

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

APRIL 2011

Sierra Leone's Refugee

All Stars

Sunday, April 17

3:00-5:00

Jowonio School

[3049 E. Genesee St.](#)

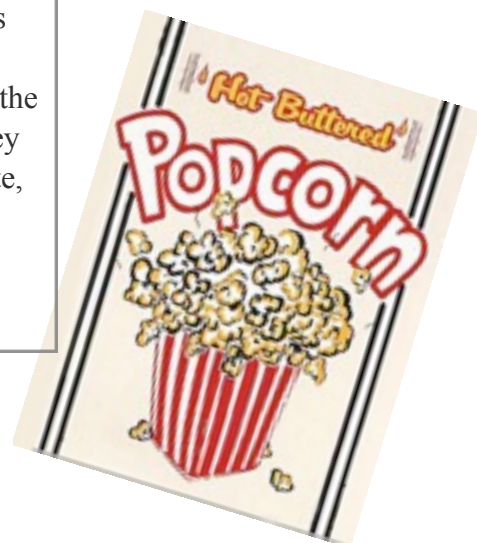
[Syracuse, NY](#)

Come and enjoy a film with the women (AND MEN) of WTB. This film is poignant, relevant, humorous and heartfelt. We will have some time for discussion immediately following the film. FREE and open to ALL with a special invitation extended to men to join us this month!

**SIERRA LEONE'S
REFUGEE
ALL STARS**

2005 79 minutes

This stunning documentary captures the triumphant story of six musicians who escaped the horrific violence of Sierra Leone's civil war, landed in a West African refugee camp and formed a band that would go on to travel the world. An unbelievable testament to the human spirit, the refugees' journey exemplifies the power of music. Directed by Zach Niles and Banker White, this film was honored by the American Film Institute in 2005.

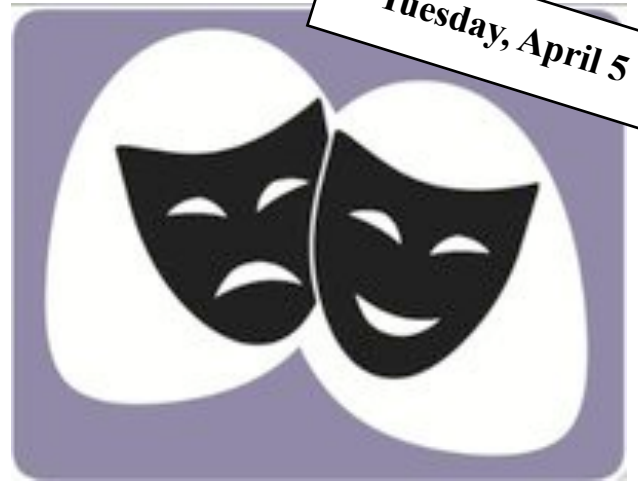


The Hijabi Monologues

The Hijabi Monologues will be performed in Syracuse tomorrow! This event is planned to start at 7:00 pm on Apr 5, 2011 at Jabberwocky Café in the basement of Schine Student Center on the SU campus.

The word "hijab" refers to both the head covering traditionally worn by Muslim women and modest Muslim styles of dress in general. Thus, the term "hijabi" is generally used for an individual who practices wearing a head covering--or a modest style of dress.

Tuesday, April 5



"The Hijabi Monologues" is about the power of storytelling. It is about creating a space for American Muslim women to share experiences; a space to breathe as they are; a space that does not claim to tell every story and speak for every voice. Through sharing stories, strangers touch and connect. Through stories, we are challenged. Through stories, we are humanized.

Please join the MSA and Kamilah Pickett of "The Hijabi Monologues" for an evening of powerful storytelling followed by a brief discussion. This event is open to all! Please make sure to pick up your "FREE" tickets from the Schine Box Office!

More on the Hijabi Monologues: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2331917770&v=wall>

WTB BOOK CLUB

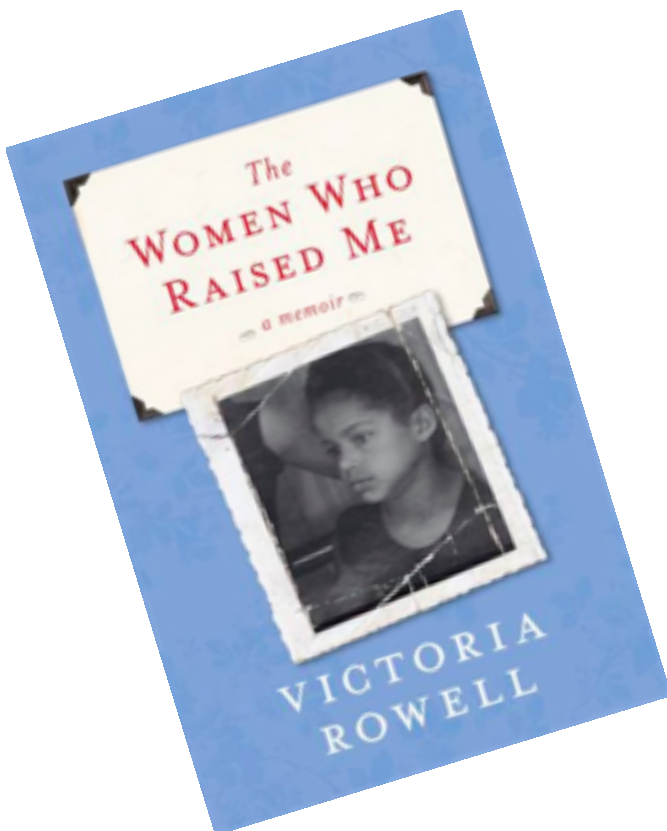
Monday, April 25

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Place: To be announced

Our discussion this month will center on: **The Women Who Raised Me** by Victoria Rowell. It's the story of Rowell, a bi-racial child who became a ward of the state of Maine, and grew up through a difficult foster care system to be an accomplished actress and philanthropist.

Everyone is welcome! Contact Jennifer Crittenden for more information 633-2817. To see the list of books through June (or past books), go to www.wtb.org and click on the Book Club icon.





“ I wandered lonely as a cloud
that floats on high o’er vales and hills.
When all at once I saw a crowd.
A host of golden daffodils.”

William Wordsworth



Spring is coming to Syracuse (really it is!) and with it, the blooming of hundreds of daffodils which were planted across the city during A-OK! Acts of Kindness Weekend last September 11-12th. As you see the beauty unfolding across the city, feel free to take a photo and forward it to us so we can share it with others!



An Evening with the Rev. Sally Bingham - Shared Purpose: A Religious Response to the Climate Crisis

Monday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Panasci Family Chapel on the LeMoyne campus

The Reverend Canon Sally Grover Bingham, an Episcopal priest and Canon for the Environment in the Diocese of California, is founder and president of The Regeneration Project, which mobilized the Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) campaign, a religious response to global warming. She has brought widespread recognition to the link between faith and the environment, and as one of the first faith leaders to fully recognize global warming as a moral issue, she has mobilized thousands of religious people to put their faith into action through energy stewardship and advocacy.

Bingham recently joined President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and is a member of the Forum on Children and Nature.

She serves on the board of directors of the Environmental Defense Fund, the Environmental Working Group, and the U.S. Climate Action Network as well as the national advisory board for the Union of Concerned Scientists. The Interfaith Power & Light campaign and Bingham have received numerous awards, including the 2007 U.S. EPA Climate Protection Award, the Purpose Prize, the Energy Globe Award and commendation as a “sacred gift to the planet” by the World Wildlife Fund.

The event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Rev. Kevin G. O'Connell Endowed Professorship in the Humanities and the Center for the Study of Environmental Change.



Congratulations to **WTB member Grace Flusche** who has been selected as a recipient of the Woman of the Year Award. The Syracuse Commission for Women presents this award ...“ to a woman who has made significant and lasting contributions to her community, has acted as a role model of achievement for other women, and has enhanced the lives of the citizens of the city of Syracuse.”

Among Grace’s many accomplishments, she co-founded both the annual Westcott Street Cultural Fair and the University Neighborhood Preservation Association. She continues to work tirelessly as a volunteer with families through the refugee resettlement program of Catholic Charities of Onondaga County. Grace’s laughter, enthusiasm and passion have provided hope, encouragement, mentoring and friendship to many who are new arrivals in the United States. Grace, we applaud you for your work, your vision and your wonderful inspiration to all who know you!



Last September, A-OK! 2010 proved to be enormously successful and **A-OK! Acts of Kindness Weekend 2011** is in the planning stages. Women Transcending Boundaries will be collaborating with the City of Syracuse and with other organizations to build community across the Greater Syracuse Area through acts of service and volunteerism. In this way, people will transcend some very real (or imagined) boundaries, working with others to build on the positive energy in our city and help move 9/11 toward being a National Day of Service!



Syracuse Grows is ramping up for its largest annual event – the 3rd Annual Community Garden Resource Drive on **April 16**. We could certainly use your help soliciting

- 1) requested resources for our member gardens;
- 2) volunteers for various gardens for clean ups and unloading compost and manure from trucks when they arrive at gardens;
- 3) truck drivers and passengers to collect compost from OCRRA (we also need more trucks if you know people with trucks);
- 4) wanna-be farmers who are interested to help out at the new Southwest Community Urban Farm to begin preparing the farm for planting.



WTB event at Sycamore Hill Gardens!! Once again, we have the privilege of holding our final event of this season at one of the most magnificent spots in the entire Central New York area! These gardens contain plantings and sculptures from all over the world and after a very long Syracuse winter, it promises to be a delightful afternoon of embracing the beauty of the season. You will find several ponds with fountains and colorful koi (large Japanese goldfish which the children can feed), an exotic bell garden, an evergreen maze, hundreds of thousands of planted flowering bulbs, and hundreds of flowering trees and shrubs. All are welcome.



SAVE THE

DATE:

May 22



InterFaith Dinner Discussions:

Many members of WTB enjoyed a meal with members of diverse spiritual traditions in homes across the city. Conversations were lively as beliefs were shared and common threads affirmed. (The food was fun and fantastic too!) Many thanks to Interfaith Works and to all who participated in planning such a wonderful evening.

The sewing class at the Center for New Americans continues with women from Bhutan, Iraq, and Congo. In addition to learning to use American machines and equipment, the ladies have made items to take home that include pillows, aprons, pajamas, sweat pants, and women's and girls' dresses. The ladies and the volunteers have a wonderful time getting to know one another as we work.

We are in our third session which will end on April 14. We will resume on April 28.

Feel free to visit us on Thursdays from noon to 2pm.



Islamophobia, Orientalism, and Gender Justice

Laila Farah, a Lebanese-American feminist performance-scholar will present “**Living in the Hyphen-Nation,**” at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14 in Syracuse University’s Watson Theater. The performance is part of the symposium “**Islamophobia, Orientalism, and Gender Justice**” presented by the Future of Minority Studies Project at Syracuse University (FMS).

The symposium will include an afternoon session from 2 to 4 p.m. in SU’s Schine Student Center, Room 304 A, B, and C. The afternoon session will feature Dana Olwan, assistant professor of gender studies at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, presenting “**Bodies that Matter in Death More than Life: Thoughts on Honour Crimes and Canada’s Racial Logics;**” and Carol Fadda-Conrey, assistant professor of English in SU’s College of Arts and Sciences presenting “**Arab-and-Muslim-American Representations of Gender, Sexuality, and Citizenship Post 9/11.**” Beverly Guy-Sheftall, the Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women’s Studies at Spelman College, will moderate the session.

Both events are free and open to the public. Further information is available on the Women’s and Gender Studies web site at <http://wgs.syr.edu> or by calling the department at 315-443-3707.



TOCAR Y LUCCHAR (To Play and To Fight)

The Venezuelan national youth orchestra is considered by many the most successful youth orchestra system in the world. It consists of a series of children & Youth orchestras and choirs established across hundreds of cities, towns, and villages in Venezuela and South America. Today, the orchestra system directly affects more than 250,000 children, most of which live in rural areas with limited access to the cultural and educational opportunities usually found in more urban centers.

Tocar y Luchar is in Spanish with English subtitles and tells the story of this orchestra system in Venezuela.

Playing at the Red House Arts Center

Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Monday, April 25, 5:30 - 7:30 pm



LETTER FROM JAPAN

We extend sympathy to all who have lost loved ones and find some hope in the following letter:

Things here in Sendai have been rather surreal. But I am very blessed to have wonderful friends who are helping me a lot. Since my shack is even more worthy of that name, I am now staying at a friend's home. We share supplies like water, food and a kerosene heater. We sleep lined up in one room, eat by candlelight, share stories. It is warm, friendly, and beautiful. During the day we help each other clean up the mess in our homes. People sit in their cars, looking at news on their navigation screens, or line up to get drinking water when a source is open. If someone has water running in their home, they put out a sign so people can come to fill up their jugs and buckets.

It's utterly amazingly that where I am there has been no looting, no pushing in lines. People leave their front door open, as it is safer when an earthquake strikes. People keep saying, "Oh, this is how it used to be in the old days when everyone helped one another."

Quakes keep coming. Last night they struck about every 15 minutes. Sirens are constant and helicopters pass overhead often.

We got water for a few hours in our homes last night, and now it is for half a day. Electricity came on this afternoon. Gas has not yet come on. But all of this is by area. Some people have these things, others do not. No one has washed for several days. We feel grubby, but there are so much more important concerns than that for us now. I love this peeling away of non-essentials. Living fully on the level of instinct, of intuition, of caring, of what is needed for survival, not just of me, but of the entire group.

There are strange parallel universes happening. Houses a mess in some places, yet then a house with futons or laundry out drying in the sun. People lining up for water and food, and yet a few people out walking their dogs. All happening at the same time. Other unexpected touches of beauty are first, the silence at night. No cars. No one out on the streets. And the heavens at night are scattered with stars. I usually can see about two, but now the whole sky is filled. The mountains in Sendai are solid and with the crisp air we can see them silhouetted against the sky magnificently.

And the Japanese themselves are so wonderful. I come back to my shack to check on it each day, now to send this e-mail since the electricity is on, and I find food and water left in my entranceway. I have no idea from whom, but it is there. Old men in green hats go from door to door checking to see if everyone is OK. People talk to complete strangers asking if they need help. I see no signs of fear. Resignation, yes, but fear or panic, no.

They tell us we can expect aftershocks, and even other major quakes, for another month or more. And we are getting constant tremors, rolls, shaking, rumbling. I am blessed in that I live in a part of Sendai that is a bit elevated, a bit more solid than other parts. So, so far this area is better off than others. Last night my friend's husband came in from the country, bringing food and water. Blessed again.

Somehow at this time I realize from direct experience that there is indeed an enormous Cosmic evolutionary step that is occurring all over the world right at this moment. And somehow as I experience the events happening now in Japan, I can feel my heart opening very wide. My brother asked me if I felt so small because of all that is happening. I don't. Rather, I feel as part of something happening that much larger than myself. This wave of birthing (worldwide) is hard, and yet magnificent.