

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.

Women's Interfaith Network Newsletter

April—June 2021

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 19, at 7.00 PM: Program – Second Chance, Last Opportunity (SCLO)



Join us on April 19, 2021, at 7:00 PM to hear April Glasco, founder and director of Second Chance Last Opportunity (SCLO), explain how their programs empower needy individuals by offering life management skills classes to at-risk teens and their low income and/or homeless families. Learn how the programs SCLO offers empower needy individuals and learn how we can help further their mission.

Your SCLO Donations at Work

For the year March 2020 to February 2021 SCLO has served 19,800 families of 2-10 people in each family:

Manatee families:	10,950
Sarasota families:	<u>8,850</u>
Total families in Sarasota-Manatee:	<u>19,800</u>

This figure of 19,800 families includes 44,450 children 17 and under.

**Please Note: there are no duplications of individuals in the above figures.*

Donations can be made through PayPal at secondchancelastopportunity.org

May 10, at 7.00 PM: Program - One God- Three Faiths



Join us on May 10, 2021, at 7:00 PM: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam each center their faith in one God, known by many names. Each of the three faiths also claims Abraham as an early patriarch. Followers of each of the three faiths participate in important sacred events in the

spring. Join us as we hear from three WIN members who are followers of these faith traditions. They will share a bit of history, and how they participate in the sacred rituals of their traditions. In order of speaking let us join Rabbi Mimi Weizel, Rev. Dr. Jeanette Sherrill, Amani Makarita.

Welcome to our second edition of the *WIN Connection*.



I'm Alice D'Souza, Facilitator of our Leadership Circle for 2021. The Leadership Circle is comprised of the women who organize and manage the activities of WIN.

We continue to meet 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 web-site. We currently have 67 women registered in WIN with 58 participating in Common Tables or Book Clubs. All registered members receive our newsletter and are able to follow happenings on our web site: womensinterfaithnetwork.org – Groups.

There are many activities to choose from. Jeanette Sherrill leads the Women of Faith Book Club which currently has 12 members, Sue Ladwig leads Betty's Book Club (books of general interest) which has nine members. There are four Common Tables with new people being added and new tables forming as we receive member applications. We have a total of 37 women at the four tables. Several members belong to more than one Table or Book Club.

Because many of us don't have a Zoom account, we have been fortunate that we have a woman at each table who has one.

PLEASE NOTE: 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 so you can receive our latest news. If you need a paper membership form, please contact Susan Skovronek at susanskovronek@gmail.com. Membership is FREE this year since there are a only few expenses

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!

We hope you enjoyed the interesting Embracing Our Differences Zoom program that included a private tour of the exhibits. If you missed this program, you can, of course, visit the live exhibit in beautiful Bayfront Park which continues through March 31.

Have most of you received at least your first injection? I received mine in Charlotte Co. and get the second one on March 28th. It is such a relief to know I will soon be able to spend time with my grandchildren and maybe make a trip to New York (not via air) to see my daughter who I've not seen in nearly two years.

I hope everyone enjoyed St Patrick's Day, Irish or not. April Fools' Day is just around the corner. My kids, as well as my students, always loved pranking me.

In Peace, *Alice*

SUNSHINE GROUP ILLNESS – DEATH – CONGRATULATIONS

Is a WIN friend "under the weather"?
Are Congratulations appropriate?
Is this a Special Birthday? Anniversary?
Has a WIN woman's loved one passed?

Please do send occasion, name and address to Hope Black at hblack04@aol.com. A card will be mailed the next day.

Please notify Hope Black about illness, death and congratulations due.



GROUPS

Betty's Book Club *Susan Ladwig*



April 26, 2021, *The Island* by Victoria Hislop ©2005. The Petrakis family lives in the small Greek seaside village of Plaka. Just off the coast is the tiny island of Spinalonga, where the nation's leper colony once was located—a place that has haunted four generations of Petrakis women. There's Eleni, ripped from her husband and two young daughters and sent to Spinalonga in 1939, and her daughters Maria, finding joy in the everyday as she dutifully cares for her father, and Anna, a wild child hungry for passion and a life anywhere but Plaka. And finally there's Alexis, Eleni's great-granddaughter, visiting modern-day Greece to unlock her family's past.

May 24, 2021, *Permanent Record* by Edward Snowden. © 2019. In 2013, twenty-nine-year-old Edward Snowden shocked the world when he revealed that the United States government was secretly pursuing the means to collect every single phone call, text message, and email. The result would be an unprecedented system of mass surveillance with the ability to pry into the private lives of every person on earth. Six years later, Snowden reveals for the very first time how he helped to build this system and why he was moved to expose it.

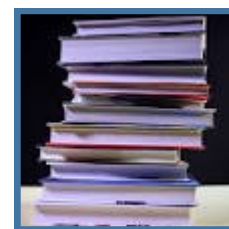
June 28, 2021, *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women* by Kate Moore. The Curies' newly discovered element of radium makes gleaming headlines across the nation as the fresh face of beauty, and wonder drug of the medical community. From body lotion to tonic water, the popular new element shines bright in the dark years of the First World War. Meanwhile, hundreds of girls toil amidst the glowing dust of the radium-dial factories. The glittering chemical covers their bodies from head to toe; they light up the night like industrious fireflies. With such a coveted job, these "shining girls" are the luckiest alive — until they begin to fall mysteriously ill.

Women of Faith Book Club *Jeanette Sherrill*

We meet via Zoom on the Third Thursday of each month at 10.00 AM.

April 15: ***Introduction to Deep Soul Writing* led by Linda Zelizer**

An introduction to a writing process that helps guide you to open, to cultivate and deepen your connection to higher wisdom. While in journaling you can be involved in deep reflection, in Soul writing you learn to move beyond the conscious left brain to contact inner knowing. We will have an opportunity to learn, practice, and share. Open to all who are curious and interested. This process is not about how good a writer you are.



***The Bible With and Without Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler.**

An ecumenical look at the Bible. Biblical scholars Levine and Brettler tackle the worthy yet weighty task of examining the Jewish Scriptures through both Jewish and Christian eyes, seeking to promote further understanding between adherents of both religions.

***Devotions* by Mary Oliver**

Devotions provides a fitting culmination of Oliver's life philosophy, her core tenets bound together in one vulnerable place. Ultimately, her work divulges with astute observation the crux of what we are: at once human and animal, at once selfish and full of gratitude, at once perfect and profoundly flawed. We will use this book of poems as an introduction to theopoetics that is a process, an activity. It includes creating things and reflecting on things in ways that encourage a sense of the sacredness of everyday life in its fragility, pain, mystery, and beauty. Unlike theology, which is a study of God through rational, reasoned language, theopoetics engages an exploration of the sacred through the arts.

Third Tuesday Common Table *Susan Skovronek*

Our Tuesday discussions have ranged from gastronomic (ethnic foods) to the meaning of Redemption in Christianity and Judaism. Thus, we are satiated and fulfilled both spiritually and physically.

In March our Christian participants discussed the deep meaning of the crucifixion of Jesus, the Resurrection, and the significance of original sin. There is nothing comparable in Judaism and, being a communal religion, Jews confess as a congregation during services at Yom Kippur. Judy Thompson, who is a member of the Church of Latter-day Saints, explained that Jesus' sacrifice was for the love of his people so that we may learn also to love one another. Love for each other seems a relevant and noble message today. From hot cross buns to bagels and cream cheese, we've had three invigorating discussions this quarter of 2021.

Third Thursday Common Table *Alice D'Souza*

On February 18, I convened a new Table with mostly newcomers. Though we were few we had a very fun and informative time introducing ourselves. Thank you to one of the newcomers who has a Zoom account and set up the meeting. Thank you to all of you who were able to make the meeting.

Second Thursday Common Table *Linda Bodycomb*

The group decided to change our meeting from Friday to Thursday. Our core group of four members have been meeting for over a year. In February we welcomed three new members to the group, some of whom are new to WIN. So we are in the "getting to know you" mode.

Our first topic was to introduce ourselves and to share our spiritual/religious journeys and why we joined WIN. The majority of our group members are Unitarian Universalists, although we do have Judaism and Christianity represented. Most members have a good understanding of the different religions. Next month we will explore why some of us have changed our childhood religions for other faiths or no faith, or why we decided to stay with the religion in which we were raised.

Third Saturday Common Table *Jo Arora*

Our Table now has 10 wonderful women. This month we mused on whether our feelings and belief in the religion into which we were born had altered over the years, and if so, what led to that change. The input was so interesting and some quite unexpected. It ranged from having a parent who converted from Catholicism to Judaism, to women who were born into Judaism but found comfort in the Unitarian Universalist Church or Reform Judaism to Humanistic Judaism.

Memoir Writing *Sandy Chase*

Memoir writing

Enhances

My life because I learn about

Others' lives and customs, while

I

Reminisce about mine

Join us virtually as we taste the richness of our life and appreciate customs and similarities of others in the group. Monthly, we'll explore a topic—writing memories that fill us with joy—helping us to connect with loved ones. Here's an opportunity to tap into your creativity while fulfilling your life.

Open to all who are curious and interested. Contact Sandy Chase at sandychase57@comcast.net

Movie Group *Alice D'Souza*

I have wanted to form a movie group, but sadly at this time it is not possible as the films are on different platforms and not everyone has access to the platforms. Films from the library is also not the answer because of the limited availability. Regrettably the Movie Group will have to wait until we can gather in person. We will get the films and show them to whoever signs up. My email is:

abdsouza4@gmail.com

WIN WOMAN of MARCH 2021

Amani Makarita is a valued WIN woman, a dear and respected friend, a wife, a mother of two girls and an exemplar of beautiful art. Her lifetime faith is Islam and she is an actively engaged member of the Islamic Society of Sarasota /Bradenton.

Amani became a member of WIN when she had a chance meeting with our founder, Arlene Pearlman who subsequently coerced, cajoled and convinced her to join and we will forever be grateful. Amani has shared her wisdom and her faith including The Five Pillars of Islam and in doing so has welcomed WIN members through the doors into the mosque and enriched our lives and opened our eyes and hearts to this Abrahamic religion. She has conducted tours explaining the history and traditions and invited women of WIN to the final feast of Ramadan and other special programs.



Amani was born in Alexandria, Egypt, home of the largest and most significant library of the ancient world. She considers herself most fortunate to have four brothers and a large extended family with many uncles, aunts and cousins. She fondly recalls summers at the beach house with loved ones and their constant devotion to each other - memories that have shaped her life. The one person who had the greatest influence on Amani was her Dad who believed she could do anything she put her mind to and told her so very often. He was certainly prescient in anticipating her extraordinary talents and accomplishments.

In school, her favorite subjects were biology and art. At an early age, Amani had wanted to pursue a career in medicine but realized her discomfort with the sight of blood made that impossible. She thus followed the pathway of her innate gift for the arts and studied Interior Design in college.

At the age of 22 following her college graduation and marriage, Amani and her husband left Egypt to move to America. She wistfully recalls her misgivings leaving her family, friends and all things familiar in Egypt. They lived in Richmond, Virginia for two years, then moved on to the northern area of the state and stayed for nineteen years.

Amani is a proud mother of two adult daughters: Hana is an equestrian in Sarasota .She manages two horse barns and describes herself as “loving her life.” When her daughter, Dina, was accepted at Ringling College, Amani decided to move to Sarasota in 2007 for a fresh start and the beautiful weather so reminiscent of her home in Egypt. Dina is a graphic artist, married and living in Rhode Island. Dina designed the beautiful logo for WIN and that was surely a gift. Asked if the reality of living in Florida was different from her expectations, Amani replied that she can’t recall particular expectations but looking backward at this juncture, there were some disappointments and conversely, surprises.

When she does find free time, this very busy WIN member enjoys listening to music she describes as “oldies” and reading “spiritual literature.”

Amani Makarita interview, Hope Black



OUR WIN WEBSITE: womensinterfaithnetwork.org

Barbara Relles is our website guru who keeps 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 .

A LOOK BACK at 2008 *Hope Black*



In the year 2008, WIN was founded and an organization for smart women of races, ethnicities, faiths, education and careers began. Our diversity brought us together and with our differences, we bonded. We learned about each other's lives, the dreams we'd had, the accomplishments, the disappointments, the joys and the dark times. We learned about the person we thought we had become, the changes we made and the persons we are. We came to realize that we could speak openly and that something said in a gathering, stayed within the confines of the venue. We could speak without judgment and we could learn from each other. We could disagree, however we would always respect one another.

We formed special groups; we read and discussed books; we formed Common Tables with women selected so that the Table would reflect several different religions. We brought our own lunch to each other's homes and openly, freely opined on a topic for the day.

We forged close friendships, worried about each other's health and were ready to help if we were needed. No woman was alone. We had special events for the membership; invited informative speakers, with ensuing discussions. We celebrated our different holidays, learned to dance and sing. We went on retreats and found the essence of each other. We were silly and we became serious.

Meanwhile, the world kept turning and much happened in this country that year.

Risk-taking by banks and the end of the housing bubble caused real estate to crumble and the fall of financial institutions caused an international banking crisis. It was called the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. And like the Great Depression, the 2008 version began in the United States, but soon spread around the world.



Beginning with the subprime mortgage crisis of September, the situation soon escalated with the bankruptcy of the large investment bank Lehman Brothers. More banks failed. World stock markets plunged. Panic selling ensued. Companies collapsed or laid off workers -- more than 500,000 jobs were lost in the United States in November alone.

Barack Obama was elected the first African American President of the United States. Shortly after being elected, President-elect Barack Obama declared a comprehensive climate and energy bill among his top legislative priorities.

U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps won a record eight gold medals, at the Summer Olympics.

WIN Leadership Circle

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 & Joyce Waterbury
Publicity:	Hope Black and Jo Arora
Social Justice:	Sharron Howard
Treasurer:	Jo Arora

RECIPE OF THE MONTH CREATIVE SPRINGTIME MINESTRONE SOUP (Vegan) Hope Black

Also known as Kitchen Sink Soup since the ingredients vary with what is in the kitchen or garden - as in "everything but the kitchen sink."



- 6 Cups Vegetable Broth
- 3 medium red potatoes (cut in small pieces) - with or without skin
- 2 large carrots (cut in small pieces)
- 2 medium onions (chopped)

Bring the six cups (or more) of veg broth to a boil until vegetables are soft to the fork. Then add your choice of: Garbanzo, Cannellini or Great Northern Beans (15 oz. can) (*If using dried beans, cook ahead*)

Then add any or all of:

- Asparagus tips
- Peas
- Corn Kernels
- Broccoli or Cauliflower Florets
- Spinach (cut in small pieces)

- Tspn Chopped dill
- Choice of Seasoning

Before serving instead of, or in addition to beans, add ½ cup cooked pasta shells.

Miso paste diluted in warm water or small amount of Miso soup

Cook 50 minutes; add more broth if necessary. For Carnivores, cook your meat or poultry before you add vegetables, beans or pasta. First skim the skum (residue if preferred) for aesthetics. Actually it's just protein.

Can be stored in the refrigerator for up to a week or divide into freezer serving sizes.

Bon Appetit.

HOLIDAYS: April - June 2021

April 1	April Fool's Day
April 2	Good Friday
April 4	Easter
April 5	Easter Monday
April 12	Ramadan (start)
April 20	First Day of Ridvan
April 22	Earth Day
April 28	Ninth Day of Ridvan
May 1	Twelfth Day of Ridvan
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 9	Mother's Day
May 9	Laylat al Qadr
May 13	Eid-al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)
May 15	Armed Forces Day
May 17-18	Shavuot
May 23	Pentecost

Holidays April-June 2021cont.

May 23	Declaration of the Bab
May 24	Pentecost Monday
May 28	Ascension of Baha'u'lah-
May 31	Memorial Day
June 14	Flag Day
June 20	Father's Day

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Sue Jacobson
Bunny Spek-Inobe
Aviva Berg**

WELCOME BACK

**June Friedlander
Sharron Morgan
Nina Tortelli**

WIN CONNECTION EDITORS Hope Black and Jo Arora.