

Women Transcending Boundaries Monthly Newsletter



All information also available on our website wtb.org

December 2023

DECEMBER MEETING

What: Holiday Open House
Day: Sunday, December 17
Time: 2:00 - 6:00 pm
Where: Home of Betsy Wiggins
[305 Carlton Dr.](#)
Syracuse, NY 13214

Bodhi Day (Buddhism), Yule (Wiccan/Neo Pagan), Zarathushtra (Zoroastrian), Hanukkah (Judaism), Christmas (Christian)...many traditions celebrate a holiday in December. This is a chance to gather informally and share our traditions around this festive time of year.

If you are able, please bring a finger food to share – maybe one based in your religious or cultural tradition. We hope you will be able to stop by on Dec 17th – family and friends are welcome! Looking forward to being together with friends old and new!



Please join the InterFaith Works' Round Table of Faith leaders for prayers for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan and Congo. This event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served following the program.

Tuesday, December 5

7:00 pm

Storer Auditorium

Onondaga Community College campus

4585 W. Seneca Turnpike (Parking Lot 4)

Syracuse, NY 13215



ncnw
commitment | unity | self reliance

WTB would like to support the Syracuse Chapter of the NCNW (National Council of Negro Women) in their December Gift Wrapping Fundraiser at Carousel Mall. Do you or you and a friend have an hour or two to help by wrapping gifts? Gift wrapping booth is located at Destiny Mall just outside Macy's on the second floor.

Help would be appreciated on the following dates:

12/13, 12/14, 12/15 anytime from 10 am - 4 pm

12/16, 12/18, 12/19 or 12/21 anytime from 9 am - 4 pm.

If you are able to volunteer, please email wtbcny@gmail.com and include the dates and hours that might work for you. Please respond by Friday, Dec 8th so we can let them know how much help we can give.

Thanks for considering this service --'tis the season for gift wrapping!!
Contact Barb 315 415-2797 with questions.





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To appreciate the
beauty of a snowflake it
is necessary to stand
out in the cold.

ARISTOTLE

Southern Living

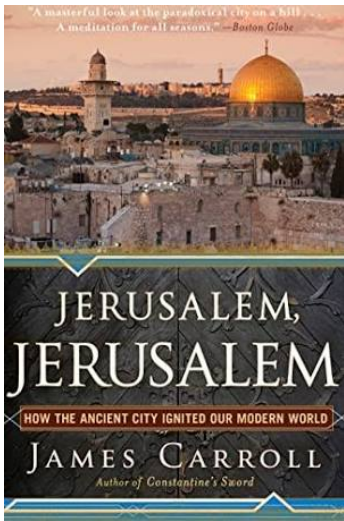


Book Club

(December & January)



Dec.11
7-9 pm via zoom



Jerusalem, Jerusalem: How the Ancient City Ignited our Modern World by James Carroll

James Carroll's urgent, masterly *Jerusalem, Jerusalem* uncovers the ways in which the ancient city became a transcendent fantasy that ignites religious fervor unlike anywhere else on earth. That fervor animates American history as much as it does the Middle East, in the present as deeply as in the past...

Google Books

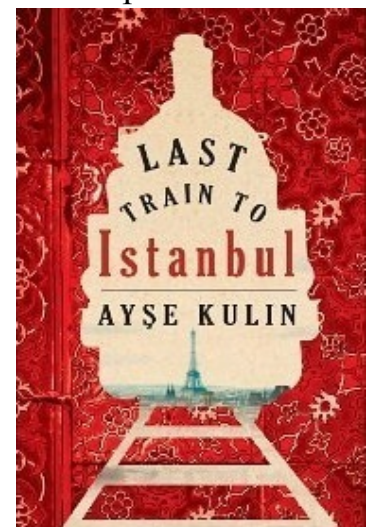
The discussion will center on pages 155 to 317, having discussed the first half of the book last month.

Jan. 8
7-9 pm via zoom

Last Train to Istanbul by Ayşe Kulin

As the daughter of one of Turkey's last Ottoman pashas, Selva could win the heart of any man in Ankara. Yet the spirited young beauty only has eyes for Rafael Alfandari, the handsome Jewish son of an esteemed court physician. In defiance of their families, they marry, fleeing to Paris to build a new life.

But when the Nazis invade France and begin rounding up Jews, the exiled lovers will learn that nothing—not war, not politics, not even religion—can break the bonds of family. *Last Train to Istanbul* is an uplifting tale of love and adventure from Turkey's beloved bestselling novelist Ayşe Kulin. *Google*



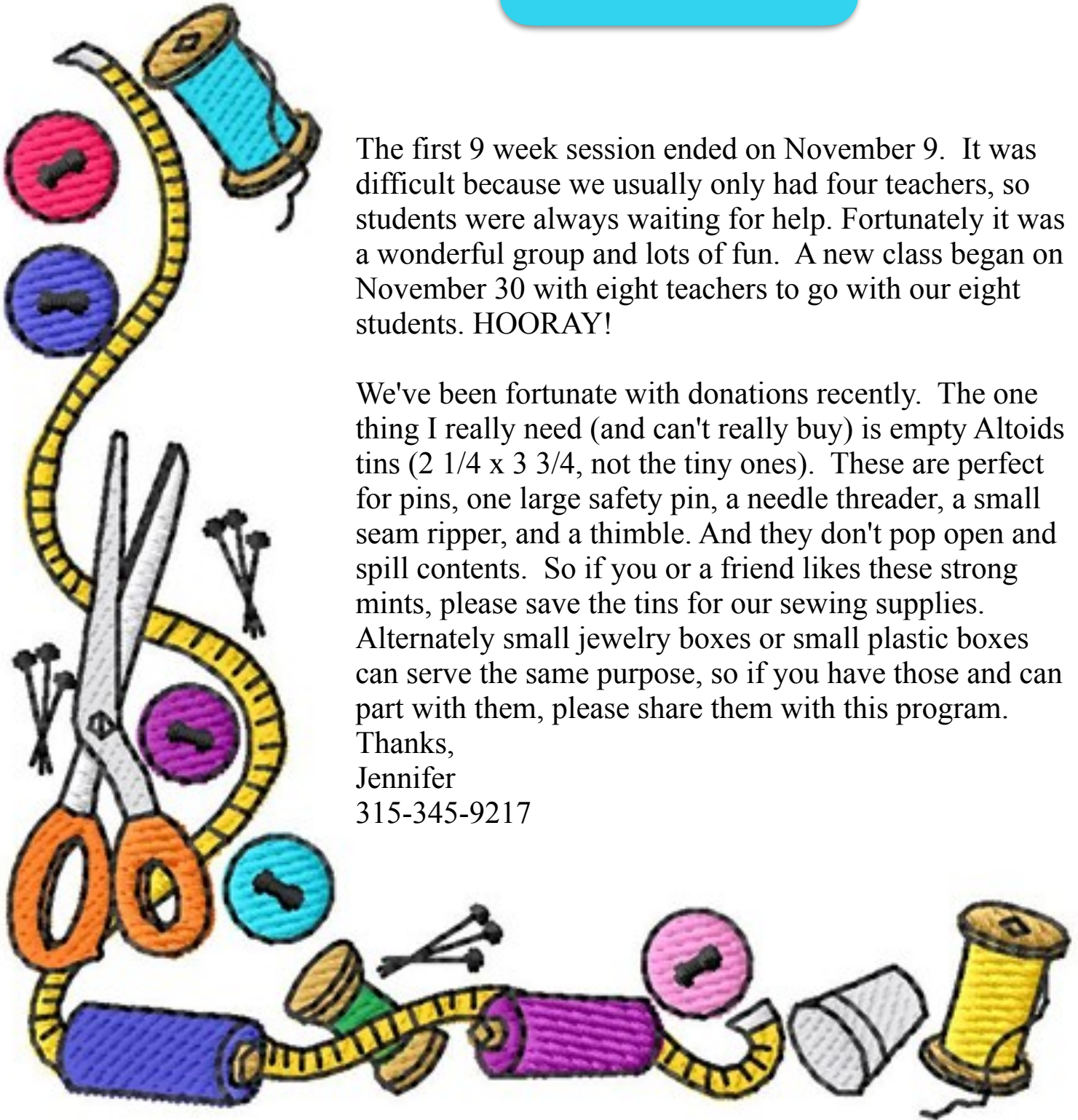
The WTB book club is an egalitarian community of women from many faith and cultural traditions. We seek to nurture mutual respect and understanding by reading about diverse beliefs, customs, and practices. We choose books - fiction, non-fiction, and memoir - that reflect diversity of faith and culture, 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

REFUGEE SEWING

The first 9 week session ended on November 9. It was difficult because we usually only had four teachers, so students were always waiting for help. Fortunately it was a wonderful group and lots of fun. A new class began on November 30 with eight teachers to go with our eight students. HOORAY!

We've been fortunate with donations recently. The one thing I really need (and can't really buy) is empty Altoids tins (2 1/4 x 3 3/4, not the tiny ones). These are perfect for pins, one large safety pin, a needle threader, a small seam ripper, and a thimble. And they don't pop open and spill contents. So if you or a friend likes these strong mints, please save the tins for our sewing supplies. Alternately small jewelry boxes or small plastic boxes can serve the same purpose, so if you have those and can part with them, please share them with this program.

Thanks,
Jennifer
315-345-9217

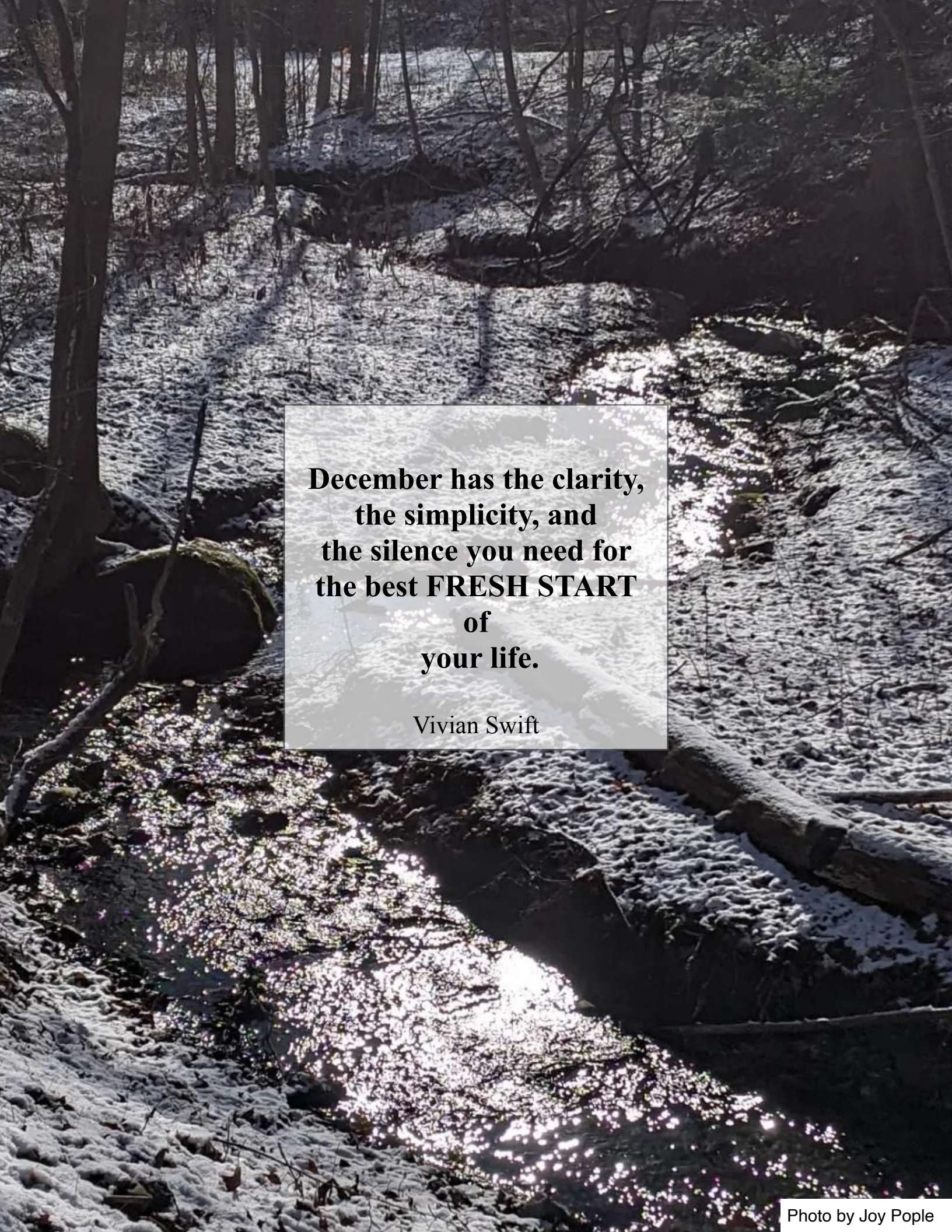


NOVEMBER SCHMAI



Last month's Schmai at Tulum Restaurant
was a big hit. The next one will be Jan. 23
at 12:30 at Taste of Africa
820 Danforth St.
Syracuse, NY. 13208



A photograph of a winter forest scene. A stream flows through the center, its surface reflecting sunlight in a shimmering pattern. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, and several large, fallen logs are scattered across the landscape. Bare trees and branches are visible in the background, creating a sense of quiet solitude.

**December has the clarity,
the simplicity, and
the silence you need for
the best FRESH START
of
your life.**

Vivian Swift

Nov 8th Friendship Dinner 2023:

We Rise Together to Address Climate Change

CNY RISE Center held its 18th Annual Friendship Dinner on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. The CNY RISE Center and Women Transcending Boundaries co-sponsored the evening. Melek Yavuz, CNY RISE Board President and President of WTB, introduced the topic “We Rise Together to Address Climate Change.”

Those attending enjoyed a *delicious* Turkish dinner prepared by the ladies of CNY RISE and music by Azat Orazmyradov.

The program began with a video detailing the science behind Global Warming. Dr. Rhea Jezer, President of Energy 21, gave a compelling and inspiring talk—emphasizing urgency in responding to Global Warming. Scientists know the steps that need to be taken to reduce heat-retaining gases in our atmosphere, but significant progress will require true cooperation and commitment from Industry, Labor, Environmentalists, Government and local Communities.

Melek Yavuz and WTB Co-founder Danya Wellmon presented CNY RISE Center “Community Service Awards.” Dr. Rhea Jezer; Rachel May, NYS Senator; Chris Carrick, Energy Production Manager of CNY Regional Planning and Development Board; Al Stirpe, NYS Assemblyman; and Joanie Mahoney, SUNY ESF President, received awards for their efforts in combating Global Warming. Matthew Millea accepted the award for Joanie Mahoney. Each spoke about some efforts he/she has championed and the challenges to progress.

John Manion, NYS Senator, delivered closing remarks and received an award from CNY RISE. Barbara Bova of WTB said that though this scale of this problem feels overwhelming, we each need to do what we can with our actions, voices, and votes.



Sometimes the best place to find out who you are is to go to a place where you don't have to be anyone else...

THE DETERMINATION CENTER:

A SAFE SPACE FILLED WITH LOVE, GUIDANCE, AND HOPE.



Ms. Bettie Graham

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

WTB will be holding a December drive for The Determination Center. Founder and Director, Ms. Bettie Graham, spoke at our October 2022 WTB Program Meeting and shared her program's impressive mission and vision. It is "a safe place filled with love, guidance and hope" for at risk youth in Syracuse, serving children 5 years – teens. <https://www.thedeterminationcenter.org/>

There is a great need for warm jackets, snowpants, boots, gloves/mittens, warm hats. Gently used clothing (clean, not torn) is welcomed as well as new items.

Please consider a donation to help kids stay warm this winter! Clothing can be dropped off at:

- 53 Lyndon Road, Fayetteville, NY (leave on front porch in bin)
- 7546 Marble Drive, Liverpool, NY (leave on porch)
- Bring to WTB Dec Open House on Dec 17th

If none of these locations is convenient, please call 315 415-2797 (Barb) to arrange for pickup or email us at wtbcny@gmail.com.

Big World. Many Beliefs. One Prayer. Peace.

○
○

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 faith.

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 own gain and your neighbor's loss as your own loss.



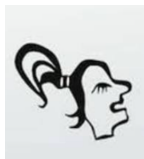
Christianity: In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.



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!



WTB is organizing committees for our 2023-2024 year and we would love to have **YOU** take part!! What ever your talents and interests, there is a place for you at WTB! We are looking for women who would like to help plan meetings and service projects, are comfortable with social media and publicity – please reach out and let us know you’d like to be more involved!! wtbcny@gmail.com



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

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.