



June 2023

The Y's Women Newsletter

Dear Y's Women,

As we look back at the past year, we are so pleased with what we have experienced.

This is the first year since 2019 when we could hold all our meetings in person. We were able to hold our general meetings in the beautiful Green's Farms Church.

We enjoyed a year of interesting speakers; wonderful experiences with satellite groups; and our most precious commodity, the camaraderie with fellow members. We added a new satellite group called "Local Happenings" that has already held two activities. We ended the year with our annual meeting and a delicious lunch on a sunny day at the beach (see pictures below and on following page).

As we look ahead, we have been invited to visit the Westport-Weston YMCA on June 12 so we could consider more involvement with this organization (see article on page two). In addition, we continue to respond to members' suggestions for other activities and/or new satellite groups. These suggestions include frequent visits to MoCA Westport and a workshop with Antoinette Brim-Bell, Connecticut's current poet laureate.

We expect another year of interesting speakers, satellite group meetings, and other enjoyable activities. We hope to see you often.

We are grateful to the many volunteers who make the Y's Women succeed. We also want to remind you that we continue to need volunteers so we can help our organization thrive. It is only with your participation that we will succeed as an organization.

If we do not see you during the next few months, we look forward to seeing you in September. Have a great summer!

Margaret Mitchell and Vera DeStefano



2023 Spring Picnic



Terry Queirolo was honored with the 2023 Fabulous Friend award, given each year to a Y's Woman who goes above and beyond in service to our organization. Not only does Terry chair Solos, she co-chairs Hospitality and worked hard to make our year-end picnic such a success.



Meeting at Westport-Weston YMCA

The Westport-Weston YMCA has invited us to meet with them on June 12 so we can consider becoming involved with this organization. They are hosting a "coffee hour" for us to learn about the Y and its various classes and activities. Each attendee will receive a voucher to try out a class or other activity.

We will meet at **11:00 am on Monday, June 12** in the Y's Schine Meeting Room, 14 Allen Raymond Lane, Westport. If you would like to attend this special meeting, please email Margaret Mitchell at margaret06824@yahoo.com so that we can estimate the number of attendees.

SATELLITE GROUPS (Y's Women Members ONLY)

Note: All Y's Women who participate in meetings held at the Westport Center for Senior Activities must be registered with the Center and check in before each meeting.

Book Group 2 will meet at the Westport Center for Senior Activities on Thursday, June 1 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. We will be discussing *The Magician's Assistant* by Ann Patchett, and Doris Skutch will lead the discussion. The group will continue to meet during the summer. For questions, please contact Nancy Bloom at nancyerb@aol.com or Arlene Bloom at bloomah@sbcglobal.net.

(continued on page three)

SATELLITE GROUPS

(continued from page two)

Book Group 3 will meet at the Westport Center for Senior Activities at 10:30 am on the second Friday of the month in June, July, and August. On June 9 we will discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, led by Marcia Goldstein; on July 14 we will discuss *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi, led by Alin Chelico; and on August 11 we will discuss *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier, led by Valerie Roffe. If you have any questions, please contact Doris Levinson at drjlevinson@gmail.com.

The **Movie Club** will meet on Wednesday, June 21 at the Westport Center for Senior Activities. We meet informally at 2:00 pm to give members a chance to socialize, and our discussion begins at 2:30. We ask all attendees to have been vaccinated. We are limited to 20 attendees, so please confirm your attendance with Margaret Mitchell by June 18.

We will discuss the movies *West Side Story* and *A League of Their Own*. *West Side Story* is scheduled for broadcast at 9:00 pm on Saturday, May 27 on the WNET network of PBS as part of Reel 13 Classics. *A League of Their Own* is available on Netflix. A DVD or streaming video of both movies is also listed in the catalogs of the Westport and Fairfield libraries.

West Side Story is a 1961 American musical romantic drama, adapted from the 1957 Broadway musical of the same title, which in turn was inspired by Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*. It stars Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer, Russ Tamblyn, Rita Moreno, and George Chakiris. It was nominated for 11 Academy Awards and won 10, including Best Picture (in addition to a special award for Robbins), becoming the record holder for the most wins for a musical. *West Side Story* is regarded as one of the greatest musical films of all time. It was designated as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" by the Library of Congress and was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry in 1997.

A League of Their Own is a 1992 American sports comedy-drama directed by Penny Marshall that tells a fictionalized account of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL). It stars Tom Hanks, Geena Davis, Madonna, Lori Petty, Rosie O'Donnell, Jon Lovitz, David Strathairn, Garry Marshall, and Bill Pullman. *A League of Their Own* was a critical and commercial success, grossing more than \$132.4 million worldwide and garnering acclaim for

Marshall's direction and the performances of its ensemble cast. In 2012, the Library of Congress selected it for preservation in the United States National Film Registry as "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

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

Solos is going to the VFW, 465 Riverside Avenue, Westport on Sunday, June 4 for brunch and folk music at First Folk Sunday with Suzanne Sheridan. The program is from 12:30 to 2:30 pm and costs \$10. Terry Queirolo purchased 18 tickets, and you can pay her that day. There are a few tickets still available. If you're interested, please contact Terry at tmq44@icloud.com or 847-4121 as soon as possible. Brunch costs \$20 cash, payable that day. Please get there by 12:00-12:15 so you can get brunch before the program starts. Drinks are available at the cash bar. Hope you can join us for an enjoyable afternoon.

Tuesdays at the Beach: Solos will once again meet on Tuesdays at Compo Beach in Westport in June, July, and August. **This is open to all Y's Women.** No beach pass is needed on Tuesdays; just tell them at the gate you are with Y's Women. We will meet at 5:00 pm to the right of the cannons. Bring your beach chair and your dinner.

We will also have something new this year. On the second Tuesday of each month – June 13, July 11, and August 8 – we will have a Pot Luck Dinner. We ask everyone to bring something to share; all paper products will be provided. Hope you can join us for some fun evenings.

The **Mah Jong Group** meets every Thursday from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at the Westport Center for Senior Activities. On the third Thursday of each month, we start at 2:00 pm. The group is currently at capacity, but a new summer session is starting in June. For more information, contact Barbara Alfinito at barbsgetaway@aol.com or 205-533-1884.



(continued on page four)

SATELLITE GROUPS

(continued from page three)

NewsTalk: Interested in national and world affairs? Join other Y's Women for lively discussions at NewsTalk. We will meet on Thursday, June 22 from 10:00 to 11:30 am at the Westport Library, room 2216 (McCall Room), and the group will continue to meet during the summer. For more information, please contact Doris Skutch at 247-3656.

The **Lunch & Trivia** group will meet at noon on Thursday, June 15, at the VFW Hall. The cost is \$25. Please contact Annette Kirban at 505-1187 or lakirban@optonline.net if you are interested in attending. The group will continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month all summer.

The **Memoir Group** will continue to meet during the summer on the third Tuesday of the month. In June, we will be meeting at Sue Kane's house. If you have an interest, please contact Cary Peterson at carypeter-son3@gmail.com or 226-7665.

The **Tai Ji Group** is now offering an in-person class at the Saugatuck Congregational Church. This class meets weekly on **Tuesdays** from 9:30 –10:30 am. It focuses on breath, relaxation, and movement for grounding and balance to enhance our physical and mental well-being. The teacher is Ruby Shih, a long-term Tai Ji / Qi Gong teacher and founder of the Tai Ji School, Society of Nanalaoshu, in Manhattan. A fee of \$10 per session will be used to offset rental and insurance costs. If you are interested, please contact Ruby at Rubypalace88@gmail.com or 917-816-6661.

Wisest Investment Group: We are looking for a brave new member to join the Wisest Investment Group as we try to navigate our joint stock portfolio. It's a Bull Market, and we've been there before. This would be a good time to buy in, as our portfolio has taken a dip like everyone else's. You will find intelligent minds reaching for a solution. We meet all summer on the fourth Thursday of the month. For more information, contact our President, Louise Demakis, at 254-6424 or lwdemakis@optonline.net.

In Memoriam

Judith Schomer passed away on April 26 at the age of 90. Judith had been an active Y's Women member for many years before she moved to Austin, Texas.

Janice Dean passed away on May 24 at the age of 88.

Carpool and Go!

Gardeners and plant enthusiasts, you must join us on Friday, June 16 for an 11:00 am tour of the extraordinary Stonecrop Garden in Cold Spring, NY. At the windswept elevation of 1,100 feet in the Hudson Highlands, Stonecrop enjoys a Zone 6 climate. Covering 15 acres, the property comprises a diverse collection of woodland and water gardens, a grass garden, raised alpine stone beds, cliff rock gardens, and an enclosed English-style flower garden.



We'll meet behind Wells Fargo bank in Trader Joe's parking lot at 9:00 am for a 9:15 departure. Please contact Jill Meyer at jill@awayfortheday.net or 226-4310 to reserve your place, and mail a check for \$15 payable to Jill to 40 Owenoke Park, Westport, CT 06880. **Please note:** If fewer than 10 people register for the trip, the cost per person will increase. The gas reimbursement for your driver will be \$10 in cash. Please indicate whether you can drive, as drivers are always needed and appreciated.

Directions: Take Rte. 57 north through Weston, turn left at light onto 107, then turn right at light onto Route 7. Drive north on Route 7 to Danbury, where you will take I-84 West to Newburgh, NY. Take exit 52A off I-84 onto the Taconic Parkway. Drive south on the Taconic to exit 31B and onto Rte. 301. Take Rte. 301 west for 3.5 miles. Use **Main Entrance 9** (Stonecrop Gardens), not Stonecrop Lane.

Following our two-hour tour of Stonecrop Gardens, we'll eat at 1:15 pm at Hudson Hill's Cafe & Market, 131 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY, 845-265-9471.

Happy Summer!