



March 2023

The Y's Women Newsletter

GENERAL MEETINGS

Open to members and their guests

Place: Green's Farms Church, 71 Hillandale Road, Westport
10:45 am Coffee and Conversation
11:30 am Meeting and Speaker

March 13 – Detective Erin Shaw, Scams, Fraud & Local Crimes



In this exceptionally relevant presentation, the Westport Police Department's Detective Erin Shaw will discuss various types of scams (phone, online, in-person), fraud (credit card, check, identity theft), and other crimes being committed in this area. She will share with

us preventative measures to take when presented with these crimes, along with an explanation of how they are investigated.

Detective Shaw joined the Town of Westport's Police Department in January 2008. She was promoted to the rank of Corporal in 2015 and to Detective in 2017. She is a member of the Accident Reconstruction Team and is a Crisis Negotiator for the Southwest Regional Emergency Response Team. She holds a BS degree in Therapeutic Recreation with a minor in Health Studies from the University of Southern Maine.

March 27 – Zoologists Jim Knox and Carolyn Rinaldi, Saving Animals from Extinction

Jim Knox and Carolyn Rinaldi of the Beardsley Zoo discuss their work with Species Survival Plans and wild species reintroductions in Connecticut and beyond. They will explain how 21st-century science is extending the reach and achievements of field conservationists and how Connecticut citizens can

become involved in recovery efforts to protect our planet's most imperiled and majestic creatures.



Jim is the Beardsley Zoo's Curator of Education, where he directs educational programming and conducts field conservation. A graduate of Cornell University with degrees in Animal Science and Applied Economics, he has conducted field research on Alaskan brown bears and Atlantic salmon, and written for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and *Natural History* magazine. He has served as an on-camera wildlife expert for "The Today Show" and the "CBS Early Show" and has lectured for the Yale School of the Environment and the Harvard College Conservation Society. He writes a column, "Wildly Successful," for *The Greenwich Sentinel*.

Carolyn, Associate Curator of Education, leads Beardsley's Education and Conservation initiatives on and off grounds. A graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in Anthropology and



Archeology, she has experience as a veterinary technician and a birds of prey handler. Carolyn directs the Zoo's award-winning Teen Volunteer program. She is the host of the radio show "Zoonami – Adventures

from Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo" on CRV Radio in Ivoryton, CT and has had guest spots as a zoologist on Connoisseur Media's Star 99.9 FM "Anna & Raven Show." Carolyn also teaches Karate and Self Defense at Yale University, and as a member of the National Karate Team, she has competed in the Karate World Cup in Ireland, representing the US.

Local Happenings

A brand new satellite group, initially being called Local Happenings, will provide an opportunity for members to meet each other for a variety of local activities. Did you ever read about a local event and wish there were others to share the activity with you? If so, consider joining this group and participating together in activities of this type.

This will be an informal group that will supplement – not replace – other satellite groups such as Book Clubs, the Movie Group, Solos, and Carpool & Go, which identify a scheduled activity each month. The group already had its first adventure at the Westport Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) on February 23 – a private tour of the exhibition “Paul Camacho: El Ritmo y La Unidad.” Camacho was active in Westport’s art life in the 1960s and 1970s.

You can join this group by sending your email address to Barbara Alfinito at barbsgetaway@aol.com. Information on future activities will be emailed to you. And feel free to send suggestions concerning local activities and events that might be of interest. We also are looking for someone to share the work involved in coordinating this group. Please email Barbara if you are interested.

SATELLITE GROUPS (Y’s Women Members ONLY)

Note: Please remember that 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, March 2 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. The book to be discussed is *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan, and the discussion will be led by Beverly Silverman. For questions, please contact Nancy Bloom at nancyerb@aol.com or Arlene Bloom at bloomah@sbcglobal.net.

Book Group 3 will meet at the Westport Center for Senior Activities on Friday, March 10 at 10:30 am to discuss *Palace Walk* by Naguib Mahfouz. The discussion will be led by Andi Turner. If you have any questions, please contact Doris Levinson at drjlevinson@gmail.com.

The **Movie Club** will meet on Wednesday, March 15 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 that all attendees have been vaccinated. We are limited to 20 attendees, so please confirm your attendance with Margaret Mitchell at 255-9094 or margaret06824@yahoo.com by March 11.

We plan to discuss *Exodus* and *Lion*. *Exodus* is scheduled for broadcast at 9:00 pm on Saturday, February 25 on the WNET network of PBS as part of Reel 13 Classics. *Lion* is available on Netflix. In addition, DVDs or videodiscs of both movies are listed in the catalogs of the Westport and Fairfield libraries.

Exodus is a 1960 American epic historical drama about the founding of the State of Israel. Produced and directed by Otto Preminger, the screenplay was adapted by Dalton Trumbo from the 1958 novel of the same name by Leon Uris. The film stars Paul Newman, Eva Marie Saint, Ralph Richardson, Peter Lawford, Lee J. Cobb, Sal Mineo, John Derek, and George Maharis. Its soundtrack was written by Ernest Gold.

Lion is a 2016 Australian biographical drama directed by Garth Davis (in his feature directorial debut) from a screenplay by Luke Davies, based on the 2013 nonfiction book *A Long Way Home* by Saroo Brierley. The film stars Dev Patel, Sunny Pawar, Rooney Mara, David Wenham, and Nicole Kidman. It tells the true story of how Brierley, 25 years after being separated from his family in India, sets out to find them. The film is a joint production between Australia and the United Kingdom.

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



Several Movie Club members enjoyed watching Dial M For Murder at the Sacred Heart Community Theatre in Fairfield on February 22.

SATELLITE GROUPS

(continued from page two)

NewsTalk: Interested in national and world affairs? Join other Y's Women for lively discussions at NewsTalk. We will meet on Thursday, March 23 from 10:00 to 11:30 am at the Westport Library, room 2216 (McCall Room). For more information, please contact Doris Skutch at 247-3656.

The **Lunch & Trivia** group will meet on March 16 (the third Thursday of the month) at the VFW Hall. The cost of lunch is \$25. Please contact Annette Kirban at lakirban@optonline.net if you are interested in attending. And don't forget to volunteer to prepare questions and answers for meetings to be held next fall and beyond.

Solos will be enjoying The Original Pancake House for brunch/lunch on Wednesday, March 22 at 12:00 noon. The new restaurant is located at the back of Parker Harding Plaza. We can order from the menu, and individual checks will be available to be split by two people each. For reservations, contact Terry Queirolo at 847-4121 or tmq44@icloud.com by Tuesday, March 14. (There is an elevator for people who are unable to use the stairs; please let Terry know if you will need it.)

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 will meet on March 23, the fourth Thursday of the month. For more information, contact our President, Louise Demakis, at 254-6424 or lwdemakis@optonline.net.

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, the game starts at 2:00 pm.) If you wish to attend, please contact Barbara Alfinito at barbsgetaway@aol.com or 205-533-1884 before each session. The number of players is limited to 12.

The **Tai Ji Group** is now offering an in-person class at the Saugatuck Congregational Church. This class will meet weekly beginning on Wednesday, March 1 from 10:00 – 11:00 am. It will focus 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 917-816-6661 or Rubypalace88@gmail.com.

The online Tuesday Zoom class (11:30 am – 12:30 pm) will continue for now unless participants decide to meet only in person.

CARPOOL & GO

Carpool & Go will take a short trip to Fairfield on Friday, March 24 to visit the “Norma Minkowitz: Body to Soul” exhibit at the **Fairfield University Art Museum (Bellarmine Hall)**. For over five decades, Westport artist Norma Minkowitz has used fiber to explore the fundamental tensions of being human. Her crocheted and interlaced threads, stiffened into hard mesh-like structures, seemingly defy gravity to take the form of wearables, vessels, figurative sculpture, and drawings. Presenting a range of works spanning her entire career, this exhibition invites viewers to contemplate the dualities of delicacy and strength, nature and culture, body and spirit. Docent Michelle di Marzo will guide us through this unique and special show starting at 11:00 am. Afterward, we can take a peek at the exhibit in the **Quick Center Walsh Gallery**, “Women's Rights Are Human Rights,” or go directly to lunch at Centro, 1435 Post Road, Fairfield, 255-1210.



We will meet in Trader Joe's / Wells Fargo parking lot at 10:15 am for a 10:30 departure. Please contact Lydia Menendez at lydiamnndz12@gmail.com or 319-1110 to reserve your spot, and send her a check for \$15 (docent fee), payable to Lydia, to 388 Oldfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06824. The cash reimbursement for drivers will be \$3. Also, please indicate if you are willing to drive – drivers are always needed and appreciated.

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 Vera DeStefano at vera@dcstructural.com.