



THE ALLIANCE ALERT

March-April 2025

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Sally Turner

Greetings from your new President! As I wade into the business of running our dynamic organization, I realize even more than before what a brilliant job Chris Goodwin did as president. I hope that with the help of the WA Executive Board and the membership to keep the momentum going, I can be as effective and efficient as Chris has been for us in building community amongst ourselves and the wider community of All Souls.



We had a great 2024 and we're off to a busy start for 2025. It was with great pride that at the Annual Meeting I witnessed Chris and Michele Jawin present the WA Award to Judy Samuelson, and our very own Alert editor, Alynne Wesson, receive the Deacons Award. We have so many dedicated and capable people in our WA community! And we're growing. We added 18 new members in 2024 and five more since the start of 2025!

I love the social aspects of our organization and the complementary service opportunities we offer our membership. If you're not already on a committee and don't know where to dig in, please reach out to me or your fellow members for guidance. We need all of us working together, plus it's more fun! And as the weather gets warmer, consider joining one of our outings; it can be easier to meet new friends and build connections in a small group, and you might even discover a hidden New York City gem that you never knew existed.

We have an amazing lineup of speakers coming up this spring thanks to the hard work of Heli Blum, our current Chair of the Program Committee. (See pages 2 and 3 for dates and times.) In addition, Suzy Salomon has been busy planning an exciting Fashion Event in May that will be a chance to have fun and raise money.

On the subject of raising money, there are lots of groups asking for us to step up and support All Souls. When you pay your Women's Alliance dues you are making it possible for us to support the many charitable organizations we give generously to. And when you make a pledge to the church's Annual Campaign, you make it possible to pay our wonderful staff, heat our chilly church, and keep the lights on. And when you make a donation to the Capital Campaign you help us protect our beautiful church from falling down. We "live" in a historic but very old building that requires our serious care. I know this is asking a lot but each of these is vitally important in its own way.

Please pay your WA dues: visit our website, allsoulsnyc-womensalliance.org, and click on "Click here to pay your dues" to pay online. Or, if you prefer, select the link to the printable membership form on the website, print out the form, and mail it in with a check. Please also make a donation of any amount to the All Souls Annual Giving and Capital Campaigns. Wouldn't it be a notch in our belt to have 100% participation?

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www.allsoulsnyc-womensalliance.org

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.*

Sunday, March 2nd, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The Women's Alliance presents the Angie Utt Lecture on Women in American Culture.

Reidy Friendship Hall



Christina Zarcadoolas, Ph.D., will speak about "The Simplicity Complex: Why our Health and Safety Lie in the Balance." A sociolinguist and internationally recognized expert in health literacy and public understanding of health and science, Chris is also a member of the WA. Having spent her professional life exploring how health and safety information is either confoundingly complex or overly simplified into a

"science lite" for the masses, she calls this phenomenon the Simplicity Complex. You might want to bring one of your favorite examples. Tea, coffee, and dessert will be served. *Note: Lunch will be available beforehand at the Souls in Service Pasta Bowl Potluck Lunch.*

Wednesday, March 12th, 12-2 p.m.

Women's Alliance Monthly Meeting, Reidy Friendship Hall

"Punk to Pastor: Reflections on a Life in Ministry." The Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, All Souls' Targeted Senior Minister, will speak about her life in the Unitarian Universalist ministry. She will share stories about women in ministry; the changes in Unitarian Universalism; and what the future may hold for this faith tradition. Bring a bag lunch; coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided.



Tuesday, March 18th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Women's Alliance Evening Presentation, Reidy Friendship Hall

WA members Mary Geissman, (the Rev.) Carol Huston, and Karen Steele will be joined by visiting UU delegates attending the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). They will share reflections on the Fourth International Convocation of Unitarian*Universalist Women and People of Progressive Faiths, which was held last September in Romania, and discuss UU women's activities from around the world. Light fare will be served.

Monday, March 24th, Meet at 11 a.m.

Women's Alliance Monthly Outing at the Museum of the City of New York

The exhibition "Above Ground: Art from the Martin Wong Graffiti Collection" centers on the many artists who transitioned from illegally writing on subway cars to creating paintings on canvas, exhibiting in prominent galleries, and significantly influencing global culture. "Songs of New York" is an immersive experience with music from and about New York City — from the 1920s to the 2020s, from be-bop to K-pop. Lunch at 1 p.m. at the museum's reasonably priced café. Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Ave. @ 103rd Street. NYC residents: Pay What You Can. Let Sandra Fisher know if you're coming, at Sfisher535@aol.com or 646-675-3608.

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Wednesdays, March 26th-April 30th, 12:45 p.m.

Music Special Interest Group (SIG) at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center

Juilliard's Wednesdays at One concerts are free with open seating. No ticket is required. WA member Mary Geissman plans to attend all the concerts listed below. If you wish to join her, meet in the lobby of Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall (Broadway & 65th Street) at 12:45 p.m.

Lunch following the one-hour concert at a nearby restaurant, if you wish.

For more information, contact Mary at 646-238-7280, mjgeissman@gmail.com.

March 26th — Chamber Music

April 2nd — Vocal Arts

April 9th — Lab Orchestra

April 16th — Percussion Ensemble

April 30th — Chamber Music

Wednesday, April 23rd, 12-2 p.m.

Women's Alliance Monthly Meeting, Reidy Friendship Hall

Wendl Kornfeld will offer tips for short-term and long-term planning, including preparing for unexpected absences from home. Wendl is founder of "Community as Home," an educational and social platform for solo agers without reliable close family to help with needs and decisions common to our later years. Bring a bag lunch; coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided.



Thursday, April 24th, Meet at 11:30 a.m.

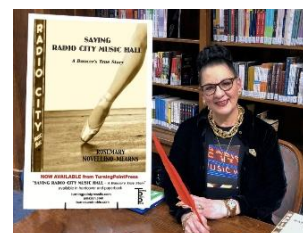
Women's Alliance Monthly Outing at the Asia Society

The exquisite ceramics on view in "Imperial Treasures: Chinese Ceramics of the Yuan and Ming Dynasties" represent the rich and culturally diverse practice of adopting foreign influences from a vibrant trade with the Islamic and Central Asian worlds and combining them with indigenous Chinese traditions. Docent: WA member Ingrid Krinke, a very popular tour guide. Lunch will follow at the Society's Leo Café. Asia Society, 725 Park Ave. @ 71st Street. Admission: \$15, \$10 Senior. Registrar: Sandra Fisher, sfisher535@aol.com, 646-675-3608.

Sunday, May 4th, 1-3 p.m.

Women's Alliance Annual Spring Event, Reidy Friendship Hall

Retired dancer Rosemary Novellino-Mearns will share her compelling, very personal account of the 1978 battle to save Radio City Music Hall, the "Showplace of the Nation," from demolition. Rosie's book *Saving Radio City Music Hall* shows how one person really can make a difference. Light fare will be served.



Thursday, May 8th, 6:30-9 p.m.

Spring Fashion Fun Fest, Reidy Friendship Hall

Sponsored by the Women's Alliance.

You're invited to a fundraising evening of fashion, entertainment, food, wine, music, and shared laughter. Get ready to spring out of the prevailing darkness and into the light! Tickets \$30 - more information to come.

Women's Reading Group (SIG)

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

March 4, *The Beginning of Spring* by Penelope Fitzgerald

April 1: *Enter Ghost* by Isabella Hammad

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

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MEMBER PROFILE: RANYEE LEE

Ranyee Lee has a Parisian vibe — there's something about her reserved elegance and the way a scarf hangs around her neck just so. It is not entirely surprising to find out that she was for a time a clothing designer whose collections were carried by Henri Bendel, Beau Brummel, Un Deux Trois, and Saks Fifth Avenue (both inside the store and in the famous SFA windows).



Design was Ranyee's chosen career, but it was not her first career. Like many girls growing up in southeast Korea, she was given two choices if she wanted to attend college: a teachers college in her native province or a nursing school in the faraway city of Seoul. She chose adventure, travelling to Seoul for school and then to New York City for what would become her dual careers. She worked full time as a nurse at Lenox Hill Hospital for 40 years, retiring in 2015. At the same time, ever the time management specialist, she pursued her dream of becoming a clothing designer for four years, often manufacturing and shipping the clothes herself — even knitting and weaving the cloth — and eventually contracting out for mass production. She gravitated to menswear because it is "less competitive."

After four years of working round the clock she experienced physical problems and felt she had to choose between design and nursing; "I am only one person," she told herself. The clothing business can be unsteady and unpredictable, and it was hard to give up her "Golden Chain," which is what she calls the housing support system that came with her nursing job. "There's no guarantee, ... so I chose security over desire."

But that wasn't the end of adventure for Ranyee. For some years she also owned and ran a 350-animal alpaca farm in Walton, N.Y., with her partner, commuting there on her days off from Lenox Hill.

Meanwhile her nursing career continued to flourish, even as the nursing field changed with increasing computerization and declining nurse-to-patient ratios. She preferred to work on the orthopedic and surgical floors, "where people get better," and especially enjoyed her last four years before retirement, when she worked in the newborn nursery and with postpartum mothers.

Now Ranyee remains busy with volunteer work, preferring "to help from behind and not in front." She is involved with the Women Cross DMZ activist group and the WHITE WAVE Young Soon Kim Dance Company. On Wednesdays she can be found in Carl Schurz Park, pushing wheelbarrows and garbage cans and planting flowers in the spring.

Ten years ago, when she was going through a divorce from her long-term partner, Ranyee wandered into All Souls. "That's what we do, right? ... seek when we have difficult times." She thought, "Wait a minute, this is very different": a church that is compatible with her Buddhist background. She also attends a Korean Buddhist temple and has taken up meditation.

WA member Sandy Ekberg, a friend of a friend, introduced Ranyee to the Women's Alliance, and "one of the things that kind of motivated me to participate was [the chance to work for] the Holiday Sale!" She attends WA meetings, recently participated in a WA outing to the "Solid Gold" exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum, and is looking forward to more WA activities.

THE THIRD WOMEN'S ALLIANCE AWARD



Judy Samuelson (left) received the Third Women's Alliance Award at the All Souls Annual Meeting on February 2nd. The award, which recognizes the achievements of women in the fields of social justice, human rights, and activism that supports Unitarian Universalist values, was introduced by Christine Goodwin (right), president of the WA at the time. Michele Jawin (center), Chair of the WA Award Committee, presented the award to Judy with the following citation:

Judy Samuelson makes the world a better place. She is one of the foremost voices and thought leaders as to how business can operate in ways that contribute to society and remain profitable. She drives change to align business decisions with societal well-being. In the world [in which] we find ourselves, I would call her a Warrior and a Visionary.

Judy is the founder and Executive Director of the [Aspen Institute's Business and Society Program](#). Under her leadership, signature programs include: 1) a 10-year campaign to disrupt Milton Friedman's narrative about corporate purpose, 2) a multi-year dialogue to create the Aspen Principles of Long-term Value Creation, and 3) a partnership with Korn Ferry to rethink executive pay.

Judy is the author of *Six New Rules of Business: Creating Real Value in a Changing World*. This book has been received with critical acclaim, and I paraphrase: that these New Rules will be embraced by the best and smartest leaders, those who see the potential of business to be a profound force for good in the world.

Judy is a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Fellow and a director of the Financial Health Network. She writes regularly for the "Quartz at Work," and you can catch her on LinkedIn.

If this were not enough, Judy has been one of the most influential members of All Souls. She has served on the Board of Trustees and was president in 2005. During her tenure, she dealt with the Bond of Union change with the congregation and the church clergy—a monumental feat! Post Board, she became a deacon and has continued to consult boards that came later, particularly during important strategic planning initiatives. She has served on the Nominating Committee and played a major role in our last capital campaign.

Judy is a hero for so many of us and represents the best of UUism and what it means to be a member of the Great Family of All Souls.

It is a deep honor to present the Women's Alliance Award to her.

Postscript: Judy has requested that the \$500 donation that accompanies the Women's Alliance Award be made to the Future of All Souls Capital Campaign.

WA MEMBERS SERVING ALL SOULS

Many members of the Women's Alliance serve the Unitarian Church of All Souls in various positions and as members of various committees. Those making recent transitions include **Anne Bradley**, who was elected in February to the All Souls Board of Trustees, where she has joined WA members **Dixie Goss** and **Judith Moldover**.

Christine Goodwin and **Dixie Goss**, who serve on the five-member Ministerial Transition Committee that brought us Targeted Senior Minister Kathleen Rolenz, are now involved in the committee's search for All Souls' Interim Senior Minister, who will likely serve a two-year term beginning July 1st.

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2025 WOMEN'S ALLIANCE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Beginning February 20, 2025

Note — the slate is presented to membership in October, voted on in November, and takes office in February. Officers are elected to two-year terms and may serve for two terms. Per the bylaws, officers must be members of The Unitarian Church of All Souls.

President — Sally Turner, first year of first term

Vice President — Anne Bradley, second year of first term

Recording Secretary (for monthly meetings) — Barbara Reed, second year of first term

Recording Secretary (for Executive Board meetings) — Mary Dugan, second year of first term

Corresponding Secretary — Carol Schneider, first year of second term

Treasurer — Patti Glennon, first year of first term

Chair of the Finance Committee — Rachel Ziemba

Chair of the Membership Committee — Linda Floyd

Co-Chair of the Program Committee — Outings — Sandra Lotz Fisher

Co-Chair of the Program Committee — Luncheons — Heli Blum

Chair of the Communications Committee — Lois Coleman

Executive Board Members Emeriti — Sandra Ekberg, Karen Steele

Women's Alliance Committees

- **Auditor and Tax Preparation** — Gerda Artes (Audit), Christine Goodwin (Tax returns).
- **The Alliance Alert** — Alynne Wesson, Editor; Christina Black, Managing Editor, Production.
- **Finance Committee** — Rachel Ziemba, Chair; Sally Turner (*ex officio*), Patti Glennon (*ex officio*). *Seeking new members.*
- **Investment Committee** — Patti Glennon, Chair; Sally Turner (*ex officio*). *Seeking new members.*
- **Membership Committee** — Linda Floyd, Chair; Barbara Reed. *Seeking new members.*
- **Outings Committee** — Sandra Lotz Fisher, Chair; Alix-Marie Hall, Susan Hoehn, Susan Schwarz, Victoria Kimbrough, Kim Calder.
- **Luncheons Program Committee** — Heli Blum, Chair. *Seeking new members.*
- **Communications Committee** — Lois Coleman, Chair; Linda Floyd, Sandra Lotz Fisher, Alynne Wesson.
- **WA Award Committee** — Michele Jawin, Chair; Sandy Ekberg, Sandra Lotz Fisher, Karen Steele, Terry Manzella.
- **Hospitality Committee** — Joyce Elderfield, Chair; Sumi Kubota. *Seeking new members.*
- **Nominating Committee 2025** — To be appointed.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Cinema — Joyce Elderfield, Alix-Marie Hall

Play Readings — Sandra Ekberg

Music — Mary Geissman

Women's Reading Group — Christina Black

Safety — Sandra Lotz Fisher

Annual WA Events

Angie Utt Lecture — March 2, 2025

Spring Event — May 4, 2025

Welcome Back Party

Holiday Party (members only)

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Aracy Winter
Jean L. Clarkson
Yuko Mulugetta
Deborah Snite
Dana Shaw

PHOTOS FROM RECENT ACTIVITIES



WA member Lissa Joseph made her “Cabaret Confessions” at our January 16th Monthly Meeting.

She wowed us with favorites from the Great American Songbook, even drowning her sorrows to Cole Porter’s witty torch song “Down in the Depths (On the Ninetieth Floor).”

WA Member Laura Pedersen, together with David Rockefeller, gave the sermon at the All Souls Sunday service on February 9th.

You can see it again here: youtube.com/live/dHHluNIEf_w



Due to scheduling of FastBreak Sports in Reidy Friendship Hall, our Annual Meeting on February 20th was held in the All Souls Sanctuary, on the chancel. Christine Goodwin led the meeting. She stepped down as president at the end of the second of her two two-year terms, and welcomed our new president, Sally Turner.

Thank you, Chris! And Welcome, Sally!

L to r: Kim Calder, Christine Goodwin (with mic), Sally Turner, Nina Bernstein, Patti Glennon (our new treasurer), and Anne Bradley (our vice-president).

Alliance Alert Staff

WA Communications Chair: Lois Coleman

Alliance Alert Editor: Alynne Wesson

Contributors: Christina Black, Lois Coleman, Christine Goodwin, Susan Hoehn, Alynne Wesson

Managing Editor, Production: Christina Black

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