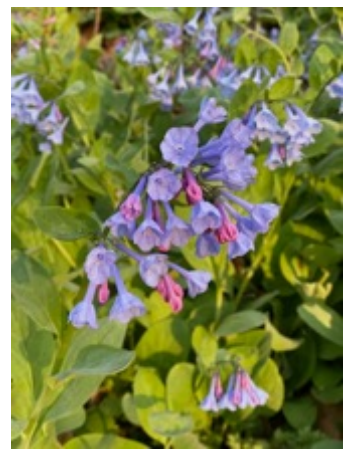




THE ALLIANCE ALERT

July-August 2021

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Christine Goodwin



As we move into summer and an easing of Covid restrictions, I hope everyone will be able to resume their usual summer travel and holiday celebrations. The Women's Alliance is continuing to plan outings and speakers of interest over the coming months.

Joining outings and Zoom programs is a great way to stay engaged with the Women's Alliance and get to know other members of WA. We are working with All Souls ministers and staff towards reinstating our traditional All Church Welcome Back party in September, and planning to resume in-person luncheons starting in October. We hope to continue to Zoom these gatherings for those who wish to stay home, and for many who live further away.

Another great way to get to know other members and contribute your talents is to join one of the WA committees. WA also has some special needs. Here are some opportunities to help:

Finance Committee – We need members to participate in the budget process and decide on WA donations to charitable organizations.

Luncheon Committee — Set up.

Auditor – Put together the year-end financial statement from the ledger provided by the Treasurer. You don't need to be a CPA, just familiar with financials; follow what has been done in the past. The auditor also prepares the required tax filings. Again, you don't need to be a CPA or accountant. The online tax programs are user friendly.

Fundraising – We need an artist to design notecards; an editor to collect recipes for a WA Cookbook, which will be sold; and people with knowledge about running an online auction.

Artist – Design a WA panel for Connex and our All Souls announcements.

Writers – Contribute articles for The Alert: member profiles, women's history, WA events.

Help with WA Special Events — September: Welcome Back Party; December: members-only Holiday party; February: Angie Utt Lecture; April: Spring Event.

To learn more or join a committee, please contact me at chrisg113@gmail.com.

I wish you all a good summer wherever you are!

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 9, 11 a.m.

A Visit to New-York Historical Society and Lunch at the Society's Coffee Bar

Current exhibitions include "So Ready for Laughter: Bob Hope and World War II," "Cover Story: Katharine Graham, CEO," and "Bruce McCall's New York." Central Park West at 77th St. Purchase your ticket for an 11 a.m. timed entrance or for 10 a.m. (for seniors on Friday) at

www.nyhistory.org. Tickets are good all day. Adults \$22; Seniors \$17. To RSVP, email Susan Hoehn by noon, July 7, at mshnyc50@gmail.com, and tell her if you are coming to the exhibit, the 1 p.m. lunch, or both.

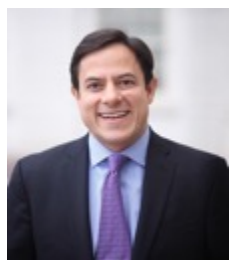


Wednesday, July 21, 3-4:30 p.m.

Membership Meeting (Virtual)

Presenter: **Daniel Garodnick**, President and CEO of the Riverside Park Conservancy
Topic: **Garodnick's new book *Saving Stuyvesant Town***

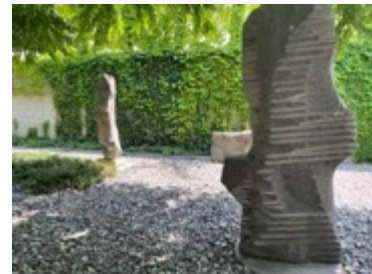
The lifetime Stuy Town resident and former New York City councilman recounts the incredible true story of how his neighbors stood up to mammoth real estate interests and fought to save their homes, delivering New York City's biggest-ever affordable housing preservation win.



Thursday, August 12, 12:30 p.m.

The Noguchi Museum and Lunch at Flor de Azalea Café

Visit the current exhibitions at this tranquil museum and lovely garden dedicated to Isamu Noguchi, the legendary Japanese-American sculptor and designer. Located at 9-01 33rd Rd. in Long Island City, the museum is accessible by subway and the NYC Ferry. Purchase a timed-entry ticket for 12:30 p.m. or earlier at www.noguchi.org/museum/visit/plan. Adults: \$10; Seniors: \$5. RSVP by August 10 to Alix-Marie Hall at AMHAdvisory@yahoo.com and tell her if you are joining us for the exhibition, the 2 p.m. lunch nearby, or both.



There will be no Membership Meeting in August.

CELEBRATING FORREST IN BRONZE

A sculptor's search for the minister's 'beautiful soul' By Maureen Marwick

It has taken years of fierce determination and strong commitment by two forceful women — Christina Bellamy (see article below) and Amy Kann — to achieve a memorial to celebrate the Rev. Dr. Forrest Church, who died in 2009 at age 61. Forrest, as he was known to his congregants, served as the senior minister (1978-2007) of All Souls Church and then its minister of public theology (2007-2009). The large-scale bas-relief bronze sculpture in his image, which was installed in the still-closed All Souls sanctuary in March, has already attracted the interest of the sculpture community.

Kann, the vibrant sculptor who was chosen by the Forrest Church Memorial Committee to render the 7' 4" x 5' 3" installation, spent two years immersed in videos, books and photographs of the beloved minister; she wanted to steep herself in the forceful inner character of the man who would be her subject.

A sculpture, Kann explains, is not rendered like a traditional painted portrait, formal and realistic, but rather it is rendered to get to the essence of the subject. A sculptor wants the feeling of looking into a soul and connecting with the subject, in this case a man who was open and approachable and completely devoted to helping others.

For instance, Forrest was known for wearing glasses; but for Kann as a sculptor, nothing can come between the facial image and the human connection. Thus, Forrest's eyes appear exposed and uncovered in her sculpture. The internal character is what Kann is going for and not the outward appearance.

A distinguished author and writer, Forrest is portrayed with a clutch of books in his hands; the bowed-over flowers at the base of the sculpture are comfrey, a healing herb.

Kann wanted to be a sculptor from age 12, when as a "quirky" kid she got a reputation for doing "messy" but amazing work, and she loved the feeling of being good at something "special." When she went on to art school, she had a favorite teacher who was an expert in anatomy. Kann was entranced, and from then on was a fervent lover of the art of sculpture. A longtime, very strong influence was Augustus Saint-Gaudens, sculptor of the Henry Whitney Bellows memorial that hangs in the All Souls sanctuary.

"There are few sculptors alive today capable of creating a portrait in bas-relief that could hang proudly next to a work by Saint-Gaudens," writes Gwen Pier, executive director of the National Sculpture Society, headquartered here in New York City. "But Amy Kann is one of them. The portrait of Forrest Church will stand the test of time."

Con't . . .



Amy Kahn in her studio with a clay model for the memorial.

Kann has had much success, her slender frame belying her work with large, heavy pieces. (The Forrest Church piece weighs 400 pounds not counting the frame.) She lives in Philadelphia and her work has been exhibited in the Pennsylvania Academy of Art and the Pennsylvania State Museum. Her sculpture is part of the permanent collections of the Smithsonian Museum, the British Museum and the McNay Museum in San Antonio. In 2012 she was chosen for the Rainey Master Sculptor Residency at South Carolina's Brookgreen Gardens museum, which contains the largest and most comprehensive collection of American figurative sculpture in the United States.

Forrest Church's "beautiful soul," as Kann describes it, reached out to her, and the collaboration is a truly beautiful work of art.

The Driving Force Behind the Memorial **By Alynne Wesson**



"Working with Amy," wrote Christina Bellamy in a report to the All Souls Board about the memorial's sculptor, Amy Kann, "we always felt that we were in safe, creative, professional hands."

Bellamy, the chair of the Forrest Church Memorial Committee, president of the All Souls Historical Society and a member of the

Women's Alliance, has been tenacious in her drive to achieve a memorial to Forrest.

One of the All Souls deacons who brainstormed back in 2013 about a way to honor Forrest, she was nominated to lead the newly-launched memorial committee in part because of her long, close friendship with the minister. And she has led the \$150,000 project for eight years, from its beginning in 2013 to the installation of the memorial in March of this year.

Early on under her direction, the committee looked into the church archives to find out how other memorials in the sanctuary had been accomplished and funded. What it found was no surprise to Bellamy, who grew up in a church community: women were behind the projects. "The backbone of any church," she says, "is the women. It's always the women who come up with the ideas."

Bellamy established the committee's independent bank account; designed its letterhead and donor invitations on her computer; found donors from "a wide swath of people" in Forrest's personal,

Con't . . .

ministerial, literary, political and media lives (church members were not directly approached, to avoid interfering with Annual Giving); established a highly successful years-long relationship with the artist; and eventually arranged warehousing and installation of the finished product.

“Christina is a ‘force of nature’....not to be stopped!” says Kann, who joins the celebrated Evelyn Beatrice Longman as a female sculptor with work in the All Souls sanctuary.

Noting the support and involvement of the other All Souls deacons and board members on the Memorial Committee, Bellamy mentions the unique contributions of several of them. Involved from the beginning were Michele Jawin, who expressed the need for a memorial; WA member Suzanne May (“so valuable,” says Bellamy, as she knew former church members who might be interested in donating); Neil Osborne, who found the sculptor; Dan Cryer, author of “Being Alive and Having to Die: The Spiritual Odyssey of Forrest Church”; and Victor Fidel, Board advocate. Robin Bossert, long involved with the project, has made a video about it, and the late Jane Furse Friedman, though she was not a member of the committee, opened her home to host the project’s first social fundraising event.

But none of this “would have happened,” says Osborne, “without the stalwart tenacity of our Christina B.”



The Forrest Church memorial before installation and then framing.

MEMBER PROFILE: JANE COLVIN

By Judith Kozloff

Jane Colvin is the new finance chair for the Women's Alliance. After a 30-plus year career in international banking, in addition to her nonprofit experience, she will be a great asset.

Jane is that rarity — a 100% New Yorker, spending her life between city and suburbs. After growing up in Briarcliff Manor, New York, and graduating from a very small high school, she went big, and enrolled at the University of Michigan. Recognizing the error of her ways, she transferred mid-stream, returning to her roots, and ended up at Cornell with a B.A. in history (Phi Beta Kappa); a Master of International Affairs from Columbia followed. She added to her accomplishments with language immersion in Florence, Italy, and Grenoble, France.



Her career started in the city, but, as common then, she and her husband left for the suburbs with a son in tow.

They renovated a house in Katonah, a hamlet in Bedford, New York, and over 20 years created a glorious estate with many types of gardens — perennials, rose, vegetable and shade as well as a formal herb garden — fruit trees and berry bushes, all while working in banking.

After the premature death of her husband and her son's enrollment in law school, she moved back to the city to enjoy the cornucopia of culture, and to grow her fingernails again. She joined All Souls in 2006 and has immersed herself in its numerous programs. Many Alliance members will know her from her ubiquitous, multi-faceted volunteering, including her work with the Nuclear Disarmament Task Force, Stories with Soul, The Caring Team, and Lay Pastoral Associates, among other groups.

Jane is on the board of the League of Women Voters of New York State and continues to sing in several New York City choirs, participating (pre-Covid) in international tours. With her constant lifelong love of learning, she currently audits classes at Hunter and John Jay Colleges. She describes her hobbies as "the usual," but is learning to bird watch. Her son and his wife now live in California.



REMEMBERING LINDA SAYRE

By Mary Geissman

Linda Sayre was a member of All Souls for 20 years, and became active in the Women's Alliance about five years ago. When she began attending our meetings I realized that I had known her through mutual friends in West Side Democratic politics. Linda was a member of the Broadway Democrats. She was also an active member of several civic organizations, including the

League of Women Voters and the local chapter of Amnesty International. Linda introduced the WA to Amnesty's annual holiday concert at a church on the Upper West Side, and several of our members attended these in recent years as a group outing.

Linda died in September 2020, and we were not aware of her passing until we reviewed the list of members who did not renew dues in 2021. We then learned that she held senior human resource positions in the public and private sector and was an adjunct instructor. She earned two master's degrees in sociology and social work/group work/community organization, and a doctorate in education, and previously served as president of the New York chapter of the Association for Talent Development, the leading association of workplace learning and performance professionals in the world.

The announcement of her death on the ACT-NYC site states that she "spearheaded partnerships with HSBC, LYNX (a black women's bankers group), Time Warner Cable, and the New York City Department of Employment to develop programs to give minority young people exposure to corporate life." Multiple colleagues remembered her wit.

Linda was obviously an accomplished woman with a wide variety of interests. She had hoped to be active with the Women's Alliance and suggested programs that might be of interest to us. However, health problems prevented her from becoming more active. I wish we had more time to get to know this remarkable woman.

THE SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK

The historic Zion St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Deutsche Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche) was a stop on the Women's Alliance's May 13 Yorkville walk/tour planned and led by Joyce Elderfield.

Front, left to right: Sandra Fisher, Penny Gibson, Sarah Dowson, Isabel Mountbatten (with blue bag), Mary Ann Van Osdol, Jane Levenson.

Back, left to right: Joyce Elderfield, Joan Flesch, Alix-Marie Hall (in hat), Ingrid Krinke, Mary Geissman, Maureen Marwick, Victoria Kimbrough.



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

By Mary Ann Van Osdol

We're getting out again!

May 13. Joyce Elderfield led a walk through historic Yorkville to see the churches and buildings of the 19th-century immigrant groups that made up the neighborhood and gave it its singular identity. We had a delightful lunch afterwards at Café D'Alsace.

June 8. A guided walk through the beautiful Garden People's blooming flower gardens in Riverside Park was planned by our own Nora Brossard, who is a Garden People board member. On the way to lunch at Telio on Broadway, we visited the impressive statue of Joan of Arc, victorious sword raised, astride her war horse, in her own small park at 93rd and Riverside Drive. The statue, by 19th-century sculptor Anna Vaughn Hyatt, was dedicated in 1915.

But Zoom Membership Meetings and events have sustained us all:

May 15. The WA Spring Event *Money vs Morality* featured a conversation about the roles of corporations in the community, between All Souls Church Senior Minister Galen Guengerich and author Judy Samuelson, a member of the church, based on her book, *The Six New Rules of Business: Creating Real Value in a Changing World*.

May 19. Membership Meeting — Mary Geissman arranged for Olivia Brady from NYC Votes to teach us "How Ranked Voting Works." This is the first time New York City will use this method of electing our leaders. All major city offices are involved: Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President and City Council. This method allows a voter to chose her first choice and also her 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th choices for each office.

June 16. Membership Meeting — Lois Coleman presented a tutorial on the All Souls Connex website, and how to sign up for our private Women's Alliance Group which Lois set up. The site includes all communications to and among members, our membership list, information about programs and meetings, and a way to communicate with each other.

The Women's Alliance (WA) is a membership organization. If you are interested in learning more about WA and its various programs and events, please email WomensAlliance@AllSoulsnycorg.

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