



THE ALLIANCE ALERT

Sept-Oct 2024

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Christine Goodwin

Welcome to the fall, to cooler weather, and to more activities for the Women's Alliance. I hope you all were able to keep cool during some hot and humid weeks. This was our second summer of "Pop Ups," informal gatherings for visits to museums, art galleries, theater and concerts, many of which were free. New York City has so much to offer, even during the summer. Thank you to those who contributed ideas for an interesting variety of events and to those who joined us for fun activities.



WA committees have been working over the summer to plan our monthly luncheons with a speaker, as well as monthly outings for our members, as you will see in the "Upcoming Events" listed in this issue of The Alert. We have September and October outings planned, and our monthly lunch meetings will resume in October.

On Tuesday, September 17th, the Women's Alliance will host our traditional Welcome Back party for the whole All Souls community in Reidy Friendship Hall. With members' prior suggestions in mind, the event will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., a little later than last year, and include a light dinner. We will be joined by Trent Johnson and the Community Choir for some singing.

I look forward to the renewed energy of autumn. Please join your Women's Alliance sisters in restarting WA activities, luncheons, outings, coffee hour, etc. And continue to send suggestions for interesting ideas about where we can gather together.

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.

Wednesday, September 11th, 11 a.m.

WA Monthly Outing, The Guggenheim Museum

"Jenny Holzer: Light Line" is a reimagination of Holzer's landmark 1989 Installation at the Guggenheim. Climbing all six ramps of the museum's Frank Lloyd Wright-designed rotunda, the site-specific installation transforms the building with a display of scrolling texts. "It's said that Unitarians love words," writes the outing's leader Sandra Fisher. "Holzer's works are words." Please check out what to expect at guggenheim.org/exhibition/jenny-holzer and enhance your experience by downloading the museum's free Digital Guide at guggenheim.org/plan-your-visit/digital-guide. Let Sandra know if you're coming at Sfisher535@aol.com or 646-675-3608. Lunch will follow at the Guggenheim's café at 1 p.m. Buy timed tickets in advance: \$30; \$19 Senior.



Tuesday, September 17th, 7-9 p.m.

WA's Welcome Back Party, Reidy Friendship Hall

Our annual Welcome Back Party for WA members and the whole All Souls Community, with refreshments, wine, a light dinner, and an appearance by Trent Johnson and the Community Choir.

Thursday, October 10th, 11 a.m. and/or 1 p.m.

WA Monthly Outing, The New York Botanical Garden



"Wonderland: Curious Nature" is NYBG like never before! Head down the rabbit hole as the Garden is transformed through the sights, settings, and scents of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* — and step into a botanical experience that grows curiouiser and curiouiser along the way; see more at <https://www.nybg.org/event/wonderland-curious-nature/>.

Meet at 11 a.m. at the Garden's Mosholu Entrance across from Metro-North's Botanical Garden stop, or at 1 p.m. for lunch at the Pine Tree Café just inside the Garden's Main Entrance. Tickets for grounds only are \$7; for the exhibit \$35, \$31 senior (free for members). Sandra Fisher is leading the outing (sfisher535@aol.com, 646-675-3608).

Wednesday, October 16th, Noon-2 p.m.

WA Monthly Membership Meeting, Reidy Friendship Hall

Lunch (BYO), socializing, a business meeting, and a speaker. We'll provide coffee, tea, and a sweet.

Women's Reading Group (SIG)

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

Oct 1: *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

Monday Nov 4: *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows

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

MEMBER PROFILE: MARILYN COLLINS

Marilyn joined the Women's Alliance in recent years, but she has been a member of All Souls since 1994. She is well known to longtime church members, having been very active in the church in the past, with roles including usher volunteer leader; RE teacher (kindergarten); RE Committee member and chair; Annual Giving Campaign director; Heart and Soul Charitable Fund board member; and current board member and past president of the Annie Eaton Society. In late August she sat down to answer these questions from the Alliance Alert.

What brought you to All Souls?

My husband George and I wanted a spiritual home for Dana, our newly adopted daughter. Specifically, we were looking for a congregation where there was a healthy respect for God, doctrine but not rituals, and where there was a real demonstration of community spirit and giving. We eventually made it to this beautiful place. We were certainly impressed with all the physical stuff, this magnificent space, which felt so calming and spiritual to us, the gorgeous music, and the lovely sense of community.



What has been your latest adventure?

My latest adventure was a 2½-week trip to China in June with my daughter and son-in-law to visit his family in Fujian province and to visit the orphanage where my daughter came from in Hunan Province. First off, in Fuzhou, we saw the sites, ate wonderful food (mostly seafood), were introduced to proper tea drinking, and made to feel very welcomed into the family. The following week we flew to Hunan Province (the entire family) and explored a beautiful national park (Zhangjiajie National Forest Park) and then got a big welcome at the orphanage in Chenzhou. My daughter was presented with a T-shirt that said, "Welcome home."

What do you do professionally?

I have spent my entire professional life in areas of Information Technology. I started "back in the day" as a programmer but wasn't as excited about writing "cool" code as I was about understanding how that code was being used by the business areas. I gradually moved from coding to system analysis, then business analysis, and finally to project management, where I am now. In this role I work with business areas as they are introduced to new technology (sometimes by their own choice and sometimes not). My job is to make sure the transition from old to new goes as smoothly as possible with the proper education and support mechanisms in place. I have a team of wonderful folks that help make this happen.

Fun fact: In my career I have mostly worked for financial companies in NYC, but never on Wall Street. Now I work for a non-profit organization and I am (finally) working on Wall Street.

UUA's GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

The Unitarian Universalist Association's annual General Assembly, held this year from June 20th through June 23rd, was the most contentious GA in years. Of particular interest were two proposals that were up for vote: i) changes to Article II of the UUA's Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, which would, among other things, drop the Seven Principles; and ii) the Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) on Solidarity with Palestinians.

All Souls was represented by 15 of the GA's 2,757 delegates, eight of whom were members of the Women's Alliance. They bore the heavy responsibility of voting on whether to make fundamental changes to Unitarian-Universalism, but they didn't have to travel far; the annual GA returned to an online format this year, after being held in person in 2022 and 2023. The online format made the GA accessible for delegates who would not have been able to participate otherwise, but it also affected the delegates' opportunities to huddle, discuss, and debate freely.

As it was, Zoom meetings among the delegates still involved strong disagreement and even tears about the two hot-button issues. There was also disagreement among the delegates from All Souls, and even among those who are members of WA, but the GA adopted both the changes to Article II and the AIW by large majority votes. We will learn more in the coming year how All Souls will respond to the new UUA statement of values; you may have noticed that the Seven Principles were removed from the back of All Souls' Sunday Order of Service as of July 7th.

Read more about the changes to Article II in the UUA's *UU World* magazine at <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-article-ii-passes-general-assembly-unitarian-universalism-bylaws-vote-values-statement>.

Read the UUA's Action of Immediate Witness on Solidarity with Palestinians at <https://www.uua.org/action/statements/solidarity-palestinians>.

Due to the importance of these issues and the interest in them, WA will send out more comprehensive reports and commentary in the near future, so members can be more fully informed.

SUMMER IN THE SECOND CITY

Sandra Lotz Fisher writes about her job at the Democratic National Convention



Two college friends and I had the extraordinary experience of attending the Democratic National Convention last month in Chicago. We have been dear friends since Penn days, all self-described political junkies, and this was our third DNC together. We volunteered in Credentials during the day and received Honored Guest passes to the evening programs. Charlotte (2012) and Philadelphia (2016) were exciting, but nothing compared to 2024. If you tuned into the convention, you saw the jam-packed United Center arena, heard the cheers, and felt the throbbing energy emanating from your TV screen. It was simply exhilarating. How did we get to do this you ask? My friend's daughter-in-law is a mover and shaker in a key swing state and made the introduction for us in 2012.

The weather was blessedly sunny with low humidity. We stayed at an Airbnb and worked the afternoon shift at Credentials, in a building with high security as delegates picked up their daily passes for admittance to the arena and the Delegates' floor. The delegates or their surrogates had to come to our building which was quite far from the McCormick West convention center where the delegates' events took place every day. At 4 p.m. our office closed, and volunteers signed off on our Honorary passes for that night. Then we either took a shuttle, Uber, or hoofed it to the arena. There were lots of police, and not until the convention was over on Thursday night did we see any of the protestors as we walked out to find a taxi ... and buy more T-shirts. Every night we went through Secret Service security, which was more thorough than TSA, and then walked to the entrance. As the Democrats are the "big tent party," every race, ethnic group, sex, and age were together. It was nice to be out of a silo. People were affable, polite and interested in connecting. Delegates were on the first floor and we could be on the second level. We hustled to secure seats directly facing one of the jumbotron screens. I introduced myself to whoever sat next to me (a 23-year-old from Texas working on a campaign in Oklahoma, a 24-year-old from North Dakota, and many more).

We loved how the program intertwined speeches, testimonials, videos, and entertainment. Word was that Steven Spielberg had a hand in the production. Every major and minor leader in the Democratic party spoke, except for Jon Tester, Sherrod Brown, and cheerless cat ladies. I was very happy that President Biden got the recognition due him on Monday night. We loved all the speakers – Hillary and Bill Clinton, Michelle and Barack Obama, Jasmine Crockett (an unknown-to-us Texas congresswoman from Houston who was verbal dynamite), Jamie Raskin, Josh Shapiro, Gretchen Whitmer, Tim Walz and Kamala Harris. All younger than us. We were delightfully surprised when Oprah appeared, as she was not on the program. John Legend made us all rock!

We shed tears throughout the testimonials by women, men and children telling their stories about abortion care denied, surviving gun and mob violence (a Capitol policeman, Gabby Giffords, Uvalde kids, and the Central Park 5, who collectively spent over 40 years in prison for a crime they did not commit). We loved Kamala's adorable grand nieces, who explained how to correctly pronounce her name: ", + la" - see my hat in photo above.

Hope and positivity were in the house!

THE WOMEN'S ALLIANCE LOGO

By Sandra Ekberg, with thanks to Barbara Reed and Karen Steele for their input



Have you ever wondered about the derivation of our organization's logo? It grew out of a major effort undertaken by the Women's Alliance's Executive Board several years ago. In 2019, after reviewing its goals from prior years, the Executive Board devoted several weeks to the creation of a Strategic Plan for our organization. This effort resulted in the written mission statement that you've seen in our membership materials ever since. It further led to the creation of the familiar tagline that appears in WA print and internet materials: *The Women's Alliance... supporting values of friendship, equality and justice.*

The Board then concluded that our organization needed a logo and commissioned Rachel Rosenthal, the Communications Director at All Souls at that time, to develop the one that is still in use today. The process was an iterative one, in which Rachel submitted several possible ideas for the Board to consider before it settled on the current design.

The logo consists of an abstract design with our name in Open Sans Bold font. Some people think the abstract design looks like a flower; others find it suggestive of the Unitarian Universalist chalice. When you pick up the WA's membership brochure, you'll note that our logo is prominently displayed on the cover. It is also used for our organization's letterhead, business card and the All Souls' website page for the Women's Alliance. Whenever possible, this special logo should be used in conjunction with all publicity for Women's Alliance events as it helps to create rapid recognition as to who is sponsoring the event. Any member working on a WA event who needs a copy of the logo to use for promotional purposes should contact Lois Coleman, Communications Committee chair.

MEET AND GREET

Ushering at All Souls

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 Rudy Girón, All Souls' Congregation Coordinator, at rudy@allsoulsnyc.org. He will contact the ushering captains.

WA QUIZ

In case you missed Lois Coleman and Christine Goodwin's spring dive into WA history

PICK THE LETTER CORRESPONDING TO YOUR ANSWER:

(1) The New York League of Unitarian Women was founded by All Souls member

- A. Georgina Schuyler
- B. Velma Wright Williams
- C. Mrs. John R. McGinley

(2) The Women's Alliance of All Souls began in

- A. 1850
- B. 1870
- C. 1890

(3) The 2024 Women's Alliance Spring Event featured folk singer

- A. Diane Taraz
- B. B. Rhiannon Giddens
- C. Maggie Rogers

(4) Marietta Moskin, who created, wrote, and edited the All Souls Quarterly Review, also wrote several children's books. Her most well-known book is called

- A. I am Marie Rose
- B. I am Rosemarie
- C. I am Lily Sue

(5) Catharine Sedgwick, who joined the church soon after it was founded, was well known during her lifetime as a

- A. journalist
- B. novelist
- C. hymn writer

(6) The 2024 Annual Angie Utt Lecture featured

- A. author Marilynne Robinson
- B. actress Jessica Hecht
- C. New York Representative Rebecca Seabright

(7) The women of All Souls started a school in the church basement in

- A. 1823
- B. 1833
- C. 1853

(8) Eliza Cabot Follen, wife of All Souls minister Charles Follen, was a successful author and editor of a magazine for children from 1828-1850. In 1833 she published the nursery rhyme

- A. Three Little Kittens
- B. Three Blind Mice
- C. Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Con't . . .

The Women's Alliance - supporting values of friendship, equality and justice

(9) Jessie Duncan Hayden Wiggin, widow of Albert Wiggin, made a large donation to build a parish house and chapel in her husband's name. The amount donated was

- A. \$100,000
- B. \$300,000
- C. \$1,500,000

(10) All Souls member Louisa Lee Schuyler was the founder of

- A. The American Red Cross
- B. The first nursing school in America
- C. The Babies Hospital of New York

MATCH THE DESCRIPTION TO THE LETTER OF THE MEMBER NAME:

(11) Deputy Chief of Staff to Senator Kisten Gillibrand

(12) Retired law professor

(13) Editor of the WA Alert

(14) Docent at The Asia Society

(15) Lives part time in New Mexico

(16) Hunter College Professor of Chemistry

(17) Ran All Souls Girl Scouting for 20 years

(18) Works with Médecins Sans Frontières
(Doctors Without Borders)

(19) Aspiring sommelière

(20) Vice President of The Aspen Institute,
author of *Six New Rules for Business*

- A. Judy Samuelson
- B. Ingrid Krinke
- C. Victoria Kimbrough
- D. Dixie Goss
- E. Alynne Wesson
- F. Sandra Fisher
- G. Robin Moulds
- H. Anne Bradley
- I. Beryl Jones-Woodin
- J. Rachel Ziemba

ANSWERS:

(1)B, (2)C, (3)A, (4)B, (5)B, (6)B, (7)A, (8)A, (9)B,
(10)B, (11)H, (12)I, (13)E, (14)B, (15)C, (16)D,
(17)F, (18)G, (19)J, (20) A

PHOTOS FROM PAST ACTIVITIES

Christina Black led a WA birdwatching walk through the Ramble in Central Park on May 3rd. Birdwatchers observed a number of species including Chimney Swifts flying over Turtle Pond while a Great Egret hunted below, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Gray Catbirds, American Robins, House and White-throated Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds and a Rusty Blackbird; warbler species included Northern Parula, Magnolia, Palm, and Yellow-rumped. L to r: Alynne Wesson, Donna Drewes (a WA friend from California), Karen Bruno, Christina Black, Christine Goodwin, Victoria Kimbrough, and Jane Colvin.



New and old members gathered on May 8th in the Ware Room for wine, nosh, and conversation. (L to r) Christine Goodwin, Sally Turner, Susan Schwarz, Jane Martin Watson, and Barbara Reed. Membership Chair Linda Floyd took the picture.

Several WA members took part in the first meeting of the All Souls Knitting Circle, a new project of Souls in Service, on June 16th. Pictured in the Ware Room are (l to r) Carole Weiss, Rachel Ziemba, and Marilyn Reagan. For more information about the project, contact Christine Goodwin at chrisg113@gmail.com.



Kate Kleber suggested a Pop Up visit to see the "Sonia Delaunay: Living Art" at the Bard Graduate Center Gallery on June 18th. WA members viewed the internationally-sourced exhibit of works by one of the most influential artists of the 20th Century. Pictured (l to r) are Linda Becker and Kate Kleber.

PHOTOS FROM RECENT ACTIVITIES

On July 11th, (l to r) Kim Calder, Anne Bradley, and Christine Goodwin made a WA Pop Up visit to The Grey Art Museum, New York University to see “Americans in Paris: Artists Working in Postwar France, 1946-1962.”



Most importantly, this photograph of longtime WA member Cornelia Do was taken on her 100th birthday this summer. Happy Birthday Cornelia!

Alliance Alert Staff

*WA Communications Chair: **Lois Coleman***

*Alliance Alert Editor: **Alynne Wesson***

*Copy Editor: **Peggy Montgomery***

*Contributors: **Christina Black, Heli Blum, Sandra Ekberg, Sandra Fisher, Alynne Wesson***

*Managing Editor, Production: **Christina Black***