



THE ALLIANCE ALERT May-June 2024

The Women's Alliance of the
Unitarian Church of All Souls, Inc.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Christine Goodwin

Hard to believe it's May already! For me, as a tax volunteer from February 1st through April 15th, the time just flies by and suddenly it's Spring.



Last summer we tried something new — **Pop Ups**, informal gatherings open to all WA members, friends, and spouses. WA members suggested 18 ideas for Pop Ups from June through August. We went to the new Vegan Night Market in Central Park, Naumburg concerts, the Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, a Grolier Club exhibition, the American Museum of Natural History's Halls of Gems and Minerals, The Irish Repertory Theatre, a Banksy exhibit, the Bard Graduate Center exhibit's on Navajo weaving, "Barbie," etc.

We can do Pop Ups **day or evening, weekdays or weekends**. NYC is rich with **wonders** and a great opportunity to **share** with the WA and friends. So — keep your eyes and ears open and send your ideas to me and I will send them out to WA members.

In June we usually do not schedule a speaker for a lunch meeting, but on June 11th we are planning an informal get-together at 7 p.m. at All Souls, just for socializing in the evening so our working members can enjoy a WA event.

Also take note of our ever-popular Birdwatching Walk on Friday May 3rd, led by WA member and casual birdwatcher Christina Black. See details in "Upcoming Events" on Page 2.

Thank you to all WA members who make the Women's Alliance a supportive and wonderful organization. Special thanks to the WA Executive Committee and committee members who work in the background to make things happen such as The Alert, Membership Directory, tax filings, WA Award, Clara Barton Sisterhood, WA Facebook, scheduling Speakers and Outings, etc. We are looking for more members to participate in committees.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

*I'm looking forward to hearing from **YOU** and exploring NYC with your Pop Up ideas.*

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTE ON EVENT PARTICIPATION: The Executive Board encourages all members to participate in Women's Alliance activities. However, as some outings require the use of staircases, walking long distances or crossing uneven terrains, any member with physical limitations should use good judgment before registering. The Board asks that such members speak with the outing leader and consult the visit site to determine how able they will be to get around; further, it is strongly recommended that they bring a companion to help them. Because outing leaders are responsible to a group of attendees, they cannot assist an individual on an outing, unless, of course, an emergency arises. By participating in WA outings, attendees agree they have read this statement and will follow its recommendations.

Friday, May 3rd, 5:30 p.m.

Birdwatching Walk in Central Park

Amble through the Ramble with birdwatcher enthusiast & WA member Christina Black for our 3rd Annual Spring Migration outing. Meet at the Boathouse Café at 5:30 p.m. (weather willing) for a two(ish)-hour walk (includes hills, steps and uneven ground). Binoculars are a must.

Email christina.black50@gmail.com to register.

Wednesday, May 15th, noon-2 p.m.

WA Membership Meeting in Reidy Friendship Hall

Lunch (BYO), socializing, a business meeting, and a speaker. Elizabeth Hope Clancy (Beth) will speak on "Broadway to Mesopotamia: a costume designer's journey." Beth has designed costumes for Tony Award-winning plays, Broadway premieres by Edward Albee and Arthur Miller, Shakespeare in the Park, opera, dance and more. A longtime member of All Souls and soprano in the choir, Beth is a granddaughter of the late WA member Betty Clancy. In recent years she has made intensive studies of the ancient textiles and dress of Mesopotamia. We'll provide coffee, tea, and a sweet.



Wednesday, May 22nd, 11 a.m.

WA Monthly Outing to Asia Society Museum

Join WA member and popular Asia Society docent Ingrid Krinke for a tour of "COAL + ICE." The exhibit brings together the work of over 30 photographers and videographers from China and around the world to document the causes and consequences of the climate crisis, and highlight creative solutions. From deep within coal mines to high in the melting glaciers of the Himalayas, these images make clear the environmental and human costs of our continued reliance on fossil fuels. Meet at 11 a.m. at Asia Society, 725 Park Ave. @ 70th Street. Tickets: \$15/\$10 Senior. Please let Ingrid know if you are joining the tour and lunch afterwards in the museum's café. 917-526-0308 or ikrinke@gmail.com.

Wednesday June 5th, 11 a.m.

WA Monthly Outing to The Morgan Library & Museum

Revisit the magical world of Peter Rabbit, Mrs. Tiddlemouse, and Jemima Puddle-Duck at the equally magical Morgan Library. "Beatrix Potter: Drawn to Nature" brings together artworks, books, manuscripts, and artifacts from the UK and the Morgan's exceptional collection to trace how Potter's innovative blend of scientific observation and

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imaginative storytelling shaped some of the world's most popular children's books.

Tickets: \$25/\$17 Senior online in advance (themorgan.org/visit) or at the door. Please let outing leader Victoria Kimbrough know you will be joining us for the exhibit and for lunch afterward, at a place TBD. 917-608-0004, vikifitz2@yahoo.com.

Sunday, June 9th, after the morning service

The Big Read Kick-Off in Reidy Friendship Hall

Find out about this All Souls community-building event. See Page 6 for details.

Tuesday, June 11th, 7-9 p.m.

WA Membership Meeting in Reidy Friendship Hall

Join WA members for a Summer Social with light refreshments!

Tuesdays, June 25th-August 6th, 7:30 p.m.

WA's Music SIG at the Naumburg Bandshell, Central Park

Since 1905, the Naumburg Orchestral Concerts (naumburgconcerts.org/upcoming) have provided extraordinary music by promising new talent. Seating is free and available on a first come, first served basis. Mary Geissman plans to attend all but the June 11th concert, which conflicts with a WA monthly meeting. "Some of us try to get there early," she says, "and save seats for the group." Meet at the Naumberg Bandshell.

Women's Reading Group (SIG)

First Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

May 7 *Birds of America* by Lorrie Moore, short stories

June 4 *Joan: A Novel of Joan of Arc*, by Katherine Chen, historical fiction

For more information, contact: christina.black50@gmail.com



Look for emails from Christine Goodwin about Women's Alliance Pop-Up events over the summer!



MEMBER PROFILE: MELANIE NIEMIEC

By Alynne Wesson

Geography is destiny, goes the old saying. For Melanie Niemiec, it just might ring true. When she and her husband, David, moved into a building across the street from All Souls in 1987, an acquaintance sang the praises of the church and suggested that she give it a try. Thirty-seven years later, they are still at

All Souls, having found a religious home here. Their two adult daughters grew up in the RE program. But if geography brought Melanie to All Souls, music (among other things) keeps her here, feeding a deep passion for classical works. “One of my biggest commitments has been with Musica Viva NY,” where she has served on the board for 15 years, eight of them, in the past, as president.

Melanie explains that “we’re classical music nuts,” and that wherever she spends time (in NYC or Newport, R.I., where her older daughter and her grandchildren live), she gets involved with music. In addition to her service on the Musica Viva board, currently as chair of the development committee, she serves as treasurer and chairs the finance committee of Newport Classical, which hosts a summer festival in the Gilded Age mansions in Newport, as well as a year-round chamber music series.

Having spent her career in investment banking and investment management, she has focused on using her financial and investment skills to help the organizations she’s involved with. At All Souls, she currently serves on the Investment Committee and has previously served as Church Treasurer, as Chair of the Audit Committee, and as a member of the Finance Committee. She also served two terms on the All Souls Board of Trustees.

As for independent organizations affiliated with All Souls, besides her current service on the Musica Viva board, she has served in the past on the boards of the Heart and Soul Charitable Fund and the Annie Eaton Society — where, no surprise, she chaired the Investment Committee, as well as serving several terms as president.

An alum of Radcliffe (BA, ’71) and Harvard (MBA ’75), Melanie is on the Dean’s Advisory Council of the Harvard Radcliffe Institute; its Schlesinger Library, she notes, is the leading center for scholarship on the history of women in the United States. Indeed women are a common theme of several nonprofits that Melanie serves. They include Le Korsa, which, among other things, gives girls from rural villages in eastern Senegal safe places to live when they leave home, as they must, to attend high school and sometimes college.

At the Women’s Alliance, Melanie is “happy to be getting to know some new people.” She was a member of Episcopal churches growing up — first in West Hartford, CT, and then in Savannah, GA, where her single, divorced mother moved to work as a teacher. But she always had ties to Unitarianism; some of her mother’s ancestors in Charleston, SC, were Unitarians, and in the 1960s, mother and daughter “used to go to the Unitarian — like in somebody’s living room — church because it was the only racially integrated church in Savannah.” She still visits cousins and childhood friends Down South.

She also keeps in touch with Walter Klauss, who founded Musica Viva in 1977. “When he left [in 2014],” she says, “some board members were willing to throw in the towel.” But Melanie was passionate about the organization, “not just for the concerts themselves, but for the church,” as it provides the musicians of All Souls with an artistic outlet beyond the restricted format of the services. She is very happy to report Musica Viva is thriving, under the artistic direction of Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez, a new board president, and a “wonderful, collegial board.”

BEYOND THE WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

A partial list of WA members involved in All Souls and other UU activities

WA Member Arelis Torres is volunteering with New York Unitarian Universalist Justice (NYUUJ) to get the Medical Aid in Dying Act passed in New York State. At All Souls, she is writing letters and postcards in support of choice at the end of life for the terminally ill. Arelis is also volunteering with UU the Vote, promoting letter and postcard writing to voters in New York and other states, with a goal of making this upcoming election fair and inclusive. She encourages everyone to “Get Out the Vote!”

WA Member Judith Moldover will chair Souls in Service, the new churchwide committee tasked with revitalizing All Souls’ outreach services. Stay tuned for more information.

WA Member Suzy Lawrence has become involved with Stories with Soul, which meets on Wednesdays for a short story and conversation, in the Ware Room and/or on Zoom. At a recent meeting she read aloud from Margaret Atwood’s short story collection “Old Babes in the Wood.” In explaining her choice, Suzy says, “Margaret Atwood is most famous for her novel ‘The Handmaid’s Tale.’ She has also written poetry, children’s books and is an inventor as well. I enjoy the fact that many of her short stories appear to be autobiographical.”

WA Member Carol Kirkman participated in the 2023-2024 UU Common Read (uua.org/read), reading “On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World” by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg. She highly recommends the book to church board and staff members, and to congregants with a special interest in Right Relations. Carol would also be interested in a WA discussion group about Michelle Huneven’s wry novel *Search* about a UU church’s ministerial search. The book has, she reports, generated concerns about the ethics of the author, who had participated in a similar search — the one that resulted in the hiring of the Rev. Lissa Gundlach, an All Souls minister, by Neighborhood UU Church of Pasadena.

WA Member Linda Becker, who lives on Roosevelt Island, is thrilled that F Train service resumed in April for the first time since August 2023. During the seven-month shutdown, Linda made do with less convenient modes of transportation to cross the East River and participate in WA and All Souls activities. Now she hopes to participate more. During the break from her work in All Souls’ front garden, Linda enjoyed tending her own 11’x15’ plot in the Roosevelt Island Community Garden.

In April the **WA’s Executive Board** participated in a “Listening Circle” with several members of All Souls’ Board of Trustees — Richard Esposito, president; Dixie Goss, vice president; and Judith Moldover. (Dixie and Judith are also members of the WA.) The trustees listened to and addressed WA concerns about lack of space for WA meetings and activities; proposals for All Souls including a strategic plan, a communications & marketing study group, and a Covenant of Right Relations (respect for individuals); engagement with UUA; and community building by reaching out better to newcomers, rethinking Coffee Hour (tables for groups, attendance by board members, etc.), and also by the revival of All Souls traditions such as name tags at Coffee Hour, the monthly newsletter, Small Group Ministry, and the Church Council.

The Women’s Alliance Award, which was presented to Holly Atkinson at the All Souls Annual Meeting in February, includes a \$500 donation to the nonprofit of the award winner’s choice. At Holly’s request, the WA has made the donation to Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), which documents and calls attention to severe human rights violations around the world. In 1997, PHR shared the Nobel Peace Prize for its role in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

THE WOMEN'S ALLIANCE PREPARES FOR GA 2024

By Karen Steele

Members of the WA will be attending the all-virtual UUA General Assembly (GA), June 20th-23rd, 2024. GA is a chance to meet UUs from across the country and the world, to discuss UU history and UUA governance, dimensions of faith, and responses to current and urgent issues. This year is of special interest because the proposed revisions of Article II of the UUA Bylaws will come up for a final vote.

I was asked to coordinate congregant requests to serve as All Souls member delegates, who will be eligible to vote during the business sessions. All Souls has 15 delegate "slots" for this year. An invitation was issued in the All Souls Weekly in January and as of April 7th, 12 church members' names have been submitted to the UUA for certification. WA members who have signed up include Heli Blum, Sandra Fisher, Mary Geissman, Michele Jawin, and Karen Steele.

To encourage All Souls members to sign up for GA — and especially to provide information about and opportunity to discuss the proposed Article II revisions — I have teamed with Miles Chapin, President of the Deacons, and Chris Goodwin, WA President, to offer a series of information/discussion sessions. Sponsored by veteran All Souls GA delegates, the Deacons, and the Women's Alliance, the first two sessions were held in person on March 3rd and March 24th. The third session will be held online on May 7th. Announcements for this meeting, and links to extensive information about General Assembly and Article II will be in the All Souls Weekly. To register for GA, go to uua.org/ga/registration. For more information, contact Karen Steele at ksteelny@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE !

The Big Read kicks off at Coffee Hour on June 9th

By Sally Turner

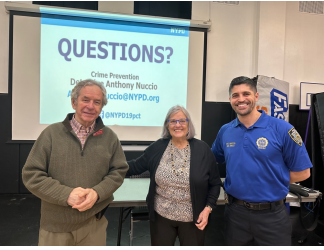
Sally Turner is helping to launch the church-wide project

What is a Big Read? Many cities, colleges and universities have adopted the concept of connecting with friends, neighbors and community by reading and joining in discussions and programs about a featured book. We're hopeful that having a congregation-wide Big Read at All Souls can deepen our ties as a community by exploring a common book and its themes together. Some church groups that might want to explore the book through their own special interests include our music program, Stories with Soul, Adult Education, and the Women's Alliance. Personally I'm excited about a Women's Alliance discussion group! If you have any suggestions please feel free to let me know.

The first book we've selected is *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. In this book Kingsolver subverts popular misconceptions about poverty and the power of individuals and communities to alter their circumstances. While poverty and unemployment — as well as negative popular perceptions — characterize places like Lee County, Virginia, where much of the story is set, they are not the result of the residents' characters. They are the fallout of exploitation by powerful coal companies and drug manufacturers that used local residents, and then turned their backs on them. Despite common slurs of "redneck," "white trash," and "hillbilly," the characters manage to convey dignity, pride and loyalty to their community and the natural beauty of the land they hold dear.

SAFETY IN KNOWLEDGE

The NYPD gave the WA an education



We're *New Yorkers*, and many of us thought we knew all there is to know about staying safe in Gotham. But boy were we in for a surprise at the WA's Monthly Meeting on April 17th. Our speaker was the eloquent Anthony V. Nuccio, Detective Specialist at Crime Prevention & Digital Communication Officer of the NYPD's 19th Precinct. He has served the Upper East Side since 2014, and he

surprised us again and again with essential tips for staying safe in 2024. After the talk he could hardly get out the door for all the WA members who wanted to confer with him.

Many thanks to the League's Neil Osborne, who recommended Anthony (as he asked to be called) as a speaker to Sandra Fisher, a member of the WA's Safety SIG. Neil, Sandra and Anthony are seen here in the photo.

A partial list of Anthony's words of wisdom:

- Don't wear crossbody purses. Wear your purse strap on one shoulder.
- Beware of skimmers. Always pull and tug on the surface of a card reader to see if it is legitimate before you use it. Skimmers come off easily. There were dozens of skimmer arrests on the Upper East Side last year, and the number of skimmer crimes was surely much higher.
- Avoid ATMs. Get your cash from a teller.
- Carry a medical information card (can be homemade) with emergency contacts, medical conditions, medications, and allergies. A red cross at the top can be helpful.
- Never call a busy police precinct to report a crime. Call 911.
- Sit in the middle of a subway car, away from the door.
- The black & white "zebra" stripes above a subway platform mark the spot where the conductor will be when the train stops. This area may be a safe place to wait — with your back against a wall.
- At a subway entrance, a green globe/light means a clerk is on duty. A red globe/light means a police officer is on duty. Avoid subway entrances with neither.
- STOP USING PAPER CHECKS! They are far more dangerous than computer or telephone banking.
- If you must pay by paper check, have your bank cut a check and mail it — but only as a last resort.
- DO NOT TRUST CALLER I.D.
- USE YOUR VOICEMAIL TO SCREEN CALLS. Do not pick up calls from unknown numbers.
- If a pop-up tells you to call somebody, take your computer to an expert to have it cleaned.
- Beware of people claiming to represent government agencies, banks, retail companies, and dating apps.
- Call 646-610-SCAM, the NYPD's 24/7 hotline for scams.
- Freeze your credit. This will prevent others from opening new credit accounts in your name.
- Donate to fewer charities. Look up charity ratings. Donate local when you can.
- Contact your elected officials about safety concerns regarding mopeds and e-bikes. The 19th Precinct confiscates about 100 illegal mopeds per week — you can see them in the basement if you visit the precinct. Some of them are returned to their owners because the police are limited by existing laws.
- Anthony can be reached at Anthony.Nuccio@NYPD.org, 212-452-6030, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

What We Need to Know About New York's Equal Rights Amendment

By Jane Colvin

Jane Colvin is a member of the New York City League of Women Voters and a board member of the League of Women Voters of New York State

On Tuesday, November 5, 2024, New York State voters will have the opportunity to approve the New York State Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) as part of an Election Day ballot referendum. The ERA will embed and expand civil rights protections in the state constitution to include new categories of protected persons and civil rights, including, for the first time, protections for women's reproductive rights, abortion access, LGBTQ people, and immigrants.

If passed, it would amend the [Equal Protection Clause](#) of the [New York Constitution](#) and, for the first time, explicitly prohibit a person's rights from being denied based on the person's "ethnicity, national origin, age, [and] disability," as well as the person's "sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy." Currently, the Equal Protection Clause in the NYS Constitution only explicitly prohibits the denial of rights to a person based on "race, color, creed, or religion"; it fails to clearly prohibit discrimination against groups that have been historically targeted, including those with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, women, and pregnant people.

The broad protections and explicit language of the Amendment strengthen existing NYS laws that protect equal rights and the right to abortion. It clarifies that discrimination based on a person's pregnancy or pregnancy outcome is sex discrimination – important to its supporters given the national trend of criminalizing people for various pregnancy outcomes, as well as preserving NYS' status as an abortion access state.

The passage of this amendment would also protect LGBTQ, immigrant, and disability rights. By explicitly prohibiting discrimination by the government based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex - including their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression - the ERA would prohibit any attempt by lawmakers, for example, to exclude LGBTQ+ people from NYS public school curriculum, or politicians from putting in place barriers to voting that make it difficult for older adults or those with disabilities to vote.

By including these more extensive protections with the NYS Constitution, New Yorkers would be insulated from NYS politicians who may seek to eliminate or narrow the protections through legislative action. It is much more complicated and difficult to revise state constitutional provisions than legislation. The New York ERA would also extend protection against discrimination beyond what is specified in the federal constitution.

The ERA regained momentum in the summer of 2022 following the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade and returning the regulation of abortion to the states. Days after the decision, Gov. Kathy Hochul called the Legislature into session to pass the ERA. As required in the state constitution, the bill passed in a second consecutive legislative session in January 2023. The amendment will be on the statewide ballot in New York on election day, November 5, 2024.

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Supporters of the ERA Amendment include the League of Women Voters of New York, the New Yorkers for Equal Rights, Planned Parenthood, New York Civil Liberties Union, the New York Immigration Coalition, and NAACP New York.

If you are interested in supporting the effort to pass the ERA, you can join a member organization like LWVNYS to get involved with grassroots organizing and advocacy. Follow LWVNYS and the New Yorkers for Equal Rights campaign on social media for the latest updates.

The Proposed New York State Equal Rights Amendment (text)

- A. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this state or any subdivision thereof. No person shall, because of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed [or], religion, or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy, be subjected to any discrimination in [his or her] their civil rights by any other person or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by the state or any agency or subdivision of the state, pursuant to law.
- B. Nothing in this section shall invalidate or prevent the adoption of any law, regulation, program, or practice that is designed to prevent or dismantle discrimination on the basis of a characteristic listed in this section, nor shall any characteristic listed in this section be interpreted to interfere with, limit, or deny the civil rights of any person based upon any other characteristic identified in this section.

GREET EXPECTATIONS

Please note that ushering on Sunday mornings at All Souls is an important service to our church and a great way to meet people. Follow-up conversations with congregants and visitors can be had at Coffee Hour, and you can make your own schedule without having to commit to work every week. Two ushers on any given Sunday will also help count the offertory. The best way to sign up is to reach out to Gretchen Gabrielson, All Souls' Membership and Engagement coordinator, at gretchen@allsoulsnyc.org. She will contact the ushering captains.

JOIN UU WOMEN FROM AROUND THE WORLD

ICUUV's Fourth Convo will be a conference on peace

By Karen Steele

The Fourth International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women (4th ICUUV) will be held in Cluj-Napoca (formerly Kolozsvár), Romania, Sept. 5-8, 2024. The theme is "Weaving a Tapestry of Peace and New Perspectives." At least two WA members have already registered.

The international meeting will focus on the collective need for peace within ourselves and in our communities as we search for ways to respond to intersecting global crises and uncertainties. The event will also be an opportunity to determine how to be more effective changemakers, weaving our own threads of gender equity into a tapestry for a peaceful and sustainable tomorrow. For more information about the keynote speakers, and the convocation program including workshops, chalice circles, and social events for fun and fellowship, see the ICUUV website (icuuw.org).

The trip is also an opportunity to travel to the beautiful Transylvanian region and cradle of Unitarianism. In the culturally rich city of Cluj-Napoca, one of the oldest 15th-century townhouses was once the Unitarian bishop's residence; it is now the House of Religious Freedom, a center dedicated to religious liberty and tolerance.

And there is still limited availability for a seven-day pre-Convocation tour of the region. So act fast and register here: [4th Convo 2024 September \(intl womens convo.org\)](https://intl womens convo.org).

Any questions: contact Beth O'Connell at mboc14@gmail.com.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

- A lifelong Unitarian, **Beryl Jones-Woodin** has attended All Souls for more than 30 years. She has been involved in various church activities and just stepped down from her second term on the All Souls Board of Trustees.
- **Jan Reynolds** has lived in Mexico and Spain and travelled the world. She came to All Souls and the WA over 30 years ago and worked with the church-sponsored Girl Scout troop. But in recent years much of her time was devoted to painting in Vermont. She just sold her house there and is "Glad to be back!"
- Educator, a poet, a hiker, and a lover of classical music. **Arelis Torres** is a recently retired educator and a passionate activist for healthcare legislation and voting rights. Her family's interfaith background brought her to All Souls in 2020. Her motto is "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."
- For over 40 years **Christina Zarcadoolas** has worked in public health and environmental medicine, especially as they relate to equity. Since she stepped down from her full-time job at Mount Sinai, most of her time is spent with mPOWHER-NYC, working to diminish the 12-fold disparity in the maternal death rates of blacks and whites in New York City.

PHOTOS FROM RECENT ACTIVITIES

A new member meeting was held in the Ware Room on February 26th. (L to r) Membership Committee Chair Linda Floyd and new members Mary MacDonald, Sally Turner, Arelis Torres, Corinne Standish, Melanie Niemiec, and Suzy Lawrence shared wine, cheese, and conversation about the WA.



At the March 7th monthly outing to the “Taylor Swift: Storyteller” exhibit at Museum of Arts and Design (MAD), I to r: Martina Leonard; a visiting Swiftie from Nashville who made our visit great; Mary Ann Lang; Susan Hoehn; Adrianne Navon; and Sandra Fisher, leader. Sally Turner had to leave before the photo was taken.

Susan Hoehn was “dressed to give Taylor Swift a run for her \$\$\$” at the Swift exhibit, reports Sandra Fisher.



WA Members Jane Colvin (r) and Judith Moldover welcomed their fellow League of Women Voters NYC Member Barbara Ettington (l), who addressed the WA on March 20th. Barbara spoke about “The Three Pillars of Civic Engagement: Voting, Lobbying and Advocacy, and Community Involvement.” She brought us up-to-date about the newest voting rules and procedures in New York as well as the New York State Equal Rights Amendment (see Jane’s article on Pages 8-9) and the current state of pre-college education in civics.



On April 14th, professional website developer Alex Goodwin gave a lively church-wide talk about his work creating All Souls' long-awaited new website (allsoulsnyc.org). Lunch and refreshments were sponsored by the Women's Alliance. Alex explained how the website can be a powerful tool to attract more people to All Souls. First he made two major points about websites in general: (1) A successful website will forever be a work-in-process. And (2) it is a lot easier to create a website than it is to get people to find a website and choose to engage with it. Then he shared data and metrics and he interacted with attendees in live, projected Google searches to explain how these points apply to All Souls' website in particular. Alex, who is an All Souls RE alum, is donating his work on the site. He is seen here just after the talk with his proud mom, WA President Christine Goodwin.



The WA's Spring Event on April 28th featured the pure-toned singer Diane Taraz, who explored American women's inner lives through folk songs, many of them centuries old, some of them with origins in the old countries (youtube.com/watch?v=KqMgiqViB5c). She performed both a cappella and with lap dulcimer, and the songs, as delivered through her gorgeous voice, revealed beauty and heartbreak. But they could also get bawdy. Diane got a lot of laughs with such colonial-era lyrics as "My husband's got no courage in him" and "Never wed and old man ... He's got no faloorum; he's lost his ding durum."

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