

September 2023



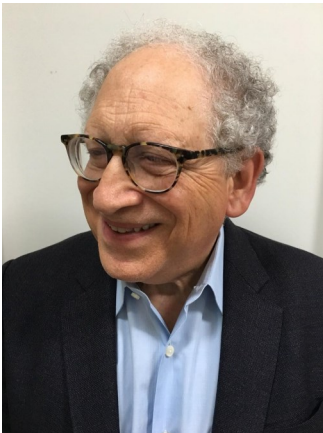
The Y's Women Newsletter

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

September 11 – Orin Grossman: From Ragtime to Stride: American Music Comes of Age



In the 1890s, the first great American popular music craze swept the nation – ragtime. In this unique presentation, Orin Grossman, Professor Emeritus of Visual and Performing Arts at Fairfield University, begins with the music of the greatest ragtime composer, Scott Joplin. He traces the ragtime style from its

beginnings to the faster, more complex piano style of novelty piano, as demonstrated in the music of Zez Confrey and George Gershwin. He will also perform a number of Joplin's wonderful rags, Confrey's spectacular "novelty piano" piece *Kitten on the Keys*, and a number of Gershwin's most beloved songs in his own stride-influenced arrangements.

Orin has been delighting audiences the world over with his unique approach to performing and explaining great American and European music. As a performer, he is in demand as an interpreter of the music of George Gershwin, playing his songs and classical compositions around the world, including Italy, Egypt, Australia, and Russia, where he performed Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and gave the Russian premiere of his *Second Rhapsody* with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic to a standing ovation.

A graduate of Harvard College, Orin continued his studies at Yale University, earning a PhD in Music. After his Carnegie Hall debut recital, he performed a series of innovative recitals combining jazz, popular, and classical music. His presentations combine performance and discussion. He is a frequent star professor for "One Day University," giving talks in New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, and other locales across the United States. He lectured at Tanglewood as part of the 2014 Boston Symphony Summer Season and was a featured presenter at Mexico City's *Day of Knowledge* in 2018.

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

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, September 7 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. We will be discussing *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Alin Chelico will lead the discussion. For questions, please contact Nancy Bloom at nancyverb@aol.com or Arlene Bloom at bloomah@sbcglobal.net.

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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Please take a moment to renew your Y's Women membership now as we start out together on the new season. Write a \$55 check to Y's Women, and send it to Doris Levinson, 6 Beechwood Lane, Westport, CT 06880. Use the membership Form on page 4 to provide up-to-date contact information.

Do this now while you think of it – and be sure your name is in the 2023-24 Membership Roster.

SATELLITE GROUPS

(continued from page one)

Book Group 3 will meet at the Westport Center for Senior Activities on Friday, September 8 at 10:30 am to discuss *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Harmel. Mona Unser will lead the discussion. For questions, please contact Doris Levinson at drjlevinson@gmail.com.

The **Movie Club** will meet on Wednesday, September 20 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 all attendees to have been vaccinated. We are limited to 20 people, so please confirm your attendance with Margaret Mitchell by September 18.

We plan to discuss the movies *Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool* and *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*. *Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool* is scheduled for broadcast at 9:00 pm on Saturday, September 9 on the WNET network of PBS as part of Reel 13 Classics. *Bombshell* is available on Netflix. A DVD or streaming video of both movies is available at the Westport Library, and a DVD of *Bombshell* is available at the Fairfield Library.

Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool is a 2017 biographical film starring Annette Bening and Jamie Bell, with a cast that includes Vanessa Redgrave and Julie Walters. Based on the memoir of the same name by Peter Turner, it describes Peter's relationship with Academy Award-winning American actress Gloria Grahame in 1970s Liverpool and, some years later, her death from stomach cancer.

Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story (referred to on-screen as simply *Bombshell*) is a 2017 American biographical documentary about the life of actress and inventor Hedy Lamarr. The film follows her life story from her youth as the daughter of assimilated Austrian Jews through her rise to fame, the Nazi onslaught, her departure for the United States, six marriages, her acting career, her landmark invention, decline, and finally her death at the age of 85 in the year 2000. The focus of the film is on her co-creation with George Antheil of the technology of frequency hopping.

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, September 28 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.

Solos will be going to Zucco, a new restaurant in Westport, on Wednesday, September 27 at 12:00 pm for lunch. We will be able to order off the menu and have individual checks. The restaurant is located at 30 Charles Street, the former Tarry Lodge. Please contact Terry Queirolo at tmq44@icloud.com or 847-4121 by Wednesday, September 20 for reservations.

Tuesdays at the Beach:

Solos will continue to meet at 4:30 pm on Tuesdays in September at Compo Beach to the right of the cannons. **This is open to all Y's Women, not iust Solos members.** No pass is needed; just tell them you are with Y's Women. We will also have our popular Pot Luck Dinner on Tuesday, September 12. Bring something to share, and paper products and beverages will be provided. If we're not on the beach, look for us in the pavilion. Hope you can join us for an enjoyable evening.

Wisest Investment Group: The stock market is up and the stock market is down, but 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 call President Louise Demakis at 254-6424 if you'd like to sit in at a meeting and consider joining the group.

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Y's Women have been enjoying meeting on Tuesday evenings at Compo Beach all summer, hosted by the Solos and welcomed by the Town of Westport.

SATELLITE GROUPS

(continued from page two)

Lunch & Trivia: The Lunch & Trivia group will meet on September 21 at noon for a fun afternoon at the VFW Hall. The cost is \$25 (cash only). If you're interested in attending, please contact Annette Kirban at 505-1187.

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

The **Memoir Writing Group** meets in members' homes on the third Tuesday of the month. We each write short pieces and read them. It is not a group with any critical insights, just a group for story sharing. For further information, please contact Cary Peterson at carypeterson3@gmail.com or 226-7665.

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 will be 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 will start with a guided meditation suitable for beginners as well as advanced participants. At the end of each session, self-care massage will be taught to enhance relaxation, circulation, and wellness. The fee for this class is \$5 per session.

If you are interested in either class, please contact Ruby at 917-816-6661 or Rubypalace88@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.

Welcome to Our New Members

Y's Women is very pleased to welcome eleven new members who have joined our group over the past few months:

<i>Jane Carpenter</i>	<i>Chris Sherwood</i>
<i>Iris Chernok</i>	<i>Janis Spring</i>
<i>Margo Egol</i>	<i>Ellie Tsurdinis</i>
<i>Eva Grundy</i>	<i>Dina Upton</i>
<i>Marcia Schorer</i>	<i>Kim Zaharris</i>
<i>Francine Schweiger</i>	

Carpool and Go!

Please join us on Wednesday, September 27 for an 11:00 am visit to the New Canaan Historical Society to view their excellent summer show "*Oh! What a Night: A Century of Evening Wear (1860-1960)*." The exhibition celebrates the glamor and glitter of 100 years of evening dress with breathtaking selections from the museum's clothing and textile collection. In addition to gowns donated by local residents, the exhibit displays coats, shoes, hats, and accessories, plus some men's wear. Highlights include a beautiful green velvet House of Worth gown and a velvet dress worn to the inauguration of President Grant in 1869. Following our 1.5 hour New Canaan visit, we'll enjoy lunch at Sedona, 515 West Avenue, Norwalk.

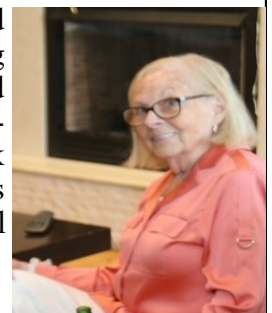
We'll meet behind Wells Fargo bank in Trader Joe's parking lot at 10:00 am for a 10:15 departure. Please contact Jill Meyer at jill@awayfortheday.net or 226-4310 to reserve your place, and mail a check for \$5 payable to Jill Meyer to 40 Owenoke Park, Westport, CT 06880. The gas reimbursement for your driver will be \$3 in cash. Please indicate whether or not you can drive, as drivers are always needed and appreciated.

Directions: Take the Merritt Parkway to Exit 38, Route 123. At the end of the long ramp, bear left on to Route 123 and drive north. Turn left on Locust Avenue, then right onto Main Street. The Historical Society is up the hill on the right at 13 Owenoke Ridge.

In Memoriam: Agnes Flynn

Agnes V. Flynn, aged 80, passed away on August 9 after a long and difficult illness. She had been an active Y's Women member since she moved to Norwalk seven years ago, and served as Co-Chair of Hospitality as well as a member of Solos.

She will be missed.



Y's Women Membership Form

July 2023—June 2024

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

DUES INFORMATION

- Dues are \$55 a year.
- Make your check payable to Y's Women.
- Your dues must be paid by October 31, 2023 to be listed in the new Membership Roster.
- If you join after March 31, 2024 your dues are in effect through June 2025.
- Membership is free after age 90. Simply indicate that you qualify on your membership form.

To join Y's Women or renew your membership, send this form and your \$55 check to **Doris Levinson, 6 Beechwood Lane, Westport, CT 06880.**

FOR NEW MEMBERS

Which of these Y's Women activities do you expect to participate in?

_____ Twice-monthly meetings
 _____ Book group
 _____ Day trips
 _____ Spring party
 _____ Investment group
 _____ Lunch with Trivia games
 _____ Mah Jong group

_____ Memoir writing group
 _____ Movie group
 _____ NewsTalk
 _____ *New Yorker* discussion group
 _____ Solos social group
 _____ Tai Ji group

How did you hear about Y's Women?

For membership questions, contact Doris Levinson at drjlevinson@gmail.com or 227-3371.