



President's Corner: What is true love?

#### Dear friends,

What do Valentine's Day, Black History Month and our Founders' birthday, which we celebrate in February, have in common? It is love! True love!

How and why? Valentine's Day surely is about love, although most of the time this takes the form of transient romantic love. However, I personally prefer to reference the origin of this day, which in the past was celebrated as a minor Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named St. Valentine. In particular, I like an account of the imprisonment of St. Valentine of Rome for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire in the third century. According to an early tradition, St. Valentine restored sight to the blind daughter of his jailer, which to me is a sign of true love: loving your enemy...

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Black History is American History."

### **WFWP USA celebrates Black History Month 2021** with its theme "The Black Family: Representation, **Identity and Diversity**"

"We cannot meet God from a position of reigning over others. He finds us when we are silently working for the sake of those in greater difficulty than ourselves." -- Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

WFWP USA is proud to acknowledge and participate in the annual celebration of Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, each year in February. Since its founding by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon in 1992, WFWP has continued to focus on issues that impact human rights and women's dignity. The national theme this year to celebrate Black History Month is to reflect and show representation, preservation, identity and the impact of diversity for Blacks.

As an African American woman, I have seen over a decade the effort WFWP leaders and members make to interact as sisters regardless of race, economic status, culture, political or religious ideology in communities around the world...

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#### Celebrating MLK Day: WFWP Elizabeth supports a homeless shelter

Every third Monday of January, the nation celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through a federal holiday known as MLK Day. It is also recognized as a national day of service, encouraging all Americans to volunteer and serve their local communities through a variety of service projects.

In support of this, the WFWP Elizabeth New Jersey chapter, in cooperation with the Elizabeth Family Church, initiated a coat drive to help homeless people in the city. More than 100 pairs of winter socks, gloves, hats and scarves and dozens of winter coats for adults and children were donated to The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless in Elizabeth City...

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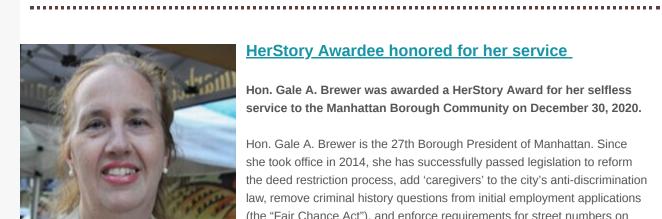
#### Quilting through the ages

On Friday, December 11th, 2020, six WFWP participants joined in a virtual meeting hosted by the **WFWP Hackensack New Jersey chapter** to hear Mrs. Joy Lascari give a presentation of quilting in America through the ages. We were also delighted to see some of her own handiwork!

Joy has taken a keen interest in needlework since she was a little girl. At age five, she was already making clothes for her Barbie dolls. Then in junior high school she would sew her own clothes as finances were tight and she wanted to design her own clothes anyway.

One of her favorite activities is making quilts. She often uses pieces of fabric that tell a story and by seeing the quilt she can remember that story...

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### **HerStory Awardee honored for her service**

Hon. Gale A. Brewer was awarded a HerStory Award for her selfless service to the Manhattan Borough Community on December 30, 2020.

Hon. Gale A. Brewer is the 27th Borough President of Manhattan. Since she took office in 2014, she has successfully passed legislation to reform the deed restriction process, add 'caregivers' to the city's anti-discrimination law, remove criminal history questions from initial employment applications (the "Fair Chance Act"), and enforce requirements for street numbers on buildings in Manhattan (to aid emergency workers). She has also spearheaded community planning initiatives at the South Street Seaport, in East Midtown, and in other neighborhoods to address development and zoning issues...

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## An ancient perspective on peace

Hope. Peace. Inspiration. These were the gifts Dr. Linda Nishikawa, WFWP USA Western Regional Director, gave the participants of the WFWP members' exclusive webinar, Indigenous American Voices of Peace: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Times, on January 28, 2021. Dr. Nishikawa shared fascinating insights from her beautiful Native culture, and one could not help feeling a new appreciation for the art, music, dance, and storytelling of the many peoples who call America home. We could almost imagine ourselves taking part in a special women's lodge or an annual powwow!

Dr. Nishikawa shared how Indigenous Americans were prepared by God to befriend the Pilgrims and how the First Thanksgiving was a coming together of two civilizations that loved God, though they worshipped in different ways. We heard words of wisdom from Black Elk and Crazy Horse, who tell how to have peace within yourself and with brothers and sisters...

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### Relearning history: Reflections on Black history by a homeschooling mother

Due to the pandemic, I decided to begin homeschooling my three children last year, and soon our small learning pod grew to include my friend's three kids. After teaching math and science at a private school for three years, I found myself teaching history for the first time. Thanks to an in-depth curriculum provided by <u>Core Knowledge</u>, the same one used in the private school where I had worked, I was learning for the first time about the contributions of African Americans that were not as well known and never included in my childhood history books.

For example, we recently studied about the construction of Washington, DC. I was learning right along with my students that it was slaves and freed black men who built the White House. I learned about Benjamin Banneker, the surveyor of the then new capital...

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# Save the planet AND regrow the economy

Joyce Wilson is passionate about preserving our planet, and here she introduces the concept of ecopreneurship, which combines business innovation with environmental impact.

Can you become a successful entrepreneur while dedicating yourself to environmentalism? Today, the answer is yes! You might be inspired by the Women's Federation for World Peace USA, which is currently spreading environmental awareness through the Giving for Good project, and wondering how to combine your love for the planet with your interest in business. The resources below will provide you with lots of valuable advice on getting started with "ecopreneurship"...

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## <u>Upcoming WFWP Events: Global and Local</u>

Check out the calendar for exciting upcoming events.

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### WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU! PLEASE SEND YOUR FEEDBACK, CONTRIBUTIONS & IDEAS TO: wfwp.newsletter@gmail.com













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