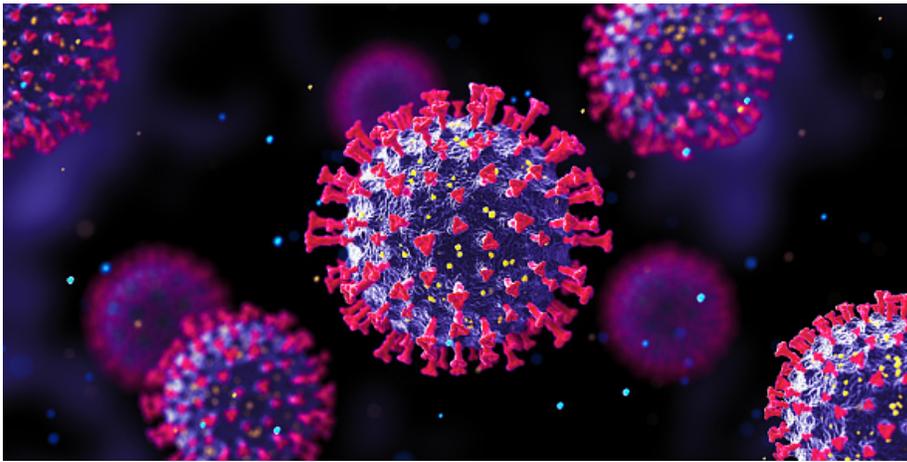


# Women Transcending Boundaries Monthly Newsletter



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

**January 2022**



It's time to regroup and change our plans as the new variant, Omicron, hits Central New York in a mighty big way.

Thus, we will begin 2022 with a meeting in February. It will not be "in person" until we can feel safe being around each other again.

Until then, catch us on Zoom (starting next month), stay safe and be well.

"Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light."

—Albert Schweitzer, theologian, organist, musicologist, writer, humanitarian, philosopher, and physician



**People fail to get along because they fear each other;  
they fear each other because they don't know each  
other; they don't know each other because they have  
not communicated with each other.**

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr**

Dear Friends and Members of WTB,

WTB was formed by Betsy Wiggins and Danya Wellmon in the days after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center September 11, 2001. Our group began by creating an opportunity for communication: a conversation over coffee between a Christian woman and a Muslim woman in a national atmosphere of fear, mistrust, and hatred of “the other.” WTB has always been about creating spaces where women can come together across boundaries of religion, culture and experience. We learn about each other through conversations—sharing our stories, hearing those of others – and discover as women “we are more alike than different.” We learn about the beliefs and traditions of other groups through respectful conversations – and find richness in our diversity. Through conversations we develop friendships.

If you've been thinking about becoming a member of WTB, we hope you do so this year; you can join by clicking on this link <https://forms.gle/Yig1KGo4tbSqvByn6>. We need your voice in our conversations and value your perspectives and unique talents. We welcome all women to join our current activities as well as to propose new ones...and hope you will become as actively involved as you would like to be!

On Martin Luther King Day 2022 I'll be thinking not only of his dream of racial equality but also his belief in the power of communication. May 2022 be a year when meaningful conversations help us build bridges of understanding and respect across our boundaries. We are all “the other” to someone.

Sincerely,

Barb Bova

On December 12<sup>th</sup> about 20 ladies gathered at Jowonio and via Zoom to learn more about each other's winter holidays. Many thanks to our engaging, informative speakers: Carol Lipson discussed Chanukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights; Terra Harmatuk explained the pagan festival of Yule; Lorraine Markley shared traditions of Christmas past and present; and Sue Savion spoke about the non-religious, African American holiday of Kwanzaa. We all enjoyed seeing the holiday items speakers displayed – beautiful menorahs and dreidels, advent wreaths, holly and ivy laurels and Yule candles, Kwanzaa candles of red, black, and green. Lively questions enriched the discussion: many asked for clarification or further detail, others shared personal holiday memories, many pointed out commonalities in these four holidays of candle light. Those of us attending in person got to sample seasonal treats including homemade, individually wrapped Christmas cookies, Torrone nougat candy, and foil wrapped chocolate gelt.

We are grateful to those who presented, those who attended, those who brought refreshments, those who managed Zoom—it was a meeting enjoyed by all!

Link to the Zoom video of this event: [https://youtu.be/W5t2\\_JIkEmg](https://youtu.be/W5t2_JIkEmg)



Carol Lipson & Chanukah  
& the Jewish Festival of Light:



Terra Harmatuk & the Pagan Festival



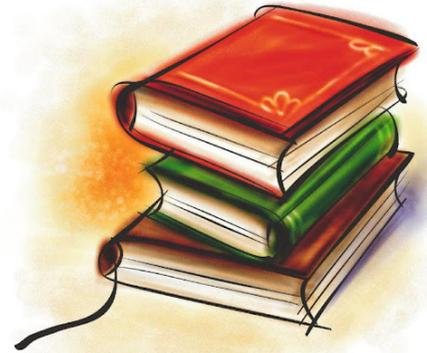
Lorraine Markley & traditions of Christians



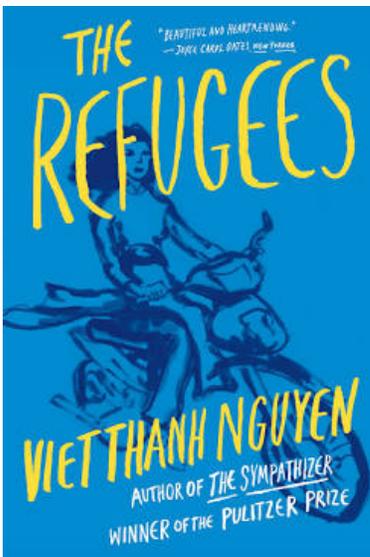
Sue Savion & the African American  
holiday of Kwanzaa

## BOOK CLUB

**The Refugees**  
**Monday, January 10**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm**  
**Via Zoom**



### **The Refugees by Viet Thanh Nguyen/eight short stories**



From a young Vietnamese refugee who suffers profound culture shock when he comes to live with two gay men in San Francisco, to a woman whose husband is suffering from dementia and starts to confuse her for a former lover, to a girl living in Ho Chi Minh City whose older half-sister comes back from America having seemingly accomplished everything she never will, the stories are a captivating testament to the dreams and hardships of immigration.

The WTB book club is an egalitarian community of women from many faith and cultural traditions. We seek to nurture mutual respect and understanding by reading about diverse beliefs, customs, and practices. We choose books - fiction, non-fiction, and memoir - that reflect diversity of faith and culture, either internationally or within our own country. Whenever possible, we prefer to choose books written by women or featuring female characters. If you would like to join the book club either in person or on Zoom, please call or text Jennifer at 315-345-9217

February 14 - Call Me American: A Memoir by Abdi Nor Iftin  
(If you go to our site: [wtb.org](http://wtb.org), you will find a list of books for many more months.)

## January Schmai

Hope Cafe Coffeehouse

Thursday, January 6th  
at 1:00 pm



(Please notice the new time.)

**Hope Cafe and Tea House** (920 Old Liverpool Rd, Liverpool, NY 13088) is a CNY staple that is rapidly expanding! Hope Cafe has been voted the best new restaurant, best cafe, best vegetarian/vegan food, best dessert, and much more! When you eat and drink at Hope Cafe, your meals are Three for the Price of One, because your meals help to provide meals for 10,000 people in need each month! We are a community lounge and means of financial support for a local non-profit, [The People Project](#).

Our charity has been working to help men, women, and children across the globe for over a decade. We began "Hope Cafe and Tea House" in order to help fund our current and future endeavors. When you drink our exclusive drinks, and eat our delicious food, you are doing it with a purpose. Each bite you take helps to provide a meal for someone in need. Each drink you consume helps to provide assistance to someone else. Every donation goes to help those in need.

Hope Cafe is a fusion of Peruvian, Italian, and American food and drinks, along with some other international favorites that you cannot find anywhere else! Come for the menu, stay for the ambiance, be a part of the movement!



Last Schmai on November, 17 at the Secret Garden

## February 2022 Schmai

Please join us for some socializing and laughter 😊

**Date: Tuesday February 8<sup>th</sup> 1pm**



500 Westcott Street, Syracuse, NY (315) 907-3710

### **Danielle's Story**

This business has not only turned me into the person I am today, but it has also allowed me to change others' lives along the process. As the restaurant and hospitality industry continue digging deeper roots in my life, I am realizing that my goal is to connect people over great food every day.

There's a lot of history to be known in this place and we've come a long way in recent years, but here is the website version. All the way back in 2009, I lost my job and was unemployed for a year. I was going through one of my darkest times in my life: no money, three daughters to take care of and no idea of what was next. I prayed. I prayed for help, and I prayed. In that moment, and I do mean in that very moment, the phone rang. My stepfather, Tommy Rozzano, called about a position at The Rise N Shine Diner! A longtime friend of Tommy's, Peter Henessey, needed a waitress full time and I CLEARLY needed a job

I clearly remember I couldn't even find this diner! It was tucked behind a small Valvoline, with not much signage. I drove around a few times looking for the diner, and I almost gave up. Then I saw this tiny, rundown building in the back. Pete, who I had never met, welcomed me right away and eventually became like an uncle to me. I was instantly drawn to helping Pete build his business and taking care of our customers.

I saw the potential in this tiny, little, off-the-beaten path diner and knew my future was in FOOD! He had owned many restaurants in his day and had been a great friend to many, but little did we know, this diner would be his last stop. A few years down the road, Pete fell ill with leukemia and was told he didn't have a lot of time to live. One day, he called me to his bedside at the hospital. Pete, having no family, felt that I was the right person for the job and asked me if I would take over the Diner. This was a great opportunity and I was humbled but I was also SCARED!! I had never run my own business, but Pete reminded me that I was made for this!!

Today, we are two restaurants and with the concept we will continue to build and expand on. My mission is to share great tasting food and to make it memorable. We understand that food is a universal language; it brings people together from all walks of life and makes memories, long-lasting ones.

We Rise (everyday). We Shine (make everyday lovable, livable, laughable and make each moment count). We Grind (and we work our tails off every day to make all this happen)! So enjoy!

~ Danielle ~



### **BLESSINGS FOR BELOVEDS**

May the evening dusk bring you mysteries.  
May the dark night bring reprieve from everything that hussles.  
May morning find you eager to rise and may your days carry you gracefully and gently forth.  
May springtime awake you, your summer caress you; autumns refresh you and winters bring you peace.  
May you find in the night sky your personal constellation; a community of stars that carry you forward toward your life.  
May you hear lullabies in the breeze; and may all the busy sounds of life be one Halleluiah that you are here.  
SO MAY IT BE.

From, "BLESSINGS For Times Like These,"  
by Jack Manno



**Would you like to be involved in supporting a newly arrived Afghan family?**

WTB would like support newly arriving Afghan families by becoming part of InterFaith Works’ “Ambassador Guide” program. WTB would be assigned a refugee family who fled Afghanistan in the recent US withdrawal.

Each Afghan family will be connected with a social service agency responsible for all legal matters and basic services. We would help our family settle into our Syracuse community for the first 6 months of their entering the Syracuse area. As much as possible, we will work in teams as we support this family as needed.

Support could involve adding homey touches to their apartment, helping children in regard to school, driving family members to appointments, introducing them to local attractions and markets—just generally being a person-to-person resource smoothing their transition and becoming friends.

If you are interested in exploring this opportunity, please contact Liz Spence at [lizspence10@gmail.com](mailto:lizspence10@gmail.com) or home phone 315 652-5676.

If we have enough people who are interested, the next step is to meet via Zoom with IFW staff to learn more about what is expected of “Ambassador Guides” and how we become part of this program.



## JELL-O UPDATE

WTB joins Syracuse Federation of Women's Club in thanking all of you who gave monetary donations and/or boxes of Jell-O to us for the annual Christmas Bureau and Salvation Army Holiday Distribution Day at the On-Center. Together we donated over **7,200+ boxes of Jell-O** for the holiday baskets.

Candace Edwards, co-president of Syracuse Federation of Women's Clubs (a.k.a "the Jell-O Lady") writes: "Thank you for making another miracle happen for the families of Onondaga County. You all were a blessing in disguise!"





## SEWING

Refugee sewing class celebrated a farewell to Yusra, our delightful teacher for several years. She arrived as a refugee from Iraq, fluent in Arabic. She completed our class, then asked to join both as a teacher and as a translator. What a blessing for us! Recently she became our student again, learning to do American quilting with Karen Grimm. Yusra is moving to Houston to be near her daughter and we're sure that the Houston community will be enriched by her presence.

Refugee sewing will resume on January 6. We hope that the new year will bring us more students!





Membership runs from Jan-Dec 31 each year so it's time to **renew your membership.**



## Women Transcending Boundaries, Inc.

*A Metro Syracuse Women's Group Founded After 9/11/01*

P.O. Box 6847, Syracuse, NY 13217  
www.wtb.org

### 2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member \_\_\_\_  
Renewing Member \_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Native Country: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you first learn about WTB? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have special interests that bring you to WTB? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive more information about specific needs and volunteer opportunities ...  
within WTB?  in the greater Central New York community?

**Dues** (\$25 per year) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Note:** Dues are appreciated but not mandatory for membership. However, you must fill out and submit this form in order to be a WTB member.*

**Donation:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Your additional donation will help fund WTB projects, activities and scholarships. Thank you!*

**Total** paid on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ by cash \_\_\_\_ or check \_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Women Transcending Boundaries, Inc.**  
*is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable corporation.*  
*All dues and donations are tax deductible.*

**Please submit this completed form at any WTB meeting or by mail to the address at the top of this form.**

*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.*