



The Y's Women

February 2020

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.

February 10

David Mark Brown: Johnny Reb and Billy Yank in the Spanish-American War



Historian David Mark Brown will show a slide presentation telling the story of “Johnny Reb” and “Billy Yank” in the Spanish-American War. He has given this talk to audiences including the Harvard Club History Section, the Civil War Society, Hunter College, and Y’s Men.

Brown, born in Tennessee, received a double degree in Product Design and Textiles from North Carolina State University. He parlayed his initial job in New York City’s garment district into an adventurous life in Germany, Italy, London, and Madrid, working for many of the world’s famous sports clothing brands, before returning to the US and turning to the study of a turbulent period in our nation’s history that seems so timely today.

By the late 1890s, America was recovering from a nasty Presidential election and was divided by race, religion, ethnicity, and wealth. It was also in the midst of an opioid epidemic. Sound familiar? The

American Frontier and Wild West were declared over and done with, yet the US showed little interest in foreign affairs. Its army, reduced to just 28,000 soldiers, was only one-twentieth the size of France’s or Germany’s, and the Navy was one-sixth the size of Britain’s and half the size of Spain’s. Civil War “reconciliation” had failed in the minds of many up North, most white Southerners, and blacks everywhere in America. What we needed was a “splendid little war” to once again awaken and unite America – and that war needed 125,000 enthusiastic volunteers.

Our young, eager, naive Spanish-American War volunteers would encounter junior officers who’d begun their careers battling Native Americans in America’s West after the end of the Civil War. The isolation of frontier garrisons and its small unit operations had accustomed junior officers to act on their own initiative. Thousands of young, white volunteers would encounter seasoned African-American “Buffalo Soldiers” and would be inspired and led by Civil War veterans, ancient warriors who were well trained to await orders and follow them. They were heroic – but at times comic and forgetful – leaders who nevertheless still remembered the costly charges that they had participated in against a well-entrenched enemy. Brown’s cast for this enthralling presentation includes a President, a newspaper publisher, a Cuban rebel, and a troupe of iconic generals!

February 24

Alex Giannini: The Westport Library – A Look Ahead



Alex Giannini, the Manager of Programs and Events at the Westport Library, will give a special sneak peek at a number of new and

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exciting events for 2020 – some of which have not yet been announced to the general public! He will talk about several extremely interesting upcoming projects for the Library's new Forum space and will give us a look behind the curtain at what the MakerSpace has in store for the community. This will undoubtedly be an interesting and fun-filled meeting for our Y's Women!

Special Invitation

On Thursday, February 6, Y's Men will host Susan Granger's discussion of this year's Oscar movies at 10:00 am in the Main Hall of the Westport Library. Y's Women are invited to attend this presentation.

SATELLITE GROUPS (Y's Women Members ONLY)

Book Group 2 will meet on Thursday, February 6 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 *Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder and One Man's Fight for Justice* by Bill Browder, and the discussion will be led by Doris Skutch. Please contact Arlene Bloom at bloomah@sbcglobal.net or 254-9096 to RSVP.

Book Group 3 will meet on Friday, February 14 at 10:30 am to discuss *Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder and One Man's Fight for Justice* by Bill Browder. This thrilling memoir covers his years in post-Soviet Russia building one of the world's most successful hedge funds, his eventual expulsion from Russia, and the government's seizure of his company. A major focus of Browder's account deals with his response to Russian corruption and his support of investigations into the brutal prison death of his attorney, Sergei Magnitsky. The meeting will take place at Panera Bread in Westport. Please contact Doris Levinson at 227-3371 or drjlevinson@gmail.com or to RSVP.

The **Movie Club** will meet on Wednesday, February 19 at Panera Bread. We meet informally at 1:00 pm to give people a chance to socialize and/or eat lunch, and begin discussion at 1:30. Our two discussion movies for February, both of which received very positive reviews, are *Little Women* and *Just Mercy*.

Little Women presents a new interpretation of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel.

Just Mercy is the story of Bryan Stevenson, a recently graduated lawyer who "heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or those not afforded proper representation. One of his first cases is that of Walter McMillian, who is sentenced to die in 1987 for the murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite evidence proving his innocence. In the years that follow, Stevenson encounters racism and legal and political maneuverings as he tirelessly fights for McMillian's life."

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

The **Lunch and Trivia** group will meet Thursday, February 27 at 12:15 pm at the VFW on Riverside Avenue. Please contact Ann Lloyd at 226-4145 or aslloyd@optonline.net or Arlene Bloom at 254-9096 or bloomah@sbcglobal.net if you plan to attend.

Solos will celebrate Valentine's Day with a brunch on Sunday, February 16 at 12:30 pm at 597 Westport Avenue, Norwalk, across from Whole Foods. Agnes Flynn will again be our hostess. Make your reservation with Joan Weinstein and send her a check for \$25 payable to Joan Weinstein – Solos at 46 Tannery Lane South, Weston, CT 06883.

The **Memoir Group**, which meets monthly on Monday afternoons, has room for a couple of new members. For information, call Barbara Rogan at 226-0858.



We had a great turnout at our January 13th meeting when Jill Eikenberry and Michael Tucker entertained us by reading some wonderful stories.

In Memoriam: Wilma Bieler

Wilma A. Bieler, a long-time Y's Women and former Board member, died on January 18. She was a woman with many interests and activities and was intensely and passionately engaged in the world, generously giving much of her personal time and energy to benefit her family and the community. Ahead of her time in many ways, Wilma was a pioneer in redefining the boundaries of feminine gender roles. She earned an MBA degree and returned to the workforce as a financial executive and consultant once her sons were old enough to fend for themselves.

CARPOOL AND GO

On Wednesday, February 19 at the **Stamford Museum and Nature Center**, Carpool and Go participants will have the chance to enjoy an 11:00 am self-guided tour of the extraordinary nature photographs of Thomas Mangelsen.

A well-known American nature and wildlife photographer and conservationist, Mangelsen spent his youth hunting and fishing along the banks of the



Platte River. Today, he is known for his pictures of wildlife in and around Yellowstone Park as he has lived in the Jackson, Wyoming area for more than 40 years. There, he has been active to keep the Yellowstone-area grizzly bears on the Endangered Species List.



In 1994, he was named BBC's Wildlife Photographer of the Year, and in 2000 he was recognized as North American Nature Photography's Outstanding Nature Photographer of the Year. More recently, in May 2018 he was profiled on CBS's *60 Minutes*. Mangelsen is also known for trekking to all seven continents to photograph a diverse assortment of wildlife.

We'll meet behind the Wells Fargo Bank in Trader Joe's parking lot at 10:00 am with a 10:15 departure.

The museum tour will cost \$10 a person. Please contact Jill Meyer at jill@awayfortheday.net or 226-4410 to reserve your place, and mail a check for \$10 payable to Jill to 40 Owenoke Park, Westport, CT 06880. Following the tour, we will lunch at Ching's Table, 64 Main Street, New Canaan, 972-8550. The gas reimbursement for your driver will be \$3 in cash. Please indicate whether you can drive, as drivers are **always** needed and appreciated.

Directions:

TO THE MUSEUM: Drive to the Merritt Parkway and take exit 35, High Ridge Road/Rte. 137. At the end of the ramp, turn left onto High Ridge Road. Drive north for several miles and take a left at 139 Scofieldtown Road into the Stamford Nature Center. Once in the grounds, continue to the left and up the hill around the museum. At the top of the hill, you can park in front of or near the museum.

TRIPS

Monday, April 20

Tour of the United Nations Headquarters and Lunch in the UN Delegates Dining Room

Experience a behind-the scenes tour of the United Nations Headquarters, where delegates from 193 Member States gather to discuss world issues. Afterwards you will dine in the Delegates Dining Room while enjoying a panoramic view of the East River.

The cost of this exciting day is \$148 all-inclusive. Our bus will depart at 7:00 am from the Stop and Shop at 200 East Main Street in Stratford and at 7:30 from the Westport Commuter Lot on Imperial Avenue.

Flyers will be available at the General Meetings. For additional information or to sign up, contact Geri Hanslick at gerihanslick@yahoo.com or 646-789-3013.

