

From: Woman's Club of Albany TheWomansClub@womansclubofalbany.com
Subject: April brings showers of activities at the WCA
Date: April 1, 2022 at 12:33 PM
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The Woman's Club of Albany

United in Service to Our Community Since 1910

This is the April 2022 newsletter for The Woman's Club of Albany, with news about our events and ways you can help us meet our mission.

A Message from President Patti Kopach



It was a long winter, wasn't it? And for many of us, it was a winter filled with falls, medical tests for ourselves or our loved ones, health scares, holidays spent alone or delayed entirely because of the Omicron variant, snow, howling winds and, in at least three cases that I know of, the deaths of loved ones.

For most of us, the winter of 2021-2022 was brutal. But today, the sun is shining, Spring is here and we have finally begun to come out of hibernation! Hooray for April!

Despite the very long winter, the WCA continued to carry on its good works, welcome new members and prepare for a Spring and Summer full of exciting events.

The Programs Committee has worked diligently to plan a number of outings to bring us together socially throughout the remainder of the year. The Tea Committee is in the throes of planning our Tulip Tea in early May. The ad hoc Porch Renovation Committee is in the final planning stages of choosing lighting and railings for our ramp which will be completed in the coming months. Our Garden Goddesses will soon begin planting and the Board, with all other Committees, continues to provide oversight of the business of

the WCA.

How can you thank so many people for what they've done and continue to do to keep the WCA going? Continue to read this newsletter to see how you can start thanking our members in a very unusual way beginning today! And then, come to April's Member Monday for an evening of fun and games planned by Janet Nardolillo and Susan Gould-Fogerite in celebration of National Volunteer Recognition Month.

To those members who may not serve on a committee or the Board, please know that you are being recognized for your continued support of the WCA. You are as vital to our organization as our "worker bees." Every member has contributed to our life and work in some way, whether by responding to a capital campaign or special collection request, welcoming a new member at a Member Monday, participating in Book Club, renting the house for a special event – the list is endless! That means *every member* of the WCA is vital! And *every member* of the WCA is a treasured volunteer!

So in this month of national recognition to volunteers throughout the United States, I am happy to be the first member of the WCA to say THANK YOU – to every single member – for everything you've done, and continue to do, to keep the Woman's Club of Albany a vital part of the Capital Region and beyond. I'm honored to know each and every one of you!

WCA Business

Monthly Board Report

The WCA Board took the following actions at its March meeting:

- Approved members to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- Approved a monetary collection by the Community Service Committee for the people of Ukraine, to be donated to St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church.
- Agreed to provide beverages for the Volunteer Recognition Program at Member Monday in April.
- Approved a WCA picnic at Lawson's Lake in October.
- Approved a donation to the Albany Education Fund in memory of Assembly Member Patricia Fahy's son, Brendan Fahy Bequette.
- Approved the Garden Committee proposal to apply for a non-matching grant, "Gardens for Good" from the Garden Conservancy.

Fall Mums Sale Chairperson Needed

Please consider taking the leadership position for our Fall Mums Sale!

The Development Committee would like to revive this profitable event with a few laborsaving adjustments!

We need YOUR skills! Won't you help us? Please contact [Marilyn Hunter](#), Development Committee chair.

Tulip Tea 2022

Saturday, May 14 -- 2 p.m.

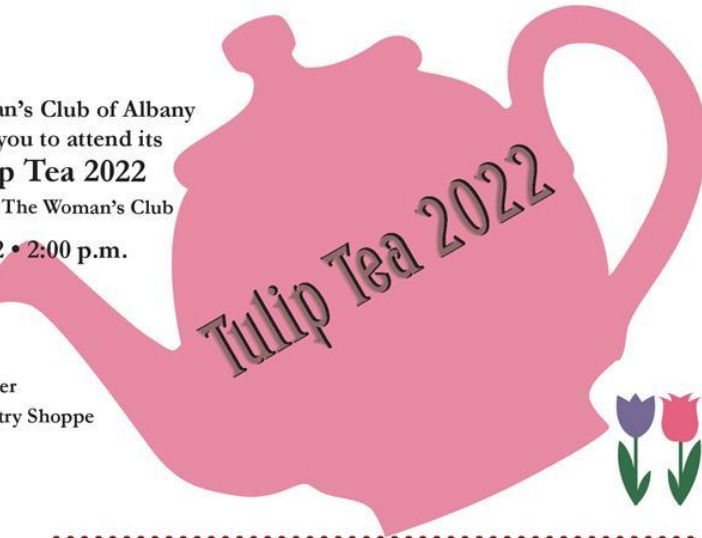
[Click Here to Register Now.](#)



The Woman's Club of Albany
invites you to attend its
Tulip Tea 2022
to benefit The Woman's Club

Saturday, May 14, 2022 • 2:00 p.m.
RSVP by May 6, 2022

- Tea by Divinita
- Tea Sandwiches by
McCarroll's Village Butcher
- Desserts by Zachary's Pastry Shoppe
- Tickets are \$45 each
- Space is limited
- Register online
- Reservations are required
- Cash raffle



RSVP

WCA Tulip Tea 2022

Saturday, May 14, 2022 • 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Tea attendance by reservation only.

- Yes, I/we would love to attend! There will be _____ of us at \$45.00 each.

Name(s):
(Please print)

Email:

Guest name(s) for seating arrangements

(Please list names even if your guests are paying separately)

- Please check this box if first floor seating is required – this is a limited option.

Tickets are \$45 each • RSVP by May 6, 2022
You must register online at womansclubofalbany.com
Masks are optional.

Payment can be made online or by mail. Please note "Tulip Tea" on check:
The Woman's Club of Albany • 725 Madison Avenue • Albany, NY 12208

For more information, call 518.465.3626

The Woman's Club of Albany is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
The Woman's Club is not yet ADA accessible.

[More Upcoming Events and Programs](#)

FIVE RIVERS WALKABOUT

Monday, April 4 -- 1 p.m.

56 Game Farm Road, Delmar 12054

Birds, geese, bees and blossoms! Nature lovers will gather for a peek at nature. Lots of trails for all abilities. Bring binoculars and cameras! Meet near the Visitors Center. [REGISTER](#) on the website. All are welcome!

2sDay in the Parlor -- No Foolin'!!

Tuesday, April 5 -- 6:30 p.m.

Join us in the Parlor for another "Egg-cellent" evening, sharing smiles and so much more. Stop by beginning around 6:30 and stay for a little bit or a lot. Either way, it will be an "Egg-stra" special time in our Parlor. This month the parlor will be hosted by Janise Walsh and Kathv Kucharek in Charlotte Prior's absence. The theme will be Spring and we encourage everyone to wear their most colorful spring outfits. There will be a few mindless games with fabulous prizes from the Dollar Store. But mostly there will be the usual fun and catching up with your friends after a very long winter.

As always, a nip or a nosh to share please. And remember, every "bunny" is welcome. You don't have to be a WCA member to spend some time with other "peeps."

What is the Bunny's favorite type of music? Hip Hop!!

What is a gas pump's favorite holiday? April Fuels Day!!



Thursday, April 14 -- 6:30 p.m.



(Together Women Rise photo)

This month's grant recipient is Second Mile Haiti, which works to improve the long-term health and economic well-being of families in Haiti. The grant will provide support

health and economic well-being of families in Haiti. The grant will provide support for malnutrition, maternal and child health and self-sufficiency programs at its San Raphael Family Center.

This is a potluck dinner with a small educational component. Money that otherwise would have been spent on going out to dinner instead is donated.

If you would like to attend, contact [Rosemary Revoir](#).

Home Away From Home

Wednesday, April 20 -- 5:30 to 8 p.m.

It's time for another Members' Night Out hosted by Director Adrienne Bonilla.

This monthly event is your chance to enjoy a casual evening in our beautiful house. There is no formal program — do a craft, play a game, just hang out or ??? The choice is yours.

Members have been attending and enjoying these evenings.

Earth Day Dance -- Let the JOY Begin!

Friday, April 22 -- 6:30 to 8 p.m.

WCA Ballroom

Remember the feeling of closeness and fun when dancing together in the same space?

That togetherness will be a celebration of our earth -- feeling our feet on the wooden floor and knowing that the earth is always just below us.

Reignite your inner playfulness with movement and enjoy the energy we create.

Renowned choreographer Maude Baum is our guide, using simple dance moves to get us up, smiling, and maybe even laughing.

No experience necessary. Two left feet welcome!

The number of participants is limited to 20, so please [REGISTER](#) early! Bring a beverage and snack to share afterward.





Pine Bush Yoga Hike

Sunday, April 24 -- 11 a.m.

195 New Karner Road, Albany 12205

Let's enjoy the Spring unfolding at the lovely Pine Bush Preserve! Our own yoga master Genii Rutherford will guide us through our walk with gentle, thoughtful, yoga poses. All are welcome and you can go at your own pace!

[REGISTER](#) on the website so we know who to expect! Meet at the trail map!



Selected Shorts

Saturday, April 30 -- 7:30 p.m.

***Main Theatre, UAlbany Performing Arts Center
1400 Washington Ave., Albany 12222***

Who doesn't love a good story? This program features a live performance of the hit public radio series featuring readings of short fiction by well-known actors. The event is presented by the New York State Writers Institute in collaboration with the UAlbany Performing Arts Center.

The performance includes works by Carmen Maria Machado, Jess Walter, Lauren Groff and more. Patricia Kalember ("The Tick"), Sonia Manzano ("Sesame Street") and Bhavesh Patel ("The Good Wife") weave tales of revenge-seeking children, parties in the face of apocalypse and finding love on the side of a building.

Ticket information:

- WCA was able to purchase 10 tickets at a group rate of \$9 plus tax to be paid to

Paula Hennessy that evening.

- Because of the limited number, these tickets are for members only. Any unsold tickets will become available to contacts and guests in mid-April.
- Others who wish to attend may purchase tickets through the UAlbany box office at the regular rate (\$15 in advance; \$20, day of performance.)
- Everyone is welcome to join the group! If you email [Paula](#), she will know to look for you before the show so everyone can sit together.

First 10 WCA members — register on the [WCA WEBSITE](#) early.

Guests, friends, additional WCA members — contact the UAlbany [BOX OFFICE](#) to purchase tickets.

April is Volunteer Recognition Month

YOU Make Life Sweeter at the WCA!

The Woman's Club of Albany is entirely volunteer-run and on Monday, April 25 we will honor the many women who made life at the WCA "sweeter" this year.

WCA members will enjoy a delicious dinner, including vegan and gluten-free options, as well as some *sweet* dessert treats.

Please join us for a fun and interactive program to recognize our volunteers. There is no charge; this is a membership benefit provided by the club.

The schedule is:

5:30 p.m.* -- Social Hour and Announcements, Main floor

6:30 p.m. -- Dinner and Program, Upstairs Ballroom

Please [REGISTER](#) by April 15.

**Please note earlier start time than usual.*

Also, the Community Service Committee will collect items for the South End Children's Cafe. Details below.

To lead up to this festive event, why not use the days of April 1 to April 15 to email one or more member volunteers, expressing your personal appreciation for efforts made this past year? The subject line for your email is: "*YOU make life sweeter at The Woman's Club of Albany,*" and you could include an invitation to attend the April 25 event.

Contact information for members is found in the [Directory](#) section of our website (log in required). Imagine the flurry of joy we'll create when we say "Thanks!"

Sorry, this event is open to members only. [Click here](#) to become a member. Or [click here](#) to renew your membership. and register for the dinner after your membership is confirmed. If you think our records are incorrect, please email (womansclubofalbany725@gmail.com). We hope to welcome you soon!

Next Book Club Meeting

Tuesday, May 17-- 6:30 p.m.

The WCA members book club will meet to discuss *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See.

Contact [Diana Pane](#) for more information.

Community Service News

WCA Community Service Partners

The Community Service Committee plans activities designed to reflect our mission -- to assist organizations that help women and children in need. Each month, we'll highlight the work of one of our wonderful community partners. You'll hear more throughout the year about WCA opportunities to support their efforts.

In the Spotlight: Focus Food Pantries



Did you know that FOCUS Food Pantries in Albany provided fresh produce, protein, milk and daily food items to 3,220 families last year, distributed 80 backpacks with school supplies, gave out 126 Holiday food bags and 150 winter coats and served breakfast to 4,400 needy people, including children? Did you know WCA volunteers participated in many FOCUS charitable activities and fundraisers?

FOCUS is an interfaith consortium of six churches and affiliate partnerships -- Muslim, Jewish and nonsectarian -- dedicated to assisting the needy -- no questions asked!

Lorraine Houk, FOCUS pantry director, notes how important the WCA's partnership is to helping address hunger and food inequity in Albany. "WCA volunteers have done so much for us in the past year, helping to prepare the holiday and school supply giveaways, gardening and baking goodies for our barbecue fundraiser. Now, with food prices soaring, families will be turning to us all for more help."

And WCA will be there. Together, we do great things!

Let's Help the South End Children's Cafe

The Community Service Committee will collect items at April Member Monday on April 25 to benefit the South End Children's Cafe, another of our community partners.

Items needed are nonperishable unopened foods such as canned tuna, soup, granola bars, pasta, peanut butter and jelly and canned fruits. Laundry detergent and toilet paper also are needed. Members have been very generous in the past in giving to this local non-profit that serves children and families. This is a great way to help fill their pantries.

A Note of Thanks

The CEO/Founder of Things of My Very Own sent this letter of thanks to the Academy of the Holy Names and all who helped "stuff the bus" with donated items:

To The Academy of the Holy Names and Its Wonderful Partners:

We cannot begin to express to you how much your donation has already impacted the children that we serve. Over the past two years, more children have had to leave their homes due to abuse they sustained than we had ever seen before. The scars that these children carry go far beyond the spectrum of surface injuries. In each of their cases, having to leave everything behind contributed to an even greater emergency. We had initially thought that 2020 was the worst we would see; 2021 brought us entirely new emergencies. Now in 2022, these families are more vulnerable than ever. Thanks to the support of your donation drive, there are brighter days ahead.

Your donation helped to provide children in crisis with the material items they needed to start over in their place of safety. These children are better off because of the support you provided. Now that these children are in their place of safety, their journey to healing can finally begin. Grandparents who have taken them in can now focus on helping them to heal. Aunts and uncles can turn their attention toward supporting the children in their care, as opposed to worrying how they will afford basic needs that others take for granted. *Your* support made this possible.

On behalf of Things of My Very Own, Inc. and the thousands of children we provide services to each year, I thank you.

Sincerely,

Rayn Boncie

CEO/Founder

Sending Sunshine with Help from New Friends



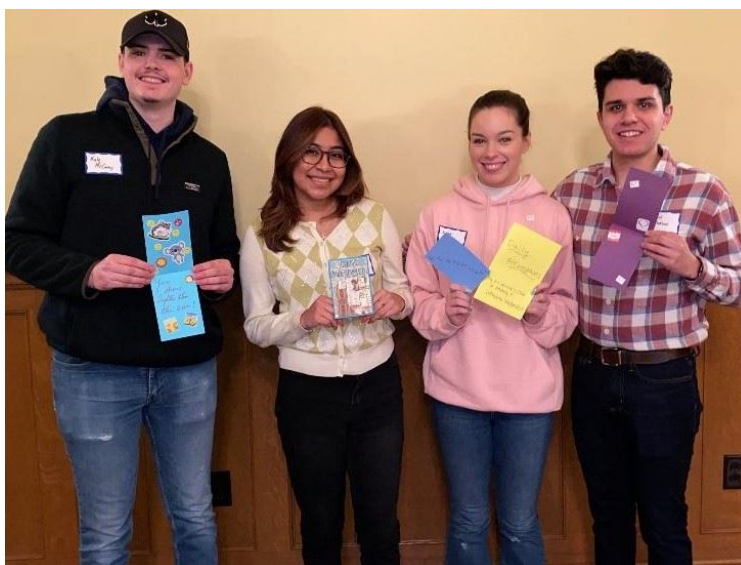


WCA members display some of the greeting cards they made to send to children who are ill as part of a Community Service Committee activity. Twenty cards will go to Ronald McDonald House in Albany and 48 will go to Cards for Kidz, a national organization.

Assisting with the project were several UAlbany students who are members of Albany Business Leaders Emerging (below.)

This collaboration began with an email from Kyle McCarey, ABLE community service president. He and others from ABLE walked past the WCA last October on the way to a breast cancer walk in Washington Park and were curious about what we did. We met on Zoom and then invited Kyle and others from ABLE to Member Monday to help with the card-making project.

We plan to continue our collaboration by inviting them to assist with our community service projects and they will do the same for us. (Check out the next item.)



ABLE members display their cards. From left, Kyle McCarey, Community Service president; Brenda Sanchez-Ruiz, incoming Community Service president; Emma Femiano, ABLE president; and Michael Mariani, director of fundraising.

Calling All Bowlers

ABLE will present its 15th anniversary Bowling Tournament at 2 p.m. on April 10 at the Town N' Country Lanes in Guilderland.

There is a \$100 entry fee for teams of five bowlers. It covers one hour of bowling, pizza and drinks, and prizes. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless in Albany.

Sign up [here](#). Participation is limited to 65 people.

ABLE is the largest student organization at the University at Albany. It provides professional development opportunities to UAlbany students. It partners with organizations across the university and beyond to create networking, community service and development opportunities for its members.



Welcome new members **Rhiannon Clauss, Maria Cardes and Susan Rizzo** who joined in March. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events!

The Woman's Club of Albany
Contact email: womansclubofalbany725@gmail.com
725 Madison Avenue ■ Albany, NY 12208 ■ (518) 465-3626

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