



THE ALLIANCE ALERT **September-October 2022**

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Christine Goodwin

Greetings Women's Alliance members. Even though it's not "back-to-school" time for us, the fall always feels like new beginnings after a break from routine. The Women's Alliance has been quiet this summer except for Maureen Marwick, who organized WA members for a movie and lunch, and Mary Geissman, who keeps us all informed about NYC summer musical offerings and gatherings with WA's Music Special Interest Group (SIG). As always, members have been busy over the summer with their own endeavors, several of which are featured in this issue.



In September, the Women's Alliance has traditionally hosted a Welcome Back party for the entire All Souls community. The last such gathering was in 2018 before renovation and construction at All Souls and pre-COVID. We are hoping to return to this tradition and celebrate reconnecting with our friends at All Souls. The Welcome Back party is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th, from 6-8 p.m. in Reidy Friendship Hall. Many are understandably still wary of COVID, but we hope we can safely gather together again.

Another September event will be a celebration of the Rev. Dick Leonard's 95th birthday, on Sunday, September 25th, after the 11:15 service.

Women's Alliance monthly luncheons will be moving back to our traditional third Wednesday of each month, beginning on October 19th, from 12-2 p.m. in Reidy. We hope to be able to Zoom the speaker and the meeting for those who cannot attend in person.

I look forward to the renewed energy of autumn. Please join your Women's Alliance sisters in restarting WA activities, luncheons, outings, coffee hour and more.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 10, 4 p.m.

A Memorial Service for Hanne Favelukes

Join Hanne's relatives, friends and colleagues in the All Souls sanctuary to celebrate her life and commemorate her death. Our dear Hanne, who died on July 23, was a longtime member of the WA, and a personal appreciation of her by Carmen Cook appears on Page 9 of this issue.

Thursday, September 15, 11:30 a.m.

A Walk With Parks and Art in the Southern Tip of Manhattan

Please join your WA friends for a magnificent walk that includes splendid parks and wonderful views of the NJ Skyline, the Statue of Liberty, and Ellis Island.

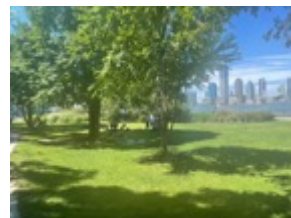
MEET: When arriving at Stuyvesant High School on West Chambers Street, cross Chambers and grab a bench in the small park inside North End Avenue, directly across from the school. Continue with us to:

- Battery Park City Ferry Terminal (restrooms), the North Cove Marina at Brookfield Place (restrooms), the South Cove (a meditative recess along the waterfront), the unique SeaGlass Carousel, and numerous statues and sculptures along the way
- Finally, lunch at Wagner Park with breathtaking views of the Statue of Liberty and NY Harbor

TRANSPORTATION: Either the 7th Avenue subway line (1,2 or 3 trains) to Chambers St and then walk or take the M22 bus to NORTH END AV/WARREN ST; or the M20 bus south from Lincoln Center (Broadway/63rd) to NORTH END AV/WARREN ST.

LUNCH: Gigino's at Wagner Park. We need a final head count no later than Tuesday, September 13. No reservations will be taken after that.

CONTACT: Alix-Marie Hall at AMHAdvisory@yahoo.com or text ONLY to 917-621-5495.



Tuesday, September 20, 6-8 p.m.

WA Welcome Back Party

WA will host our traditional Welcome Back Party with light refreshments in Reidy Friendship Hall. The entire All Souls community is invited to attend, and we will be joined by the Deacons, All Souls Historical Society, The League, Welcoming Congregation, and other groups.

Wednesday, October 19, 12-2 p.m.

WA Membership Luncheon

Time to socialize, a brief business meeting and a speaker or program. We hope to provide a Zoom link for those unable to attend. Bring your own lunch; coffee, tea, desserts and utensils will be provided. Look for more details in emails from Christine Goodwin.

Thursday, October 20

Harlem Heritage Walking Tour - Save the Date! Details to follow.

Women's Reading Group (SIG) (For more information, contact: christina.black50@gmail.com)

Second Tuesday of Each Month, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

- September 13: *The Doctors Blackwell How Two Pioneering Sisters etc.*, by Janice Nimura
- October 11: *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison
- November 8: *Everything Good Will Come*, by Sefi Atta
- December 13: Poetry readings

A MESSAGE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Mary Geissman, Chair

The nominating committee will meet in September to consider nominations for the following offices:

- Corresponding Secretary (Joyce Elderfield is completing her second term)
- Treasurer (Karen Steele is completing her second term)
- Assistant Treasurer and Chair of the Investment Committee (Alix-Marie Hall has resigned and this nomination will be for the completion of her first term, which ends in February 2024)
- President (Christine Goodwin is completing her first term and we all hope and expect that she will be nominated for a second term)

If you are interested in serving as any of these officers or have suggestions of possible candidates, please let me know at mjgeissman@gmail.com.

The nominating committee will present a report at the October 19 meeting and the election will be held at the November 16 meeting. Members of the committee are Barbara Reed and Ann Brewer.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WOMEN'S ALLIANCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

By Jane Colvin, Chair

I hope you're having a safe AND enjoyable summer! Just a reminder for you to start thinking about recommendations of charities that you would like to be included in our annual Charitable Giving Program for 2022.

We do have the following guidelines and criteria in order to consider your recommendations:

- The charities must be 501(c)3 organizations and have a 3-star or higher rating on Charity Navigator, Candid (formerly GuideStar) or other similar highly regarded third-party charity rating agency.
- Organizations must also provide support for one of the following categories:
 - Programs for women and girls
 - Programs of, supported by, or affiliated with the Unitarian Church of All Souls
 - Programs affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association, such as the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the UU Women's Federation, and programs supported by the Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations (UU@UN)
 - Programs for local neighborhood programs in New York City

Please send recommendations to JaneColvin914@aol.com by September 16.

MEMBER PROFILE: INGRID KRINKE

Made From a Different Mold

By Maureen Marwick



Ingrid, blonde, self-assured, attractive, looks Scandinavian but in fact is German-born and bred. She was brought up in Hamburg and came to the U.S.A. principally to learn English. Being young and curious, she also wanted to explore and experience a different culture, a different way-of-life. Somehow, through the passing years, America became home, and she has been here ever since.

During the week, Ingrid lives on the Upper East side in an apartment with a view of the Triborough Bridge (renamed the Robert F. Kennedy). However, most summer weekends she drives to her house in Sag Harbor with her devoted companion, an adorable cat named Kita. There, on Sundays, she attends the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork, where she is a board member.

Ingrid's career-path was in finance and in human resources. Upon retirement as senior vice president of a German-based HR company, Ingrid felt that she had spent a lifetime traveling in Europe for work and play — she has one sister still in Hamburg and another sister with two daughters living in Paris. When her nieces were young, Ingrid regularly visited them in France, or they would come to stay with her in Manhattan, learning to speak “perfect English” in the process. For her part, Ingrid never has conquered French, but luckily, her family is fluent in German and English.

Therefore, after years of going back-and-forth to Europe, Ingrid decided the time had come to learn and explore a different culture. Just then, she happened to visit the New York Asia Society, where there was a special presentation about Tibet. This sparked her imagination and culminated in a visit to Tibet and a passion for all things Asian. It led her to become a docent at the New York Asia Society. (At the WA we know this well, and are grateful to Ingrid for guiding and explaining many exhibits there through the years.)

At the moment, Ingrid is working on a post-pandemic exhibit at the Asia Society, “Mirror Image: A Transformation of Chinese Identity,” which highlights seven Chinese artists born in the 1980s and reflects the economic and political experiences and the cultural shocks of their lifetimes. (The exhibit closes December 31st.)

Ingrid loves the many cultural opportunities afforded in New York City. She is an ardent supporter of the Metropolitan Opera and American Ballet Theater at Lincoln Center, and she loves going to the movies. However, since the pandemic, she prefers the new state-of-the-art Sag Harbor triplex movie theater that seems so clean and up-to-date compared with movie theaters in Manhattan.

Back from a springtime trip to Crete and Mykonos, she is now planning a visit to Tunisia and Malta in October. “Now I have travelled so extensively in Asia, the only place I have left to visit is Japan, and that is next on my to-do list. Show me ancient cultures, ruins — anything historic and different — and I am at my happiest”.

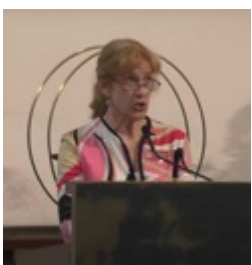
SUMMER SUNDAYS

Excerpts From Recent Sermons By WA Members

The Rev. Carol Huston, seen here delivering a sermon on Zoom earlier this year, preached from the pulpit on July 26 at the Unitarian Universalist Society of South Suffolk. It is no surprise that her sermon featured women; as a past president and ongoing committee chair of the International Women's Convocation (a global partnership of Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists), she has worked with women in Transylvania for more than 10 years:



How has our concept of "Home" changed in this time of COVID, when many of us were asked to stay in our personal dwellings far too much while being denied access to the homes of our heart (like our church buildings)? In Universalist history, a circle of women ministers (the Iowa Sisterhood) developed a tradition of House Blessing in the 19th century. We used such a blessing for the UU Society of South Suffolk's building as the congregation ended the church year in June.



Author, humorist and playwright Laura Pedersen also preached at All Souls this summer. Her sermon, "The Invisible Jigsaw Puzzle," was delivered on July 24 and it focused on questions of equity and fairness in society. Some of it was high-minded (riffs on John Donne and Theodore Parker), while some of it was down-to-earth, or at least down-to-Buffalo, Laura's hometown and lodestar:

What I heard around my house on a daily basis was, "Life isn't fair, so get used to it." And if you played dodgeball as a child, you knew this was indeed a gospel of sorts ...

Imagine how crazy life would be if it were "fair" to everyone. Businesses would only fail if people were bad. Relationships would end when both partners passed away simultaneously. Sports teams would let anyone join and give everybody a chance to play equally. I had a born-again Christian soccer coach who actually did this and we lost almost every game for four years, had low morale, and no scholarship offers.

The Rev. Pamela Patton, director of Pastoral Ministries at All Souls, was scheduled to preach at two Sunday services this summer, one of them after press time. Her July 10 sermon, "In This Single Hour I Live," brought together different parts of her ministries, which inform each other:



At the end of our lives, our experience is heightened — we cherish our senses, our relationships. It's all so much more meaningful ... A surge of awakening can happen, an appreciation for beauty, a willingness to let go of pride, a willingness to forgive, and an enriched capacity to love and to be loved. One of the reasons I appreciate my work as a chaplain and pastor is because I have the opportunity to witness this awakening among the dying, and it's profoundly inspiring. Here's the good news: if the possibility for cherishing life more deeply exists at the time of dying, that means it exists here and now.

WA AT THE 2022 UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

by Mary Geissman

The UUA General Assembly (GA) was a hybrid event this year — in person in Portland, Oregon, and off-site via remote technology. Three WA members, Karen Steele, Suzy Salomon, and Mary Geissman (see Karen and Mary in the photo) , attended in person and Linda Rousseau was a remote delegate. We were joined by others from All Souls, in-person by delegates Bruce Knotts, Isaac Humphrie, James Moskin and Malinda Foy, and remotely by the Rev. Audette Fulbright and delegates Robert Dottin and Bill Bechman.

Three Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW), which shape the UUA's social justice commitments, were adopted: "We Do Not Consent: Rejecting Legal Challenges to Abortion" received over 99% of the vote. This was most timely of the AIWs, as the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade the same day. Led by our UUA president, the Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, GA attendees including Malinda Foy and myself participated in a protest event at Lownsdale Square in downtown Portland that afternoon. The other AIWs were "Anti-Racism and Reparations via Restorative Justice," which received 95% of the vote; and "Stop the Privatization of Medicare," which received 77%.

The Article II Study Commission, led by the Rev. Cheryl Walker, presented a report on the progress it had made in a comprehensive review of the core statements of Unitarian Universalist faith — values, sources of inspiration, and purpose. Draft revisions were presented for discussion and feedback. During business sessions, the Assembly overwhelmingly approved the UUA Board's plan to conduct a comprehensive revision of the UUA bylaws.

As usual at GA there were various receptions and other activities. Several of us attended the "UU the Vote" reception and rally — we hope to encourage participation activities to get out the vote in the fall. Malinda and I attended the UU Women's Federation "Co-Conspirators and Allies Reception" and were encouraged to see a lively group of women of all ages. Karen worked at the UUs for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) booth in the GA Exhibit Hall (see photo).



Following GA, our delegation felt strongly that All Souls should encourage more participation in GA and with other UU congregations in our city and region. We had a discussion with the League, and a preliminary meeting with Rev. Audette. We plan to meet with the All Souls ministers and Board of Trustees in the fall to see how we can participate in the goals of the UUA.



STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS

Strolling Through the Park in May

By Terry Manzella



Thanks to the ever charming and gracious Christina Black, a delightful birding adventure took place on Saturday, May 14, 2022. A dozen ladies from the Women's Alliance met at the Boat House and trekked together through the trails in Central Park ramble, where we delightedly spied many different birds: Northern Flicker, Grackle, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black & White Warbler, House Finch, Oven Bird, Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Parula, European Starling, White-throated Sparrow, many Robins with nest & babies, Blue Jays, Cardinals, male Mallard duck, Catbird and dozens of House Sparrows.

With our sneakers on and binoculars in hand, we looked through the trees and on the ground to catch glimpses of our fast-flying feathered friends. I thought about my beloved grandmother Jenny, who used to say, "Fine feathers make fine birds." And, "Good company makes great days." We had both.

A stream with flowing water added to the charm and feelings of disbelief. Are we in the middle of a city populated by millions of people? The fast flow of water entertained a lovely mallard, who seemed to be taking a bath. Since they usually travel together, we wondered if this one got lost from the flock? If lost — it didn't seem to know about it. Like us, it was having fun on a lovely spring day.

We also saw ancient azaleas with stalks so thick they looked like trees. A few white dogwoods graced our path with delicate blooms surrounding bright yellow centers that looked like miniature haystacks that van Gogh might have painted. All this only yards away from the pond where people were in row boats, but you would never know it from the landscape thick with underbrush and trees everywhere.

A round of applause to Christina for being the spark plug for this delightful Women's Alliance adventure. Gratitude was sprinkled quietly between our oohs and aahs as we tried not to scare away our fine feathered friends.



left to right: Maureen Marwick, Marie Schu, Sandy Ekberg, Alynne Wesson, Terry Manzella, Ellen Gabriel, Joan Fleisch, Dixie Goss, Victoria Kimbrough, Jane Colvin, Christina Black, Chris Goodwin, Adrienne Navon. Photographer - Karen Bruno

UPDATE ON INEZ MILLER'S DAUGHTER

The Rev. Alison Miller On Her New Post and Her Old Debt To The WA

By Alynne Wesson



"Was Inez ever a member of the WA!!!!!!!!!" was WA Member Sheila Darnborough's email response to a question about Inez Miller, who died in 2010. A similar response came via telephone from Inez's daughter, the Rev. Alison Miller, who grew up at All Souls and later began her career there. "I remember the Women's Alliance very, very well as a force in the congregation," she says. "I remember the Women's Alliance meetings and the *Fair*, which was *big*. All the RE kids had different jobs at the Fair, which raised money for the congregation." (The Fair in Olde New York was an annual church-wide event that was organized by the WA). She also remembers serving as "sous chef for my mom," in one way or another, at various WA events.

In fact, Alison cites the great influence the WA had on her career, one of the most high-profile ones in the UUA. She is the new senior minister of First Unitarian, Portland (Oregon), which dates back to 1866 and vies with All Souls as one of the largest UU congregations in the nation. She replaces the retiring and highly-respected William Sinkford, who served 11 years in the position after his tenure as president of the UUA. For the last 17 years, Alison served as senior minister of Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, and before that, between 1996 (the year she graduated from Bryn Mawr) and 2005, she served at All Souls in various professional ministry, religious education, and administrative staff positions. During those years she also received her Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School and served as ministerial intern and summer minister at All Souls Unitarian Church (Tulsa), the largest in-person congregation in the denomination.

"There were not that many women senior ministers" when Alison was growing up, she recalls, "and I think it made a difference to have the influence of the strong women at the Women's Alliance." She cites WA Member Mary Ella Holst in particular as an important role model. Mary Ella led the Children's Chapel and "was in many ways one of my first ministers." At Alison's new church in Portland, where she has just moved with her husband and 10-year-old son, the Women's Alliance has long been vital, both to starting and sustaining the congregation. Now it is called the Alliance and is open to all sexes, but it is still mostly women.

While the average tenure of a minister is seven years, Alison believes the fact that she served successfully in Morristown for 17 years, and that she expects to serve long term in Portland, is largely the result of what she was exposed to at All Souls. Much of that was accomplished through her mother's work with the WA and other facets of the church. "All that I learned at All Souls served me well."

HANNE FAVELUKES: AN APPRECIATION

By Carmen Cook

What a wonderful woman and compassionate friend was Hanne Favelukes. Like many of our members she was highly educated and accomplished, yet her depth of heart and compassion outweighed any intellectual achievements. George Collins, Co-Chair of Monday Night Hospitality, where Hanne volunteered for years, recalls her working with the program when her illness had progressed but her commitment remained unshakable. If one knows the best part of the Women's Alliance, one knows Hanne. A giver.



We rode home together after WA's monthly book club, and along the way we would exchange confidences. I also visited her at home near Columbia University. She suffered a great deal through her monstrous, disfiguring surgeries in the last years of her life; the surgeon didn't tell her how bad the surgery would be until after it had taken place. She lived on Boost for years but wanted to live just as long as she could. On holidays she would send me a little gift, always including a tasty treat. She knew how to make a friend feel cared for.

Listening to music was a great pleasure for Hanne, as well as reading. She adored her grandchildren and travelled to see them as long as she was able. Her training as a psychiatrist helped her view life differently than I, an artist, a musician, ruled by emotion, insecurity and the senses. She had both depth of thinking and feeling. A part of her will be with me always, improving my character and expanding my dimension.

We laughed, too. One cannot be friends without laughing. Hanne's laughter rings in my ears, softly muffling the tears.



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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PHOTO GALLERY: RECENT WA OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES



Heli Blum and Sumi Kubota presented a fascinating program about ikebana flower arranging at the May 5 membership meeting. Both Heli & Sumi studied the art in Japan, & some of their work can be seen on the tables in the back. Left to right are Joyce Elderfield, Jean Lotz, Judith Kozloff, Gerda Artes, Susan Hoehn & Linda Floyd.



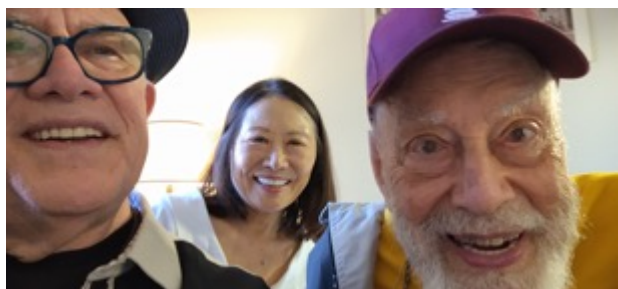
Malinda Foy & WA member Mary Geissman, who were serving as All Souls delegates to the UUA's 2022 General Assembly, joined thousands who took to the streets on June 24 in Portland, Oregon, in protest of the Supreme Court's decision that day to overturn Roe v Wade.



At the Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park, WA's Music SIG stayed wide awake throughout a July 12 concert of lullabies by Bartók, Beethoven, Dvořák & others. Boston's Grammy-nominated classical ensemble A Far Cry performed. Left to right are Mary Geissman, Sarah Dowson & Kate Kleber.



Intrepid WA members explored the spectacular architecture & plantings of Little Island at Pier 55, & took in the sweeping views from its "tulip" structures. The May 12 outing was organized by Alix-Marie Hall & Sarah Dowson. Left to right are Nicky Carrante-Vaughan, Terry Manzella, Alix-Marie Hall, Sarah Dowson (front center), Adrienne Navon & Maureen Marwick.



Several WA members got together with All Souls Minister Emeritus Dick Leonard over the summer — when he could find time between chess games. Sumi Kubota is pictured here with Dick on one of her visits. She and Bill Bechman (left), met with Dick on August 25 in preparation for Dick's 95th birthday celebration, which will be held at All Souls after the Sunday service on September 25, one day after Dick's real birthday.