



The Y's Women

March 2021

The Y's Women Newsletter

During COVID, General Meetings are broadcast on the Y's Women YouTube channel – [Y's Women YouTube](#) – and can be viewed live or at a future date.

Stacey Close, PhD, Eastern Connecticut State University: March 8 at 11:30 am



Dr. Close's presentation, titled "The Great Migration of the Transformation of Connecticut's African American Community, 1915-1970," focuses on the push and pull factors influencing people from the South to settle in Connecticut. It covers the increased growth of African American

religious, political, business, and social organizations. In addition, the presentation includes a discussion of ties to the South and national movements.

A native of Georgia, Dr. Close has worked in higher education for more than 25 years. He currently serves as the Associate Provost/Vice President for Equity and Diversity at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, CT, where he is also a professor of history. Dr. Close received his PhD and MA degrees from The Ohio State University and his BA from Albany State College, a Historically Black College and University in Georgia. He has presented papers at conferences including the Southern Conference on African American Studies, Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, and Professional and Organizational Development Network. Dr. Close has published with journals and presses such as the Journal of Negro History, CT Explored, Wesleyan University Press, and Guilford Press. An American Council on Education Fellow, his honors include Connecticut State NAACP 100 Most Influential, Eastern Connecticut State University Faculty Teaching Award, and Hartford Courant Magazine's 12 Hot Professors.

Robbin Zella, Housatonic Museum of Art: March 22 at 11:30 am

Robbin Zella, Director of the Housatonic Museum of Art, will discuss the museum's art collection, which is regarded as one of the premier college art collections in the country. Spanning the history of art from the ancient to the contemporary, the collection is on continuous display throughout the 300,000



square foot facility. The museum also hosts changing exhibitions in the Burt Chernow Galleries, as well as lectures, workshops, films, special events, and programs both in person and online.

Ms. Zella also will highlight the community contributions that resulted in the museum's nomination for The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) 2021 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. In addition, she will describe the history of the museum and provide a behind-the-scenes look at activities needed to maintain the quality of its collection, including acquisitions, storage, preservation, and restoration.

Ms. Zella, who holds a BFA from the College of New Rochelle and an MA from Bard College, has been Director of the Housatonic Museum of Art for 21 years. During that time, she has collected and managed objects and materials of cultural, aesthetic, and historical importance, preserving them, researching them, and presenting them to students, faculty, and the community.

It's Not too Late to Renew Your Membership

If you haven't already, please renew your Y's Women membership. Just send a \$45 check to Doris Levinson at 6 Beechwood Lane, Westport, CT 06880. We will have two speakers each month through May, and the satellite groups are all in session as well.

SATELLITE GROUPS (Y's Women Members ONLY)

Book Group 2 will meet on Thursday, March 4 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm on Zoom. The book to be discussed is *My Life in France* by Julia Child with Alex Prud'homme, and the discussion will be led by Jane Malakoff.

Book Group 3 will meet on Friday, March 12 at 10:30 am via Zoom to discuss *The Spy and the Traitor* by Ben Macintyre, the true story of a highly placed Russian spy in the twilight of the Cold War. Zoom links will be sent the day before the meeting. Questions? Contact Doris Levinson at 227-3371 or drjlevinson@gmail.com.

The **Movie Club** will have a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, March 17, at 1:30 pm. We plan to discuss *Arthur* and *The Dig*. *Arthur* was shown on February 13 at 9:00 pm on the WNET network of PBS as part of Reel 13 Classics. If you did not see or record it when it was originally broadcast, you may be able to see it through a PBS playback system (such as Thirteen Passport) or other streaming service such as Hoopla. Also, the DVD for *Arthur* is listed in the catalogs of the Westport and Fairfield libraries. *The Dig* is available on Netflix.

In *Arthur*, “wealthy New York City playboy Arthur Bach (Dudley Moore) is perpetually drunk and completely rudderless. Dutifully supported by his sharp-tongued and quick-witted butler, Hobson (John Gielgud), Arthur reluctantly prepares to enter into an arranged marriage with heiress Susan Johnson (Jill Eikenberry). When he meets Linda Marolla (Liza Minnelli), a waitress from Queens, he falls head over

heels in love, but if he backs out of his engagement with Susan, he may lose his fortune.”

The Dig is set in the late 1930s, when “wealthy landowner Edith Pretty hires amateur archaeologist Basil Brown to investigate the mounds on her property in England. He and his team discover a ship from the Dark Ages while digging up a burial ground.”

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 will meet on Zoom at 10:00 am on Thursday, March 25 for a lively discussion of news of the day. If you're interested in this group, please contact Doris Skutch at 247-3656.

Wisest Investment Group: 20+ years and still going, the Wisest Investment Group has weathered up stock markets and down stock markets and learned a lot along the way. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 25 from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon on Zoom. If the market intrigues and you like researching, sharing ideas, and being a part of a Wise Group, contact Lois Block at loisblock@optonline.net.

The **Memoirs Group** continues to enjoy meeting during Covid. We currently meet on Zoom; our next meeting is on Tuesday, March 9 at 2:30 pm. And we are looking forward to meeting in person as soon as everyone is vaccinated or when we can meet outside, as we did during the nice weather last year. Our group welcomes new members; if you are interested, please contact Cary Peterson at carypeterson3@gmail.com.

On February 8, Bill Harris gave the Y's Women a fascinating look into Sacred Heart University's renovation of the Community Theatre into a new, state-of-the-art theatre and public space in the middle of downtown Fairfield. If you missed this presentation, you can access it at any time at [Y's Women YouTube](#).

