



August 2026 Newsletter

WTB Helps Eastern Farm Workers' Back to School Drive



We got boxes of donations and now we need to help get them into backpacks for low-income children going back to school.

WTB's campaign with Eastern Farm Workers netted the items you see at the left.

Join the assembly line on Friday afternoon, **August 28** or anytime on Saturday **August 29** to fill backpacks with these and other items. It's happening at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church, 5299 Jamesville Rd., DeWitt.

Many thanks to Linda Chambers and Gay Montague for organizing this. Here is what is packed in these boxes:

- 92 pencils packs,
- 8 colored pencils packs,
- 27 pen packs,
- 5 index cards,
- 32 spiral notebooks,
- 20 backpacks,
- 36 3-ring binders,
- 24 packs of looseleaf paper,
- 39 composition notebooks,
- 39 pocket folders,
- 25 index dividers,
- 31 crayon boxes,
- 5 boxes of markers,
- 27 highlighters,
- 30 pencil pouches,
- 31 rulers,
- 32 glue sticks,
- 52 erasers,
- 1 scissors, and
- 1 pencil sharpener

Thanks to Our Newsletter Editor

For many years, **Judy Antoine** has faithfully written and designed WTB's monthly newsletter. She's kept us abreast of all the goings-on and has tucked in whimsical sayings or poetry to cheer us.

It's time, she says, to step back. We thank Judy for all her efforts and talents.



Judy Antoine

Rochester Woman Brings Sewing Machines To WTB Sewing Group for Refugees and Immigrant

Not once, but twice in a last year, **Paula Freeman**, of Rochester, has driven to Syracuse to bring two or three sewing machines for WTB's refugee/immigrant sewing program run by **Jennifer Roberts Crittenden**. She saw a post on Facebook and was willing to drive over three machines in the fall and another two machines in June. She has a friend who finds them at estate sales and she drives them over.



Paula Freeman

This sewing program, run by Jennifer Crittenden, and staffed by eight teachers and a repair crew of other workers, has been going for 15 years and has helped hundreds of women learn to make clothes for themselves and their families. They will start new classes in September.

The students come for nine weeks of classes and go home with a sewing machine, oiled up and ready to go, along with a bag of fabric and notions. Jennifer estimates she has given away more than 500 machines.

Book Club To Learn African History

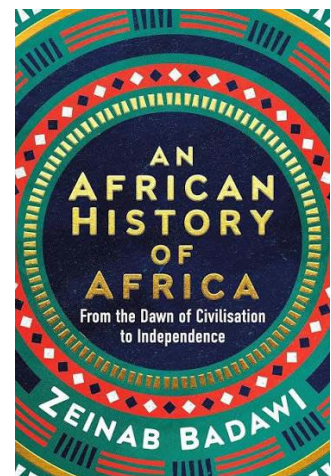
Journalist **Zeinab Badawi** has written a sweeping survey of history of Africa, *An African History of Africa: From the Dawn of Humanity to Independence*. Badawi tells it from an African perspective. Most of the other books on African history are told from a traditional Western perspective.

She interviewed dozens of Africans in writing this book. Its genesis was her work on the BBC TV documentary series "*The History of Africa*" for which she visited more than 30 countries, interviewing local historians, anthropologist, storytellers and archaeologists. That led to the book which starts with the dawn of humanity and goes up to independence.

Because it's 544 pages, the WTB Book Club decided to read the first half and discuss it in September, and then read the second half in October and finish discussing it then.

The September discussion is **Monday, September 14** at 7:30 on Zoom.

If you'd like to join the discussion, contact Barb Bova, bbova@aol.com.



WTB Plans Are in the Making

While some think that our country is more divided than ever, WTB shows that women across faith traditions can come together to socialize, learn about each others' faiths and make a difference in our community.

WTB's Council has been working on a new organizational plan and programming.

"We are really excited to be planning **four programs next year**, in addition to up to **four collaborations** with other women's and women's faith groups," says Barb Bova.

The Council also is planning several service projects. They would love your input in making plans. If you have a program idea or know a group that might collaborate with WTB on a project, please let Council members know by writing

wtbcny@gmail.com

And here are other ways you can use your gifts and talents:

- **Grant Writer:** If you have skills in grant writing, or know someone who does, please consider helping WTB in this area.
- **PR/Outreach.** We need someone who knows the ins and outs of social media to get the word out about our thoughtful and committed group of women, and an organization now 25 years old. Again, email wtbcny@gmail.com if you are willing to work with others on this.
- **Newsletter Editor:** If you have some design skills and would be willing to edit the newsletter, please step up! Or maybe you know someone who has those talents, would be a great fit and would love to get to know the women of our organization. Committee chairs provide the information, you provide the design! Contact Barb Bova, babova@aol.com if you are interested or know who might be.