

# Women Transcending Boundaries Monthly Newsletter

Bringing women of faith together after 9/11



All information also available on our website [wtb.org](http://wtb.org)

SEPTEMBER 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](mailto:robertscrittenden@verizon.net) or 315-345-9217 (cell)



### **President's Corner**

*Dear Friends and Members of WTB,*

*Thank you all for your truly generous response to our recent school supply drive to benefit the Eastern Farm Workers Association. My heart skipped a beat every time new donations appeared in the box at my daughter's home. We collected two carloads of supplies. Huge thanks to Sue Savion for delivering and helping EFWA sort our donations. EFWA called me personally to thank WTB and all of you who donated.*

*We appreciate all the wonderful ideas you shared with us for possible WTB programs/projects this year. Due to COVID we are not planning in-person meetings this fall. We are looking into all your suggestions including holding programs on Zoom and some individual/small group projects. More to follow!!*

*Please consider helping WTB collect socks, underwear, and toiletries for **Rise Above Poverty**. More than 50% of the students in Syracuse live in poverty in some of the poorest zip codes in our nation; significant numbers of these students are homeless. WTB would like to support Rise Above Poverty by collecting personal necessities for these students. The need is great especially this year. Please help us if you can!!*

*Hoping that you and your families are staying safe and sane...and looking forward to meeting together again!*

Barbara Bova



An initiative of InterFaith Works'  
Round Table of Faith Leaders

## **Rise Above Poverty Collection**

### **Community Campaign for Love**

The Community Campaign for Love, an initiative of InterFaith Works, encourages appreciation and respect for our fellow community members and invites us to open our hearts and minds to engage in love in action. The official launch of the campaign will be on September 13, 2020, however, the need to share love in the community is always present. One way we are encouraging you to share love in the community is through donations to Rise Above Poverty.

### **Rise Above Poverty**

Rise Above Poverty is a non-profit organization that strives to support and aid children in the Syracuse School District who face poverty and homelessness. Reggie Kelley is the Founder and Executive Director of the organization and he felt compelled to start the organization after he read an article about the homeless rate in the Syracuse School District. Reggie has enlisted the aid of the community to assist the youth in Syracuse that face homelessness and poverty and help them acquire basic necessities.

Schools helped by Rise Above Poverty: Brighton Academy, Delaware Primary School, Ed Smith Pre-K-8, Oasis Academy, Promising Futures Leadership Academy and Frazer Pre-K-8.

### **Items That Are Needed**

- Personal Hygiene Products - Deodorant, Toothpaste, Tooth Brushes, Hand Sanitizer, Wipes, Washcloths, Soap
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Socks – all sizes
- Underwear – Youth and Teen Sizes

### **How to Donate through WTB**

- Leave in WTB donation box on front porch: 53 Lyndon Road, Fayetteville 13066
- Leave on bench on front porch: 7546 Marble Dr., Liverpool 13088
- Leave under alcove over front porch: 305 Carlton Dr., Syracuse 13214
- Call 315 415-2797 (Barb Bova) for pickup or questions



Photo by Joy Pople

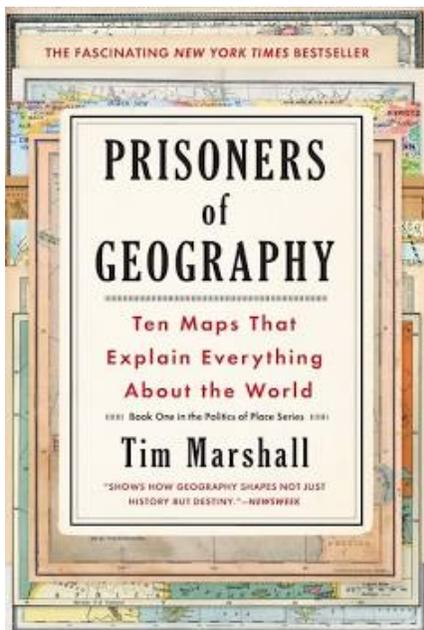
More than the fuchsia funnels breaking out  
of the crabapple tree, more than the  
neighbor's  
almost obscene display of cherry limbs  
shoving  
their cotton candy-colored blossoms to the  
slate  
sky of Spring rains, it's the greening of the  
trees  
that really gets to me. When all the shock of  
white  
and taffy, the world's baubles and trinkets,  
leave  
the pavement strewn with the confetti of  
aftermath,  
the leaves come. Patient, plodding, a green  
skin  
growing over whatever winter did to us, a  
return  
to the strange idea of continuous living despite  
the mess of us, the hurt, the empty. Fine then,  
I'll take it, the tree seems to say, a new slick  
leaf  
unfurling like a fist to an open palm, I'll take it  
all.

From *The Carrying* by Ada Limón  
(Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 2018)

## ***WTB Book Club Changes - new date! new venue!***

WTB Book Club now meets the second Monday of the month, from 7 pm - 9 pm. We will be meeting on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

That's right -- Book Club has continued to meet on Zoom! Thanks to Seda Cetin and Anne Flaherty for hosting! Zoom was new to many of us--but we have had some great "virtual" book chats



**September 14**

**Prisoners of Geography:  
Ten Maps that Explain Everything  
about the World by Tim Marshall**

### **UPCOMING BOOKS and DATES**

October 12 – The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See

November 9 – The Mountains Sing by Que Mai Phan Nguyen

December 14 – City of Veils by Zoe Ferraris

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!! Contact Jennifer Crittenden by email [robertscrittenden@verizon.net](mailto:robertscrittenden@verizon.net) to sign up.

## THE REFUGEE SEWING CLASS

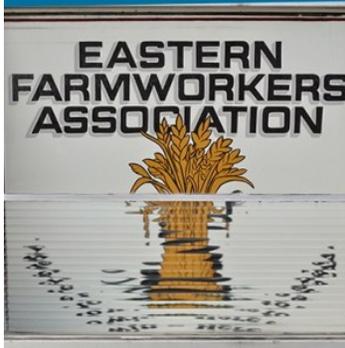


We have permission from the NorthSide Learning Center to hold one or two classes for the students who were with us in February and March. They were ready to receive their donated sewing machines, fabric, and trims when we were suddenly canceled by coronavirus. So I am currently contacting all teachers and students to see who is willing to return, of course with masks and as much distancing as possible. I hope to have this giveaway class on September 10 and possibly September 17. Then no new class until at least January.

One of the Catholic Charities caseworkers connected me to a young woman who is a recent refugee with superb sewing skills. So I gave her a very good sewing machine and her pick of ten boxes of fabric, thread, and various trims and notions. And a refugee who has been here for a few years wants an outlet to sell some of her sewing so Karen Grimm and I helped her with an application to participate in Plowshares. If that even takes place this year.

We occasionally get notifications about machines to be donated, and we usually say yes. We don't have room to store machines in cabinets even though our students are always very happy to get them..And we prefer machines that at least do a zigzag stitch. So if the quarantine has made it clear that you don't want to sew anymore, call us about donating. Jennifer 315-345-9217

We look forward to returning to our classes whenever that may be possible.



### Eastern Farm Workers Association Back-to-School Campaign!

Late summer is the single most expensive time of the year for families with school-aged children--more so than even Christmas. Farmworkers and other low-income working families are finding it harder to make ends meet. The expense of school clothes, shoes, supplies, medical exams, and immunizations can break an already over-stretched budget. Syracuse has moved from being the 23rd poorest city in the nation to the 16th poorest. Central New York's farmworkers do some of the hardest work in the country but have little or no access to healthcare. EFWA's staff and volunteers have dedicated their lives to help improve the lives of low-income families. I personally have made many trips to outlying farms, made tamales year after year, provided rides for volunteers, delivered many to doctor and dentist appointments, donated Halloween costumes and shared meals, meetings, music, and joy with this community. EFWA is a welcoming community that would appreciate your help as well if you are so inclined.

A big THANK YOU to all of you who generously stepped in to help those less unfortunate than we. EFWA is so very grateful to you for helping Syracuse's less fortunate children start the school year off right! After I delivered the first carload to the EFWA's office on N. Salina Street, We received a call to thank us for our donations. But your donations of book bags, paper, notebooks, calculators, erasers, pencils, pens and markers, rulers and notepads, water bottles and tissues kept arriving on my doorstep. I gladly delivered another full carload of these educational tools. Then on Friday morning on August 14th, I joined the "caravan" of cars packed with these goodies to drive to a small Presbyterian church on the west side of Syracuse who let us use their space to set up tables, sort all the materials, organize and count them. Pizza and soda were delivered for lunch. I had to leave after that but was useful in dropping off a young volunteer new to Syracuse who doesn't live far from me. The rest of "the crew" toiled throughout the warm afternoon to get everything put together into school bags and labeled for delivery to the many families in need. On Saturday morning, others helped deliver the school items to the families, both in the city and some on the farms. Do you remember the first days of school with your new crayons and school shoes? I am sure it was BETTER THAN CHRISTMAS for these families. Thank you all, so very much for your generosity!!! Sue Savion



**A Prayer for the Overwhelmed**  
by Rev. Meg Riley

For you who are stretched too thin, Flat out,  
Buried up to your eyeballs,  
Pulled in too many directions, Keeping too many balls in the air, Tracking too many loose ends.  
May you drop it all, just for a moment, and know strength and wholeness. For you with to-do lists as thick as the yellow pages,  
With electronic time management systems  
And scraps of napkins and receipts with urgent notes on the back.  
For you worn out from chasing young children,  
For you responsible for both children and aging parents,  
For you caregivers,  
For you split shift workers,  
For you job seekers, never resting easy in your search.  
May you come to rest, just for a moment, and know well-being.  
For you who struggle to make ends meet,  
Who don't know where the money will come from,  
Who juggle bills deftly as those who juggle fire,  
For you who can't keep up with the medical bills,  
Who are as stressed by insurance as you are by the illness,  
Who are being hounded by creditors or causes,  
May you have clarity, just for a moment, that life matters more than money.  
Breathe in joy, breathe out fear.  
Breathe in fluidity, breathe out rigidity.  
Breathe in acceptance, breathe out resistance.  
May you know you are not alone.  
May you feel encircled by loving arms.  
May you know, finally, that whatever you  
Do or don't do  
See or don't see,  
Pay or don't pay,  
You are part of the web of life  
And there you are held, secure.



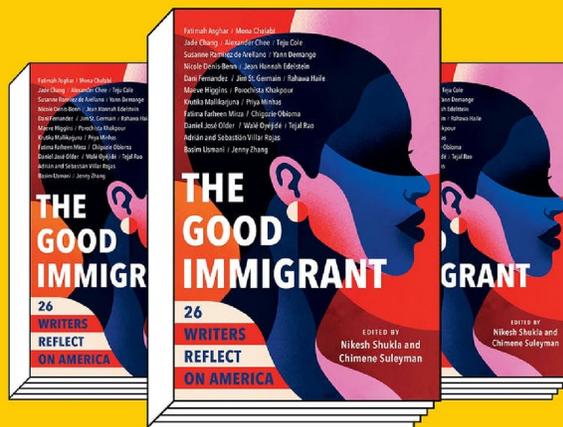
Flowering raspberry

Photos by Joy Pople

We have been invited to be a part of Interfaith Works' upcoming book discussion. Yara Osman, ONA Community Navigator Center for New Americans, says: "Our goal is to foster a safe space for our New-American community to speak about their integration experiences and educate the larger public on what it means to be an immigrant or refugee in the U.S today."

**Registration link for the event:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEucOGtqD0pHdUevROH35SKIja\\_LNX9jPz2](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEucOGtqD0pHdUevROH35SKIja_LNX9jPz2)



Center For New Americans

## Community Conversation

**JOIN US:**

**Wednesday**

**Oct. 7 at 7 p.m.**

**Via Zoom**

To register, contact InterFaith Works' **Yara Osman** at [yosman@ifwcnny.org](mailto:yosman@ifwcnny.org) or visit your local library: [www.Manliuslibrary.org](http://www.Manliuslibrary.org) [www.oflibrary.org](http://www.oflibrary.org) [www.onlib.org](http://www.onlib.org)

Join us for a discussion highlighting a collection of critical essays written by immigrant authors titled "The Good Immigrant: 26 Writers Reflect on America," edited by Nimesh Shukla and Chimene Suleyman. We invite community members to read the book and listen to the narratives of New Americans through a dialogue centered around immigration, integration experiences, identity politics, xenophobia, patriotism and any and all things in between.



Joy Pople has graced us with many of her precious photographs. This is what she has to say:

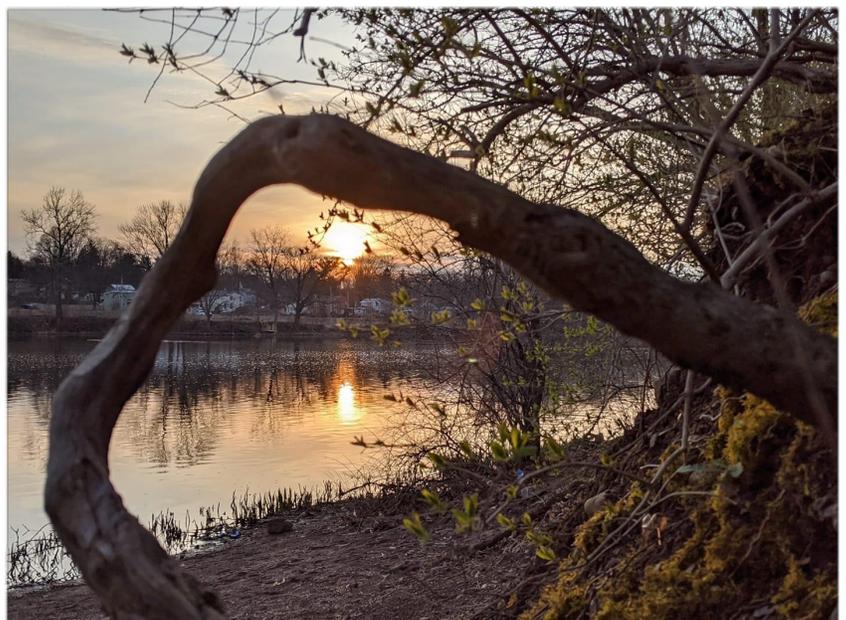
“During this time of social distancing when we are being urged to stay home, I have been calling Onondaga County my home and set out to engage with some of the natural beauty here. It feeds my soul, and I have been experimenting how to capture some of the essence in images.”

Thank you, Joy, for sharing this with us.

The stillness of a swamp at Three Rivers National Wildlife Refuge

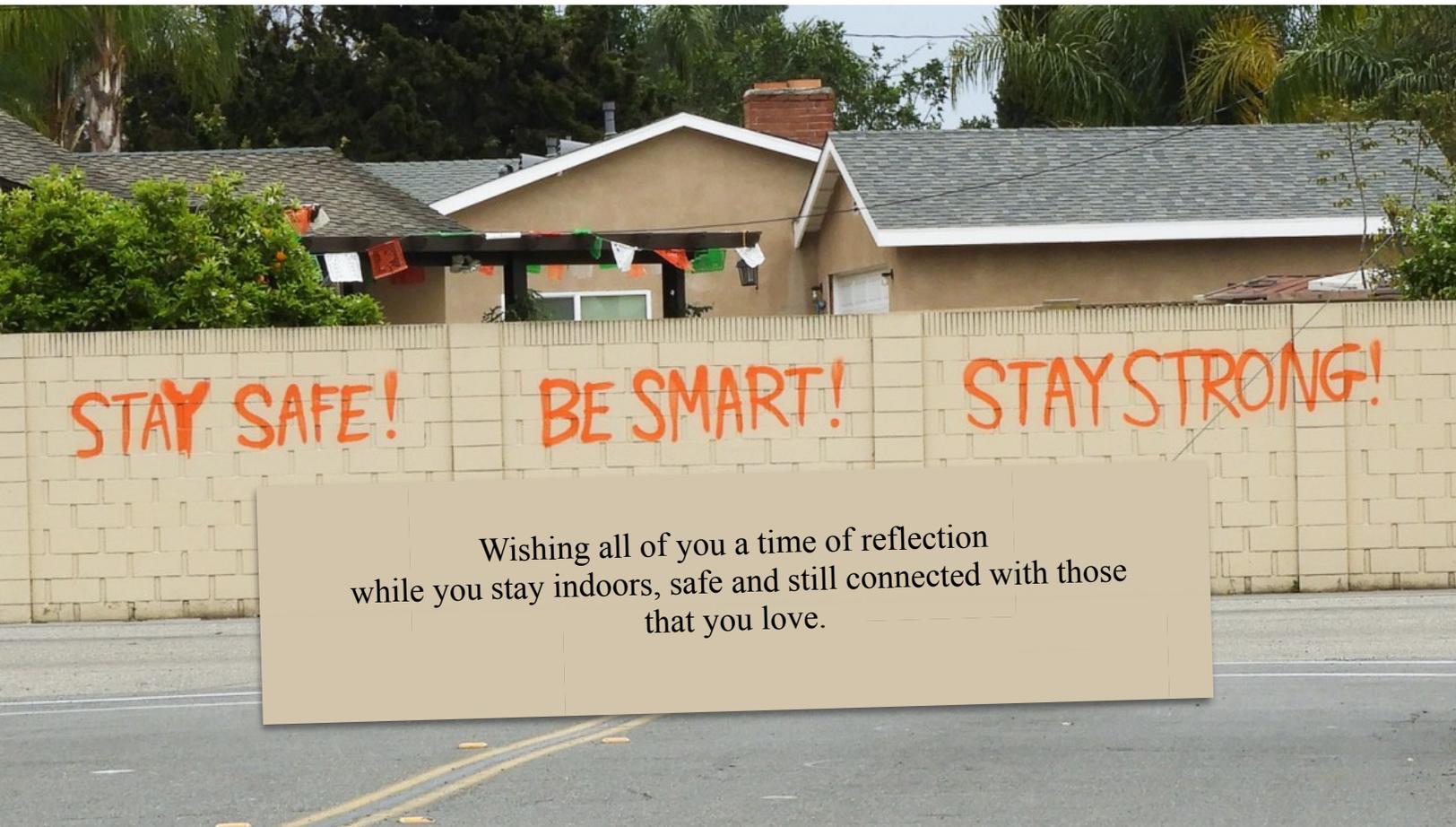


Easter sunrise on the Seneca River in Baldwinsville





Office lights are lit up in the shape of a heart on the Chase Building in downtown Syracuse on Thursday, April 9, 2020.



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