

The WIN CONNECTION

WOMEN'S INTERFAITH
NETWORK

SARASOTA-BRADENTON-VENICE-OSPREY-NOKOMIS



Women's Interfaith Network Mission Statement

The Women's Interfaith Network invites women of all ages, abilities, beliefs, cultures, faiths and races to learn about and value our similarities and differences. We work to eradicate stereotypes and prejudice beginning in our own communities in order to promote our common humanity and build a peaceful world.

SHARING TRADITIONS

Women's Interfaith Network Newsletter

January—March 2021

Welcome to our first edition of the WIN Connection for the new year.



I'm Alice D'Souza, Facilitator of our Leadership Circle for 2021, the women who organize and manage all the activities of WIN. I've been a member for ten years having been coaxed into joining, as many of you have, by Arlene Pearlman, who was a great recruiter. Every time she saw me anywhere in the community, she would insist I needed to join WIN because it represented everything I was looking for: intelligent, diverse, inquisitive, active women in the community. Getting to know women of various ethnicities, religions, and cultures has been invigorating for me.

Our Steering Committee has been busy rejuvenating WIN especially for COVID-19. It's a new beginning, a restart with everything now online via Zoom, Google Meet, or a similar platform.

If you haven't registered for one of our groups this year please do so on our website. There are many to choose from. Jeanette Sherrill leads the Women of Faith book club, Sue Ladwig leads Betty's Book Club (books of general interest.) There are three Common Tables at this time with new people being added and new tables forming as we receive member applications. They are led by Jo Arora, Linda Bodycomb, and Susan Skovronek and I am the convener of the Third Tuesday table. We would like to start a Common Table for members in Venice in preparation for in-person, in-home gatherings someday. Look for more information about our groups elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our new members who signed up for Common Tables will be assigned to a table in January.

REMINDER: If you are a participant of a group, any group, please be sure you have filled out a CURRENT membership form (online) as we need to count you on our roster. Membership is FREE this year since there are few expenses which our budget can handle.

We are delighted to be forming a Movie Group and would like your suggestions for films to view and what our focus should be. My email is: abdsouza4@gmail.com

Keep checking out our website: womensinterfaithnetwork.org which is maintained by Barbara Relles and Hope Black as it is updated regularly with news for and about YOU!

I'm sending each of you wishes for safe family gatherings and a new year that brings rewarding activities and new friendships. In harmony,

Alice

ACTIVITIES

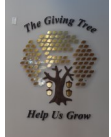
Betty's Book Club *Susan Ladwig*

The WIN Book Club generally meets the fourth Monday of the month 10:30 a.m. – noon, at the North County Library on Martin Luther King Way (27th), midway between Tuttle and 301. EXCEPT DURING THE PANDEMIC, WE MEET VIA ZOOM. We discuss the book of the month and then share views on books we have recently read and enjoyed. We 'generally' alternate between fiction and non-fiction. Below are the January, February and March books. If you haven't read the book of the month -- no problem.

January 25, 2021, Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead by Olga Tokarczuk

February 22, 2021, Waking Up White by Debbie Irving

March 22, 2021, Last Train to Paradise by Les Standiford



WIN's Betty's Book Group recently honored our founding leader, Betty Austin, with memorial donations to the Sarasota North County Library's *Giving Tree* club. The funds help support the children's reading program. Betty passed from our world on July 20, 2020. She will be forever missed.

Women of Faith Book Club *Jeanette Sherrill*

The Women of Faith Book Club is a book group exploring different religious beliefs and spiritual experiences. The group meets via Zoom on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Books for 2021: *The Book of Rumi* by Rumi, These short stories by Rumi, the 13th century Sufi mystic and poet, insightfully explore human relationships and faith in God.

Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewishness of Jesus Can Transform Your Faith, by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg. What would it be like to journey back to the first century and sit at the feet of Rabbi Jesus as one of his Jewish disciples? This book offers a rare chance to know Jesus as his first disciples knew him.

Searching for Sunday by Rachel Held Evans. Rather than an argument or treatise to quit your faith and understanding of Christianity, the author is telling her story of faith and doubt. Through her eloquent writing she comes alongside us on our own spiritual walk to offer encouragement.

Third Tuesday Common Table – December on ZOOM

Susan Skovronek co-convener with Alice D'Souza.

The "December Dilemma" contrasting Christmas with Hanukkah, seemed bland compared to the much more interesting topic, "How light is used in celebrations throughout the year." Our well-traveled and experienced Common Tablers were eager to contribute stories and enlighten us at our December Zoom.

We are fortunate to have two Peace Corps veterans in our group. Peg Green shared the Lunar New Year festival Tsagaan Sar (White Moon) and other customs from Mongolia. Alice D'Souza talked about the lights of Dussehra that celebrate the elephant god Ganesh at the Mysore Palace in South India.

Both Sandy McHenry and Alice knew about the Morikami Gardens in Palm Beach County which celebrates the Japanese Boat Procession on August 15 that illuminates the path for the souls of the recently deceased as they search for the spirit world.

Another highlight of our discussion (pun intended!) was Sandy's showing us her *Crown of Candles* worn on Saint Lucia Day, December 13th - a wonderful memento in her home for this Scandinavian holiday.

I think the lesson of the day can be summed up with a favorite quote of mine from Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sachs: "For though my faith is not yours, and your faith is not mine, if we are each free to light our own flame, together we can banish some of the darkness of the world."

We are looking forward to bringing light to more issues on future Tuesdays in 2021

3rd Saturday Common Table *Jo Arora*

We held our first meeting in my home with six women in October 2019. Over time, we have become a happy group of nine, comfortable and pleased to be together.

Under normal circumstances we would bring our brown-bag lunch a member's home. But, as we all know too well, things have become far from normal. However, a marvelous Silver Lining has been found in Zoom that has been a boon especially for members who currently would not be able to join us sometimes even in good times due to health issues.

Amani offered to host our second meeting by inviting us to visit the Mosque completed in 2012 and built with funds raised by local Muslims. She introduced us to the beautiful building, the school rooms, kitchen, dining area, prayer rooms, and the sanctuary where we were invited to sit in a separate room where through a large window we were able to see members at prayer.

Our Common Table now consists of nine lovely ladies, Bahai, Christian, Jewish and Muslim. After catch-up chats, we get down to business to discuss the topic of the month which is chosen by a different group member each month who becomes the topic facilitator.

I've been a WIN member for 10 years during which time I've enjoyed and benefited from joining or facilitating ten different groups of WIN women at ten different Common Tables.

Second Thursday Common Table *Linda Bodycomb*

We are the "Wednesday Noon Group" that became the Second Thursday Common Table.

We began our year with our first meeting in late November, 2019, right before Thanksgiving. The group started out with around eight possible members but now has four regular attendees. We had a few lunch meetings at member's homes before COVID restrictions forced us to move to Zoom discussions. We also moved our days of the week around to accommodate the small numbers in our group, thus the change to Thursday.

We have bonded well especially since each of us knows the others from another WIN group or a church affiliation. We have a lot in common. Prior to COVID we discussed interfaith topics, but now we expanded our topics to check-ins about how we are dealing with the isolation and projects that each of us has chosen to occupy our individual lives. Interfaith issues are raised as well. Happily, now we are going into our second season.

Memoir Writing *Sandy Chase*

Theme of the month, encouraging connection through diversity and similarity while learning about WIN members and their customs and experiences. Another benefit is promoting the gift of memoir writing for the writers. Examples, write about:

An occasion where you defied your parents.

A time when your parents were right.

A time you learned from your children.

The group would brainstorm topics and share stories if participants felt comfortable. During the pandemic, we could meet online. Most important, we could really get to know one another while reminiscing – win-win! Actually, **WIN: Writing**

Imaginative

Narratives

For further information, please contact Sandy Chase at ***sandychase57@comcast.net***

Movie Group, *Alice D'Souza*

There was a very welcome number of members who have chosen to join our new Movie Group. The next step is to receive **your** input on where **you** feel our focus should be. Send your thoughts and suggestions to ***abdsouza4@gmail.com***.

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WIN WOMAN OF JANUARY 2021 Margie Henry

Marjorie-Anne (Margie) Henry is a WIN woman, a good friend, a devoted wife and mother, a teacher of note, a Community and Court mediator, and a compassionate humanitarian. She has a BS in foreign language (French and Spanish) and a graduate degree in ESOL. (English as a Second language). She taught secondary French and Spanish for thirty years and developed a curriculum that enabled students with *Learning Differences* to study Spanish for the first time, enabling them to learn confidently and successfully.



Following retirement from the public school system, she became an instructor at a local community college. She also worked as a bilingual intake specialist for a Community Mediation Agency. In addition, Margie also mediated on behalf of children for the Court System, Children in need of Assistance (CINA), a program that addressed those being temporarily or permanently removed from parental custody due to abuse or neglect.

She was born in Paterson, New Jersey. Margie's mother was born in Havana, Cuba and was raised in the United States. Her father was born in Brooklyn. Her mother's close-knit Spanish-speaking immigrant family of six siblings have been an influence throughout her life.

As a child, Margie, her parents and two siblings, lived within five miles of her maternal grandparents and along with aunts, uncles and seventeen cousins, they spent a great deal of time together for birthdays, holidays and vacation time. Her grandmother was born in Spain. Margie was especially close to one aunt who she describes as a "second mother," teaching her niece to type along with the crucial "facts of life" with the other young women of the family. Margie often spent summers with Aunt Jo's nurturing family.

When her father's parents retired to a small farm in Brattleboro, Vermont, Margie was able to enjoy the wonderful idyllic rural experience during the summers, playing in the barn, visiting nearby horse and dairy farms and swimming in the creek. As an added attraction, the painter, Grandma Moses lived down the street. There was in addition, a chinchilla farm.

She attended St. Catherine's Elementary school in Glen Rock, New Jersey, a suburb of New York City and St. Luke's high school in Ho-ho-Kus. Her BS degree was from University of Maryland and graduate degree from Trinity University studying Post Graduate ESOL. Margie was raised as a devout Catholic. Later, when she was raising her son, the family attended a liberal Lutheran church and as her religious beliefs have evolved, she now attends a Unitarian Universalist Church.

Margie's husband, Eric, is a computational Physicist at the National Institutes of Health near Washington D.C. and they see each other frequently when she is based in Florida. As an aside, Margie added that Eric does not know the famous Dr. Fauci. Their son is married; he and his wife work in their local school system and live in Maryland.

Margie chose warmer climes during winter as her travel opportunities, visiting Havana, Cuba, Guatemala and Costa Rica and ultimately chose Florida as her permanent winter escape to be nearer to her husband. She enjoys travel and has spent summers in Paris, using the city as a base for visits to other locations and at times for study.

Margie came to WIN on the invitation of a WIN member, Sandra Baker and enjoys the camaraderie, meaningful discussions and close relationships. When asked about other activities she'd recommend for WIN, she suggested, walking/hiking, mahjong, board games, museum trips plus networking with social services. She suggested that members post WIN activities on bulletin boards in their houses of worship and recommend ideas in the WIN newsletter and on the website.

Truly a remarkable life, well lived, with future adventures and experiences ahead. The editors are grateful to Margie for sharing her story and ask members for any responses for the next newsletter.

Margie Henry interview, Hope Black

Second Chance-Last Opportunity

The Leadership Circle of WIN voted unanimously to select a worthy charity to support with monetary or in-kind contributions. The organization, Second Chance-Last Opportunity is the choice for the 2020-2021 year.

The mission of Second Chance-Last Opportunity is to empower individuals in crisis by providing them with essential skills and tools so they can manage their lives more productively. Their vision is to serve as a gateway to hope for individuals who want to change their lives for the better. More information on the important work of SCLO and how to support their endeavors can be found in this interesting video at <https://youtu.be/mRctXpCg0GA>.

For donations, please make your check payable to SCLO and mail to SCLO, P.O. Box 1027, Sarasota, FL. 34230. Please indicate in the MEMO line that the donation is from a WIN member. Donations can also be made through PayPal at [secondchancelastopportunity.org](https://www.secondchancelastopportunity.org).

If you have other questions, contact: the WIN Chair of Social Justice, Sharron Howard at sjh9495@gmail.com.

Our sincerest thank you to members who have already donated to SCLO.

Life on Key: Reliving Your Memories through Music

Class 1 of 3, commencing on January 14, 2021
Presented by Sandy Chase, zooming through OLLI

Here's your creative opportunity to embrace music as the language of the heart and mind. Research has shown that listening to lyrics and melodies can help improve our memory and overall health.

In this interactive, innovative music workshop, you'll choose a special song from your personal playlist and share lyrics that evoke memories. Then you'll revise the original song so it resonates with you even more—perhaps providing solace, laughter, and/or special meaning. Voluntary participation will enhance your experience. We may forget from one moment to the next. But, you'll never forget your special song.

If you have any questions, please contact **Sandy Chase at sandychase57@comcast.net**

WIN Leadership Team

Facilitator Emerita: Jeanette Sherrill
Facilitator: Alice D'Souza
Common Tables: Alice D'Souza and Jo Arora
Directory: Joyce Waterbury
Eblasts: Susan Skovronek
Historian: Hope Black
Membership: Susan Skovronek
Newsletter: Hope Black and Jo Arora
Programs: Jeanette Sherrill and Joyce Waterbury
Publicity: Hope Black and Jo Arora
Social Justice: Sharron Howard
Treasurer: Jo Arora

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cindy Bass
Donna Bergman
Michele Bluestone
Judith Houston
Susan Keal
Barbara Ralph
Joani Regner
Yolanda Stevens
Babs Vitale

HELP WANTED!

Progressive women's interfaith group is looking to fill the following position: **Leader for Ethnic Cooking group**. Please contact Hope Black at hblack04@aol.com

ACTIVITIES, continued from p.3

SUNSHINE GROUP

Please inform Hope Black at hblack04@aol.com with names and addresses of any member needing special sunshine for illness or grief. An appropriate card will be sent from WIN WOMEN.

HAPPINESS GROUP

Please inform Hope Black at hblack04@aol.com with news of a member's special accomplishments, rewards or news about a vacation taken, birth of a grandchild, or family wedding (with picture.) Hope will acknowledge receipt appropriately.

Recipe of the Month

Caption: Overindulged over the holidays but don't want to deny yourself a sweet treat? Here's a yummy idea with few calories:

FAT FREE CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

3/4 CUP SUGAR; DIVIDED IN HALF
1/2 CUP UNSWEETENED COCOA
3/4 CUP ORANGE JUICE DILUTED WITH WATER OR FAT-FREE MILK
1 ENVELOPE GELATIN
2 TSP. VANILLA
3 EGG WHITES

Combine half the sugar and the cocoa in small saucepan; add orange juice/water mixture slowly and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Spoon into a bowl and allow to cool.

Sprinkle gelatin over cooled mixture and let stand five minutes just stirring slightly.

Add gelatin mixture to cocoa mixture along with vanilla.

Beat egg whites until stiff and slowly add sugar until peaks form.

Slowly fold egg white into cocoa mixture until egg white is dispersed.

Pour mousse mixture into bowl and chill.

85 calories per serving



OUR WIN WEBSITE: womensintefaithnetwork.org

Barbara Relles and Hope Black are our website gurus who keep it up to date and easy to work with.

Don't forget to tell friends or acquaintances to check-out this website.

We invite prospective new members to go our website for the link to a membership application .

Editors: Hope Black and Jo Arora

