



THE ALLIANCE ALERT

Jan-Feb 2025

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Christine Goodwin

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2025!

This is my final "President's Message" as my term ends at our February Annual Meeting, when Sally Turner will take over as Women's Alliance President. It has been a wonderful experience leading the WA, and I want to acknowledge the invaluable support of the WA Executive Board and many other members of WA who are the key to our successful community.



Our annual members-only Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 16th at 4 pm was a festive occasion, with over 50 members gathering for good cheer. Thanks to everyone who brought in delicious food, sharing favorite holiday treats. We may have outgrown the space we've been using for the past three years, as our WA membership has grown and the Holiday Party is a welcome and popular time to get together and celebrate. We are considering some changes based on members' suggestions, such as holding the party later in the day to better accommodate our working members.

Thank you to all WA members for your interest, support, ideas, and work. I look forward to continued community with our monthly luncheons, monthly outings, special events like the Angie Utt lecture, music events, movies, etc. The best part of the Women's Alliance for me has been meeting and getting to know so many interesting and talented women. This is a wonderful organization, and I hope all members will take advantage of the activities, volunteering your ideas and socializing together.

Happy ★ New ★ Year

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, January 10th, meet at 11 a.m.

"Egon Schiele: Living Landscapes" at the Neue Galerie



"A stirring, deeply engrossing show," says the *New York Times*, "that acquaints us with a long-hidden part of the artist's career." What a treat to see these works by Egon Schiele (1890-1918) at one of the Outing Committee's favorite "small" museums (neuegalerie.org). 1048 Fifth Ave. at E. 86th Street. Tickets are \$28 Adult; \$18 Senior. Lunch will follow in a nearby restaurant TBA. Please contact Susan Schwarz, outing leader, and let her know you are coming: susaneschwarz@yahoo.com, 718-523-1358.

Thursday, January 16th, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

WA Monthly Membership Meeting, Reidy Friendship Hall

PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING IS ON THURSDAY AT 12:30 P.M. (NOT WEDNESDAY AT 12 P.M).

Lunch (BYO), socializing, a business meeting, and a speaker: WA member Lissa Joseph will present "Cabaret Confessions," with deep reverence for the Great American Songbook. We'll provide coffee, tea, and a sweet.



Wednesdays, January 15th - February 26th, 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.

Jan. 15th, 2025; Chamber Music

Jan. 29th, 2025; Juilliard Wind Orchestra Feb. 19th, 2025: Music for Piano

Feb. 26th, 2025; Music for Brass

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**Sunday, February 2nd, at the All Souls Annual Meeting
Presentation of the Women's Alliance Award, All Souls Sanctuary**

The third Women's Alliance Award for Achievement in Social Justice, Human Rights, and Unitarian Universalist Activism will be presented at the All Souls Annual Meeting. We hope all WA members will be there, as the Award is presented to a truly exceptional member of our community. Thank you all for nominating so many outstanding women.

Thursday, February 6th, meet at 11:00 a.m.

"Solid Gold" at the Brooklyn Museum

Behold the majesty of gold. From millennia-old artworks to opulent 13th- and 14th-century Italian altarpieces, intricate Japanese screens, haute couture, and contemporary artwork, this shimmering exhibition will trace the many odysseys of the precious and influential metal. 200 Eastern Parkway. Buy a timed ticket (\$25 Adult; \$17 Senior) for 11 a.m. at brooklynmuseum.org. Followed by lunch at the museum. Please let outing leader Susan Hoehn know if you are joining us: 347-752-8562, mshnyc50@gmail.com. By subway: Take the 2/3 to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum, which is a wheelchair accessible station.



Thursday, February 20th, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

WA Annual Meeting, on Zoom

*** PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING IS ON THURSDAY (NOT WEDNESDAY).***

Presentations by WA officers and committee chairs. Look for more details in emails from Christine Goodwin.

Women's Reading Group (SIG)

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

January 7, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom...etc* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

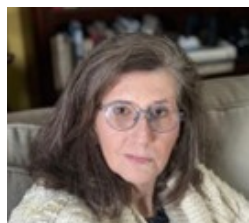
February 4, *Drive your Plow over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk

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

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

MEMBER PROFILE: KIM CALDER

What brought you to All Souls?



I walked into All Souls for the first time a few days after 9/11. My friend Page and I had just left the Met (Museum) where we often spent time together, especially when art, beauty, and friendship were most in need. Page was an All Souls member and infrequent attendee, and I was a “wedding and funerals only” churchgoer of long standing. I was immediately impressed and comforted by the diversity of people in All Souls that day. I left feeling deeply moved and just curious enough to grab a flyer on the way out the door. That’s what brought me to “Stories with Soul,” and, quite a while later, to actually attending services. My journey into the Unitarian Universalist faith (which I’d never heard of before 2001) began with my introduction to the unexpected, profound and provocative words of Forrest Church. Over the next eight years, I spent many a Sunday morning at one of David Robb’s Adult Ed discussions in Reidy Hall, followed by an uplifting hour in the sanctuary, then Coffee Hour (of course!). Also during that time, I was introduced to the Arts Conference on Star Island, and have returned almost every year ever since. Although I promptly signed “the book,” establishing me as a member of All Souls in ’02, I’ve been learning and thinking about how one becomes a UU ever since.

Tell us about your work at All Souls.

I was among the NYC area UUs and friends who periodically travelled to New Orleans to distribute mattresses and more to Hurricane Katrina survivors; I participated in AS’ Anti- Death Penalty group; served on the board of the Annie Eaton Society; and currently work with fellow WA member Arelis Torres on advocacy for enactment of Medical Aid in Dying in the NYS legislature. I have only recently joined the WA, and the WA’s Outings Committee.

What was your profession?

After years away from NYC for high school and college, I reluctantly moved to Manhattan upon graduation in 1980, grabbed the first job I could get, and promptly became seriously ill. The remainder of my 20s was dominated by hospitalizations, surgeries and complications too numerous to count. I wouldn’t have chosen to get educated in health insurance, patient and disability rights the way I did, but my experiences (and eventual degree in health policy) did set me up me for a career in nonprofit health advocacy, or as I came to call it “a good guy lobbyist.” I spent the first 20 years of my career working for various cancer organizations including the American Cancer Society, then almost as many in the Policy and Advocacy Department of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. I retired early to acclimate to my late-in-life marriage, and to turn my attention to hands-on advocacy for several family members and friends fighting their own life-threatening illnesses.

What was your latest adventure?

As much as my husband Ben and I both love living in Manhattan, we probably love leaving it as often as possible even more. We spend time in the tiny town of Unadilla, NY, in Otsego County, where Ben has had a weekend/vacation home since he was a young man (a very long time ago!). But new adventures for us in 2024 included a warm-up vacation on St. Lucia, a driving and visiting friends vacation along the Hudson Valley and Berkshire Mountains, and an off-season vacation touring around Vancouver Island, Whistler, and the city of Vancouver. It was my first trip to British Columbia, but it most certainly won’t be my last!

Fun Fact: Not only did I get married for the first time at age 63, but we got married at the height of COVID, in a library, by a UU Minister, with bagpipes!

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THE WA IS IN STITCHES

Members joined a charitable knitting group this fall and may do so again soon

By Christine Goodwin

On Tuesday, December 10th, we collected over 200 hats and scarves to be given out to the guests at Monday Night Hospitality and Friday Soup Kitchen. Carole Weiss, leader of the Friday Soup Kitchen, was the mastermind behind the project. The knitting group — largely made up of meal program volunteers and the many WA members who joined them — had been meeting monthly since August, on Tuesday evenings in the Ware Room. Friends and family had been busy knitting at home. We are considering picking up our knitting needles and crochet hooks again in the spring, as it was fun to get together. So stay tuned!



A WARM WELCOME TO MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN 2024

Greta Andrews
Gretchen Henry-Connelly
Roberta Jacoby
Odette Javanel
Beryl Jones-Woodin
Lissa Joseph
Anna Klegon
Suzy Lawrence
Ranyee Lee
Robin Moulds
Sandra Ospina
Jan Reynolds
Jonna Semeiks
Nadira Shiwram-Singh
Augusta Sterne
Kristin Summers
Judith Sutton
Page Tolbert
Arelis Torres
Christina Zarcadoolas

WA CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS 2024
By Rachel Ziemba, Chair of WA's Finance Committee

Overall, we support a range of charities close to home, especially those that support women in the community. We have increased charitable donations to support our church home via Annual Giving and the Capital Campaign as All Souls prepares to undertake repairs to Wiggan House. We also support the ever-more-needed meal programs (Monday Night Hospitality, Friday Soup Kitchen, and Yorkville and Gotham Food Pantries). We continue to support UU women in the world via the International Convocation of UU Women and the Development grants of the UU Women's Federation. We also have an important subset of funding for organizations supporting reproductive rights and the rights of mothers, including Saving Mothers, which is particularly focused on preventing maternal deaths.

All Souls Annual Giving — \$2,000

All Souls Capital Campaign — WA has pledged \$8,000 to be paid out in 2025 and 2026

Center for Reproductive Rights — \$500

Friday Soup Kitchen — \$500

Gotham Food Pantry — \$250

Heart & Soul - New Amsterdam Choir — \$200

International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women (ICUW) — \$200

Monday Night Hospitality — \$500

Musica Viva — \$200

Saving Mothers — \$200

The Brigid Alliance — \$200

Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation (UUWF) Fed Grant Program — \$250

WA Award — \$500

New York Common Pantry — \$250

Total for 2024 — \$5,750

The Finance Committee thanks all members of the Alliance who provided suggestions for charitable donations. Please feel free to send any suggestions for 2025 to reziemba@gmail.com.

MOVES AND TRANSITIONS

Several WA members, all of whom have made great contributions to the All Souls community, recently moved to new locations:

Alix-Marie Hall and her husband Victor Toledo are recovering from serious injuries after being hit by a car on the evening of November 23rd. They are in rehabilitation at Helen Hayes Hospital in Rockland County. Alix would appreciate emails from friends.

Suzanne May moved to live near her son in Colorado.

Her new address is:

Elk Run Assisted Living

Room 212

31383 Frost Way

Evergreen, CO 80439

Peggy Montgomery has moved to Tarrytown. Her devoted high school students from decades ago remain very involved in her well-being.

Her current address is:

Brightview Senior Living, Apt 18A

581 Old White Plains Road

Tarrytown, NY 10591-5079

Winifred “Winnie” Olsen, who remains very active at All Souls, will move to Pennsylvania in early January to live near her brother, niece, and nephew. We enjoyed seeing her in December at Laura Pedersen’s All Souls Holiday Show and the WA Holiday Party.

Her new address is:

526 Wood St. #304

Bethlehem, PA 18018

Rose Patton is in memory care at 305 West End Assisted Living. In December she lost her husband Frank Patton. Rose would appreciate cards from friends

PHOTOS FROM RECENT ACTIVITIES

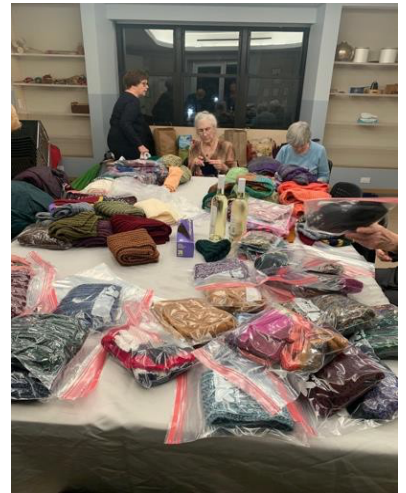
November 24th marked the return of the ever-popular WA Holiday Market in Reidy Hall, where gently-used wares and freshly baked good are sold to benefit the WA's charitable fund. Many WA members donated their time to the event — especially Joan Flesch, who also provided her jewelry expertise. Rachel Ziemba created and operated the charge card system. Susan Hoehn took these pictures:



Some of our newest members were welcomed by “old-timers” at a wine and cheese event on December 4th in the Ware Room. L to r: Ranyee Lee, Christina Zarcadoolas, Jonna Semeiks, Anna Klegon, Michele Jawin, and Sally Turner. Linda Floyd was both host and photographer.



WA members who joined a knitting group to support the guests of All Souls meal programs included Linda Floyd (l) and Christine Goodwin (r). (See story on Page 5)



Sandra Fisher led a December 19th WA outing to see the exhibit “Anything but Simple: Gift Drawings and the Shaker Aesthetic” at the American Folk Art Museum. Alix-Marie Hall was forced to drop out as leader due to a catastrophic accident, see Page 7. L to r: Sandra Fisher, Christine Goodwin, Teresa Manzella, Barbara Reed, Sally Turner, Judith Moldover. Alice Clark also participated.





On December 15th Laura Pedersen presented the humorous, beautiful, and heartwarming “An All Souls Christmas in Story and Song” starring All Souls members Dana Ivey, David Rockefeller, Jr., and Laura (seated in front); the All Souls Community Choir under the direction of Trent Johnson (at the piano); and wonderful guest musicians. This was Laura’s third annual free All Souls Holiday show (with reception!), and all three events have served to connect and reconnect All Souls congregants who haven’t attended church in some time.

WA members who performed included Laura and, from l to r: Heli Blum (purple top), Barbara Reed (brown top), Kate Kleber (white top), and Michelle Boston (red top with scarf).

Watch it again here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liLosmZbXS0>

Our festive Holiday Party was held again in the lovely party room of Anne Bradley’s building. (Thank you, Anne!).



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More pictures from the Holiday Party:



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