



January 2019
Happy New Year!

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.

January 14

Claudia Connor & Alicia Kinsman: Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants

The Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI) envisions Connecticut as a place where new Americans may fully participate in our culturally diverse communities, where low-income families may have access to affordable immigration services and be reunited with family, where survivors of crime and persecution may have the resources needed to become self-supporting and healed, and where ethnic diversity is valued as a cultural and economic strength by all.

In this presentation, Claudia Connor, President and CEO, discusses the impact on a national level of changes in refugee admissions and immigration. She has nearly 30 years of program management advocacy and legal experience in the nonprofit sector in the US, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Prior to joining CIRI

in 2015, Claudia served on Save the Children's Strategic Foundation Partnerships team. Previously, she worked as a consultant with UNICEF and the Carter Center and was a senior trial attorney for the NY Legal Aid Society. Claudia holds a BA in history from the University of North Carolina and a JD from Brooklyn Law School.

Alicia Kinsman, Director & Managing Attorney of Immigration Legal Services for CIRI, provides legal representation in immigration matters to victims of trafficking and other crimes. She speaks around the state to raise awareness of victims and immigration relief. In 2013, Alicia received an FBI Field Certification for her work in assisting medical professionals and law enforcement personnel to identify and work with foreign-born crime victims. She has a BA from Providence College and a JD from Quinnipiac University School of Law, where she co-founded the Human Rights Law Society. She will show us a short film at this presentation, followed by a Q&A.

January 28

Colleen Palmer, PhD: The State of the Westport School System

As we all know, the school system is an important part of why so many people want to live in Westport. Dr. Colleen Palmer joined us as Superintendent of Schools for Westport two years ago, after five successful years in Weston and with prior experience in Monroe, Woodbury, Hamden, and Simsbury. Her vision statement says it all: "Westport Public Schools empower and inspire its students to make the world a better place." Using two of her favorite phrases – "Failure is not an option" and "Hope is not a strategy" – Colleen calls herself "tenacious and realistic" in her 24/7 job and tells people: "Dream big. My job is to remove barriers. We're all looking for better ideas and better ways to do things."

Her presentation to the Y's Women is particularly timely, following months of intense debate about



Claudia Connor

Alicia Kinsman

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what to do about the displacement of hundreds of students by the ongoing mold issue at Coleytown Middle School. In mid-December, a plan was approved to make Westport's elementary schools K-6 beginning next year. Under the plan, all seventh and eighth graders will attend Bedford Middle

School. Claudia will bring us up to date about the Board of Education's future plans for the Westport School System. "What we do know so far is that our Westport Public Schools will remain a hallmark of excellence in education, a community of learners that cherishes every student, and a treasure of the community of Westport that we all love," she says.

LUNCHES WITH SPEAKERS

We encourage a small group of members to have lunch with the speakers, at a Westport restaurant, following their presentation.

If you would like to join us, please contact Barb Stephen at dynamirc@optonline.net.

SATELLITE GROUPS

(Y's Women Members ONLY)

Book Group 2 will meet on Thursday, January 3 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at Panera Bread, located in Westport at 1860 Post Road East (next to Home Goods). The book to be discussed is *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles, and the discussion will be led by Jill Meyer. Please contact Arlene Bloom at bloomah@sbcglobal.net or 254-9096 to RSVP.

Book Group 3 will meet on Friday, January 11 at 10:30 am at Panera Bread in Westport to discuss *The Andromeda Strain* by Michael Crichton. New members are welcome. If you are interested in attending, contact Doris Levinson at 227-3371 or drjlevinson@gmail.com.

Solos will have a Game and Pizza night on Friday January 25 at 5:30 pm at The Saugatuck, 35 Bridge Street, Westport. Betty Kogen is our hostess, and the event will be held in the recreation room in the back of the building. If you want to join us, send your check for \$25 to Joan Weinstein – Solo's, 46 Tannery Lane South, Weston, CT 06883.

The **Movie Club** will meet on Wednesday, January 16 at 1:30 pm at Panera Bread to discuss *The Favourite*. This movie received widespread critical acclaim for direction, screenplay, cinematography, music, costume design, production values, and the performances of the three leading ladies – Olivia Coleman, Rachel Weisz, and Emma Stone. The story focuses on the behind-the-scenes politics between two cousins jockeying to be court favorites during the reign of Queen Anne in the early 18th century. If you wish to be added to the email list for future events, please contact Margaret Mitchell at 255-9094 or margaret06824@yahoo.com. New members and all other interested participants are welcome.

Y's Women Investment Group: Consider joining our innovative, forward-thinking group. We meet once a month to discuss our portfolio and decide to buy or sell. It's nice to have a group available to discuss the volatility of the market. At the advice of a knowledgeable broker who was a guest at a recent meeting, we are looking for geopolitical and economic trends to invest in. There is a buy-in to join the portfolio and an additional \$50 investment each month to buy new stocks. Come to our next meeting in January; you can contact our president, Bev Silverman, for details at bevjsil@yahoo.com or 256-0046.

Attention Trivia Lovers!

Please join other trivia lovers for Lunch and Trivia on Wednesday, January 16 from 12:30 to 2:00 pm at Panera Bread. Contact Ann Lloyd (226-4145, aslloyd@optonline.net) or Arlene Bloom (254-9096, bloomah@sbcglobal.net) **no later than January 15** and let them know if they can count you in! Not a good day? Don't worry! Lunch and Trivia will be held on a different day of the week each month.

From left, Barb Stephen, Patti Russo (speaker), Polly Temple, and Jennifer Tooker, Second Selectwoman, Westport at the November 26 Y's Women Meeting.





A lovely time was had by all at the Y's Women's 2018 Holiday Luncheon, held at Birchwood Country Club on December 13. Close to 70 guests enjoyed the delicious food and ambience, and a generous collection of gifts were donated for the Mercy Learning Center.

Carpool and Go!

From the beginning of time, jewelry has indicated identity and heralded social status. In recognition of the universal passion for and power of jewelry, we will visit the **Katonah Museum of Art** on **Wednesday, January 16** for an 11:00 am guided tour of the exhibit "Outrageous Ornament: Extreme Jewelry in the 21st Century." Created by internationally renowned artists eager to expand the boundaries of personal adornment, the 50 exciting and experimental pieces we will see in the exhibit are composed of various media. We will meet at the Trader Joe's/Wells Fargo parking lot at 9:45 am and depart at 10:00. Luncheon at Peppino's, 116 Katonah Avenue, Katonah, NY will follow our tour.

Please call Jill Meyer at 226-4310 or email her at jill@awayfortheday.net to reserve your place. If you wish to join us, mail a check for \$6 payable to Jill Meyer at 40 Owenoke Park, Westport, CT 06880. Bring \$5 in cash for your driver. Also, please indicate if you are able to drive – **drivers are always needed and appreciated.**

TRIPS

THE Y'S WOMEN'S TRANSATLANTIC VOYAGE ON THE QUEEN MARY 2 **New York to Southampton, England, June 7-14, 2019**

Join us for this very special trip and escape to a world of discovery and relaxation while crossing the Atlantic aboard the extraordinary *Queen Mary 2*. Rates from \$1,299 per person, based on double occupancy. **Special return airfare and post-cruise hotel and tour packages available at additional cost.**

PORTUGAL IN DEPTH: 11-DAY TOUR **September 12-23, 2019**

This in-depth land tour of Portugal begins and ends in Lisbon and circles the country. The price for this opportunity is \$2,299 per person double occupancy, excluding airfare and trip insurance.

Both these trips are being offered through Westport-based Travel Exchange. Our travel contacts are Fran Thomas and Dorothy Fox, both Y's Women. They may be reached at 221-3500. If you are even remotely interested in either trip, contact Fran or Dorothy and they will be able to give you all the details and special incentives for early bookings.

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. If you are unable to attend a meeting and want a flyer, please contact Pat and she can mail you one either electronically or by snail mail. Many thanks!