



The Y's Women

April 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.

Alex Anvari, Cultural Biodiversity: April 12 at 11:30 am



Alex Anvari, President of the United Nations Association of Southwest Connecticut, will discuss culturally rich communities and their traditional support of biodiversity. His multimedia presentation will focus on nature, art, science, and social customs. The key takeaway is the motivation for individuals to embrace and advocate for holistic practices within their community. Species survive and thrive within an ecosystem – as do individuals in their community – when diversity, inclusivity, interdependence, and engagement are brought to life. “We can build a community that respects Mother Earth as well as all her peoples,” says Alex. “We can do something together by building global awareness of cultural diversity and biodiversity by acknowledging the beauty of individuals and their communities.”

Alex lived in four countries, spoke three languages, and was exposed to a wide range of people, opinions, cultural biases, communities, and ecosystems by the age of nine. He attended Tehran International School and graduated from the Interlochen Arts Academy. After attending universities in four time zones, he received an MBA and MPA with concentration in competitive strategy and regulation from the Yale School of Management. His career included leadership roles in sales, services, and business development in a variety of industries, including VP

and Controller of Oracle. Alex is a guest lecturer at universities, webinars, and industry conferences. In addition to his current role at the UN Association, he coaches alpine ski racers at Stratton Mountain, Vermont.

Amanda Skinner, Ensuring Health Care Access: April 26 at 11:30 am

Amanda Skinner, President and Chief Executive Officer of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE), will speak on Empathy and Innovation – the ways in which Planned Parenthood worked to ensure health care access during COVID-19. She will describe how she navigated her organization through the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. PPSNE is, first and foremost, a health care provider and a critical part of the public health safety net. The impact of COVID-19 was unprecedented and required innovative yet empathetic leadership. Amanda was able to lead the organization through its most choppy waters, placing priority on safety and access to “care – no matter what.” She will discuss some of the positives that came out of this time, such as launching a comprehensive telehealth platform in two weeks with more than 20,000 visits to date and opening a newly remodeled health center in Waterbury. While PPSNE has shifted on-the-ground advocacy and education work to the virtual world, it continues to keep a consistent focus on the relevance and necessity of its mission during the country’s most trying times.

Amanda is an experienced health care executive committed to improving care for all and manifesting social justice values through strategy and operations.



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A thought leader on sexual and reproductive health care and rights, value-based care, and population health, she has been featured nationally as a speaker and in print interviews. Amanda graduated from Rice University in Houston, earned a master's degree in nursing from the Yale School of Nursing with a clinical focus in nurse-midwifery, and holds an MBA from the Yale School of Management. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

SATELLITE GROUPS (Y's Women Members ONLY)

Book Group 2 will meet on Thursday, April 1 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm on Zoom. The book to be discussed is *Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton, and the discussion will be led by Doris Skutch.

Book Group 3 will meet on Zoom on Friday, April 9 at 10:30 am to discuss *Evidence of Things Unseen* by Margaret Wiggins. Judith Schomer will lead the discussion. Zoom links will be sent the day before the meeting. Questions? Contact Doris Levinson at drjlevinson@gmail.com or 227-3371.

The **Movie Club** will have a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, April 21, at 1:30 pm to discuss *The Pianist* and *Julie and Julia*. *The Pianist* was shown on the WNET network of PBS as part of Reel 13 Classics (March 20 at 9:00 pm), and *Julie and Julia* is available on Netflix. If you did not see or record *The Pianist* when it was originally broadcast, you may be able to see it through a PBS playback system (such as Thirteen Passport) or other streaming service such as Hoopla. Also, both movies are listed in the catalogs of the Westport and Fairfield libraries.

The Pianist is a 2002 biographical war drama produced and directed by Roman Polanski, with a script by Ronald Harwood, and starring Adrien Brody. It is based on the autobiographical book *The Pianist* (1946), a Holocaust memoir by the Polish-Jewish pianist and composer Władysław Szpilman, a Holocaust survivor.

Julie and Julia is a 2009 American biographical comedy-drama written and directed by Nora Ephron and starring Meryl Streep, Amy Adams, Stanley Tucci, and Chris Messina. The film is the first major motion picture based on a blog.

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

NewsTalk will meet on Zoom at 10:00 am on Thursday, April 22 for a lively discussion of news of the day. If you're interested in this group, please contact Doris Skutch at 247-3656.

Wisest Investment Group: 20+ years and still going, the Wisest Investment Group has weathered up stock markets and down stock markets and learned a lot along the way. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 22 from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon on Zoom. If the market intrigues and you like researching, sharing ideas, and being a part of a Wise Group, please contact Lois Block at loisblock@optonline.net.

The **Memoirs Group** will meet on Tuesday, April 20. We have not yet determined if we will have a Zoom meeting or get together in person, since it depends on the weather. We really enjoyed meeting at the Levitt Pavillion last summer and fall. Our group welcomes new members; if you're interested, please contact Cary Peterson at carypeterson3@gmail.com.

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to announce two deaths:

- Buddy Rubin, husband of Y's Woman Sheila Rubin, passed away in Florida.
- Jeri Skinner passed away in South Carolina on March 6, of congestive heart failure.

VI. HMA's Student Docent Program

Please email your questions to YW.Questions@Yahoo.com

On March 22, Robbin Zella entertained us with a comprehensive look at the Housatonic Museum of Art. If you missed this presentation, you can access it at any time at [Y's Women YouTube](#).