

Women Transcending Boundaries Monthly Newsletter

Bringing women of faith together after 9/11



All information also available on our website wtb.org

MAY/JUNE 2020



A sign is displayed encouraging social distancing at the United Methodist Building in Washington, DC, on March 24.

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)



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 for hosting! Zoom was new to many of us--but we have had some great "vital" book chats:

In March we discussed *The Secrets Between Us* by Thrity Umrigar, a novel exploring the challenges of class and caste in modern day India and the strength of the bonds between women.

In April we discussed *I'll Never See The World Again* by Ahmet Altan, a well-known Turkish writer falsely imprisoned after recent events in Turkey. The book is a series of eloquent and reflective essays written between November 2017 and May 2018 and smuggled out of prison by his lawyer. Our discussion was especially rich as several members of our book club have personal insights into the situation in Turkey today.

In May we met to share books that we have been reading recently; we have eclectic tastes so it was especially interesting to learn of interesting reads we might never have thought to pick up!

UPCOMING BOOKS and DATES

June 8 - *The Great Fire: One American's Mission to Rescue Victims of the 20th Century's First Genocide* by Lou Ureneck (Armenian Genocide)

July 13 - *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas (book or movie)

August 10 - *Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps that Explain Everything about the World* by Tim Marsh.



Dear Readers,

It was great fun hearing about the variety of books that our members are reading. Ten members showed up and suggested these titles:

Cara: Vaccines Did Not Cause Rachel's Autism by Peter Hotez

Sue: This Land is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto by Suketu Mehta
 Giovanni and the Camino of St. Francis by James Twiman
 Dare to Lead by Brene Brown

Cindy: A Place for Us by Fatima Farheen Mirza (novel) a Muslim family in California

Seda: Mem u Zin by Ehmede Xani. Seda explained this novel, originally written in Kurdish in 1692, is a spiritually based love story. I couldn't find an English translation.

Patti: Psalter by Georgia Popoff poetry. Patti read one poem, "Confession"

Barbara: The Story Hour by Thrity Umrigar (novel)
 I Contain Multitudes by Ed Yong (biology, microbes)
 Little Gods by Meng Jin (novel, in China)

Amy: during Ramadan she has been reading the Koran in two languages. She also showed us a book that is a Koran commentary .

Safeta: Samuel the Porter by Isak Samokovlija not available in English
Tales of Old Sarajevo by Isak Samokovilija
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini,
The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes
Heart of Eden by Caroline Fyffe
True Heart's Desire by Caroline Fyffe
The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom

Jennifer: if you are a theater-goer, go to <https://www.stratfordfestival.ca> to find twelve wonderful stage productions by the famed Canadian festival. Because of coronavirus you can watch these outstanding productions for free, online.

Unlikely Friends by Jennifer S. Holland

Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas by Rebecca Solnit and Joshua Jelly-Schapiro

The same authors created atlases of San Francisco and New Orleans as well.

Cindy suggested that if you are interested in this book or NYC in general, go to the website of the Tenement Museum and look at their book store, or even join their online book club.



Photo by our own Joy Pople



Let music soothe your soul:

Buona Pasqua dalla Filarmonica della Scala

<https://youtu.be/-Q4k6PiXBNA>

The President's Page:

WTB REACHES OUT

WTB was grateful to be able to reach out to support local organizations meeting the needs of our Syracuse Community during this crisis.

In April, we made donations to the following agencies:

- Child Care Solutions, providing child care for essential workers (among other supports for women and children)
- The Women's Fund of the CNY Community Fund for COVID-19, granting monies to organizations helping women acutely affected by this pandemic
- InterFaith Works of CNY, in support of food for New American families

We received gracious letters of acknowledgment from all three agencies.

In May, we made an additional donation to InterFaith Works Refugee Technology Fund, tasked with providing technology to New American families so their school-aged children can access distance-learning as SCSD remains closed.

Though most of our members and friends remain sequestered at home, we were honored to be able to help as an organization.

We are inspired by those in our midst pitching in as they can--making masks, checking in with seniors and others living alone, running errands for those unable to leave their dwellings, sharing their art/music on social platforms or in the open air. We are inspired by those of us who risk their health fulfilling essential jobs, work from home while educating children, continue to volunteer hands-on feeding the homeless or supporting abused children. We are so deeply grateful for your examples!

How are you doing?

We hope that you are staying safe and sane during this trying time! If you are in need -- of food, a friendly call, a ride, or just a virtual hug -- please reach out to WTB. You can reach us through email babova@aol.com or by phone/text 315 415-2797.

PLEASE CONSIDER GETTING MORE INVOLVED WITH WTB

While we don't know quite what to expect for Sept 2020-June 2021, WTB is in the process of envisioning the way ahead. If you would like to be come involved in our planning, or involved on our committees for next year, please reach out and let us know. ***We welcome you and need your talents and ideas!!***

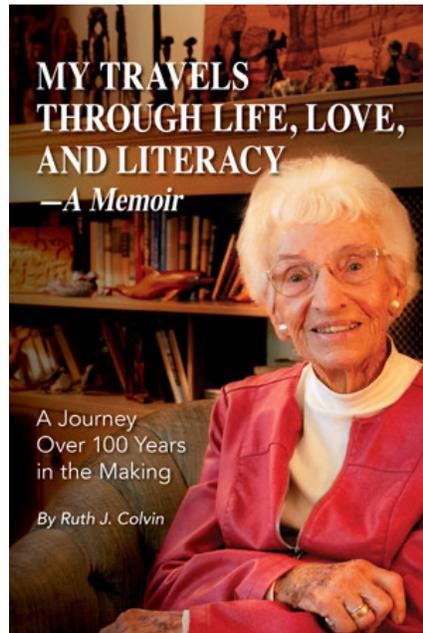


Photos by Joy Pople

The Peace of Wild Things

by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.



RUTH COLVIN (in her own words)

Yes, I'm 103, but age is just a number, and I happen to have a big number. What's important is what you do with your number. What have I been doing with **my** number?

For the past three years, I've been looking back over my on life experiences and sharing what I learned by writing a Memoir, *My Travels Through Life, Love, and Literacy - a Journey Taking Over 100 Years in the Making*.

People continue to ask for my secret to longevity, how could I have started a national literacy organization when I wasn't even a teacher, having visited 62 countries, giving literacy training in 26 developing countries, what impact on me, and finally, how can I live a positive life after losing the love of my life after 73 years together.

I've made mistakes as well as have had successes – learning from both. And I've learned that seeds were planted in each of our early lives, making us the people we are. We have no power over to whom and where we were born, but it's lifelong learning, and we can still learn and adapt to new situations.

I not only share my life experiences, but I share how I started Literacy Volunteers of America (now ProLiteracy), stories of people who influenced my life in 40 stories from 23 countries, and how I've tried to live a balanced life.

Yes, I've been given many honors, and I've lived through a man's world. We women have come a long way, but we're still working for equality. In 2006, I was one of ten given the Presidential Medal of Freedom – nine men and one woman. Yes, I was that one woman.

I encourage readers to look back on their own lives, seeing why each one is the person she is, and enjoy as you join me in going back over my 100 plus years.

Ruth Johnson Colvin

They can order on our website: [My Travels Through Life, Love, and Literacy: A Memoir | New Readers Press](#)

Or call customer service @ 800.448.8878 to place their order. The cost is \$24.99 plus tax and shipping.

Many of you may remember that we had scheduled Ruth Colvin to come and speak to us on May 31st about her new book. Then, the pandemic settled in and we have postponed many of our events, including this one. We're hoping that we'll get her back in the Fall/Winter, even if it is virtually

A Poem by Ralph Singh.

Now I must face the nation and world.
Determine what price I am to pay
To restore my freedom and my liberty
If hope is not to fail.
For hope will always rise above
The ashes of despair;
A hope borne on a prayer
That carries o'er the world.
That out of grief and mourning
New promise will appear,
A Promise of God's presence among all people
For goodness and compassion to prevail,
So peace may dawn and reign supreme
For all eternity.



Photo by Joy Pople

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>

FYI

If any of you are making masks, we know that the Eastern Farm Workers is looking for masks to distribute to those they support.

The InterFaith Leadership Award Dinner has been rescheduled for September 10th, still at OCC. (If you wrote a check to Judy Alderman for this dinner, it has not been cashed.)

InterFaith Works is trying to provide laptops to New Americans lacking technology so their children can access virtual learning as schools remain closed. It's called Refugee Children's Educational Technology Fund and they continue to seek donations.

[video of students in Rome singing](#) the Crosby, Stills & Nash song "Helplessly Hoping" a cappella from their homes.



This is Timeless....

It was written in 1869 by Kathleen O'Mara:

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.

Reprinted during Spanish flu
Pandemic, 1919

Photo by Joy Pople





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.

Good afternoon ~

I'm writing because we at **InterFaith Works** are moving forward with the Duck Race to End Racism- We are holding a virtual event throughout the month of June, culminating in a live video event on June 27th! Please visit the event page to get a sense of the event: www.interfaithworkscny.org/duckrace.

Also, you can click "interested" in the Facebook event to be sure to help spread the word about it~ The FB event is here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/237576694229581/>

Duck Race Tickets

We are inviting organizations to partner with us to ensure success of the event, as we always do, through Duck Race Ticket selling. Instead of a Duck "Race" the tickets serve as raffle tickets. Your organization or faith community can promote the sales to your families and community and receive 50% of the sales back! If you sell more than 30 you get a shout out during the video event and a chance to win a cash prize. Please view the PDF outlining the partnership benefits and requirements here: <https://www.interfaithworkscny.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Non-Profit-Virtual-Instructions.pdf>

All you need to do is click on the link below to register
<https://tinyurl.com/duckracetix>

Registering is really quick, and important so we can track the tickets you sell via our online system. Once you register Andrea Jacobs with the El-Hindi Center for Dialogue, will send you a personalized selling link, and a media kit with images and posts for promoting your sales on social media.

Youth Involvement

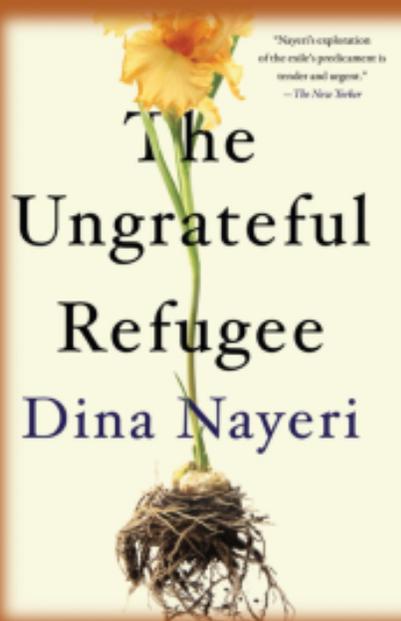
Also, there will be a student project (called the Quackers Project) open in the first two weeks of June that will encourage children to do a project relating to race and identity- their participation will enter them into the Quackers Race- a youth only raffle! We will be sure to send you the Quackers Project once it is live so you can send to the students and families in your community. Youth involvement this year is individualized, not group oriented, because of social distancing.

I hope this helps as we launch the Duck Race virtually this year, and please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Thank you!



Download the eBook today on the Hoopla app using your library card.



Center For New Americans

Read the Book, Join the Discussion

JOIN US:

Wednesday, June 17
at 7 pm via Zoom

RSVP by June 15

Yara Osman

yosman@ifwcny.org

or

www.oflibrary.org

What is it like to be a refugee? It is a question many of us do not give much thought to, and yet there are more than 25 million refugees in the world. **Read** the real human stories of what it is like to journey across borders in the hope of starting anew.

Join the discussion: Listen to the narratives of former refugees in our Syracuse community and enjoy a special audio recording from the author Dina Nayeri.



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.