

# Women Transcending Boundaries Monthly Newsletter



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

**March 2026**



*Wishing all our Muslim  
friends a peaceful and  
blessed month of fasting.*



# Women Transcending Boundaries

## MEMBERSHIP

Please consider **renewing your membership!** Dues are \$25.00 per year. Although not mandatory for membership, dues are most important. Programs, business expenses, scholarships and more are funded with dues and fundraising.

We hope you will become an official member—just fill out the form below and bring it to a meeting, mail it to the address on the form, or email to [wtbcny@gmail.com](mailto:wtbcny@gmail.com).





# 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

## 2025–2026 MEMBERSHIP FORM

[for the program year July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I am a NEW MEMBER. [Please fill in *all* the information below.]

\_\_\_ I am a RENEWING MEMBER. [Please tell us only what has changed.]

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Faith Tradition (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Native Country (optional) : \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have special skill sets that you would like to share with WTB, such as writing, accounting, public relations/advertising, social media, or any other areas of expertise? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Dues & Donations:

**Dues** (\$25 per year) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Dues are WTB's main source of revenue. They are appreciated but not required except for Council, Advisory Board, or Standing Committee members.*

\_\_\_ I am a Council, Advisory Board, or Standing Committee member and, as such, am required to pay dues.

**Donation**  \$25  \$50  \$75  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Your additional donation will help fund WTB projects, activities and scholarship awards as well as dues for those who cannot afford to pay. Thank you!*

**Total** paid on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ by cash  or by 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.*



Would you be interested in getting more involved in WTB leadership next year? We would absolutely welcome your participation!! Women Transcending Boundaries is a 501(C3) charitable organization led by a Council of about a dozen women--Council meets once a month via Zoom. We have several openings on Council for next year.

This coming year, we also need someone able to over see our website. If you have skills in digital communication or/and or social media, WTB would be **very** grateful for your help.

Please consider taking a role in shaping the future of WTB! We look forward to getting to know you better and appreciate the ideas and talents you would bring to the organization!!

For further information, email [wtbcny@gmail.com](mailto:wtbcny@gmail.com); we will contact you. Alternatively, you can email Barb Bova [babova@aol.com](mailto:babova@aol.com) or President Lorraine Markley [lgbbeads@verizon.net](mailto:lgbbeads@verizon.net) directly. Please consider taking a role in shaping the future of WTB! We look forward to getting to know you better and appreciate your ideas and talents!!

| APRIL 2026                                                                              |                    |     |               |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|---------------|-----|-----|-----|
| SUN                                                                                     | MON                | TUE | WED           | THU | FRI | SAT |
|                                                                                         |                    |     | 1             | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5<br>Easter Sunday                                                                      | 6<br>Easter Monday | 7   | 8             | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12                                                                                      | 13                 | 14  | 15<br>Tax Day | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19<br> | 20                 | 21  | 22            | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26                                                                                      | 27                 | 28  | 29            | 30  |     |     |

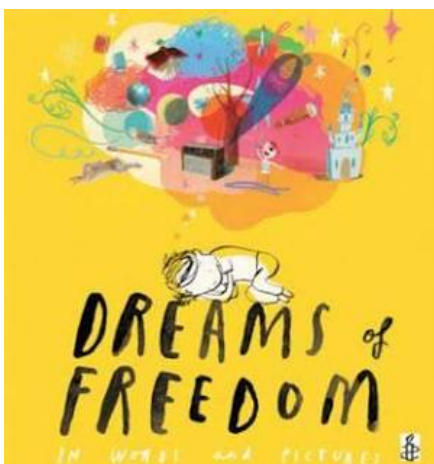
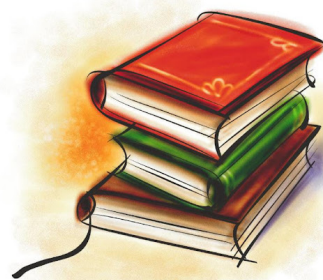
Download & Print Free Calendars From [Wiki Calendar](#)

## SAVE THE DATE -

Sunday, April 19th from 2-5 pm location TBD. WTB's own Smita Rane will host a program about Indian culture-- she'll demonstrate how to wrap a traditional Indian garment, the Sari, and there will be Indian food as well. Mark your calendars! More details to follow



# WTB Book Club



**March 9**

**Dreams of Freedom** by Marilyn Higgins

WTB BOOK CLUB - Author to join us!

Marilyn Higgins, local author of *Dreams of Freedom*, has agreed to join WTB Book Club on March 9th at 7 PM via Zoom as we meet to discuss her historical novel, largely set in 19th century upstate New York. *Dreams of Freedom* tells the journey of fictional Aileen O'Malley who comes to America in search of her kidnapped half-siblings. Her story brings local history to life--the Erie Canal, anti-Catholic bigotry, religious revival meetings and sects, Native Americans being forced off their lands, abolitionists and the divide over slavery that led to the Civil War. Marilyn, a former Vice President of National Grid and Syracuse University, is devoted to upstate New York history and lives in Canastota. We are excited that she is able to attend our discussion!! If you don't usually attend Book Club but would like **to join us March 9th, email Barb Bova** for the Zoom Link! [babova@aol.com](mailto:babova@aol.com) (or [wtbcny@gmail.com](mailto:wtbcny@gmail.com)).

## WTB BOOK CLUB



- January 12 Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See
- February 9 Prophet Song by Paul Lynch
- March 9 Dreams of Freedom by Marilyn Higgins
- April 13 The Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali
- May 11 Mater 2-10 by Hwang Sok-yong
- June 8 The World We Found by Thrity Umrigar
- July 13 Feeding Ghosts by Tessa Hulls  
(we may need copies)
- August 10 The Long Loneliness: The Autobiography of  
Dorothy Day
- Sept 14 An African History of Africa: From the Dawn of  
Humanity to Independence by Zeinab Badawi read the first half
- October 12 continue reading the September book
- November 9 Let Only Red Flowers Bloom by Emily Feng

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





GFWC  
GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Syracuse Federation of Women's Clubs (SFWC) invites you to its March 12th dinner meeting at Barbagallo's Restaurant, 6344 East Molloy Road, East Syracuse. Women gather at 5:30 pm; dinner is served at 6:15 pm. The speaker this month is Mary Jumbelic, author of *Speak Her Name*. A forensic pathologist with Onondaga County for many years, Ms. Jumbelic is a dynamic speaker who was involved in local cases such as the 2012 murder of Leslie Newlander. Meal choices are corned beef and cabbage, parmesian crusted talapia, or broccoli alfredo at a cost of \$30 payable by check or cash at the door. Please contact Ellyn Roloff to RSVP with meal choice ASAP. Ellyn's email is [egr.dec@outlook.com](mailto:egr.dec@outlook.com).

TUESDAY

March 7

### [GFWC Learning Gateway Series: "Dancing with Your Brain"](#)

April 7 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

"Dancing with Your Brain," with Amy S. Peele, RN, and GFWC ESO and Wellness Honorary Chairman and co-presenter Dr. Dove Wilson, psychotherapist, executive coach, sleep specialist, and bestselling author of *Brain Dance and Gratitude: Journaling the Good - 3 Minutes a Day for Your Brain & Life*, will help you part with your most powerful [...]



On February 26, we finished nine weeks of class and students received a sewing machine to take home and a bin full of fabrics to take home. We took pictures and had hugs all around. Such a great group!

On March 5 a new class will begin. We already have a full list of new students. And a full list of students for the September class (We don't meet in the summer).

We welcomed a new teacher as a sub, and she agreed to become a full time teacher. Yay, Logan!

You are welcome to visit any time, Thursdays from 12:15 to 2:45, 501 Park Street. Call my phone and I will come up to unlock the door.



We finished up a session of our refugee sewing classes today. I will miss these fabulous students! Eight volunteer teachers and eight terrific students.



On behalf of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Syracuse NY Chapter ([6650 Old Collamer Road North in East Syracuse, NY](https://www.ahmadiyya.com/locations/usa/syracuse)), I am pleased to invite you to attend our **Ramadan Dinner Saturday, March 14th at 5:30 PM**. This gathering is a special occasion for reflection, community, and friendship, and it would be our honor to have you join us.

AMANI ٱلْأَمَانَةُ ٱلْمُسْلِمَةُ  
FEDAMIAN 平和 信託 FAX FRIED  
SUHA 信託 KAPAYAPAN ٱلْمُسْلِمِي  
VOICES FOR PEACE  
ٱلْمُسْلِمِي ٱلْمُسْلِمِي ٱلْمُسْلِمِي MWP VREDE  
PEACE PAIX PAZ FRIEDEN ٱلْمُسْلِمِي ٱلْمُسْلِمِي ٱلْمُسْلِمِي

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY INVITES YOU TO

# Interfaith *Star Dinner*

**Saturday March 14, 2026 | 5:30 PM**

Bait ul Ihsan Mosque  
6650 Old Collamer Rd, East Syracuse, NY 13057

**RSVP**  
Manzurul A. Sikder  
[pa.src@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:pa.src@ahmadiyya.us)  
315-790-8071

**Register**

AHMADIYYA  
MUSLIM COMMUNITY  
Syracuse, New York

# March Schmai

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm

**WELCOME TO  
ETHIOERITREA  
RESTAURANT**

[505 N State St. Syracuse, NY 13203](#)



## **Celebrate Your Senses!**

It is the place where great cooking and a fantastic vibe meet.

Food is fresh, nutritious, delicious, and affordable.

Please join us for some great food and fellowship with some wonderful people.

A WTB schmai is an informal meetup at a locally-owned restaurant. No need to RSVP--we each order off the menu. Schmai's are an opportunity to share food and conversations with friends old and new--and to explore different cuisines! Please come and invite a friend!



As some of you know, WTB member Didi Butenko passed away unexpectedly last month. Born in Ukraine, Didi came here as a child with her family during WWII. She lived and raised her family in Syracuse, yet always kept Ukraine in her heart. In her memory funds are being raised to purchase a van which will transport wounded soldiers in Ukraine. This van will help the war effort as Didi would have wanted. We asked her daughter Sofika for information on the van and how to make a donation.

"Compassion Connection UA, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization empowering the people of Ukraine by providing humanitarian, material, and logistical assistance, and by making contributions to charitable organizations in Ukraine.

It is based in New Jersey, founded by my good friend Lada Bidiak. One of the board members is my cousin, and my mom was her favorite aunt. My mom's absence will be felt by many of our relatives.

One of the biggest needs is buying vehicles that can be used as ambulances. They are usually purchased in Europe and are outfitted for whatever type of rescue vehicle is needed.

In the beginning of the war, they accepted all types of donations. However, since shipping costs are so high, they either now have specific supplies that they ask for (requests come directly from the front lines), or they try to collect money to buy the supplies in Europe so that the shipping costs aren't so high.

There are several ways people can donate.

- Venmo: @CompassionConnectionUA
- Zelle: [ladabidiak@gmail.com](mailto:ladabidiak@gmail.com)
- PayPal: [https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted\\_button\\_id=HT9MLSDNV9BTJ](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=HT9MLSDNV9BTJ)
- Checks payable to:

Compassion Connection UA, Inc.

Mail to:

Lada Bidiak

P.O. Box 11

Garwood, NJ 07027

Please include a note that your donation is in memory of Didi Butenko."