masks, people are pulling out their sewing machines to fill the void.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/25/business/coronavirus-masks-sewers.html?smid=em-share>

## **THE NEW YORK TIMES HAS SOME SUGGESTIONS TO:**

**Reinvent holidays:** Many people [are finding creative ways](#) to celebrate — cooking Easter brunch for two, staging virtual seders, breaking Ramadan fasts at home and enjoying Nowruz feasts at a six-foot distance.



Dear friends

We hope you are well and taking care of yourself.

Kindly share with all.

We at InterFaith Works are so grateful to you and your community. Our New American families and Elders are having great challenges, just as you all are. Arriving in a new country is scary, kids are home from school and many do not understand what is happening

With your help, we can send our love to them.

Distribution and delivery will be with the help of our partners and friends of New American Forum. You may bring these to 664 Burnet, corner Lodi and Burnet. CNY Uniform is graciously accepting and our New American faith partners will help distribute. Kindly donate between 1-3 pm Monday-Friday

Family Fun Time. (All items may be gently used, however please make sure it is a gift you would want your family to receive)

For New American children and families

Puzzles, building blocks, board games, card games, activity books, art, learning activities. And so on.

For New American Seniors

Love Bag for SENIORS (please feel free to add a note, drawing, poem ...)

Adult activity books - coloring book,

Puzzles

Large Print - Word games, crosswords, jumbles, sudoku and word find

Note paper

Colored pencils/markers

Craft projects

Cards - birthday, thinking of you (add a stamp to the envelope)

Daryl. [Dfiles@ifwcnny.org](mailto:Dfiles@ifwcnny.org).

**Richard Hendrick/a priest, a Capuchin  
Franciscan, living in Ireland**

on Friday

Lockdown

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in

a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

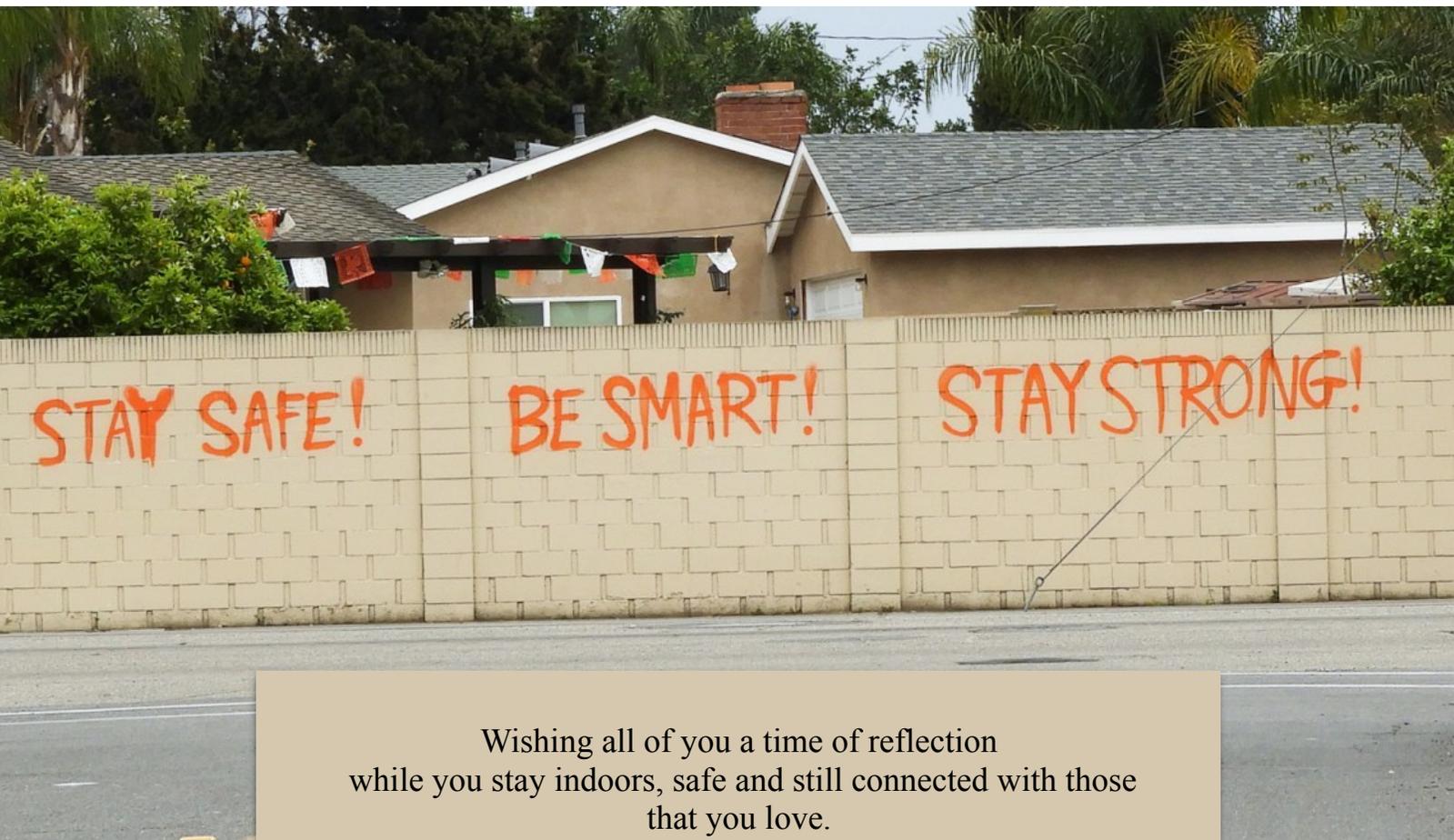
To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that  
Yes there is fear.  
But there does not have to be hate.  
Yes there is isolation.  
But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.  
But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing,  
Spring is coming,  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,  
Sing.  
March 13th 2020



Wishing all of you a time of reflection  
while you stay indoors, safe and still connected with those  
that you love.