

Women Transcending Boundaries Monthly Newsletter



All information also available on our website wtb.org

May 2023



SPRING FLING!

Picnic supper and Plant Exchange.

Come join your WTB sisters as we honor the earth, share our bounty with an ethnic pot luck dish and perhaps a plant from our own garden. Gardening tips are always welcome!

When: **Tuesday**, May 23 5:00 -7:00

Where: [CNY Rise Center](#),
275 W.Seneca Turnpike
Green area around back

What to bring:

- A dish to pass
- A lawn chair or not!
- A plant to exchange

WTB will provide tableware and beverages.
Feel free to bring a friend or three!



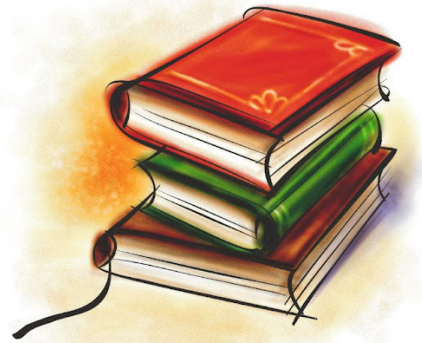


“Lemonade and Light: Holidays of Spring”

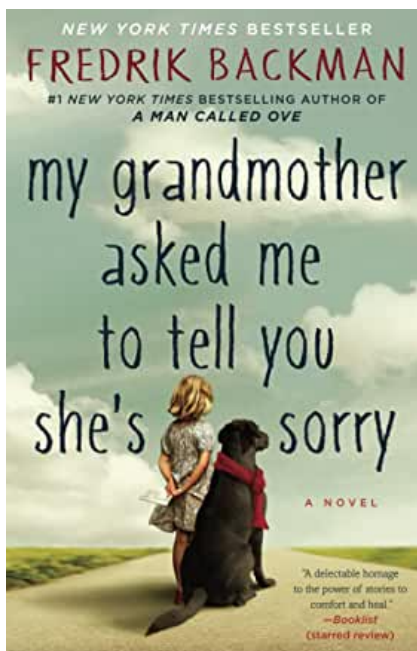
About thirty women gathered at CNY RISE Center on **April 16th** to learn more about the spring holidays celebrated in different faith traditions. Joann Cook spoke about Buddha’s Birthday which is traditionally celebrated on April 8th and our group re-enacted the story surrounding the Baby Buddha’s birth. Carol Lipson spoke about the Jewish traditions of Passover as celebrated here and in Israel. Lorraine Markley shared the Catholic traditions around the 40 days of Lent culminating in Easter celebrations in churches filled with music and decorations. Cher Holt-Fortin introduced many of us to Baha’i – the last revealed religion founded in the 1800’s by Baha’u’llah. Baha’i teaches that all major religions are manifestations of one God and champions unity and equality of all people. Baha’i celebrates Naw-Ruz – the Persian New Year—on March 21st and holds a 12-day festival of Ridvan later in the Spring commemorating important events in the life of Baha’u’llah. Melek Yavuz spoke about the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in which fasting, prayer, and charity lead believers closer to Allah. Ramadan may fall at any time during the year, but in 2023 it coincided with Passover and Easter – as well as Buddha’s Birthday and Naw- Ruz. Many attendees remarked on the similarities between these joyous Spring festivals – including family gatherings, Spring flowers, special foods and fellowship!

BOOK CLUB
May 8: 7-9 pm

**My Grandmother Asked me to
Tell you She's Sorry**
by David Gramm
Via Zoom



**My Grandmother Asked Me
to Tell You She's Sorry**
by Fredrik Backman



Elsa is seven years old and different. Her grandmother is seventy-seven years old and crazy—as in standing-on-the-balcony-firing-paintball-guns-at-strangers crazy. She is also Elsa's best, and only, friend. At night Elsa takes refuge in her grandmother's stories, in the Land-of-Almost-Awake and the Kingdom of Miamas, where everybody is different and nobody needs to be normal.

My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry is told with the same comic accuracy and beating heart as Fredrik Backman's bestselling debut novel, *A Man Called Ove*. It is a story about life and death and one of the most important human rights: the right to be different. (Amazon)

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

June 12: The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Us and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGhee

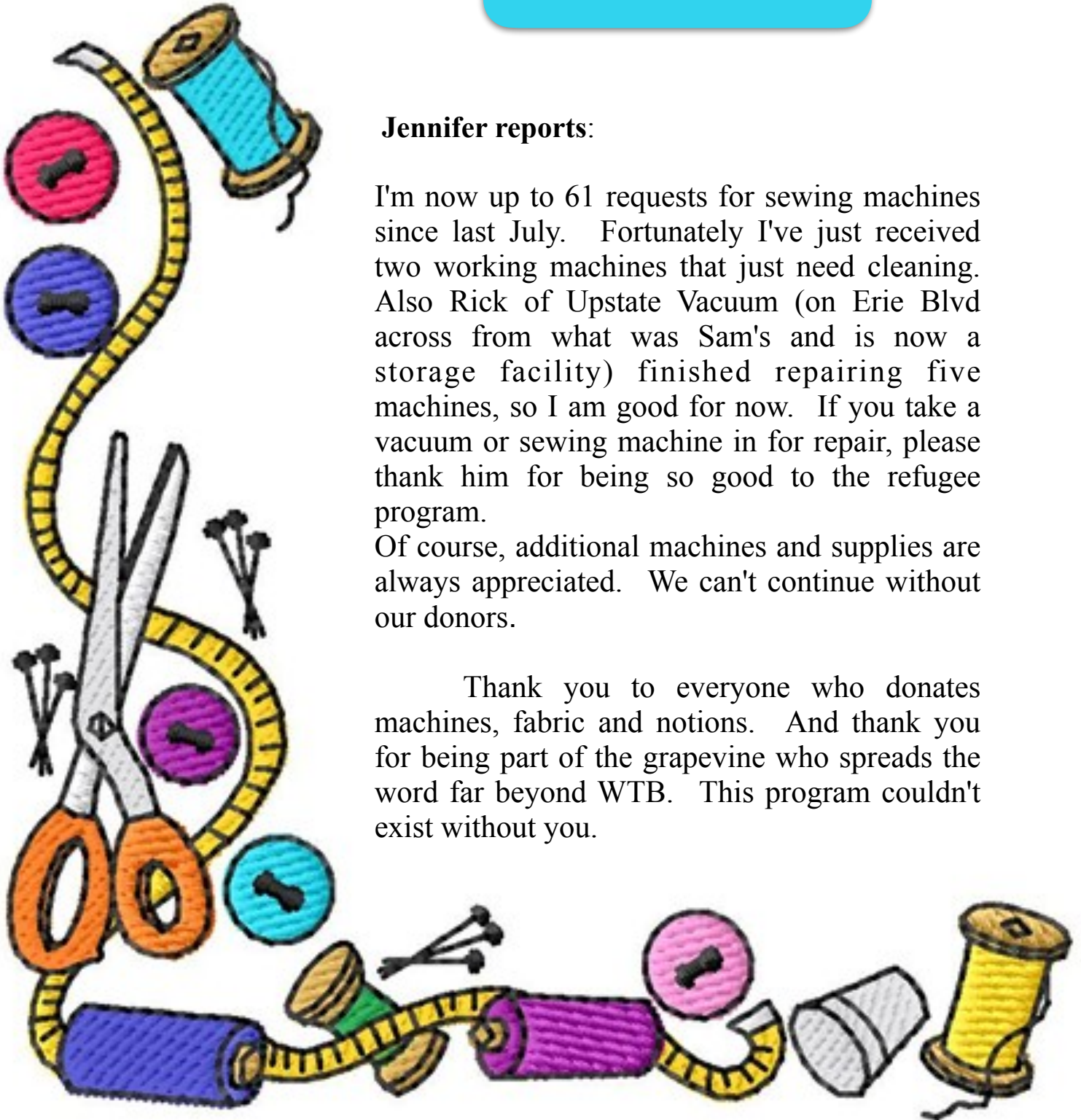
REFUGEE SEWING

Jennifer reports:

I'm now up to 61 requests for sewing machines since last July. Fortunately I've just received two working machines that just need cleaning. Also Rick of Upstate Vacuum (on Erie Blvd across from what was Sam's and is now a storage facility) finished repairing five machines, so I am good for now. If you take a vacuum or sewing machine in for repair, please thank him for being so good to the refugee program.

Of course, additional machines and supplies are always appreciated. We can't continue without our donors.

Thank you to everyone who donates machines, fabric and notions. And thank you for being part of the grapevine who spreads the word far beyond WTB. This program couldn't exist without you.



A close-up photograph of a sandy surface, likely a sandbox, with a yellow rectangular overlay in the center. The text is written in bold black font on the yellow background. The background shows the texture of the sand and some small twigs or debris.

**Peace is not when
everyone agrees. It is
when we can respect
our disagreements
and still play in the
sandbox together.**

OLDTIMERS9.COM

Big World. Many Beliefs. One Prayer. Peace.

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Only when the Power of Love overcomes the Love of Power will there be True Peace

Handcrafted 925 Sterling Silver



BEAUTIFUL INTERFAITH BRACELETS

This lovely bracelet celebrates the commonalities all faiths share!

Created by Jill Felts of Compelling Creations, each high-quality bracelet consists of 9 silver medallions – each with a symbol of a different world

THE GOLDEN RULE



Islam: Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.



Taoism: Regard your neighbor's gain as your won gain and your neighbor's loss as your own loss.



Christianity: In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.



Shinto: Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself.



Dove of Peace



Primal Religions: The entire universe is alive and interconnected. One should treat all creatures in the world as one would want to be treated.



Buddhism: Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.



Judaism: What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. This is the whole Torah, all the rest is commentary.



Hinduism: This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.

BEAUTIFUL INTERFAITH BRACELETS OFFERED

This lovely bracelet celebrates the commonalities all faiths share!

Price of the bracelet will vary depending upon the price of silver. At present the cost of these bracelets is \$76.00 each. The net proceeds will be donated to support the programs and mission of Women Transcending Boundaries.

Silver Interfaith Bracelet Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

I would like to purchase _____ Interfaith Bracelets

Number of bracelets _____ at \$76.00 each

Total _____

Make checks out to Betsy Wiggins and mail to 305 Carlton Dr., Dewitt, NY 13214.

Jewelry will be delivered to you!



DANCES of UNIVERSAL PEACE

Led by Jim Leff

FRIDAY, May 12, 2023 from 7-8:30 pm

Trinity Episcopal Church Great Hall
106 Chapel Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066
Free parking available in lot across from hall

These meditative, 'spiritual folk dances' use inspirational songs and universal movements to promote peace between diverse faiths and people.

No dance skills are required to learn and enjoy. All ages are welcome to participate even with physical or other limitations.

FREE – Donations are welcome

SYRACUSE, NY

united
we end
racism

InterFaith
Works

**COMMUNITY
FESTIVAL**

INNER HARBOR

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 10AM-2PM



Let us know if you have any concerns, suggestions or comments. We'd love to hear from you. You can reach us at: wtbcny@gmail.com

It's time to renew your WTB membership!!

WTB Membership runs from January 1st – December 31 each year. It is time to renew for **2023!**

We hope you will become an official member of WTB for 2023. If you fill out the short online form, that is all that is necessary.

Here is a link to the online membership form:

<https://forms.gle/Yig1KGo4tbSqvByn6>





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

2023 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.