



## **THE ALLIANCE ALERT** **January-February 2022**

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



### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT** **By Christine Goodwin**



Happy New Year! Welcome to 2022! We look forward to the days getting longer, and enjoy the return of the light. I hope everyone had very warm and wonderful holidays with family and friends. As I write, it is early December and the new Omicron variant has forced cancellation of our in-person Holiday Lunch. We hope that in 2022, the virus will recede as more people receive booster shots, and that we can get back to our many activities and socialize in person.

Women's Alliance will continue to plan enticing Outings, thanks to Sandra Fisher and her team. We will also continue to have our interesting monthly speakers, thanks to Heli Blum and her team. For now, our monthly meetings with a speaker will continue to be on Zoom and we will reassess in March.

The Special Interest Groups (SIGS) for music events and play readings are ongoing, as you know from my frequent emails to WA Members. The Bridge SIG is meeting on the first and third Wednesday of the month in the Forrest Church Gallery from 2 to 4 p.m. and welcomes newcomers who may be rusty, but have a basic knowledge of bridge. Online Bridge programs are a good way to brush up on old skills. (New Year's resolution?)

So, time to regroup after the holidays. Put away the decorations, take down the tree, savor the last of the Christmas cookies. For me, this also triggers getting organized for the year ahead. Fill in the new calendar for 2022. Start to collect financial documents in anticipation for tax preparation. Maybe that's because I am gearing up for tax season as a volunteer tax preparer. So, however you welcome the New Year, enjoy!



Members of the Alliance visited the magnificent Morgan Library & Museum on December 2. Left to Right: Sarah Dowson, Susan Hoehn, Gerda Artes, Mary Ann Van Osdol, Barbara Reed, Alix Hall, Sandra Fisher, Maureen Marwick, and Mary Geissman.

## 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.*

Please note that all venues of in-person events require visitors to wear appropriate face coverings. Unless otherwise noted, all venues also require proof of COVID vaccination and a government-issued photo ID.

**Wednesdays, January 5 and January 19, 2-4 p.m.**

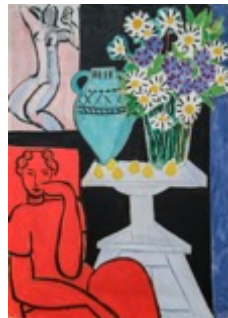
### **Bridge Special Interest Group (SIG)**

All bridge players are welcome, even those with rusty skills! Judith Kozloff ([judithuk@mindspring.com](mailto:judithuk@mindspring.com)) has been organizing the return of this popular SIG for those with some experience playing bridge. We hope to coordinate schedules for the twice monthly meetings in the future. Forrest Church Gallery.

**Thursday, January 6, 11 a.m.**

### **"Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art"**

A fascinating exhibition that traces the timelines of individual artworks before, during and after World War II, when untold numbers of artworks and pieces of cultural property were stolen by Nazi forces. This exhibition chronicles the layered stories of the objects that survived, exploring their theft, their postwar rescue and their afterlives in museums and private collections. Included are works by Bonnard, Chagall, Cezanne, Matisse, Picasso and Pissarro as well as rare Jewish ceremonial objects and rarely seen photographs and documents that connect the objects to history.



The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave. @ 92nd Street. Timed tickets required: \$18, \$12 Seniors, at [thejewishmuseum.org](http://thejewishmuseum.org). Lunch at 1 p.m. at Island, 1305 Madison Ave., between 92-93<sup>rd</sup>. RSVP to WA Outings Committee member Maureen Marwick at [maureen31572@gmail.com](mailto:maureen31572@gmail.com) or 347-501-1098. Please include your email and phone.

**Wednesday, January 12, 1 p.m.**

### **Music Special Interest Group (SIG)**

The Juilliard ChamberFest presents [Ernst von Dohnányi](#)'s classical and jazz-inflected Sextet in C Major. Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, 1941 Broadway @ 65th Street. Free.

**\* Friday, January 21, 3-4:30 p.m., on Zoom**

### **How to Maintain and Improve your Balance**

January's Membership Meeting includes time to socialize, a brief business meeting, and a program by physical therapist and Women's Alliance member Dr. Tara McNamara. She will guide us in how to keep ourselves "balanced" and active with proven techniques.



Con't . . .

Con't . . .

**Thursday, February 10, 11 a.m.**

**The Frick Collection at Frick Madison**



The Frick's magnificent masterpieces from the Renaissance to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century are breathtakingly displayed in a new location while the Frick is being renovated. "Perfectly lit, generously spaced, and hung at eye level against gunmetal gray walls, they seem to glow from within" (*Financial Times*). Accessorize thyself with something artistic and handmade.

Frick Madison, 945 Madison Ave. @ 75th Street. Advance tickets required: \$22, Seniors \$17 at [frick.org](https://www.frick.org). No coat check available. Lunch nearby at 1 p.m. RSVP with your email and cell to WA Outings Committee Chair Sandra Fisher [sfisher535@aol.com](mailto:sfisher535@aol.com), 646-675-3608.

**\* Monday, February 14, 3 p.m., on Zoom**

**The Women's Alliance Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, February 24, 7:30-9 p.m.**

**Music Special Interest Group (SIG)**

Music for Food presents the Juilliard Quartet and Friends in a concert featuring Maurice Ravel's String Quartet in F Major, Henri Dutilleux's string quartet "Ainsi la Nuit," and the New York premiere of Roger Tapping's string quartet "Reverberations." Broadway Presbyterian Church, 601 W. 114th St. at Broadway. Admission is by donation for the Broadway Community food pantry and soup kitchen. Masks are required, regardless of vaccination status.

**\* Coming Soon**

**The Angie Henry Utt Lecture**

The annual Utt lecture is usually held on a Saturday, with a speaker on "Women in American Culture." Recent speakers have included Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (just 17 days after the Jan. 6 insurrection); Dr. Johanna Neuman, and expert on women's suffrage; and the Hon. Alice Dear, former ambassador to the African Development Bank. More information to come via email.

**Women's Reading Group – Monthly, Ongoing on Zoom, 7:00 p.m.**

**Reading Special Interest Group (SIG)**

January 18: *The Four Winds*, Kristin Hannah

February 8: *Wintering: The Power of Retreat & Rest in Difficult Times*, Katherine May

March 8: *Bad Dreams and Other Stories*, Tessa Hadley

For more info, email [christina.black50@gmail.com](mailto:christina.black50@gmail.com)

**\* WA Events**

**MEMBER PROFILE: LINDA FLOYD**  
**Taking a Chance on New Beginnings**  
**By Maureen Marwick**

Linda Floyd is a risk-taker.

A few years ago, she left the home she had always known in a small provincial town and came to Manhattan. For two reasons. The first — she was really really bored with small-town life in Pennsylvania; and the second — for years, she and her daughters had come to New York for visits. When the time came for one of her daughters to leave home and go to college, she chose NYU, and never came back. When both daughters were grown-up and out of the house, Linda made the big decision to join her daughter in New York and obtain an apartment nearby, with the added reasoning that she would also be nearer her other married daughter. She says, “It was the best decision I ever made. I have never regretted it.”



Linda moved into the New York apartment in Harlem where she still lives — “I can see the Empire State Building from my windows” — and started to go to All Souls with her daughter and son-in-law Heather Floyd and Victor Fidel, both staunch members of the church. All felt this would be the best and fastest way for Linda to meet and make new friends. With that goal, Linda joined the Women’s Alliance. Next, she started volunteering at the Friday Soup Kitchen. There, she met her new partner, Douglas Lloyd, and together they enjoy a wonderful life. Douglas has three daughters, as well as older grandchildren and a one-year-old grandchild in Connecticut. Between her own three grandsons, Lucas (age 5), who is often seen around All Souls, Lucas’ cousins (ages 5 and 9) in Massachusetts, and Doug’s Connecticut family to keep in touch with, “It ALWAYS seems to be someone’s birthday.” This is just as well, as she and Doug love to keep busy. They are just back from their first-ever trip (since Covid) to Texas and Albuquerque.

Linda is also replacing Mary Ann Van Osdol in the demanding, two-year term as recording secretary for the Alliance. She loves to walk and explore and go to museums. In fact, she is most grateful to the Women’s Alliance for the friendships she has made while going to museums, concerts and the Cinema Club. Living courageously has proven a winning “move” for both Linda and for us at Women’s Alliance.

**MEMBER PROFILE: WINNIE OLSEN**  
**Tuning in to ‘a wonderful organization’**  
**By Alynne Wesson**

Winifred Olsen has seen a lot of changes at All Souls since she was drawn here in 1989 “by Forrest Church and the music.” And it is music in particular that has shaped most of her work for the church.

During her long tenure on the board of Musica Viva (“very dear to my heart”), Winnie, as she is known to her friends, has served in multiple capacities and is currently recording secretary. Favorite

Con’t . . .

Con't . . .



musical moments over the years have included the performance of the All Souls Choir under the direction of Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez at the grand reopening of the sanctuary last September. “The beauty of it all ... it was breathtaking,” she says. Another highlight happened in 2009 when Musica Viva’s founder and then Artistic Director Wally Klauss programmed “Music of Norway.” The evening included Edvard Grieg’s “Holberg Suite” as well as music

by Knut Nystedt and Johann Severin Svendsen. The Norwegian Consul General in New York introduced the program, and refreshments, including smoked salmon, were provided by Smorgas Chef restaurant, with a grant from the Sons of Norway Foundation. (For 10 years Winnie, the granddaughter of four Norwegian immigrants, served as president of the SoN’s Lillehammer Lodge Manhattan, following in the footsteps of WA member Sandra Fisher.)

It is no surprise that outside All Souls, Winnie surrounds herself with more music as chair of the membership committee of the Guild of Glimmerglass Festival, the renowned summer opera company in Cooperstown, New York. In addition to music, for four years Winnie helped lead a new Brownie scout troop that All Souls put together for at-risk girls, and for one year taught 3rd grade in the church’s R.E. program. She is on the board of the Annie Eaton Society, a member of the All Souls Deacons, and for a number of years she has served as secretary to the Board of Trustees. Now she is joining the executive board of the Women’s Alliance, a group she has long admired. “It’s a wonderful organization,” she says, “that does All Souls proud.” Winnie is committing to the two-year term and myriad responsibilities of the WA’s vice president, replacing Alix-Marie Hall.

Professionally, Winnie spent 23 years at the Japanese Mission to the United Nations, where she was a speech writer and editor; she translated speeches that were drafted in Japan for delivery in English by members of the delegations. Her master’s degree from Columbia is in modern Japanese studies.

Winnie grew up in Bergen County and now lives on the Upper West Side, but she has spent a lot of the pandemic in her home in remote northeastern Pennsylvania, in the beautiful river valley where she spent her childhood summers. The area is known as “Little Norway” due to the Norwegian immigrants, including her grandparents, who built summer cottages there in the early 1900s. The environment means so much to her that she has served as president of The Lackawaxen River Conservancy (in 2010 the Lackawaxen was named Pennsylvania River of the Year!). She has become especially “obsessed” with the birds outside her window during her year-round stay in Pennsylvania, and seems almost blasé about the bear that made repeat visits to her deck to steal the birdseed, but now she has to scuttle plans for her young grand-nephews to camp out in a tent on her land. She will explore other ways to continue the family legacy in “Little Norway.”



## **‘REMEMBER THE LADIES’**

### **The WA to Launch a New Award**

#### **By Jane Colvin**

The Women’s Alliance is creating an award for an outstanding woman, women, or gender-nonconforming person who has made significant contributions to social justice, humanitarian rights, and UU activism. Nominations for the award would be solicited from the WA membership, and the Award would be in the form of a generous donation from the WA to the recipient’s charity of choice. Carol Kirkman, who came up with the idea for the award, noted, “It’s time we honor and publicly recognize the contributions of our outstanding activists. Presenting a new award at All Souls’ Annual Meeting will give church-wide recognition to our activists AND the Women’s Alliance.”

Details concerning award criteria, eligibility, timelines, and processes are being formulated by a new WA committee, which will communicate the structure of the award to WA membership later this year. The committee members are Jane E. Colvin, Carol Kirkman, Winnie Olsen, Mary Dugan and Mary Gundermann.



The Women’s Alliance does currently honor the achievements of women over age 80 through membership in the Clara Baron Society, but one possibility under discussion for the new award is to expand the age range and look to the broader All Souls community for nominees. Details to come!

*Abigail Adams (Mrs. John Adams), pastel portrait on paper by Benjamin Blyth, circa 1766, Massachusetts Historical Society.*

## **CARD-CARRYING MEMBERS**

### **WA’s bridge players are back in the game**

#### **By Judith Kozloff**

The first meeting of the Bridge Special Interest Group since March 2020 took place on November 3rd in the Ware room at All Souls. Most of the original group and some new members were delighted to be playing again. With two birthdays on the day, we celebrated with cupcakes.

With only seven players, we had to be creative to allow two tables of four to play, so some players had to move at speed between tables. A little confusing but done with humor, and the back and forth helped mix up the group. We are hoping to recruit more players in future; some experience or lessons are necessary, even though we are not critical of mistakes. We use cheat sheets to aid memories of bidding conventions.

The next meetings are January 5th and 19th, from 2-4 p.m., in the Forrest Church Gallery. Future sessions might require a change as several players volunteer to help prepare tax returns.

## TEXAS UU PASTOR FIGHTS FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

### As his case headed to the U.S. Supreme Court, he spoke to the Alliance

By Mary Ann Van Osdol, with updates by Alynne Wesson

Two days after the Rev. Daniel C. Kanter, Senior Minister of First Unitarian Church of Dallas and long-time abortion rights fighter, spoke to our Women's Alliance Zoom meeting on November 15, the U.S. Supreme Court heard a case challenging abortion rights. The decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (Thomas Dobbs being Mississippi's State Health Officer and JWHO the state's only abortion clinic), which is expected in 2022, could undermine abortion rights established by *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. Mississippi law currently bans most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, about two months before the fetal viability standards of *Casey*.



The Rev. Kanter was one of the plaintiffs in another abortion rights case, this one challenging the 2021 Texas Senate Bill 8 ("S.B. 8") banning most abortions after six weeks. It was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on December 10, and sadly the justices voted 5-4 to allow the law to stand. There was, however, one small victory for abortion providers: they will be allowed to sue some state officials who take action against them.

The law, said the Rev. Kanter, gives a minimum \$10,000 bounty for *reporting* anyone who "aides or abets" a woman getting an abortion after fetal cardiac motion is detected — generally at six weeks gestation or four weeks after conception. S.B. 8 also levies a \$10,000 fine on the person who is "aiding and abetting" — such as a minister who engages in counseling. The defendant has the burden of proof and cannot reclaim court costs and attorney's fees. Fifteen cases already have been filed.

The Rev. Kanter warned that 12 states already have passed anti-abortion laws that would go into effect if the Supreme Court overrules *Roe v. Wade*. Either case — *Dobbs* or S.B. 8 — effectively does that. "It's coming to a state near you," he warned, and will deepen the cultural chasm in our country. "Evangelicals are using abortion as a wedge political issue throughout the U.S."

Five years ago the Rev. Kanter was asked by a member of his church to talk to a woman at an abortion clinic in Dallas. Many women wanted a minister to pray with them. He went on to found a multi-faith volunteer chaplaincy to counsel the women. They needed someone to hear and tell their stories. Does God love me? Is my baby going to hell? A 13-year-old girl didn't want an abortion, her mother wanted her to have one. Some are in the military. A pro-life couple had a serious fetal anomaly. "We listened and prayed with them," he said. S.B. 8 stopped that ... as well as most abortions in Texas. Now the clergy members struggle to take women by bus to the airport to fly to Albuquerque, where abortions are possible. Regarding women who would be forced to carry their pregnancies to term, he noted that Texas has one of the worse maternal mortality rates in country.

Rev. Kanter also is Chair of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas Clergy Advisory Board and past

Con't . . .

Con't . . .

Chair of Clergy Advocacy Board for Planned Parenthood Federation of America, as well as being active in other organizations.

WA Luncheon Chair Heli Blum then introduced Molly Duane, JD/MPH, senior staff attorney at the Center of Reproductive Rights. She is responsible for litigating cases throughout the U.S., including S.B. 8. Ms. Duane went into the details of S.B. 8. She warned about sharing the information she showed during the Zoom because of the hostility surrounding the case in which the Rev. Kanter is a litigant. She described three other major Texas cases. She described the Women's Health Protection Act, a response to the new Texas law, which passed in the House, but not the Senate.

In the Q&A time ending the presentation, WA President Christine Goodwin asked, "What can we do?" The Rev. Kanter asked us to go to [JustTx.org](https://JustTx.org) and to [JustTx.org/sacred](https://JustTx.org/sacred) for ideas and to contribute. He mentioned OWL-Our Whole Lives. (All Souls is organizing a UUA OWL sexuality education program.) He urged us to "support the flights of women we are taking to Albuquerque ... take the next step to becoming a SACReD congregation ... personally support women who are getting abortions ... come to Texas to help us elect a new governor." WA member Karen Steele asked, "What can you say to people ... who never hear you?" The Rev. Kanter replied, "We have to be careful not to force others to adopt our way of thinking. Don't try to argue them out of what they feel or think. It is pro-choice. Listen."



## **AND LET US INTRODUCE TO YOU WA's newest members**

New members of the Women's Alliance used to be introduced at member meetings, but since our luncheon meetings became Zoom meetings (which we once thought would be short-lived) we haven't introduced new members. So here we welcome the following "new" members, whom we look forward to introducing to you again soon, in person.

Vivian Barondess  
Theresa Bartol  
Christina Bellamy  
Mary Cole Benson  
Jane Burglass  
Nancy Blair  
Judy Chang  
Lois Coleman  
Cassandra (Sandy) Gallett

Penny Gibson  
Lynn Herskowitz  
Sandra Michael  
Carol Schneider  
Mandy Smith  
Judy Staples  
Helen Tandler  
Jean Zorn



## WOMEN'S ALLIANCE HAPPENINGS



Our Holiday Party took place on December 13 on Zoom and pictured here are the last to leave the virtual gathering:

- ❖ WA President Christine Goodman graciously presided from in front of a magical winter wonderland that she can summon with the stroke of a key.
- ❖ Jane Levenson helped get us into the holiday spirit with her fleecy red-and-white Santa hat.
- ❖ Mary Geissman and Mary Ann Van Osdol shared their festive fir trees and family ornaments.
- ❖ The meeting's tech genius Karen Steele may have been at home in Queens, but she appeared to join us from the ruins of a thousand-year-old castle built to fend off Crusaders that she photographed on a visit to Jordan with her son.
- ❖ Orin Kotula described the handmade gifts and the Madame Alexander dolls that regularly appeared beneath potted, living holiday trees that her father would bring home and later replant in the yard.
- ❖ Cornelia Do tuned in from upstate New York to cheer everyone with her wit and wisdom and her splendid tiara of colored lights.

When Karen gave us the chance to separate into breakout rooms, we reminisced about our widely-varied family and personal holiday traditions, and then Catherine Chadwick proposed a WA writing project to record our holiday stories and gather them together.

### ***Alliance Alert Staff***

*WA Communications Chair: **Mary Geissman***

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

*Copy Editor: **Peggy Montgomery***

*Staff Writers: **Jane Colvin, Judith Kozloff, Maureen Marwick, Christine Goodwin, Mary Ann Van Osdol, and Alynne Wesson***

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

---

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@AllSoulsnyc.org](mailto:WomensAlliance@AllSoulsnyc.org).