

April 2024



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
11:20 am Announcements
11:30 am Speaker

NOTE: Extra parking is available in front of the large lot on the grass and across the street in front of the Minister's house.

April 8 – Jill Dillon: How to Win a Municipal Election When You Weren't Even Planning to Run



In this timely presentation, Jill Dillon will discuss how she entered the 2023 campaign for the Westport Board of Education less than a month before the election. Prevalled upon by many Westporters to mount a last-minute run, she assembled a team, registered to run as an unaffiliated, write-in candidate, got the word out, campaigned –

and won a seat on the Board.

Jill moved to Westport from New York City with her young family in 2012. She began volunteering at her daughters' preschool and continued as they entered the Westport Public School system. Jill served as PTA Co-President at both Kings Highway Elementary School and Coleytown Middle School. She graduated from the University of Virginia with a BS degree in Biology and a BA in French Language and Literature. Before moving to Westport to raise her family, she spent 10-plus years in public opinion research, most recently as Vice President, Intellectual Property at Strategy One, a division of Edelman Public Relations.

April 22 – Susan Granger: Hollywood – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow ...

Susan Granger is a product of Hollywood. Her natural father, S. Sylvan Simon, was a director and producer at MGM and Columbia Pictures; her adoptive father, Armand Deutsch, produced movies at MGM. As a child, Susan appeared in movies with Abbott & Costello, Red Skelton, Lucille Ball, Margaret O'Brien, and Lassie. She attended Mills College in California, studying journalism with Pierre Salinger, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with highest honors in journalism.



Susan has been on radio and television as an anchorwoman and movie/drama critic, syndicating her reviews/articles around the world. She has appeared on American Movie Classics and Turner Classic Movies. In 2017, her book *150 Timeless Movies* was published by Hannacroix Creek Books. She is now resident movie "guru" at Sacred Heart University.

Susan will be joining us for lunch at Rive Bistro following her presentation. If you would like to take part, please contact Vera DeStefano at vera@dcstructural.com.

Cinco De Mayo Luncheon

Come join Y's Women as we celebrate Cinco de Mayo on Wednesday, May 1 at 12:30 pm at **Mexica Restaurant**, located at 221 Post Road West (corner of Post Road West and Sylvan Road South). We will be ordering from the menu and will have separate checks. This event is open to all Y's Women. If you would like to attend, please contact Judy Mappa at judyapala@hotmail.com no later than April 28.

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, April 4 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. We will be discussing *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, and Beverly Silverman will lead the discussion. Please contact Nancy Bloom at 259-0071 or nancyerb@aol.com with any questions.

Book Group 3 will meet on Friday, April 12 at 10:30 am at the Westport Center for Senior Activities to discuss *The Searcher* by Tana French. Doris Levinson will lead the discussion. If you have any questions, contact Doris at drjlevinson@gmail.com.

The **Movie Club** will meet on Wednesday, April 17 at the Westport Center for Senior Activities. We meet informally at 2:15 pm to give members a chance to socialize, and our discussion begins at 2:30. Our assigned room sometimes changes, so you may want to ask the front desk about our location. We ask all attendees to have been vaccinated and to wear a mask. We are limited to 25 attendees, so please confirm your attendance with Margaret Mitchell by April 14.

We plan to discuss the movies *A Place in the Sun* and *Chinatown*. *A Place in the Sun* is scheduled for broadcast at 9:00 pm on Saturday, April 13 on the WNET network of PBS as part of Reel 13 Classics, and a video is listed in the catalogs of the Westport and Fairfield Libraries. *Chinatown* is available on Netflix **until March 31**, and a video is listed in the catalog of the Fairfield Library.

A Place in the Sun is a 1951 American drama based on the 1925 novel *An American Tragedy* by Theodore Dreiser. It was directed by George Stevens from a screenplay by Harry Brown and Michael Wilson, and stars Montgomery Clift, Elizabeth Taylor, and Shelley Winters. It tells the story of a working-class young man who is entangled with two women: one who works in his wealthy uncle's factory and the other a beautiful socialite. The movie was inspired by the real-life murder of Grace Brown by Chester Gillette in 1906 – resulting in Gillette's conviction and execution by electric chair in 1908.

Chinatown is a 1974 American neo-noir mystery directed by Roman Polanski from a screenplay written by Robert Towne. The film stars Jack Nicholson

and Faye Dunaway. It was inspired by the California water wars, a series of disputes over southern California water at the beginning of the 20th century, by which Los Angeles interests secured water rights in the Owens Valley.

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: Interested in national and world affairs? Join other Y's Women for lively discussions at NewsTalk. We will meet on Thursday, April 25 from 10 to 11:30 am at the Westport Library in the McCall Room (room 215). For more information, contact Doris Skutch at 247-3656.

Solos will be going to The Sinclair restaurant, 1229 Post Road in Fairfield (in the Brick Walk), for lunch at 12:00 noon on Friday, April 12. We will be able to order off the menu. For reservations, contact Terry Queirolo at 847-4121 or tmq44@icloud.com by Tuesday, April 9.

Lunch & Trivia: The Lunch & Trivia group will meet at noon on Thursday, April 18 at the VFW Hall. The cost is \$25 (cash only). Please make every effort to be there if you indicate that you will attend – the Y's Women have to guarantee a certain number in advance, and we lose money when those who signed up do not make it to the lunch. Contact Annette Kirban at 505-1187 or lakirban@optonline.net if you plan to join us.

The **Mah Jong Group** meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm at the Westport Center for Senior Activities. Advanced players only. For information, contact Barbara Alfinito at barbsgetaway@aol.com or 205-533-1884.

The **Wisest Investment Group** continues to meet monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month. We welcome members at our meetings at the Westport Center for Senior Activities. Please contact President Angela Vicenzi at vicenziae@yahoo.com if you'd like to sit in at a meeting and consider joining the group.

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SAVE THE DATE

Spring Picnic and Annual Meeting

Monday, May 20, 11:30 am

Jackie Durrell Pavilion, Fairfield

More information to come in the May newsletter.

SATELLITE GROUPS

(continued from page two)

The **Memoir Writing Group** will meet on Tuesday, April 16 at 2:00 pm. For more information, please text Cary Peterson at 918-6481 or email her at carypeter-son3@gmail.com.

Discussion Group for *The New Yorker*: This group meets remotely on Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Each group member selects one article for discussion. If you're interested, please contact Ellen Cahill at 856-6561 or ellenjcahill@hotmail.com.

Tai Ji and Meditation Classes: Instructor Ruby Shih is an experienced long-time Tai Ji / Qi Gong and Meditation teacher and a founder of a Tai Ji School in Manhattan (Nanlaoshu.org). She offers two classes:

- **Tai Ji (in person):** Meets weekly on Wednesdays from 9:30 -10:30 am at the Saugatuck Congregational Church, 245 Post Road East, Westport, room 109. The class focuses on breath and slow movement for relaxation, grounding, and balance to enhance our physical and mental well-being. A fee of \$10 per session is used to offset rental and insurance costs.
- **Meditation & Self-Care Massage (on Zoom):** Meets weekly on Wednesdays at 7:30 - 8:30 pm on Zoom. It starts with a guided meditation suitable for beginners as well as advanced participants. At the end of each session, self-care massage is taught to enhance relaxation, circulation, and wellness. The fee for this class is \$5 per session.

If you're interested in either class, please contact Ruby at 917-816-6661 or Rubypalace88@gmail.com.

In Memoriam: Phyllis Markoff and Sybil Steinberg

Y's Women lost two long-time members last month, both of whom had been quite active in our organization's early years until moving to Florida after being widowed. Phyllis Markoff died on March 5 at the age of 94, and Sybil Steinberg died on March 17 at the age of 90.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Y's Women is very pleased to welcome these six new members who have recently joined our ranks:

Catherine Albin
Rhonda Burnim
Sharon Freeman

Betty Manesiotis
Sonia Morris
Wendy Vickrey

CARPOOL & GO!

On Friday, April 19, Carpool & Go will visit the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury for an 11:00 am guided tour of two excellent spring shows: **Sea Change/See Change** and **Re-Work It**. **Sea Change** features the work of five award-winning visual artists who explore the world's oceans with a focus on the Arctic. Using a variety of media – including paintings, photos, videos, drawings, and sculptures – the artists celebrate the beauty of our oceans and concerns about their degradation. **Re-Work It** examines the types of labor that women have to manage – from caring for one's family to earning money in the labor force. A reprisal of a small 2022 show, this exhibition incorporates a wider range of voices and perspectives and includes artwork from approximately 30 contemporary female artists.

We'll meet behind Wells Fargo Bank in the Trader Joe's parking lot at 10:00 am for a 10:15 departure. The guided tour will cost \$17 per person. Please contact Jill Meyer at 226-4310 or jill@awayfortheday.net to reserve your place. Mail a check for \$17 payable to Jill to 40 Owenoke Park, Westport, CT 06880. The gas reimbursement for your driver will be \$6 in cash. Please indicate whether you can drive, as drivers are always needed and appreciated.

DIRECTIONS: Mattatuck Museum is at 144 West Main Street, Waterbury. Take the Merritt Parkway to exit 51 North onto Route 8 North. Take Route 8 to exit 33 onto I-84 East. Take exit 22 off I-84. At the end of the ramp, turn left onto South Main Street, which becomes North Main. Turn left onto West Main. After you cross Park Place, the museum will be on the right. Turn right into the entrance and drive along the side of the museum to the parking lot at the rear of the building.

Following our tour at the Mattatuck, we'll enjoy lunch at San Marino, 111-23 Thomaston Avenue, Waterbury, 755-1148.

