

Women Transcending Boundaries Monthly Newsletter



All information also available on our website wtb.org

February 2022

LET'S GET TOGETHER AND TALK!!

Monthly Meeting: Sunday, February 20

Time: 3:00 - 5:00pm

Place: Zoom or Jowonio



Join us for an informal program meeting “Reconnecting: Brainstorming WTB’s Path Forward” on Sunday, February 20th at 3 pm. The meeting will be both in person and on Zoom.

Much has changed since WTB was formed in 2001; yet in many ways our country seems more divided than ever. What can WTB do to build bridges of understanding and friendship with those who may be different from us? How can we find commonalities with those we may think of as “the other?”

We need your help and ideas as WTB moves forward. Please come share your thoughts Feb 20th!

In person: Jowonio is located at 3049 East Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13224; please park in rear of the building and enter through the rear door. Bring proof of vaccination. We will mask unless speaking. Water bottles available, but will not be serving snacks at this meeting.

Zoom: A link will be emailed through our List Serv prior to the meeting or email babova@aol.com.

WTB is collecting items for newly arriving refugees. Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Services has requested clothing items -- new or clean, gently used. Needed: warm winter boots, socks, coats (especially men’s); causal shirts size S or M; jeans 32”-33” waist, kids clothes (2T- XL).

InterFaith Works Refugee Resettlement has requested \$25 Gift cards for TOPS markets.

WTB continues to collect calendars for the Veterans, gently used bras, and cleaned, empty pill bottles. Items can be brought to the Feb 20th meeting or call Barb Bova (315 415-2797) for pickup.



EXCITING MEETING BEING PLANNED FOR MARCH

WTB and the Onondaga Historical Association will offer

“How Did Our Neighborhoods Come Together?”

The story of how immigrants, refugees, religious groups settled our Syracuse neighborhoods and built our community.

Men and Women invited!

Date TBD: stayed tuned!





The President's Corner

February 2022

Dear Friends and Members of WTB,

Founded by Betsy Wiggins and Danya Wellmon in the days after the 9/11/01 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, WTB have always sought to be a voice against fear and hatred of "the other." We always sought to foster understanding, respect and friendship by creating spaces to come together across boundaries of faith and culture. We have always been about sharing our unique stories as women to find "we are more alike than we are different." We have always sought to learn about diverse faiths and cultures with curiosity, respect and gratitude. We have always been a group of caring women reaching out to each other and our community.

Today as I look around me, WTB's mission seems more vital than ever. Do you see a changing role for WTB in this current climate? Are there specific projects or programs you envision? We need your input and energy to keep WTB moving forward.

I'm looking forward to sharing our ideas and stories and visions at our meeting Feb 20th. Let's get together and chat!

Barb Bova,



WTB Mission Statement

Women Transcending Boundaries, Inc. (WTB) is 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.



Syracuse Federation of Women's Clubs invites you to attend its February meeting to be held via Zoom on February 10th at 6:30 pm. The speaker will be Denise McGraw from the American Heart Association. Denise is director of Go Red for Women and a 10-year stroke survivor. She will share information on heart health with a focus on women and share some of her slides. Zoom attendees are invited to wear red for American Heart Awareness Month!

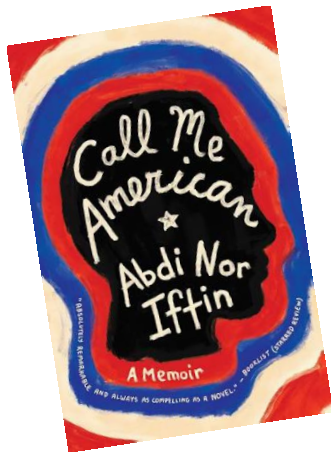
Zoom link information: ID Code 777 891 7729 Password 288487



Refugee sewing had only 2 students in January, one of whom began pre-Covid and is doing more advanced work. After next week, the sewing program will be on hiatus awaiting a more complete class. Afghan refugees continue to arrive and some may want sewing lessons.

Each beginner student always receives a sewing machine, supplies, and fabric. The project continues to gift a sewing machine and supplies to new arrivals who already know how to sew.

Donations of sewing machines and supplies are still being accepted. Please contact Jennifer at 315-345-9217 or robertscrittenden@verizon.net for further information.



BOOK CLUB

Call Me American
Monday, February 14
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Via Zoom

Call Me American by Abdi Nor Iftin

Abdi Nor Iftin first fell in love with the United States from afar. As a child, he learned English by listening to American pop and watching action films. Sporting American clothes and dance moves, he became known around Mogadishu as Abdi American, but when the radical Islamist group al-Shabaab rose to power in 2006, it became dangerous to celebrate Western culture. In an amazing stroke of luck, Abdi won entrance to the U.S. in the annual visa lottery. Now a proud resident of Maine, on the path to citizenship, Abdi Nor Iftin's dramatic, deeply stirring memoir is truly a story for our time: a vivid reminder of why America still beckons to those looking to make a better life.

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

March 14 - The Vanishing Half by Britt Bennett and/or
The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and V. C. Murray



Winter Poem

by Nikki Giovanni

once a snowflake fell
on my brow and i
loved
it so much and i kissed
it and it was happy
and called its cousins
and brothers and a
web
of snow engulfed me
then
i reached to love them
all
and i squeezed them
and they became
a spring rain and i
stood perfectly
still and was a flower.

"Winter Poem" by Nikki Giovanni, from
The Collected Poetry of Nikki Giovanni: 1968-1998.
© Harper Perennial, 2007.



Photos by Joy Pople

February 2022 Schmai

Please join us for some socializing and laughter 😊

Date: Tuesday February 8th 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 Hennessey, 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, longlasting 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 ~



January Schmi at Hope Cafe



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

WTB is going to be a part of InterFaith Works’ “Ambassador Guide” program to support a specific refugee family who fled Afghanistan in the recent US withdrawal. We will not be responsible for legal matters or basic services, but will work as a team to help a family settle into the Syracuse community over a period of at least 6 months.

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 or home phone 315 652-5676

The Social Justice Committee of Immaculate Conception Parish was collecting blankets to be donated to Refugee Resettlement Services at Catholic Charities. These blankets will be used to set up apartments for newly arriving families. The drive ended Jan 31. Thank you all of you who contributed. These cold nights will suddenly become warmer.





Women Transcending Boundaries
“Interfaith Achievement Award”
Grant Opportunity!!

Women Transcending Boundaries is accepting applications for the 2022 WTB Interfaith Achievement Award.

What: one-time, \$1,000 monetary award

Who: female graduating senior in the Syracuse City School District

Criteria:

- She shall have demonstrated, through service, her understanding of and commitment to interfaith and intercultural diversity in her school, her faith tradition and/or her community
- She plans to continue her post-high-school education in a certificate program, a trade school, or a 2-year or 4-year college or university
- Eligibility for this award is not limited by academic (GPA) or financial considerations

Further Information:

- Application deadline: Monday, May 2nd, 2022
- Contact school guidance office or consult Naviance account
- Application form can be downloaded from WTB’s website: www.wtb.org
- Contact Barbara Bova barbbarbbova@gmail.com or 315 415-2797 (cell)

Please help us get the word out by sharing this information with those who may know of young women who might want to apply!



It's Time to Renew WTB Membership for 2022!!

Annual Membership in WTB goes from January 1st to December 31st of each calendar year.

Please use following online link below to become an official member of WTB for 2022: <https://forms.gle/Yig1KGo4tbSqvByn6>

It only takes a minute or two! Alternatively, fill in a 2022 Membership Form and mail to WTB, PO Box 6847, Syracuse, NY 13217.



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.