

The Women's Alliance of the Unitarian Church of All Souls NYC

2021 Annual Report

2021 WA President's Report

Christine Goodwin

As I assumed the WA Presidency in February 2021, we were still deep in the isolation due to surging covid cases. One of the first initiatives was to develop and distribute a Survey of members via Survey Monkey with the help of Anne Bradley and the WA Executive Board. We received almost a 50% response rate with many expressing good ideas for WA activities and programs.

As we had done beginning in April 2020, we have been able to pivot to Zoom meetings. As the year progressed with falling covid infections, and people being vaccinated, we thought we could resume in-person gatherings and hoped to have our annual Welcome Back party in September. As the date came closer, we decided at the last moment to err on the side of caution and cancel the Welcome Back party.

Then we planned to have the WA Christmas party in Reidy Hall in person, but as Omicron cases soared and as All Souls suspended in-person services, including remote-only Christmas Eve services, WA reluctantly cancelled our Christmas lunch. We did hold a Christmas zoom meeting, with many in festive outfits, but surpassed by Cornelia Do in her tiara of blinking Christmas lights.

We had also planned to resume our monthly luncheon meetings, but again, the Executive Board decided to continue meetings on Zoom. As of February 2022, with All Souls about to allow people to attend Sunday services again, we may try to resume in person luncheons for WA.

WA monthly lunch meetings have traditionally been held on the third Wednesday of the month, but due to new leases between All Souls Church and All Souls Nursery School and Super Soccer Stars, our monthly lunch dates will now be the 2nd Monday of the month in Reidy Friendship Hall.

Fortunately, WA members continue to suggest many interesting speakers and Heli Blum has done an excellent job of following up so that we have been able to enjoy many compelling presentations.

Also, Sandra Fisher and the Outings Committee work to explore many options and have continued to plan enticing monthly visits to museums along with lunch to take advantage of New York City's rich cultural offerings.

Attractive and informative issues of The Alert have been published bi-monthly, featuring member profiles as well as reviews of recent WA presentations. Many thanks to Editor, Alynne Wesson; Copy Editor, Peggy Montgomery; Production Manager, Christina Black; and many WA members who contribute their writing talents.

WA Committees have continued to meet via Zoom to consider charitable donations made by WA, develop a 2022 Budget, review investment policy.

In the March/April 2022 issue of The Alert, there is a listing of WA Officers, Committee Chairs, and Committee members. Thank you to all who give your time and efforts on behalf of The Women's

Alliance. I encourage everyone to get involved – fundraising, finance, investing, luncheon speakers, cultural outings, charitable donations, community project, liaison with UUWF, etc.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Goodwin, President

* * * * *

Assistant Treasurer, Investment Committee Annual Report 2021

BACKGROUND

- The diverse WA account portfolio is designed to be an all-weather portfolio with a broad array of domestic and international holdings of stocks and bonds as pooled investments such as mutual funds.
- The portfolio includes a sustainable fund driven by the environmental, social, and governance-related selection process. The WA portfolio is invested and rebalanced in accord with an investment policy statement that is reviewed annually.

THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Two WA members, both economists -- Carol Kirkman and Judith Kozloff -- joined the investment committee as regular members. *Ex-officio* members are Chris Goodwin, president, and Karen Steele, treasurer. Alix-Marie Hall, MBA, CFP®, formerly licensed as an investment advisor and in investment management, chairs the committee.*
- During the summer the investment committee reviewed and updated the investment policy statement created a year earlier. The executive board reviewed and approved the updates.
- Just before Thanksgiving we withdrew \$6,000.00 for charitable contributions recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the executive board. The funds were sent to the treasurer.
- WA started 2021 with an account valued at \$100,416.11 and ended the year at \$106,620.75 after the \$6,000.00 withdrawal. So the account increased in value by \$12,204.64 for a year-to-year increase of 12.15%.
- This January, the investment committee reviewed the portfolio and added \$4,000 to the sustainable fund to take it closer to the desired 25% of the holdings from where it was at the end of the year after market performance had decreased the value of some holdings and increased others.

THE PRESENT SITUATION

- There was a good deal of market turbulence in January as investors tried to come to grips with increasing inflation, the U.S. response to Russia and NATO re Ukraine, the jobs picture, and other concerns.
- When there is volatility, it is helpful for us to remember that when investments decline temporarily, we are reinvesting dividends and other distributions at lower prices. The committee will be monitoring volatility in the course of the year.

* NASD (now FINRA) series 7, 63, 24, 65, and 53.

Respectfully submitted,
Alix-Marie Hall, Assistant Treasurer, Chair of Investment Committee

Annual Report 2021

Communications Committee, Mary Geissman chair

2021 was the year of “changing the guard” for the Communications Committee. After years of innovative service Sandra Ekberg retired as chair, and following my term as WA president I took over.

After I served as interim editor of the Alert for two years, Alynne Wesson took over as editor at the beginning of 2021. She has done an outstanding job, coming up with ideas for articles and enlisting some new writers. Peggy Montgomery and Christina Black are continuing as Copy Editor and Managing Editor, Production respectively. During 2021, six issues of the Alert were produced – the first year that there was no summer break, due to the pandemic.

Lois Coleman joined the Communications Committee and she is training WA members in the use of the All Souls Mighty Network, “All Souls Connex.” Lois is posting all issues of the Alert on the All Souls Group. During 2022 we hope to encourage more members to join the WA group on Connex so that we can make more use of the network to communicate with each other.

Annual Report 2021 – Membership Chair

Barbara Reed

Membership in the Women's Alliance continues to hover around 120 members. As in years past, some members don't renew or pass away, and other newcomers join. Unfortunately, the renewal process took an unusually long time in 2021. For 2022 there will be an incentive to renew promptly to insure inclusion in the printed Membership Directory to be distributed this spring.

New member gatherings, one in person and one virtual, were planned for December 2021, however the appearance of the Omicron variant caused cancellation of the in person gathering. RSVPs were few for the zoom gathering, perhaps due to zoom fatigue, so that also did not happen. More gatherings will be planned as soon as the virus situation seems safe.

Executive Board discussions continued regarding use of the All Souls Connex communications tool. As one of the hosts of the Women's Alliance Group (WAG), a private group on Connex, the Membership Chair accepts applicants who are members of the WA. While contact is made with non-member applicants, and WA brochures and dues envelopes are sent to those who are interested, very few end up joining the WA. So far there are only twenty-seven members of the WA who are members of the WAG. Postings to the Women's Alliance Group have mostly been limited to issues of the *Alliance Alert* newsletter. More content to the tool as well as more promotion of Connex will need to be undertaken in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Reed

WA Report by Outings Committee Chairs January 2021 - January 2022

January – June 2021 OUTINGS AND VIRTUAL Entertainment

Submitted by Alix Hall, Chair Outings Committee Jan-June, 2021

January, February, and March (virtual entertainment): Shared information and access for a broad range of virtual entertainment and chat rooms including but not limited to concerts (EX: Thomas Trittle, conductor, “The Messiah,” at Stone Ridge, NY, instead of at Carnegie Hall); dance programs at Jacob’s Pillow; live theatre filmed for virtual audiences around the country and recommended by former Wall Street Journal theatre critic Terry Teachout; tours of acclaimed museum collections from around the globe; chat rooms including but not limited to Ethical Culture (EX: “The Caring Community Living Room”) and New Plaza Cinema Lecture Series (EX: “The Movies Take Manhattan”); and programs honoring Black History Month. [I do not know how many members took advantage of these opportunities; a number did email me to let me know they’d enjoyed some of the music-and-dance programming I’d researched and shared.]

April 1, 2021: “Niki de Saint Phalle: Structures for Life” at MOMA (Long Island City, Queens). [There were five of us on a rainy day, when most people were reluctant to take subways and dine inside.

Others said they had wanted to see the exhibition but were too concerned about Covid to participate.]

April 15, 2021: Gallery Hopping on the Upper East Side included “Soraya Shargi: Beyond the Realm” at Leila Heller gallery; “Fausto Melotti: Ceramics” at Barbara Mathes Gallery; lunch at Serafina; and then three sets of exhibits at Salon 94 [12 participants].

May 13, 2021: A historic walk in Yorkville, led by Joyce Elderfield: A number of historic churches and other noteworthy buildings in the UES 70s and 80s, with lunch after at Café d’Alsace [18 participants].

June 8, 2021: Guided *Garden People* walk-throughs of the 91st Street Garden, Riverside Park, led by Nora Brossard with *Garden People* speakers. Lunch after with *Garden People* speakers at Telio [22 signups].

July 2021 to January 2022 OUTINGS

Submitted by Sandra Fisher, Chair Outings Committee July 2021 to present

Outings Committee: Sandra Fisher, Chair; Alix Hall, Susan Hoehn, Maureen Marwick and Debbie Brinckerhof.

The following programs were offered and include the date, venue, name of program, lunch place, (name of organizer/host) and # of attendees.

July 9 NY Historical Society 11am-1; (Sandra Fisher museum part) 1pm Lunch at Society’s café. (Susan Hoehn)

Exhibitions: So Ready for Laughter: Bob Hope and WW II; The Gift of Laughter; Safe/Haven: Gay Life in 1950s Cherry Grove, and Bruce McCall’s New York.

Attendees: 5

August 12 Noguchi Museum and Garden, Long Island City, Cancelled due to extreme heat.

September 29 The Museum at FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology) Meet noon.

Ravishing: The Rose in Fashion presents the first socio-cultural examination of the rose in fashion.

(Sandra Fisher)

Lunch at Niles Restaurant, 31st/7th Ave.(Susan Hoehn)

Attendee: 12

October 13 The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx. www.nybg.org

KUSAMA: COSMIC NATURE Exhibition + Fall Foliage

Lunch at the café. (Sandra Fisher) Attendees: 7

November 11 Whitney Museum *Jasper Johns: Mind/Matter*. Labyrinth of Forms: Women and Abstraction, 1930-1950. Meet at 11am. www.whitney.org

1pm Lunch at a nearby restaurant. After lunch, Join Alix Hall for a walk on the Highline. Attendee: 12 (Sandra Fisher)

December 2 Morgan Library and Museum Meet at 11am

225 Madison Ave. @ 36th St. www.themorgan.org

Lunch nearby at Smorgas Chef at Scandinavia House (Sandra)

Attendees: 12

JANUARY 6 (Thursday) JEWISH MUSEUM "AFTERLIVES: THE LOST STORY OF LOOTED ART"

1109 Fifth Ave./92nd St Meet at 11am (Maureen Marwick)

Lunch at ISLAND Restaurant, 1305 Madison Ave. bet 92-93rd.

Attendees: 12

The Executive Board passed a resolution that \$300 will be available to the committee in 2022 to help underwrite a program(s) with the aim of making it financially possible for all members to participate.

We decided not to offer official future Outings in July and August.

In the programs from July to January, two non-members participated; one joined WA and the other lives out of town and will consider it.

* * * * *

Women's Alliance 2021 Luncheon Programs and Special Events Annual Report

Women's Alliance Monthly Meetings and Special Events proceeded without interruption even if the pandemic kept us from meeting in person for yet another year. Members and friends found their way to their screens and joined us on Zoom from near and far to listen and field questions to our presenters. We are hoping that 2022 will finally see us meeting in person with a live stream component to allow everyone join in in a way that is safe, convenient and a good fit for them.

January 2021 began with the **Montgomery Four**: *Linda Rousseau, MS, Prison reform activist; Adine Usher, EdD, Educational Specialist for People with Disabilities, African American activist; Tosia Neiger-McCormick, MS, LMHC, is a Mental Health Counselor and educator, a human rights activist and Robert Dottin, PhD, is a Professor of Biology (Genetics), History Maker, Black activist with Caribbean roots* showing us what can be **Learned From Memorials to Slavery and the Holocaust**.

2021 Angie Utt Henry Lecturer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand brought us up to speed with **Recent Events in our Nation's Capital**.

In **March** *PhD., Neuropsychologist Robin Moulds* joined us from Paris advising us on immunological and neurological strategies in fighting the Covid-19 virus in her presentation **Lessons from the Pandemic in Paris, France.**

In **April** journalist and talk show host **Sheryl McCarthy** returned to present us on **The Future of Journalism.**

At our **Spring Event** in **May** titled **Money vs. Morality – Can Corporations really lead on the work of the Commons?** We heard *Executive Director of the Aspen Institute's Business and Society Program Judy Samuelson* and *Rev. Galen Guengerich* discussing her book **The Six New Rules of Business: Creating Real Value in a Changing World** (2021).

At our **May** Monthly Meeting on **Ranked Choice Voting: Presented by NYC Votes.** *Youth Engagement Coordinator for NYC Votes, Olivia Brady* familiarized us to the new voting system used in June primaries.

At our **June** Meeting *Lois Coleman* walked us through the new communications platform Connex in her presentation **Connex Tutorial.** We realized that we will need to have additional lessons before we have mastered Connex.

We decided to take July and August off since the pandemic was easing its grip and people were eager to get outdoors. Sadly as September approached the virus flared and instead of having a **Welcome Back - party** in person we had to cancel it and we were confined to our screens once more.

Our **September** presenter *President and CEO of the Riverside Park, Dan Garodnick* shared the story behind his book **Saving Stuyvesant Town** of how the neighborhood stood up against real estate interest and preserved the affordable housing development of Stuyvesant Town.

In **October** we were treated to an additional presentation, when *Shuo (Sophie) Wu, a Fordham University graduate, Zoomed in from Peking, China* to share about her experiences as a student from Wuhan, China in the United States during the pandemic **My Year as a Graduate Student in New York.**

Our regular **October** Monthly Meeting featured *Austin Meyer, documentary filmmaker and photographer* showing his documentary **With Grace** that explored the maternal healthcare in Zambia, Africa.

In **November** *Rev. Dr. Daniel C. Kanter and Molly Duane JD (Doctor of Jurisprudence), MPH (Masters in Public Health) from the Center of Reproductive Rights* illuminated the history of the abortion access in Texas and brought us up to date on the dire situation the newly passed law restricting abortions creates in Texas.

Our **December** *Members Holiday Party* had to be on Zoom due to rising infection numbers, but those who attended enjoyed socializing in small groups in break out rooms and all together on one screen.

We are looking forward to being free from these Covid restrictions but are very grateful for having Zoom and being able to meet safely using it until the pandemic subsides.

Respectfully submitted by
Heli R-F. Blum, Program Committee Chair

* * * * *

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT 2021

Joyce Elderfield

We have three members (Rosina Cotruzzola, Alice Jackson, and Virginia Lyon) who do not have access to email. For them I print each edition of the Alert and make color copies to send to them via the Postal Service.

Over the last year I have sent Get Well or Caring and Supporting cards (and in one case flowers) to 7 members.

Through 2021, sadly, I have sent 5 Condolence cards to the families of members we have lost or to our members who have suffered losses.

Unfortunately, since members have not been meeting and mingling in person, I have not been aware of any special birthdays or significant milestones among our members this past year. Please feel free to let me know if any member has such a milestone so I can send good wishes and congratulations on behalf of all our members.

* * * * *

Annual Report 2021

SIG, Music

Mary Geissman, chair

After a pandemic forced break of over one year, the Music Special Interest Group (SIG) resumed activity in August with a group of WA members attending a concert at the Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park. Then some members attended Lincoln Center Outdoors events in Damrosch Park – a dance festival, HD operas, and a special concert.

In October and December, small groups attended two Juilliard “Wednesdays at One”, free concerts at Alice Tully Hall, followed by lunch at nearby restaurants. In November, we enjoyed a performance of the Dessooff’s Choirs Oratorio, Considering Matthew Shephard. And, in December several of us attended the Orchestra of St. Luke’s performance of the Brandenburg Concertos at Temple Emanu-El .

* * * * *

Women’s Alliance of The Unitarian Church of All Souls

Treasurer’s Annual Report

Annual meeting February 14, 2022

1. Final membership for 2021 was 126.
2. The Alliance has a checking account in the TD Bank; the closing statement for 2020 showed a balance of \$3,969.76. The check book balance as of December 31, 2021 was \$2,645.32. (Several checks were still outstanding.)

3. The budget report presented at the annual meeting shows the total funds received for 2021 membership, including dues and contributions to the General Fund and the Angie Utt Fund. Acknowledgement letters were sent to members who contributed fifty dollars or more to the General Fund and/or the Utt Fund. Due to Covid-19, The Alliance was again unable to conduct a fund-raiser during 2021, and as in 2020, meeting expenses were extremely low. However, the Investment Fund again did very well during the year. Thus, responding to great need, the Finance Committee recommended, and the Executive Board approved charitable giving in the amount of \$9,200. Details are in the chart below.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS 2021 – Women’s Alliance

All Souls - Annual Fund Donation	4,000
All Souls - Monday Night Hospitality	650
All Souls - Friday Soup Kitchen	650
UUA Stewardship & Dev (Side with Love Action Center)	500
UU Women’s Federation Grant Program	500
Center for Reproductive Rights	1,000
New York Common Pantry	500
Women for Afghan Women	500
Friends of the UN Population Fund	500
UU@UN	100
Chancel Flowers Members Memorial (All Souls)	100
Subtotal:	9,000
From the Angie Utt Fund	
Musica Viva	200
Total:	\$9,200

5. During January, President Goodwin distributed a 2021 membership list in pdf format, and we received several updates, listed below, which will of course be included in the 2022 membership directory.
- Ivana Edwards - add telephone: 646-370-5902
 - Cynthia Brown - drop the All Souls email
 - Jean Zorn - new address: 1600 SE 15th Street, Apt. 212, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316-2720 (same telephone and email)
 - Mitzi Moulds - add to address: Apt. PHA
 - Linda Floyd - change telephone to 412-596-9859
 - Gerda Artes - add cell phone 917-747-2107

As always it is a pleasure to work with Alliance members and the Executive Board and to serve on committees with new members as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Steele, February 3, 2022