

WTB Monthly Meeting Minutes Sunday May 23, 2021 "Celebrating Ourselves and Others"

Women Transcending Boundaries met in-person for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown on May 23rd at Mill Run Park in Manlius from 3-5 pm. "Celebrating Ourselves and Others through stories, music, poetry and dance" we shared positive experiences we had during the past year, our joy at being able to meet again, and summer plans. After days of beautiful weather we were challenged but undeterred by a chilly, rainy afternoon. About twenty people gathered including three children huddled under a pavilion close to the driveway – enjoying each other's company, and snacks, and a start back to normal. When the rain let up, the kids were even able to walk up to the playground for some soggy fun.

We were blessed to have Kenya Hoya Kelzmer Band to begin the program. A big thank you to them for braving the raindrops with their instruments – battery-operated keyboard included! They performed five energetic numbers including "If I Were a Rich Man" -- we were on our feet and *dancing* along! Joan Hillsman was not able to locate us in the rain, so we missed out on having her lead some uplifting gospel inspired music. Fortunately, one of her singers did find us and was able to stay for the festivities. Carol Lipson read a poem written by Joan Burstyn and shared with WTB for this event entitled "Discordant Music." It is printed in the WTB June Newsletter. Most of us shared something positive about her pandemic experience or summer plans. Lorraine Markley talked about the joy of family Zoom celebrations and showed the amazing bead stitching and knitting she created while at home. Joy Pople used her pandemic time to nurture her love of trees, hiking in local woodlands in and sharing her gorgeous photos and information about native trees on Instagram tree.geek. Sue Savion shared a Native American legend from her home state.

I was called away to supervise the playground but returned to the pavilion in time to hear Diane Lansing who brought her guitar and led a sing-a-long of "Could You Love Me, If I Don't Look Like You" --a poignant reminder of how we are all connected. Following is a link to a Youtube performance by its songwriter Matt Watroba: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SicU22LqFy4>. The lyrics are copied at the close of these minutes – they call us to honor our common humanity with those we may think of as "the other."

Thank you to all who came out to "Celebrate" – we had fun singin', talkin' and dancin' in the rain!

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Bova, Acting Sunday Secretary

Could you love me, if I don't look like you? 2. think

Is it deeper, is it stronger, something hidden something true 3. pray

If I stare a little longer, will I see myself in you? 4. love

Could you love me, if I don't look like you.

