



*The Y's Women*

February 2021

## The Y's Women Newsletter

*During COVID, General Meetings are broadcast on the Y's Women YouTube channel – [Y's Women YouTube](#) – and can be viewed live or at a future date.*

**Jane Ferreira, Mercy Learning Center: February 8 at 11:30 am**



Jane Ferreira, President and CEO of Bridgeport's Mercy Learning Center (MLC), will describe some of the many educational and support services MLC offers. These services can change lives forever – not only the women's lives but the lives of

their families and our volunteers and supporters as well.

The Center's mission has always been to provide basic literacy and life skills training to low-income women, offering a range of flexible programs to meet the needs of its diverse students. MLC uses a holistic approach within a compassionate and supportive environment to offer part- and full-time academic programs as well as a range of support services. All women are welcome without regard for race, religion, color, creed, sexual orientation, or national origin.

Jane will share Mercy Learning Center's story, its positive and lasting impact on our local community, and its future plans. She will highlight MLC's many success stories and will describe the numerous recent challenges the Center has faced as well as the ways in which it has adapted to these challenges.

**Bill Harris, Sacred Heart University Community Theater: February 22 at 11:30 am**

Bill Harris, Director of Sacred Heart University (SHU) Community Theater, will discuss the theater's future as an arts and education site providing a range of events such as high-profile lectures, author talks, unique films, concerts, and performances for students and the community. Plans also include educational outreach and after-school initiatives, university master classes, STEM events, Saturday double features, eSports, celebrity speakers, dinner and movie nights, matinees, midnight screenings, and community events. These events are expected to begin this spring or summer, as soon as Covid restrictions concerning public gatherings are relaxed.

Bill will report on the full-scale renovation of the former Community Movie Theater in downtown Fairfield. The century-old facility was transformed into a modern 400-plus seat venue that meets current needs while still reflecting the art deco design of the original theater.



In addition to being Director of the SHU Community Theater, Bill holds several other positions at Sacred Heart University: Adjunct Professor of Communications and Media Studies, Producer-in-Residence, and Member of the University's Board of Visitors. He is a television programming executive whose 30-plus years of broadcast, cable, and independent film earned him multiple awards and national recognition.

We look forward to learning about plans for the opening of the Sacred Heart University Community Theater.

## SATELLITE GROUPS (Y's Women Members ONLY)

**Book Group 2** will meet on Zoom on Thursday, February 4 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. The book to be discussed is *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout. The discussion will be led by Beverly Silverman.

**Book Group 3** will meet on Friday, February 12 at 10:30 am on Zoom to discuss *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabelle Allende. Andrea Turner will lead the discussion. New members are welcome. Questions? Contact Doris Levinson at [drjlevinson@gmail.com](mailto:drjlevinson@gmail.com) or 227-3371.

**The Movie Club** will have a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, February 17 at 1:30 pm to discuss *The Apartment* and *Spotlight*. *The Apartment* was shown on the WNET network of PBS as part of Reel 13 Classics (January 23 at 9:00 pm). If you did not see or record it then, you may be able to see it through a PBS playback system (such as Thirteen Passport) or other streaming service. Also, its DVD is listed in the Westport Library catalog. *Spotlight* is available on Netflix, and its DVD is listed in the catalogs of the Westport and Fairfield libraries.

In *The Apartment*, “Insurance worker C. C. Baxter (Jack Lemmon) lends his Upper West Side apartment to company bosses to use for extramarital affairs. When his manager Mr. Sheldrake (Fred MacMurray) begins using Baxter’s apartment in exchange for promoting him, Baxter is disappointed to learn that Sheldrake’s mistress is Fran Kubelik (Shirley MacLaine), the elevator girl at work whom Baxter is interested in himself. Soon Baxter must decide between the girl he loves and the advancement of his career.”

*Spotlight* is a “riveting true story of the Pulitzer Prize winning *Boston Globe* investigation that would rock the city and cause a crisis in one of the world’s oldest and most trusted institutions. When the newspaper’s tenacious ‘Spotlight’ team of reporters delve into allegations of abuse in the Catholic Church, their year-long investigation uncovers a decades-long cover-up at the highest levels of Boston’s religious, legal, and government establishment.”

If you wish to be added to the email list for future events, please contact Margaret Mitchell at 255-9094 or [margaret06824@yahoo.com](mailto:margaret06824@yahoo.com).

## MERCY LEARNING CENTER NEEDS HELP

Y’s Women have long been donating nonperishable food and other necessities (such as diapers, clothing, and accessories) to the Mercy Learning Center (MLC) of Bridgeport. Other members send checks

and gift cards to Mercy Learning Center, 637 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604. These donations are needed more than ever during this time of Covid, and Mercy Learning Center is very grateful for our continuing support. On February 8, we will hear from Jane Ferreira, President and CEO of MLC, who will give us a good look at some of the services this fine organization provides (see previous page).



Please continue to donate food and other items to MLC. You can call Barb Stephan at 557-3551 and she will pick up your donations – or you can drop them off in the Leasing Office at the main lobby of 597

Westport Avenue (across from Whole Foods). Just call Barb when you get there and she’ll come down to greet you.

## IN MEMORIAM

We are grieved to report the recent passing of three Y’s Women:

- **Joan Weinstein** died on January 23 at Norwalk Hospital. She had been recovering from a fall and succumbed to Covid, from which she passed away. Joan was the beloved head of the Y’s Women’s **Solos** group. A Celebration of Life will be held on Zoom on Thursday, February 4 at 4:30 pm. If you’re interested in attending, please call Joan’s daughter Lisa at (484) 802-1287.
- **Bernice Polan**, a former educator at the University of Bridgeport, died peacefully in her sleep on December 30, 2020.
- **Ellen Linker** died of Covid in December, after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease.

If you know of any of our members who are ill or who pass away, please contact Cary Peterson, our Y’s Care Coordinator, at [carypeterson3@gmail.com](mailto:carypeterson3@gmail.com).

## Please Renew Your Membership

If you haven’t already done so, please renew your Y’s Women membership for 2020/21. Just send your \$45 check to Doris Levinson at 6 Beechwood Lane, Westport, CT 06880. We are planning to continue to have two speakers each month through May. And remember, you can’t belong to any of our satellite groups if you’re not a Y’s Women member.