



The Y's Women

April 2022

The Y's Women Newsletter

GENERAL MEETINGS

Open to members and their guests

Place Branson Hall, Christ and Holy Trinity Church, 75 Church Lane, Westport

10:45 am Conversation

11:30 am Meeting and Speaker

April 11: Gilbert L. Gigliotti, PhD – Sinatra: A Storied Singer



From the “Sinatramania” of the Bobbysoxers, through his storied fall and rebirth, to his becoming the Chairman of the Board (and beyond!), Frank Sinatra embodied the “American Century.” In this presentation, Dr. Gigliotti, Professor of English and Latin at Central Connecticut State University, will discuss

some of Sinatra’s most entertaining, powerful, and significant performances in song and film – with a peek behind the scenes at his wives, lovers, friends, and politics.

In addition to his academic position, Dr. Gigliotti has been the host for almost three decades of “Frank, Gil, and Friends” every Tuesday morning on WFCS 107.7 FM and wfcsradio.com. He earned his PhD in comparative literature at The Catholic University of America. His books on Frank Sinatra and Ava Gardner belie his more traditional academic interests in early American poets like Anne Bradstreet and Phillis Wheatley, the late 18th-century writers The Connecticut Wits, and the literature of ancient Greece and Rome.

April 25: Aye Aye Thant – “Burma 101: A Personal Perspective”

Aye Aye Thant, Trustee of the U Thant House in Yangon, Myanmar, will give us a brief introduction to Burma/Myanmar’s modern history and culture. She will also share her personal history in Myanmar, starting from childhood and culminating in her journey to the US. In addition, she will share memories of her father, U Thant, the third Secretary-General of the United Nations.



The U Thant House, the home of U Thant and his family in the 1950s, was restored in 2013 as a small museum dedicated to the memories of U Thant, his vision, and his ideals for peace. Programs at U Thant House are “guided by the values espoused by U Thant – internationalism, education for peace, tolerance, and non-discrimination.”

Aye Aye Thant founded the U Thant Institute in 2003 to reflect on her father’s vision of a world that is safe for diversity and to foster peace by promoting a spirit of “One World.” She was President of the Institute until 2011 when it was dissolved. The Institute organized annual luncheons and lecture series to address current issues and problems facing the world, donating the proceeds to the appropriate organizations.

For the Institute’s inauguration, Aye Aye Thant compiled a booklet entitled “One World – the Vision of U Thant,” with excerpts from her father’s speeches and writings as well as photos from his years at the United Nations. She also reprinted his book, *View from the UN*.

Be Part of the Y's Women Leadership Team

We need a new Vice President to replace Margaret Mitchell at the end of June, when Margaret becomes President. The Vice President is responsible for identifying speakers for our Monday meetings, communicating with the speakers, and introducing them at our meetings.

The Vice President's responsibilities can be shared by a committee, rather than assigned to one person. Also, the Vice President does not need to search for speakers alone. She could receive speaker suggestions from other Y's Women, community members, and past speakers. Some speakers already have been identified for the coming year.

Please consider participating in this process by suggesting a possible Vice President, pursuing your own interest in this position, or agreeing to assume some of its responsibilities. We all want our organization to succeed and to continue to offer interesting speakers at the Monday meetings, and we need to work together to make this happen.

You can obtain more information, offer suggestions, or provide assistance by contacting any of the following Y's Women:

- Arline Gertzoff, Nominating Committee Chair, mgertzoff@snet.net or 856-0160
- Barb Stephen, President, dynamier@icloud.com or 247-7989
- Margaret Mitchell, VP, margaret06824@yahoo.com or 255-9094

SATELLITE GROUPS

(Y'S Women Members Only)

Book Group 2 will meet on Thursday, April 7 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. The book to be discussed is *The Paper Daughters of Chinatown*, and the discussion will be led by Doris Skutch. For questions, contact Nancy Bloom at nancyerb@aol.com or Arlene Bloom at bloomah@sbcglobal.net.

Book Group 3 will meet on Friday, April 8 at 10:30 am at Panera Bread in Westport (Post Road East, next to Home Goods) to discuss *The Murmur of Bees* by Sophia Segovia. The discussion will be led by Andi Turner. Please contact Doris Levinson with any questions at drjlevinson@gmail.com or 227-3371.

The **Movie Club** will meet on Wednesday, April 20, at Panera Bread. We meet informally at 1:00 pm to give members a chance to socialize and/or eat lunch, and we begin our discussion at 1:30. We ask that all attendees have been vaccinated.

Our movies for April are *Woman in Gold* and *Midnight in Paris*. *Woman in Gold* is scheduled to be broadcast at 9:00 pm on April 9 on the WNET network of PBS as part of Reel 13 Classics. If you do not see or record this movie when it is 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. *Midnight in Paris* is available through Netflix. The DVDs for both movies are also listed in the catalogs of the Westport and Fairfield Libraries.

Woman in Gold is a 2015 biographical drama directed by Simon Curtis and written by Alexi Kaye Campbell. The film stars Helen Mirren, Ryan Reynolds, Daniel Brühl, Katie Holmes, Tatiana Maslany, Max Irons, Charles Dance, Elizabeth McGovern, and Jonathan Pryce. It is based on the true story of Maria Altmann, an elderly Jewish refugee living in Cheviot Hills, Los Angeles who, together with her young lawyer, Randy Schoenberg, fought the government of Austria for almost a decade to reclaim Gustav Klimt's iconic portrait of her aunt, Adele Bloch-Bauer. The painting was stolen from her relatives by the Nazis in Vienna just prior to World War II. Altmann took her legal battle all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States, which ruled on the case *Republic of Austria v. Altmann* in 2004.

Midnight in Paris is a 2011 fantasy comedy written and directed by Woody Allen. Set in Paris, the film follows Gil Pender (Owen Wilson), a screenwriter, who is forced to confront the shortcomings of his relationship with his materialistic fiancée (Rachel McAdams) and their divergent goals, which become increasingly exaggerated as he travels back in time each night at midnight. Produced by the Spanish group Mediapro and Allen's US-based Gravier Productions, the film also stars Kathy Bates, Adrien Brody, Carla Bruni, Tom Hiddleston, Marion Cotillard, and Michael Sheen. It premiered at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival and won critical acclaim, being considered one of Allen's best films in recent years. In 2012, it won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay and the Golden Globe Award for Best Screenplay.

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

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SATELLITE GROUPS

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Solos will meet on Saturday, April 23 at 4:00 pm for an early dinner at Osteria Romana, 250 Westport Avenue, Norwalk. The price is \$45. Please mail your check, made out to Y's Women – Solos, by April 15 to Terry Queirolo, 305 Foxboro Drive, Norwalk, CT 06851. You may also contact Terry at 847-4121 or tmq44@icloud.com to make a reservation. We look forward to seeing everyone again.

The **Lunch & Trivia** group will meet at noon on Thursday, April 21 at Organic Krush, located in Compo Shopping Center a few doors down from Trader Joe's. We will have sole occupancy of the restaurant, and the cost of lunch is \$20. Please call Ann Lloyd at 226-4145 or Arlene Bloom at 254-9096 if you are interested in attending.

Wisest Investment Group: Consider joining nine members of the Wisest Investment Group as we try to buy/sell/hold/cogitate on our joint stock portfolio. If you have a crystal ball, that would be a plus! We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month. For more information, contact our President, Louise Demakis, at 254-6424 or lwdemakis@optonline.net.

The **Memoirs Group** has been meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at 2:30. We have mostly been meeting online but hope to resume in-person meetings in April.

Carpool and Go!

We'll enjoy a history lesson on Wednesday, April 27 when we visit **the Florence Griswold Home and Museum** in Old Lyme, CT for an 11:00 am docent-guided tour of the exhibit "New London County Quilts and Bed Covers, 1750-1825." The domestic textiles from New London County from the mid-18th to early 19th century stand out as masterpieces of American needlecraft. The exhibit will include petticoats with maritime motifs, boldly patterned rugs, whitework quilts with sophisticated feathers and fruit, and patriotic appliques – all revealing the remarkable accomplishments of the New London women. Following our tour, we can walk next door to visit Miss Florence's fascinating boarding house/museum, which hosted many New York Impressionist artists at the turn of the last century. Following our tours, we'll lunch at the Penny Lane Pub in Old Saybrook.

We'll meet at Trader Joe's at 9:15 am for a 9:30 departure. Please contact Jill Meyer at 226-4310 or jill@awayfortheday.net to reserve your place, and

IN MEMORIAM: Carol Diamond



Carol Diamond, a founding member of Y's Women and our third president, passed away at Norwalk Hospital on March 10. She was 100 years old! Carol was the second person to receive the Y's Women's Fabulous Friend honor. She started NewsTalk and many other initiatives over the years.

Carol graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Smith College in 1942. While there, as president of the college's political action committee, she brought Eleanor Roosevelt to the campus to speak. She was an ad agency CEO, public housing advocate, writer, book editor, and human rights activist. Carol married Ted Diamond in 1946 and was happily married to him for 75 years. The couple moved to Westport in 1955.

In addition to her work with Y's Women, Carol was a past vice president and treasurer of the Westport Library. She received the "Silver Donkey" award for her years of service to the Democratic Party.

A celebration of Carol's life will be held at the Westport Library on Sunday, April 3 at 10:30 am, followed by a reception at the Westport Woman's Club.

mail your check for \$12 payable to Jill at 40 Owenoke Park, Westport, CT 06880. The gas reimbursement for your driver will be \$9 in cash. Please indicate whether you can drive, as drivers are **always** needed and appreciated.

DIRECTIONS:

Florence Griswold Museum, 96 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT: Take I-95 to exit 70. Drive to Route 1/CT Rte. 156 and turn left. Then turn right on Rte. 1, Halls Road, then left onto Lyme Street. #96 will be on your left.

Penny Lane Pub, 150 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT, 860-388-9646: Take Rte. 1 back to I-95 south. Take Exit 68 off I-95 onto US 1. Remain on US 1 until you reach Main Street. Turn left on Main Street, make a U-turn at Sheffield Street, and the Penny Lane Pub will be on your right.

NEW SATELLITE GROUPS PLANNED (Y's Women Members Only)

Bridge Group: Want to play bridge? We're hoping to start (or restart) the Bridge Group in some form (social, rubber, and/or duplicate). If you are interested, please contact Deanna Saltzman at salzy312@aol.com. She will try to coordinate and arrange games to be played at the Westport Senior Center on a weekly or monthly basis. Dates and times will be worked out after the responses have been received.

Mah Jong: We would like to start a Mah Jong Club, with games scheduled once a week if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Barbara Alfinito at Barbsgetaway@aol.com or 205-533-1884, and let her know your level of play.

Travel Club: We are pleased to announce a new Travel Club, organized by Barbara Alfinito. Though Barbara is new to Y's Women, she has been a travel agent and tour guide since 1994. Travel will include day and overnight trips, always by bus and always with a tour guide.

Currently in planning is a bus trip to New York City on May 1, leaving Westport at 9:00 am and leaving New York at 4:00 pm. It will include a private tour of the High Line, Little Island, and Chelsea Market, followed by lunch and shopping on your own. The price: \$99. **Please contact Barbara at 205-533-1884 or Barbsgetaway@aol.com as soon as possible if you're interested in this trip.**

Future trips might include theater in Manhattan, the Statue of Liberty and World Trade Center, a tour of Brooklyn with lunch at Junior's, an overnight trip to Washington, DC, and possible foreign excursions to Italy and London.

Barbara is planning to hold an informational meeting about the travel program. If you're interested, please email her at Barbsgetaway@aol.com with any feedback, and please include your phone number.



SAVE THE DATE Y'S WOMEN SPRING PICNIC

Monday, May 23
Jacky Durrell Pavilion at Penfield Beach
Fairfield, CT
11:30 am



- The pavilion is an enclosed building – weather will not be an issue.
- Fairfield parking stickers will not be required.



You can drop off nonperishable food, toiletries, and other items for the Mercy Learning Center in the Leasing Office of 597 Westport Avenue at any time.