

President Barb Bova called the meeting to order at 3:12 pm. About ten ladies gathered at Jowonio and five joined via Zoom. Chairs were arranged in a horseshoe around a microphone in front of the Zoom screen. (After some trial and error, we figured out a microphone arrangement that allowed all to be heard-- thanks to Melek's expertise and everyone's patience.)

The purpose of this meeting was to brainstorm projects, programs, initiatives that WTB might focus on moving forward. Barb showed a brief PowerPoint summarizing WTB's founding twenty years ago, our mission statement, some successful past projects, and some current programs and projects.

"Where do we go from here?" Danya moderated the discussion beginning with her conviction that the need to reach across boundaries of faith and culture, to grow respect and understanding for each other, is as vital today as it was in the days after 9/11/01. She noted how difficult Covid has been for WTB as we are a group that thrives on personal interactions.

Each person introduced herself, briefly spoke about when and why she joined WTB and what activities/projects/events she had most enjoyed. We ranged from old-timers to newbies. Some favorite things mentioned: panel discussions and speakers from different religions; sharing stories and listening to each other; getting to know women of different faiths; panel discussions about how different religions handle life events (death, marriage); international dinners; women connecting heart to heart; supporting refugees newly arrived in Syracuse; World Harmony Assembly; visiting faith centers such as Zen Center and Sikh temple.

Danya invited us all to share our ideas for WTB going forward.

- World Harmony Assembly (with IFW)-- Danya hopes we can bring this back safely next Feb
- Repeat series of panels on Life Cycles --birth, marriage, death, view of afterlife
- Visits to different houses of worship
- "Walk to the Tent of Abraham" -- a lot of interest in holding this again; maybe next fall?
- Ethnic dinner in people's homes -- cook together and share a meal
- Picnic at Onondaga Lake with WTB and New Americans -- Have FUN as a group, for families/kids; maybe this August?
- Contacting/collaborating with SU -- sororities? Theology Dept? Hendrick's Chapel? In the past we have done a few things with the Interfaith group at Hendricks Chapel -- a lot of interest in this
- Follow up on sororities at SU-- maybe we can ask a sorority what they would like to do and work with them toward a common goal
- Panel discussions -- maybe have several people from one faith? mixed panel on a particular subject? -- a lot of interest in this
- Service Projects in connection with other groups; blanket making example
- Friendship dinners; soup dinners -- combine with service project?
- Hold WTB meetings in different venues; go to others rather than expecting them to come to us
- Habitat for Humanity -- Sue Savion was in contact regarding house remodeled by women
- Work with ESF around environmental concerns

- Women's Round Table – prioritize getting this up and running; get to know women of different races and socio-economic groups; meet to learn about and support each other's projects
- Reconnect with Muslim women – if Covid allows, plan a potluck Iftar at CNY Rise in April?
- Rahma Clinic on the Southside – Can we help them? Barb will check to see.
- Helen Hudson and Mothers Against Gun Violence – we used to do vigils with them: reconnect?

Some ways to get our program known and attract new members –

- Need PR person/skills – Melek knows someone who spoke with us in the past; Danya will contact Barbara Fought to see if a student from SU Newhouse might work with us
- Bushra suggested a table at Farmer's Market – a lot of interest and discussion around this idea
 - ✓ Insert flyer with upcoming WTB events in our pamphlet to hand out; need a plan 1st
 - ✓ Sunday garage sale at Farmer's Market – May- Oct; no charge for insurance but table fee-- we will check on this
 - ✓ Bushra's mosque might let us use part of their table
 - ✓ Also investigate downtown festivals, smaller farmer's markets, Plowshares
- Westcott Fair table – include blanket project and ask people to tie a knot plus pamphlets
- Duck Race Table in June (if IFW holds event in person this year)
- WTB Speaker's Bureau – we used to go and talk about WTB to other groups and religious traditions; If we have volunteer speakers we can do this again.
- WTB Cookbook (Ann emailed after meeting) – ask members to submit recipes from their traditions, including picture of completed dish. Make recipes available as ever-growing recipe-collection on our website. Refer to it in our newsletters, maybe sharing recipe each month. Outreach/PR/getting people interested and involved in WTB.

Coming Up:

Meeting on Syracuse Neighborhoods with Onondaga Historical Association – **March 27th** Jowonio/Zoom

Possible host a potluck Iftar in April at CNY Rise

“American Dreams” Immigration play; need 30 people to read monologues; **-May 22nd** (probably at Manlius Rec Center though still looking into more central city location)

Possible table at IFW Duck Race in June

Possible picnic at Onondaga Lake Park in August.

We got some great ideas! Now we need to make them happen!

Meeting was adjourned about 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Bova, Substitute Sunday Secretary

