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.

March 9
Richard O. Prum, PhD: The Evolution of Beauty

Richard Prum, PhD is the William Robertson Coe Professor of Ornithology at Yale University and head curator of Vertebrate Zoology at Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. A recipient of both MacArthur and Guggenheim fellowships, he helped discover dinosaur feathers and their colors. He is the author of *The Evolution of Beauty: How Darwin’s Forgotten Theory of Mate Choice Shapes the Animal World — And Us*, which was selected by *The New York Times* Book Review as one of the Best Books of 2017.

Dr. Prum joins Y’s Women to discuss this fascinating account of beauty and mate choice in birds and other animals — including humans! You’ll be amazed by the things he’s discovered that birds do to win mates, which resonate with humans as well. According to Dr. Prum, life isn’t just a dreary slog of survival. It brims with exuberance – from extravagant plumage to courtship rituals. In other words, beauty is central to the history of life.

March 23
Jane Ferreira: The Mercy Learning Center

Jane Ferreira, President and CEO of Bridgeport’s Mercy Learning Center – with 18 years on the job – will report to us on some of the organization’s success stories. Its mission has always been to provide basic literacy and life skills training to low-income women. That program remains strong, with well over 12,000 women having been tutored in the organization’s 33 years of operation.

Jane will share with Y’s Women Mercy Learning Center’s story, the positive and lasting impact they make on our local community, and new and exciting information about their future and ours.

The Mercy Learning Center provides basic literacy and life skills training to low-income women using a holistic approach within a compassionate and supportive environment.

Please continue to bring your gifts of non-perishable food to the first general meeting of each month. They are much appreciated by needy clients of the Mercy Learning Center in Bridgeport. Questions? Contact Sarah Hock at 557-4249.
Solos will celebrate St Patrick’s Day on Saturday, March 14 at 5:00 pm with a traditional feast of corned beef and cabbage. Our event will again take place in the lovely community rooms of 597 Westport Ave, Norwalk, across the street from Whole Foods, with Agnes Flynn as our hostess. Please make your reservation by mailing a check for $25 made out to Joan Weinstein – Solos to 46 Tannery Lane South, Weston, CT 06883. Come join us for a fun evening – and remember to wear GREEN.

Lunch and Trivia will meet on Thursday, March 26 at 12:15 pm at the VFW on Riverside Avenue. Please contact Ann Lloyd, 226-4145 or asllloyd@optonline.net, or Arlene Bloom, 254-9096 or bloomah@sbcglobal.net, if you plan to attend.

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.

Y’s Care
If you know of someone in our organization who is sick or grieving and would appreciate a card, contact Cary Peterson at carypeterson3@gmail.com.

Lindsay Felderman (center), speaker at our January 27th meeting, enjoys lunch afterward with a group of Y’s Women. We encourage members to join us for these lunches. If you’re interested, please contact Barb Stephen at dynamicr@optonline.net.
On Thursday, March 19, we will make a return trip to New Haven to visit both Yale University Art Gallery and Yale Center for British Art, as we did in November. We will start with the new show at the Center for British Art, *Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts Movement*. This exhibit is comprised of work from those two groups as well as from William Morris and Associates, representing the spectrum of avant-garde practices of the Victorian period. Ford Maddox Brown, Edward Burne-Jones, William Holman Hunt, John Everett Millais, William Morris, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Elizabeth Siddall, and others are showcased.

We will then have a delicious lunch at the Union League Café at around 11:45 am, followed by our docent-led tour at 1:30 pm in the University Art Gallery. This will focus on the exhibition *James Prosek: Art, Artifact, Artifice*. Conceived by Prosek (artist, writer, and naturalist, and Yale’s 2018 Artist-in-Residence), the exhibit shows his work in dialogue with objects from the Gallery, The Peabody Museum, and the Center for British Art – illustrating the fluid boundaries between art, artifact, and artifice. Prosek is an award-winning local artist whose work shows a deep connection to the natural world, particularly fish and birds, as well as a delightful whimsy in its presentation.

We will meet in the Trader Joe’s / Wells Fargo parking lot at 9:00 am for a 9:15 departure. There is no charge for the museum tours, but we recommend that you call or email Lydia Menendez at 319-1110 or lydiamnndz12@gmail.com to reserve your spot ASAP. The reimbursement for gas will be $5, and there will be an additional cost for your share of the parking fee. **Please indicate if you can drive – drivers are always needed and appreciated.**