

# Women Transcending Boundaries Monthly Newsletter



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

May 2024

**NOTE:  
CHANGE OF VENUE**



Date: **Sunday May 19**  
Time: **2:00-4:00**  
Place: [JOWONIO](#)  
3049 E. Genesee St.  
Syracuse, NY

We are inviting everyone, including men, to our May 19th meeting when we will host **Jim McKeever**, recently returned from the US-Mexican border. Jim has made many such trips to help families who seek safety and refuge from violence and is deeply involved in humanitarian work. Previously a writer for the Post Standard in Syracuse, his path has led him to share his experiences and the amazing resilience and courage he has witnessed along the border. All are welcome.





Dear WTB sisters;

There comes a time with all organizations when we need to stop and take a collective breath and look to our future.

As WTB enters its 24th year we would like to invite each of you to join us in a journey of envisioning our future. We will be meeting on June 3rd and would encourage everyone to come with ideas on how best to continue our mission. Our mission has and will always be one of inclusion, understanding and service to each other.

This will be an in person meeting with zoom option.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in June.

Danya Wellmon

**Date:** Monday June 3rd

**Place:** home of Betsy Wiggins, 305 Carlton Dr, Syracuse 13214

**Time:** 5-6 pm Catchup and lite pot luck. Please bring a dish to share if you are able.

6-8:30 pm Envisioning the future of WTB. We hope to zoom the meeting for those not able to attend.



**"The month of May is the gateway to summer."**

- Jean Hersey





# HOLIDAYS IN THE MONTH OF MAY

## **Cinco de Mayo - May 5**



This is a Mexican holiday commemorating the monumental victory in the Battle of Puebla over French invaders on May 5, 1862. Today, Cinco de Mayo is mostly celebrated by Mexican-Americans in the United States. It is a day to celebrate Mexican culture and heritage.

## **Mother's Day — May 14**



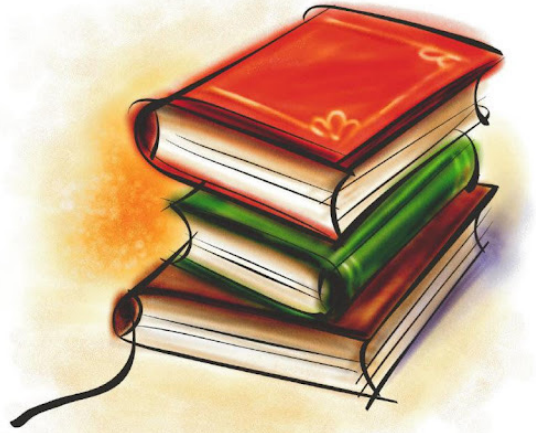
For those living in the United States, it is always scheduled for the second Sunday in the month of May. This is a day for you to celebrate your spouse, grandmother, or anyone who has been a motherly figure in your life.

## **Memorial Day — May 27**



Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30. Since 1971, it is observed on the last Monday of May.

# Book Club



May 13  
7-9 pm via zoom



## Biting the Hand: Growing Up Asian in Black and White America by Julia Lee

Julia Lee is angry. And she has questions. What does it mean to be Asian in America? What does it look like to be an ally or an accomplice? How can we shatter the structures of white supremacy that fuel racial stratification?

When Julia was fifteen, her hometown went up in smoke during the 1992 Los Angeles riots. The daughter of Korean immigrant store owners in a predominantly Black neighborhood, Julia was taught to be grateful for the privilege afforded to her. However, the acquittal of four white police officers in the beating of Rodney King, following the murder of Latasha Harlins by a Korean shopkeeper, forced Julia to question her racial identity and complicity. She was neither Black nor white. So who was she?

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

## WTB BOOK CLUB



- March 11     Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others by  
Barbara Brown Taylor
- April 8     All My Puny Sorrows by Miriam Toews
- May 13     Biting the Hand: Growing Up Asian in Black and White  
America by Julia Lee
- June 10     Now You See Us: A Novel by Balli Kaur Jaswal
- July 8     Good-bye Eastern Europe: An Intimate History of a Divided  
Land by Jacob Mikanowski
- August 12   Stay With Me: A Novel by Ayobami Adebayo
- September 9   A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take  
Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them  
by Timothy Egan
- October 14    American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins





# Daisy Dancers

by Lenore Hetrick

Have you seen the little dancers  
Skipping down the green?  
Perhaps you do not understand  
The dancers that I mean.

I mean the little daisy dancers,  
Each with yellow shawl,  
And white sunbonnet, very fitting  
For a meadow ball!

The daisies dance the whole day long.  
Their partner is the breeze.  
Their music is the singing brook  
That talks of shining seas.

Above their heads a canopy  
Of sky blue stretches far.  
At night each daisy winks her eye  
At her favorite star!

When the rain comes pouring down  
Each daisy dancer stops,  
And pulls her white sunbonnet up  
To keep away the drops.

Sometimes the daisies take the cobwebs  
Spreading in the grass.  
They wave the webs like graceful scarves  
As up and down they pass.

Dancing, dancing all the day!  
Dancing all the night!  
A daisy dancer never stops  
In darkness or in light.

Where do the daisy dancers go  
When time to say goodbye?  
They dance right out of the meadow and skip  
Into the sunset sky!



## REFUGEE SEWING

We are coming to the close of Thursday sewing classes. Students will receive machines to practice on at the May 2 class, then they will be stored until the next week to continue practicing threading, extra stitches, and bobbin winding.

On May 9 students will choose what they want from several boxes of fabrics, laces, embellishments, ribbon, plastic cases, etc. We will provide large bags to carry their treasures along with the machines that they are taking home. Then the teachers will visit far away family, garden, and relax until classes resume in September. We already have six names on the waiting list. Meanwhile, I continue to receive calls from newly arrived refugees who already know how to sew. I take these seamstresses (usually but not always women) a machine and fabric and give them a lesson in their own home about the details of this donated machine, stressing that every machine is different and that they really need this lesson. They have my phone number and sometimes call me to ask for more fabric or other sewing notions. If I have what they need, I stop by to deliver. It's important that these new arrivals feel welcomed by Americans who are not paid to help them. If you have anything to donate, yes I collect and sort during every season.

Jennifer  
315-345-9217







## May DINNER Schmai

**What:** May Dinner Schmai

**When:** Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm

**Where:** The Taste of Africa  
[820 Danforth St.](#)  
Syracuse, NY 1320:

Now that the Spring has come, let's try a DINNER Schmai! (We tried to go to The Taste of Africa over the winter, but it was closed for lunch.) A WTB schmai is an informal meet-up at a local restaurant – we each order off the menu. It's a chance to catch up, meet new friends, and try our local ethnic cuisine. Please come and bring a friend!!

### **The owner's story:**

My family originated from the Republic of Congo. In the early 1990s, a civil war broke out and my family was forced to run and leave everything behind. We became refugees, first in different cities within our own country, then, after another civil war, we found ourselves in Gabon. Finally, in what has become our second home, we settled in the United States of America.

In all places we've been, we learned to cook different types of food. Since arriving in Update New York in August of 2005, it's been my dream to open a restaurant and share my love of African cuisine with the local community. After many years of planning and perseverance, my dream finally came true in October of 2017. My story is similar to the stories of many who came to this country before me to find better lives for themselves and for their children.

- Mr. Ullys Mouity

The Leadership Institute



# SYRACUSE SEEDS OF PEACE SUMMER PROGRAM

LOCAL

Empowerment, Leadership, Community

- **July 7-12:** Overnight trip to the Adirondacks  
Location: SUNY ESF's Newcomb Campus
- **July 15-Aug 9:** Sessions every Tues/Wed/Thurs at InterFaith Works focusing on dialogue, issues you care about, volunteerism, team-building, action planning, community empowerment and FUN.
- Must commit to FULL program, inclusive of above dates

Free for SCSD students

WHO: 9th-11th graders

Contact for Info: Andrea Jacobs: [ajacobs@ifwcnyc.org](mailto:ajacobs@ifwcnyc.org)

**extended Apply by May 10th!**

An interview will be conducted after the application is submitted.  
16 students will be accepted into the program.





Good Morning  
Every morning is a miracle.

May your day be  
full of blessings of  
joy, peace and  
love

SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL  
SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH



24th annual  
Racial Justice Awards  
& Duck Race to End Racism

10AM-2PM  
SYRACUSE INNER HARBOR

[interfaithworkscny.org/uwer24](http://interfaithworkscny.org/uwer24)







# Women Transcending Boundaries, Inc.

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

PO Box 6847, Syracuse, NY 13217

Website: [www.wtb.org](http://www.wtb.org)

## 2024 WTB Interfaith Achievement Award

### Explanation:

Women Transcending Boundaries is an egalitarian community of women from many faith and cultural traditions whose mission is to nurture mutual respect by sharing information about our diverse beliefs, customs, and practices as we work together to address our common concerns. We strive to make a positive difference in our community by building personal connections across boundaries of faith and culture.

With this in mind, we are pleased to offer the WTB Interfaith Achievement Award to a young woman who has demonstrated her commitment to building bridges of understanding across diversity.

### Who Is Eligible?

- A young woman who is enrolled in an Onondaga County high school and who will graduate in 2024
- She shall have demonstrated, through service, her understanding of and commitment to interfaith and intercultural diversity
- 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

### Timeline:

- Application Deadline: **extended until Friday, May 10, 2024**
- A decision will be made prior to June 3, 2024

### Include:

- Completed 2024 WTB Interfaith Achievement Award Application, including essay
- Two letters of recommendation (can accompany the application or be mailed or emailed separately)

### How to Submit:

- Mail to Women Transcending Boundaries, Interfaith Achievement Award Committee, PO Box 6847, Syracuse, NY 13217 or email to [diana.wellmon@gmail.com](mailto:diana.wellmon@gmail.com)
- Mail to Women Transcending Boundaries, Interfaith Achievement Award Committee, PO Box 6847, Syracuse, NY 13217 or email to [diana.wellmon@gmail.com](mailto:diana.wellmon@gmail.com)

## OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

Women Transcending Boundaries Scholarship Committee met the other day to discuss the next Achievement Award. WE had a very productive meeting and are excited about some changes that were made. One of the things we realized was that we do not have the kind of funds that we have had in the past. After some discussion we realized that we need to reach out to WTB women.

We are asking our membership to consider making a donation to the WTB Scholarship Fund.....any amount small or large will be a step in sustaining this wonderful program.....We can all remember the excitement of our winners and their gratitude.

A lot of us felt truly blessed because WTB was able to do this.

Checks can be sent to the WTB Post Office box . PO Box 6847, Syracuse,NY 13217

Thank you for any amount you can give.

Congratulations to Emelia Weah of Nottingham High School and Ngoc-Lynn Huynh of Henninger High School — recipients of 2021 Women Transcending Boundaries' Interfaith Achievement Awards.



Ngoc-Lynn Huynh of Henninger High School with Barb Bova



Emelia Weah of Nottingham High School with award selection committee (l-r): Barb Bova, Sue Savion, Liz Spence, Danya Wellmon, and Carol Lipson

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 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.



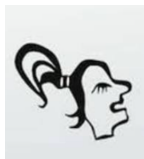
Christianity: In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.



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 **NEW YEAR** (2024) 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## 2023-2024 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.*