



# **THE ALLIANCE ALERT**

## **January-February 2023**

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



### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**By Christine Goodwin**

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2023! I hope everyone had very warm and wonderful holidays with family and friends.

The Women's Alliance ended 2022 with the resumption of our annual Holiday Party. Due to continuing construction at All Souls, we could not have our holiday party at All Souls this year. But thanks to Anne Bradley, who offered the community room in her residential building for our party, we were able to celebrate the season in person again. Mary Geissman launched the festivities by sending out Paperless Post invitations and collecting responses, and Winnie Olsen, Joan Flesch and Joyce Elderfield organized the food and refreshment contributed by WA members attending the party. Many thanks to them and to all those who shared treats and holiday cheer. Extra special thanks to Sumi Kubota for her decorating skills, and most importantly for her gathering many gift-wrapped surprises and treats from Levain Bakery that were given away as door prizes.



Women's Alliance will continue to plan interesting Outings, thanks to Sandra Fisher and her team. We will also continue to have our monthly meetings with speakers, thanks to Heli Blum and her team. We are hoping to resume our monthly meetings in person for lunch and a speaker and socializing. Timing will depend on the progress of All Souls School construction and the availability of the elevator for use during the week. We will try to have hybrid meetings so people who cannot attend in person will be able to enjoy our speakers and the monthly WA business meeting.

The Special Interest Groups (SIGS) for Music events, Cinema, and Play Readings are ongoing, as you know from my frequent emails to WA members. The Bridge SIG is on hiatus until All Souls construction has been completed. We are also encouraging new SIGs, such as Sandra Fisher's initiative to encourage safer streets. Let us know your ideas for new Special Interest Groups – maybe a walking group? Or a knitting group? Or.....?

As we get ready for a new year, and put things in order, please take note of the All Souls initiative to collect vital information. It is called the "Life Crisis Questionnaire," where we can list emergency contacts and other important information. Pamela Patton is working to bring this to everyone's attention and will be setting up a table in the vestibule in February. The form is included as an attachment to my same email that provided the link to this issue of the Alert. Click to open the form and print it out. It can be dropped off at All Souls or emailed to [Pamela@allsoulsnyc.org](mailto:Pamela@allsoulsnyc.org). The forms will be stored on All Souls software, easily accessible by the All Souls clergy team.

So, however you welcome the New Year, enjoy!

## 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, January 8, 1 p.m.**

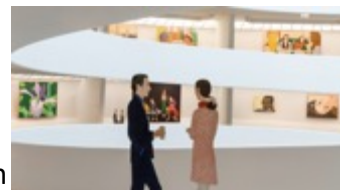
### **"One With the Current"**

Free play reading by Daniel Damiano. Broadway Radio's Peter Filichia calls it "the best solo play I've seen in a long, long, long time." A North Carolina husband and father accompanies his childhood friend on a fishing trip during the pandemic, but the events that ensue will change his life forever... RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-theater-one-with-the-current-by-daniel-damiano-tickets-488157170237>. Adler Hall at The New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 W. 64th St. Covid vaccination and mask are required to attend. *Note: Sandra Ekberg, who usually organizes our play-reading events, is away and will not be able to attend. Please contact WA members directly if you wish to join them at the event.*

**Wednesday, January 11, 11 a.m.**

### **"Alex Katz: Gathering" at The Guggenheim Museum**

The Frank Lloyd Wright rotunda is filled by this retrospective exhibit of Alex Katz (b. 1927). His figurative paintings fuse the energy of Abstract Expressionism with the American vernaculars of the magazine, billboard and movie screen. Katz's primary subject matters are his surroundings in downtown New York City and coastal Maine, and they include an evolving community of poets, artists, dancers and filmmakers who have animated the cultural avant-garde from the postwar period to the present. Please purchase a timed ticket (\$25; \$18 Senior) at <https://www.guggenheim.org/exhibition/alex-katz-gathering>. Meet at 11 a.m. at The Guggenheim, Fifth Avenue between 88th & 89th Streets.



Leader: Maureen Marwick. Please contact her by noon on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at [maureen31572@gmail.com](mailto:maureen31572@gmail.com) or 347-501-1098 to let her know if you will also be joining us for lunch afterwards at Paola's Osteria, 1246 Madison Ave. @ 90th Street, so she can make reservations with the restaurant.

**Wednesday, January 11, 1 p.m.**

### **Juilliard's Wednesdays at One: ChamberFest 2023**

Free chamber music, no ticket required. Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. Meet in the lobby at 12:45 p.m. Lunch at a nearby restaurant following the concert for those who wish.

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**Wednesday, January 18, 12-2 p.m.**

**WA Membership Meeting, on Zoom**

Time to socialize, a brief business meeting and a speaker or program. Look for more details in emails from Christine Goodwin.

**Sunday, February 5, after the 11:15 service**

**Presentation of the Inaugural Women's Alliance Award**

The presentation will take place at the 204th Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Church of All Souls.

**Thursday, February 9, 11 a.m.**

**"The Ronald S. Lauder Collection" at Neue Galerie New York**



To celebrate the 20th anniversary of its founding, Neue Galerie presents selections from Lauder's collection, one of the finest art collections in the world. Approximately 500 works, many of them on display for the first time, include masterworks of Greek and Roman sculpture, Italian 13th and 14th-century gold-ground paintings, objects for a Kunstkammer, and Austrian and German painting, sculpture and decorative arts from the early 20th century. "I

decided to show these new pieces with the same furniture from the rooms of my home where they are normally displayed," says Lauder. "In essence, I am opening my private world for the public to see so it can understand the world of the private collector." You must purchase a timed ticket (\$25; \$16 Senior) at <https://www.neuegalerie.org/>. Meet at 11 a.m. at Neue Galerie, 1048 Fifth Ave. @ 86th Street.

Leader: Sandra Fisher. Please contact her by noon on Wednesday, February 8th, at [sfisher535@aol.com](mailto:sfisher535@aol.com) or 646-675-3608 © to let her know if you are joining us for lunch so she can make reservations at the restaurant. Place tbd.

**Wednesday, February 15, 12-2 p.m.**

**WA Annual Meeting, on Zoom**

Time to socialize, Clara Barton Sisterhood presentation, and reports by WA officers. Look for more details in emails from Christine Goodwin.

**Wednesday, February 22, 1 p.m.**

**Juilliard's Wednesdays at One: Lab Orchestra**

Free orchestral music, no ticket required. Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. Meet in the lobby at 12:45 p.m. Lunch at a nearby restaurant following the concert for those who wish.

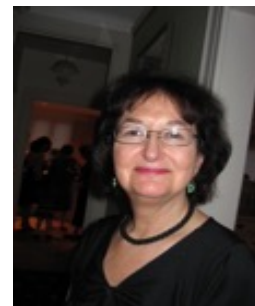
**Women's Reading Group (SIG)**

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

- January 10: *Come Fly the World*, by Julia Cooke
- February 14: *The Old Drift*, by Namwali Serpell
- March 14: *Tangled up in Blue*, by Rosa Brooks

For more information, contact: [christina.black50@gmail.com](mailto:christina.black50@gmail.com)

**WA MEMBER PROFILE**  
**JOAN FLESCH**  
**High Notes and Hard Serves**



Last month at our WA holiday party, Joan Flesch was resplendent in seasonal red — from her elegant sweater to the festive earrings that she hand-crafted with Venetian blown glass. Between catching up with old friends and welcoming new ones, she was also quietly busy with the party’s organizing team. But from now through March, Joan is busy outdoors on the tennis courts of sunny Florida, as she is every winter. A veteran of high school and college tennis teams, she plays the sport indoors in Manhattan in the fall and spring, and then outdoors again in the summer near her home in the Berkshires, where some of her competitors are her Florida tennis friends. She is grateful that she has been able to play her “socially-distanced sport” throughout the pandemic.

In December, she was happy to report another physical, if not so socially-distanced activity: trimming the tree with her stepdaughter and step-granddaughters Harper (13) and Stella (11), who live in Brooklyn. Later, they shared a delightful Christmas Day.

For all her seasonal relocating, Joan remains a New Yorker through and through. She grew up in Scarsdale, attended NYU’s uptown campus, and has lived in “The City” ever since, along the way earning an MLS at Columbia University and an MBA at NYU Stern. She has been active in the Women’s Alliance since around 2001, when she retired from Unilever, where she served as director for marketing research and then manager for competitive intelligence; she has been active at All Souls since 1986, when a friend suggested she check it out.

Joan brought the important work of Women for Afghan Women to the attention of the Alliance, organizing a presentation by representatives of WAW’s New York Community Center for our October membership meeting, and she has served at many WA holiday events. Her wide-ranging service at All Souls has included, among other things, chairing the audit committee and ushering at Sunday services. For years she mentored two students through the church’s Adopt-a-School Program at the low-performing elementary school P.S. 50, and she still gets together with one of them, Ashley, who is now 28 and employed full-time by New York City’s Administration for Children’s Services. Joan also takes part in some of All Souls’ 10 a.m. weekday programs on Zoom.

Outside of the church, Joan’s volunteer work extends to the New-York Historical Society and, during the summer, to the Tanglewood Music Festival near her summer home in North Egremont, Mass. Music, especially opera, is a passion that has drawn her to the Bayreuth Festival in Bavaria, La Scala in Milan, the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, and the Seattle Opera. In New York City she frequents the Metropolitan Opera for performances and panel discussions, and is a member of the Wagner Society of New York. The performances of Musica Viva NY are a special bonus.

For years she has expressed her own creative impulses with jewelry design, handcrafting beautiful works with crochet, beading and blown glass, and taking part in juried shows.

## WOMEN'S ALLIANCE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS 2022

Compiled by Karen Steele

The Women's Alliance continues to support highly-rated, nonprofit organizations that support women and girls; are affiliated with the Unitarian Church of All Souls or the Unitarian Universalist Association; or support local neighborhood programs in New York City. Annual donations are approved by the WA Executive Board based on recommendations of the Finance Committee, Jane Colvin, Chair.

*From the General Fund (\$5,000):*

Unitarian Church of All Souls — Annual Fund  
Friday Soup Kitchen @ All Souls  
Monday Night Hospitality  
Unitarian Universalist Association — Side With Love  
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation — for grant and scholarship programs  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Women for Afghan Women  
Bennington College — Beyond Plastics project  
UU@UN, Unitarian Universalist Association at the United Nations  
Unitarian Church of All Souls — Garden Fund (for memorials)

*From the Angie Utt Fund (\$700):*

New York Common Pantry  
Musica Viva NY

### DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US ON CONNEXT!

By Lois Coleman

It's the All Souls social network (like our own version of Facebook), where we post The Alliance Alert and information about Women's Alliance events, and have conversations about things that are important to WA members.

- To join Connex, go to [connex.allsouls-nyc.org](https://connex.allsouls-nyc.org) and click on "Request to Join."
- To join the Women's Alliance Group, click on "Groups" on the left, and you will find a list of the different groups you can join.

Some groups are private (like the Women's Alliance Group, where we can discuss matters amongst ourselves), and some are open groups that any member of Connex can join. Membership Chair, Barbara Reed, approves applications to join the Women's Alliance Group, since it is for members only.

Looking forward to seeing you there soon!



## **THE WARE ROOM**

### **A Peek at the Past and the Future**

The Ware Room was the longtime home to monthly membership meetings and other events of the Women's Alliance. But aside from a few gatherings of the Bridge SIG, we have not met there since before the pandemic. Now our return is further delayed, in part, by ongoing renovation work in the Wiggin parish house, where the Ware Room is located. The renovation was commissioned by All Souls School, which leases space from the church and has the Ware Room for its own use, generally during the day on weekdays.

When the Ware Room does reopen later this winter, we can expect to see a lot of changes as well as a nod to history. Wiggin was built in the early 1950s, and during recent demolition work, the school's contractor discovered old wallpaper that is pictured here in a snapshot by Dr. Jennifer Vest, director of All Souls School. Jennifer was inspired by this bit of uncovered church history to carry it forward. New wallpaper on the south wall of the Ware Room will be inspired by the old.



The WA's own Deborah Taylor, a retired architect who specializes in buildings energy policy, is a member of the Building Advisory Task Force of the Unitarian Church of All Souls. She has been our representative regarding the Wiggin renovations (she has recently been joined by Howard Turner) and she served as one of the three members of the task force when it was involved with the major renovations that were recently completed in our sanctuary.

## **SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION**

### **New Special Interest Group**

Sandra Fisher is forming a special interest group (SIG) to focus on issues of safety and transportation. Look for an email from Christine Goodwin to let you know when the Zoom call will take place in January. Please email Sandra and let her know of your interest. [sfisher5335@aol.com](mailto:sfisher5335@aol.com). Stay tuned!



In November, 14 of us turned out for "Edward Hopper's New York" at the Whitney Museum of American Art in the Meatpacking District. Eleven of us continued on to Hector's Cafe & Diner for lively conversations over lunch. From left to right: Judy Staples, Sarah Dowson, Sandra Ekberg, Maureen Marwick, Ingrid Krinke, Carol Magai (new member), Mary Geissman, Susan Hoehn, Gerda Artes, and Mary Ann Van Osdol. Sandra Fisher is standing behind Carol. Christine Goodwin, Anne Bradley, and Lois Coleman also joined us at the museum.

## 2022 Holiday Party

Many members gathered together on December 14 to celebrate our first in-person Women's Alliance Holiday Party in several years. It was a joyous occasion. Pictured here, from left to right, are the extra-lucky door prize winners: Mary Geissman, Anne Brewer, Judith Moldover, Linda Floyd, Vivian Barondess, Sandra Ekberg, Joyce Elderfield, Gail Rodney, Alynne Wesson, Sarah Dowson, Sally Turner (in back), Mary Ann Lang, Heli Blum, Sandra Fisher, Marilyn Reagan, Lois Coleman, Sumi Kubota.



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