

PROGRAM YEAR END REPORT

2016 - 2017

We want to thank our committee members for all of their input and ideas that helped make this a most interesting, informative and fun programming year. It takes everyone's contribution to bring forward worthwhile programs for all of our membership. We hope you have enjoyed them as much as we have enjoyed planning them.

We began the year with our new membership meeting in October where the featured presenter, Sue McLane, the "Victorian Lady", returned and did a program titled "Utopia" which told the stories of some of the alternative lifestyle groups in the 19th century and how that affected women's experience then and now.

This was followed by a most interesting and timely program in November which was presented by our Diversity Initiative Group under the chairmanship of Jacke Goffe-McNash, featuring Dr. Nada Halloway who led a discussion of "Understanding Islam", raising such questions as "What created the radicalism that we are seeing today? What rights do women have within Islam? Are revisionists providing a reading of the religion that is at odds with the Quran?"

December was a time for us to refresh ourselves with a program on different types of meditation presented by Rev. Susan O. Dabrowski. Thanks to Gloria Ghedini who arranged this program for us.

At our January meeting we had a very thought provoking presentation by Stu Shinske, formerly from the Poughkeepsie Journal, who made us think hard about the sources of our news and what is real news versus "fake news", and the challenges of print media today. Thanks to Cathy Kinn for her help in making this program possible.

In February we were snowed out. Thanks to Betty Harrel, Barbara Durniak, and Barbara VanItallie who had put together a most interesting program, combined with Vassar College students, on the Beacon Recycling Plant and Zero to Go composting. Look for the program this coming year; it is one not to be missed. In addition, Barbara VanItallie put together a comprehensive handout on "How to Get Rid of Stuff", a comprehensive list of everything. That can be found on our web site.

“Rehabilitation Through the Arts” was our program in March. Katherine Vockins, Founder of RTA, along with Charles Moore, an alumnus of the program, told us how the program in the prisons uses theatre, dance, music, voice, writing and visual arts as tools to develop life skills and change behavior patterns. Currently the program operates in five maximum and medium security prisons in NYS.

May concluded our Program year with a presentation by Judith Kalaora, Artistic Director and Actress of History At Play. Her portrayal of Lucy Stone, an early suffragette was fascinating and very well received by our membership.

We would be remiss not to mention the entire committee as it was through their discussion, brainstorming and direction that made our programs work. The names with * were directly involved with the 2016 – 2017 programming. Thank you to: Susie Blecker, Mary Coiteux, Maria DeWald*, Barbara Durniak*, Gloria Ghedini*, Betty Harrel*, Gwen Higgins, Cathy Kinn*, Pat Luczai*, Marti Madory*, Irene Miliken, Jean Miller, Megan Murray, Anthula Natsoulas, Terry Schneider, Roberta Tracy, Barbara VanItallie*, Janna Whearty and CaroleWolf*.

Of course, we need to thank all who contributed to our delicious refreshments month after month.

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