

# Women Transcending Boundaries

## Monthly Newsletter

Bringing women of faith together after 9/11



All information is also available on our Web site [www.wtb.org](http://www.wtb.org)

**MAY 2012**



### **SYCAMORE HILL GARDENS TOUR**

**Sunday, May 20**

between 1:00 and 4:00

[2130 Old Seneca Turnpike](#)

Marcellus, NY

**Tickets: \$5 advance – \$10 at entrance.**

*To benefit WTB outreach*

With over 25 acres, Sycamore Hill Gardens is hidden treasure of great character, charm, and interest in the rolling hills west of Marcellus. Open to the public only on select occasions, the garden is filled with sculptures and exquisite plantings along woodland paths, broad meadows, and stunning floral collections. The two dozen unique areas contain exotic and native plants, hidden alcoves, a pagoda, a bell garden, a children's garden, ponds, bridges, thousands of flowering bulbs, and a 2500 evergreen tree maze! Feel free to bring a picnic and a blanket.

*A special invitation to a Zen meditation  
by the pond and Japanese bridge at 3:00 pm with  
the Abbot of the Zen Center of Syracuse,  
Shinge Roshi Roko Sherry Chayat.*

For more information or tickets contact  
Betsy Wiggins, 439-2925 ([bwiggins@twcny.rr.com](mailto:bwiggins@twcny.rr.com))  
or Joy Pople, 635-2571 ([joypople@yahoo.com](mailto:joypople@yahoo.com))





The Mayor's Office is partnering with the downtown YMCA in a swimsuit drive, collecting and distributing swimsuits to girls in the community who use city pools and do not have access to appropriate swimwear. While a swimsuit is a luxury often taken for granted, there are many children in our community who do not have a swimsuit of their own. The program is intended to encourage healthy physical activity in a safe environment, boost self-esteem, and make sure every child wishing to use city pools has the proper tools to do so. To help strengthen the program, Y staff will host a water safety session where children can receive a swimsuit, and parents will also be invited so they can benefit from the instruction as well.

As members of the Syracuse Federation of Women's Clubs, WTB is part of this worthy cause.

If you can donate one piece girls bathing suits or new boys swim trunks, or money that the Y can use to purchase these, they can be dropped off at the downtown Y. You can reach the mayor's office directly at 448-8095, or email [lspeicher@ci.syracuse.ny.us](mailto:lspeicher@ci.syracuse.ny.us). Thank you!



## WTB 2012 - 2013

Your WTB Council will meet on June 10 to plan our activities for the next year. If you have suggestions for programs or events, please send them to Jennifer 633-2817 [robertscrittenden@verizon.net](mailto:robertscrittenden@verizon.net)



## **BOOK CLUB**

Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 pm  
At the home of Jeanette Powell  
[104 Carlton Dr.](#) Syracuse  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**May 21**

### **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot**

“Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. .. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effect.” (from Google)

**June 25**

### **Sky Train: Tibetan Women on the Edge of History by Canyon Sam**

“In her remarkable book, writer and activist Sam examines the stories of varied Tibetan women---displaced aristocrats, impassioned freedom fighters, educators, and others---united in their desperation to reclaim their country.” (from goodreads)

**July 23**

### **Lipstick Jihad: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America and American in Iran by Ayadeh Moaveni**

“As far back as she can remember, Azadeh Moaveni has felt at odds with her tangled identity as an Iranian-American. In suburban America, Azadeh lived in two worlds. At home, she was the daughter of the Iranian exile community, serving tea, clinging to tradition, and dreaming of Tehran. Outside, she was a California girl who practiced yoga and listened to Madonna... This is the story of her search for identity, between two cultures cleaved apart by a violent history. It is also the story of Iran, a restive land lost in the twilight of its revolution.” (from Google)

**August 27**

### **The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy**

“In her first novel, award-winning Indian screenwriter Arundhati Roy conjures a whoosh of wordplay that rises from the pages like a brilliant jazz improvisation. The God of Small Things is ostensibly the story of young twins Rahel and Estha and the rest of their family, but the book feels like a million stories spinning out indefinitely; it is the product of a genius child-mind that takes everything in and transforms it in an alchemy of poetry. The God of Small Things is at once exotic and familiar to the Western reader, written in an English that's completely new and invigorated by the Asian Indian influences of culture and language.”



There are no formal WTB meetings in the summer BUT there's always a place and time to get together with your sisters. It's call SCHMAI TIME.

### **SCHMAIS:**

**Thursday, May 24 4:30-6:30** at **Koinoia Organic Juice Bar:** Juices, smoothies, soups, salads [6800 E. Genesee St.](#) Fayetteville (across from Dewitt Wegman's in Fitness Forum Bldg.)

**Wednesday, June 13 11:00-1:00** Sparkytown [324 Burnett Avenue](#) (all kinds of good, healthy food.)

**Monday, July 9 5:30-7:30** [Coppertop](#) Route 11 North Syracuse (formerly Red Lobster) varied menu

**Tuesday, Aug 14 9:00-11:00** [Ophelia's \(Cafe 407\)](#) Liverpool breakfast items, healthy snacks, coffees and teas.

# Fifth International Dinner May 2012



Find a passion you love, figure out what you want to change in the world, and marry the two things together - that's the way to live your legacy now! So said Barbara Greenspan Shaiman before about 200 women attending the WTB's 5th International Dinner on May 6.

The international buffet with all home-cooked foods was fabulous, ranging from mouth-watering chicken (certified as both halal [Muslim] and kosher [Jewish]), to roasted root vegetables, to fresh springtime greens, to bean casseroles spiced with the flavors of India, to Greek-inspired spanakopita and couscous salad, to baklava and other desserts made by our Turkish sisters. Twenty-one tables, each with a

hostess and unique centerpiece and table setting - some with peace cranes, others with bright colors and flowers - symbolized the diversity and the warm, welcoming spirit of Women Transcending Boundaries. Women new to our community - refugees from Bhutan who are involved in WTB's sewing and ceramics projects - displayed and sold handmade aprons and knitted items, pottery, and jewelry.

"If I had to tell you one thing I've learned in my life," reflected Shaiman, "it's that when life is hard, you need to get out of your own pain and reach out to others." She wove family stories into her presentation, encouraging all of us to go out and change the world. Her parents, Holocaust survivors, were great role models of that, she explained. "Doing good for the world isn't just a nice thing to do. It's a responsibility," said Shaiman, who currently resides in Philadelphia and once lived in Syracuse.

An entrepreneur, she went from being a teacher, to promoting ice cream to supermarket chains, to starting a job placement business. She then found her true passion: helping young people in Philadelphia schools learn to establish cultures of caring through a nonprofit she founded, Champions of Caring. This nonprofit has since expanded from the U.S. to South Africa

WTB co-founders Danya Wellmon and Betsy Wiggins epitomize the speaker's comment that "ordinary people with extraordinary passion can do amazing things." In the face of the devastating attacks of 9/11, and desiring to unite people of diverse backgrounds and cultures, Betsy and Danya began a dialogue that became Women Transcending Boundaries.



Janet Donoghue with her friend and speaker Barbara Shaiman



Matilda Joslyn Gage

"Find your passion!" exhorted WTB speaker, Barbara Greenspan Shaiman, at this month's International Dinner. Pam Poulin has two passions, music and, a more recent one, that of portraying suffragist, abolitionist and Haudenosaunee activist Matilda Joslyn Gage of Fayetteville and letting all know that the causes Gage strove for in the 19th Century 160 years ago, still, sadly, exist today in the 21st Century, as the Gage Center continues to seek justice for all people, no matter what their gender,

At "**Convention Days**," celebrating the first Women's Rights Convention of July 20, 1848 in Seneca Falls at the Women's Rights National Historic Park, Poulin as Gage will dialogue with Melinda Grube, as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, bringing this message to the public in the recently reconstructed Wesley Chapel on Saturday, July 21st at 2:00 PM and as Gage in a solo talk on Sunday, July 22nd, also at 2:00 PM. The complete schedule for "Convention Days" will appear soon at [www.nps.gov/wori/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/wori/index.htm)



Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Upper New York Annual Conference  
of The United Methodist Church

### ANNUAL PALESTINIAN DINNER

**June 1, Friday, 5:00 on** -- Palestinian Dinner, downtown Syracuse, at Prince of Peace Missionary Baptist Church, 317 E. Jefferson St., across from the Justice Center and near "The Mission" restaurant.

Authentic Palestinian buffet dinner -- sponsored by the United Methodist Task Force on Peace w/ Justice in Palestine/Israel of UNY, catered by Susie Abboud of King David's Restaurant in Fayetteville.

This is a fund-raiser for Palestinian Mission Schools, the Gary Bergh Scholarship (for young adults/adults to travel to Palestine/Israel to learn first-hand about peace and justice issues there), and for the work of the Task Force.

Program: Janet Lynch, a Gary Bergh Scholarship recipient, will share experiences from her February '12 Volunteers in Mission trip to Palestine/Israel.

(The program is timed to be brief -- approx. 45-50 min.)

Reservations: Linda Bergh (315) 492-8507, 116 Edna Rd., Syracuse, NY 13205.