



April 2017

## The Y's Women Newsletter

### GENERAL MEETINGS

*Open to members and their guests*

**Place:** Temple Israel, Westport  
**10:45 am** Coffee and Conversation  
**11:30 am** Meeting and Speaker

**We must enter through the doors from the upper parking lot. There are a limited number of parking spaces in the upper lot; please leave them for those who have difficulty walking. Others please park in the lower lot and walk to the upper entrance.**

**April 10**

**Clarinda Higgins: "Against the Current" – Albert Schweitzer and Cousin Mark**

For five decades, author Clarinda Higgins yearned to discover the details of what had happened to her beloved first cousin Mark Higgins. Mark had left home at age 19 to work at a jungle hospital in Gabon under the auspices of Albert Schweitzer, and he later disappeared in the rebellious, anarchistic, and newly independent Congo of 1960.

To solve the mystery, she and her husband, William Armstrong, conducted extensive research for two years, traveled deep into the jungles of Gabon, and then wrote a book – "an adventure story, a mystery, and an inspiration about a young man with a vision of service above self," Clarinda says. "But the larger story revolves around the dramatic events, and what Mark's service has meant to succeeding generations." Please join us for this presentation about quests for authenticity, adventure, and fulfillment.

**April 24**

**Ada Winsten: Her Life Story and Travels**

Ada Winsten will speak to us about her childhood as a refugee in Shanghai during the Holocaust. Now 82, the memories of her eight years in China don't

bother her much – more disturbing are the memories of her early years in Poland, where neighbors cut off their sons' thumbs so they couldn't be drafted.

Ada was five when Russian soldiers confiscated her family's lumber business and home in Poland and told the family of four to be out in 48 hours. They were among 15,000 Polish Jews who left for Lithuania in 1939. Ada remembers approaching the border in her father's arms, acutely aware of the danger of getting caught. A year later the family ran again, this time on a train across Russia to Japan.

In Shanghai, Ada lived in a tiny room with her parents and older sister. Walking to the elementary

**(continued on next page)**

### Save the Date

Tuesday, June 13

End-of-year luncheon and  
annual meeting

Birchwood Country Club, 25 Kings  
Highway South, Westport  
\$25 per person, cash bar

Pay **BY MAY 28** at the membership  
table during April & May meetings, or  
mail check to Barbara Morrow, 132  
Old Mill Road, Shelton, CT 06484.

When paying:

- Indicate choice of entrée (chicken or salmon mediterranean salad, or vegetarian dish).
- Select up to 10 people with whom you would like to sit.

school she calls her second home, she would pass dead babies left on porches, wrapped in “little bundles of straw.” Nevertheless, she remembers a happy life in China largely because of the incredible strength of her parents. The family finally left China in 1948 to settle in the Bronx, where they learned American customs and adjusted to a stable life. Ada went to school, made friends, married, and moved to Rhode Island.

“Being Jewish is who I am,” says Ada. “It’s like I have dark hair and dark eyes. It’s deep in my soul. You don’t forget that.”

### **SATELLITE GROUPS (Y’s Women Members ONLY)**

**Book Group 1** will meet on Thursday, April 20 at 1:00 pm in the Westport Library’s Seminar Room. We are reading *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* by Anthony Marra. We would be pleased to welcome new members. Call Frankie Stein at 226-4219 or Connie Beskind at 255-8682 if you are interested.

**Book Group 2** will meet on Thursday, April 6 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at Panera Bread, located in Westport at 1860 Post Road East (next to Home Goods). We will be discussing *Everybody’s Fool* by Richard Russo, and the discussion will be led by Arlene Bloom. Please contact Arlene at 254-9096 or [bloomah@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bloomah@sbcglobal.net) to RSVP.

**Book Group 3** will meet on Friday, April 7 at 10:30 am at Panera Bread, next to Home Goods in Southport. The book for discussion is **Foreign Affairs** by Alison Lurie. Questions? Please contact Joan Harnett at 587-1170 or Doris Levinson at 227-3371.

The **Investment Group** meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 9:30 am at the Westport Senior Center. The April meeting is on the 27th. For more information, please email group president Beverly Silverman at [bevjsil@yahoo.com](mailto:bevjsil@yahoo.com).

### **Looking for Help with Newsletter**

Do you enjoy writing, editing, or design? Do you have an eagle eye for typos? We are looking for someone to help produce the Y’s Women Newsletter. It’s a great way to keep in touch with what’s going on – and to get more involved with our organization. Please contact Merle Spiegel at 226-1124 or [merlespiegel@yahoo.com](mailto:merlespiegel@yahoo.com) if you’re interested.

### **Newcomers Luncheon**

**When:** April 24 at 1:00 pm

**Where:** The Pearl at Longshore, 260 Compo Rd S  
**RSVP by April 20** to Judith Runnette at 838-8764  
or [younglady2@optimum.net](mailto:younglady2@optimum.net)

All are welcome – new members, old members, and those who are thinking of joining.

### **Solos**

The next Solos dinner will be held on Saturday, April 8. Since we had no official get-together in March, we decided to schedule this in the early part of the month. No conflict with Passover or Easter – no opera. Let’s hope lots of you can attend. It will be at 5:30 pm at Joan Weinstein’s house (46 Tannery Lane South, Weston, CT 06883). Send Joan your check for \$30, made out to Joan Weinstein – Solos, to hold your reservation.

### **Free Caption Phone**

Under the federal Title IV program, anyone with a hearing loss is entitled to a free caption phone. If interested, contact Wayne Simmons (860-335-1140), who will install the device at no cost to participants.

### **Carpool & Go!**

A special treat! On Wednesday, April 19, we will visit the home of our own Becky Ruthven to see her marvelous collections of art of all kinds – especially Native American pottery, jewelry, clothing, and artifacts from many regions. After Becky tells us about various items from the Indian collection, we will enjoy an onsite buffet lunch, and following that we will have time to view additional sculptures, paintings, and furniture throughout her lovely home. **Please note:** there are very steep stairs connecting the entry to the lower level.



We will carpool as usual, meeting in the Trader Joe’s / Wells Fargo parking lot at 10:25 am for a 10:40 departure. Please reserve your spot with Lydia Menendez, 319-1110 or [lydiamndz12@gmail.com](mailto:lydiamndz12@gmail.com). The cost for the lunch is \$15 – please mail a check made out to Lydia to 388 Oldfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06824 **as soon as possible**. Also please let her know if you can drive – **drivers are always most appreciated!**



## *TRIPS*

### **Tuesday, May 16: The Botanical Gardens' All-New Chihuly Exhibition!!**

Enjoy luncheon from a special menu at the renowned **City Island Lobster House**, followed by our visit to the **New York Botanical Gardens** for their special exhibition of breathtaking works of art by world-renowned artist **Dale Chihuly**. This is his first major garden exhibition in New York in more than 10 years. **Price per person is \$122, all inclusive!**

### **Wednesday, June 7: The American Ballet Theatre's "Le Corsaire."**

Enjoy luncheon at **Chez Josephine**, a colorful tribute to the legendary entertainer Josephine Baker. From there take your Dress Circle seat and enjoy a performance of the **American Ballet Theatre's *Le Corsaire***. This classical ballet is steeped in swashbuckling adventure and passionate romance. Visually gorgeous, it features exotic designs with lavish sets and costumes, splashy choreography, and a sweeping score. **Price per person is \$161, all inclusive. NOTE: We need to hear from you right away if you're interested in this special trip, since a non-refundable deposit must be made very shortly or the trip will be canceled.**

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**Detailed flyers for all trips are available at the Y's Women's General Meetings or by contacting **Pat Farmer** at 227-3076 or [pahf02@gmail.com](mailto:pahf02@gmail.com). When reserving for a trip, please observe the tear-off on the bottom of the flyer with the pertinent information and entree choices requested, just to make life a little easier on the Travel Chairman. If you are unable to attend a meeting and want a flyer, please contact Pat Farmer and she can mail you one either electronically or by snail mail. Many thanks!**

**Trip Cancellation Policy: Your payment is your reservation.  
Refunds will be given only if your place can be sold to someone else.**