

# 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)

**July & August 2021**



Photo by Joy Pople

## **A Green Thought by Katharine Towers**

Say instead it was an evening in head-high  
bracken with its smell of dark and medicine.  
Thinking green of the infecting  
fern

where you may crouch and not be known,  
lodging your feet for good amid the stalks.  
A bower is a dwelling place or once it was  
a cage for pent-up singing birds.

Look down to see the warp and weft of root.  
All the world is in these clutches.

Look up to clock the fern's drab underneath  
blotched with spores you mustn't breathe.

Breathe in deep. There's nowhere else to live.

## Meet the 2021 WTB Interfaith Achievement Award Winners!!

The WTB Interfaith Achievement Award is given to a graduating senior in the Syracuse City School District who has nurtured respect and understanding among different faiths and cultures as demonstrated through her activities and leadership. Each winner receives a one thousand dollar award to be used to further her education and/or training.

CONGRATULATIONS to our winners this year: Emelia Weah and Ngoc-Lynn Huynh! Each has worked to make her school, faith, and/or local community more accepting and inclusive.

WTB is delighted to honor these truly inspiring young women and the work they have done and are doing to foster understanding and compassion across cultural differences. We wish them every success as each pursues her educational and personal goals!!



EMELIA WEAH, Nottingham class of 2021, came to this country in 2010 from Ivory Coast, West Africa. She has overcome many challenges through hard work and focusing on helping others. Emelia founded an anti-bullying group at Nottingham to help shy, quiet students make friends and connect to staff resources and has been active in Girls UP club which focuses on empowering women. She is part of "Through My Eyes" a group where students from around the world share their experiences living in this country. Emelia serves her church by volunteering in the food pantry and teaching Sunday school. She begins OCC in the fall.



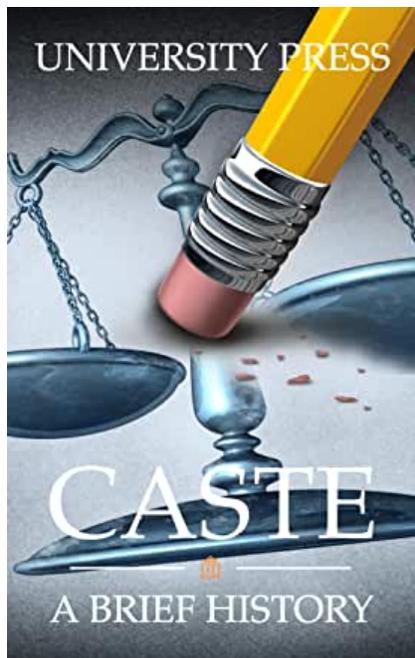
NGOC-LYNN HUYNH, Henninger Class of 2021, is a first-generation Vietnamese American; she "learned to become a liaison between these two cultures using my fluency in Vietnamese and English to teach each side about the other." Lynn began as a participant and became a trained facilitator in Community-Wide Dialogue; she worked on an exchange program involving 30 students from Manlius Pebble Hill and Henninger to discuss racism in schools and how to end it. Lynn is very involved with Seeds of Peace participating in the intense Seeds of Peace Camp experience. While President of her school's chapter the group collaborated with the Multicultural Club sponsoring school dialogue sessions. She is going to Yale next year.



**BOOK CLUB**  
**For July & August**

**BOOK CLUB**  
*Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson  
**Monday, July 12th**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

Conducted by Seda Cetin  
[sulesedacetin@gmail.com](mailto:sulesedacetin@gmail.com).



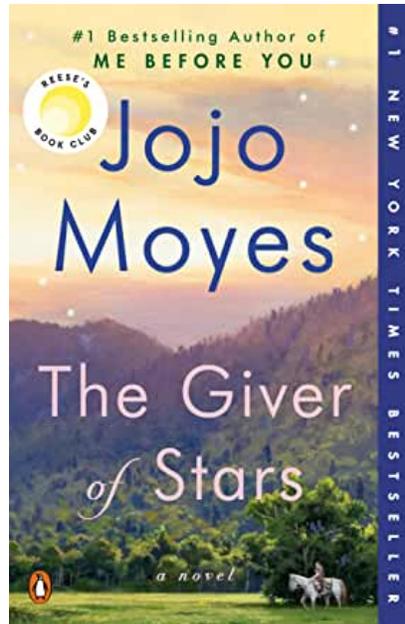
**Caste :**  
**The Origins of Our Discontents**

“As we go about our daily lives, caste is the wordless usher in a darkened theater, flashlight cast down in the aisles, guiding us to our assigned seats for a performance. The hierarchy of caste is not about feelings or morality. It is about power - which groups have it and which do not.”  
New York Times

## **BOOK CLUB**

*A Giver of Stars*  
by Jojo Moyes  
**Monday, August 9th**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

In August, the meetings will resume to be led by Anne Flaherty,  
[ajustanne@verizon.net](mailto:ajustanne@verizon.net)



### **A Giver of Stars**

Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve, hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically.

Our book club continues to meet via Zoom generally on the second Monday of the month, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. We select books that shed insight into social issues and the impact of faith in our world today. The following books will be discussed in September & October.

- Sept. 13 – *The Making of a Racist*, by Charles Dew
- Oct. 11 – *North of Dawn*, by Nuruddin Farah

Until further notice, our meetings are led in Zoom.



### **Sewing with New Americans:**

The NorthSide Learning Center has been scheduling activities, so unless there are drastic changes in covid, we expect to resume sewing classes in September. Jennifer has been calling the sewing teachers to determine who will be willing and able to return. Most of the instructors that she has reached will return. So now we need to start spreading the word among refugees, as we have no waiting list. All teachers will show their vaccination card. This will show our students that we consider vaccination important and we are not asking anything of them that we have not done ourselves. Students will be required to show their card before entering the first class.

During covid restrictions Jennifer has still collected sewing machines, fabric and supplies, so we are fully prepared for upcoming give-aways in October, January, and March. We will still need new donations for next May.





## *WHAT IS SCHMAI?*

Schmai is an informal get together to try new foods and expand friendships. Try a Schmai. No need to RSVP—just stop by the restaurant and look for the WTB sign on a table. Hope to see you there!



June Schmai at the Salt City Market

It was wonderful to reconnect in person at our June Schmai. We are looking forward to another gathering in July!

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, July 29th at 6:00 pm Place: TBD



## JOIN US

FOR OUR PANTRY PARTNERS  
FOOD DRIVE KICKOFF

INTERFAITH WORKS OF CNY  
1010 JAMES ST, SYRACUSE, NY 13203

THURSDAY, JULY 1ST 10AM TO 10:45AM

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN THIS EFFORT TO FIGHT  
FOOD INSECURITY IN OUR UNDERSERVED NEIGHBORHOODS

WTB will be participating in the InterFaith Works of CNY Pantry Partners Food Drive. We plan to collect food items in late August/early September. However, the drive is going on from July 1-Sept 30. If you can help out over the summer, the designated drop off center is located at Interreligious Food Consortium, [731 James St., Syracuse.](https://www.interreligiousfoodconsortium.org/)

Here is a list of in-demand items:

- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon, etc.)
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruits
- Canned and boxed meals (soup, macaroni and cheese, etc.)
- Flour
- Peanut butter and other nut butters
- Canned or dried beans and peas (black, pinto, lentils, etc.)
- Pasta, rice, and cereal
- 100% fruit juice (canned, plastic, or boxed)
- Cooking oil
- Shelf-stable milk
- Other healthy, low-fat, low-sodium, low-sugar Products

Please, no glass.

## Discordant Music

*“Traveling down the mainstream of life,  
I pause a moment and reflect on strife.”*

**Marvin Zakon, “Reflections on Ecology and Stuff”**

Strife has formed discordant music to my life.  
Sometimes, that music has deafened me,  
Shaken my bones, as when base drums  
Vibrate through my body from the car  
Beside me at a traffic light.  
Sometimes, the discord fades, each bar  
of music seemingly enriched by strife,  
Enlivened by diversity, and drawing  
To a resolution, slow and satisfying,  
Until the next bars rouse me once again.  
The discord grows. The music never ends.

Poem by Joan Burstyn



Carol Lipson reading the poem at the May 23rd meeting.



Monthly Meeting  
Sunday, September 19, 2021  
3:00 - 5:00  
Dances of Different Faiths & Cultures

## Become a member of Women Transcending Boundaries!

You need only fill out a 2021 Membership Form to officially join.  
A form is available on our website [www.wtb.org](http://www.wtb.org) or you can use the easy online link  
<https://forms.gle/oShFU2D5VnzNQPHv6>



### ***WTB Mission Statement***

*We are an egalitarian community of women coming together to respect and learn more about each other's various spiritual beliefs, cultures, and common concerns. It is our intent to share our experiences with the wider community, to educate and to serve.*

Please consider becoming actively involved in WTB this year. Our program year runs from September to May. We welcome your ideas and skills. Here are three opportunities to help shape the direction of our organization.

#### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Program committee plans the monthly programs. We typically have programs once a month, September through May. Committee members meet monthly to plan out the meetings. We are looking for new ideas, and your voice would be welcomed!!

#### **PUBLICITY COMMITTEE MEMBER**

This committee meets as needed to publicize WTB events. WTB would love to expand and improve our social media outreach. The pandemic has shown us we will need to improve our Zoom skills and become more facile with options such as Google Pages. We hope to improve our publicity this year and would be grateful for your help and any knowledge you can share.

We really need help with FB, Instagram and technology in general.

#### **SERVICE COMMITTEE MEMBER**

When we could not meet in person due to Covid, WTB did more service projects than usual, collecting items for Rise Above Poverty, Eastern Farm Workers Association, Interfaith Works of Central New York, We Rise Above the Streets, and St. Lucy's Food Pantry. If you would like to help plan our service projects for the coming year, this committee is for you!