

ANNUAL REPORT- WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

May 12, 2020

What a strange year this has been!

The Women's Leadership Alliance began the year with plans for a full slate of programming from October to May.

The fall started with a well attended Fall Lunch, giving us the chance to preview our upcoming plans for the year.

In October we held a panel discussion on the *MeToo movement, with a representative from the city, a lawyer and a clinical psychologist.

In January we sponsored a session on Reproductive Rights, led by the Reverend Darcy Roark of New Orleans.

In February we held a multi-part workshop on aging, titled Hindsight, Humor and Hope. Ironically it ended with encouragement to bring our wills and living wills up to date, just a few days before New York City shut down for the coronavirus.

Our plans for the spring came to an abrupt end, with the cancellation of our popular April film series, our Annual Meeting and our Prospect Park event. All will be rescheduled for next year!

We were able to sponsor the April 26 Zoom service, featuring Meagan Henry, Jennifer Joy and our own Abby Grosslein. All three were terrific!

Our ongoing activities include the Book Club, which has been sponsored by the WLA since the 1980's. We read a variety of

fiction and non-fiction books and have recently been successful in holding our Book Club meetings on-line through Zoom.

We also continue to host In the Company of Women, a multi-generational discussion group open to anyone who identifies as a woman. This group too has migrated to Zoom and is enthusiastically continuing.

The WLA provides financial support to church seminarians Meagan Henry and Sara Gush. We also support a number of charitable institutions, including the Minister's Discretionary Fund, Immigrant Solidarity, the Homeless Girl Scout Troop, Planned Parenthood and the NY Abortion Access Committee. We provide leadership support to members attending General Assembly and others with interesting projects. And we provide relief for those with health-related crises through the Miriam Campobasso Fund.

2019 was a sad year for us, as we lost both Ann Ware and Larry Calia, long-time members and friends. Our losses have continued this year, with the recent loss of Sally Ellis, Olive Hoogenboom and Kathy Sonderman.

It is our sincere hope that we will eagerly resume our programs along with the rest of the congregation in September. We are scheduling the Fall Lunch with optimism.

Pat Steele, President
Women's Leadership Alliance