The YUWO Lecture Series

The October 2020 Lecture Series will be free to all YUWO members and will take place on four consecutive Wednesdays: October 7, October 14, October 21 and October 28, from 10:30-11:30 am. This Zoom Conference will celebrate Yale’s Year of the Woman. We encourage members to submit questions in advance.

October 7: Susan Gibbons came to Yale as the University Librarian, and is currently Vice Provost for Collections and Scholarly Communications.

October 14: Linda Greenhouse is the Joseph Goldstein Lecturer in Law and Knight Distinguished Journalist in Residence at Yale Law School. For 30 years she was the New York Times journalist covering the Supreme Court.

October 21: Dorothy Robinson was the first attorney appointed to Yale’s Office of the General Counsel. She was named acting general counsel in 1985, and appointed general counsel and director of federal relations in 1986. She became the second woman officer of Yale the following year and a vice president in 1995. Her tenure, spanning five Yale presidents, represents the longest of any officer in the last 70 years.

October 28: Constance Royster, former director of Development for the Yale Divinity School, is the principal of Laurel Associates, LLC. Ms. Royster, ’72 YC, is chronicled in “Yale Needs Women.”

YUWO Activity Groups and Contacts:

Activities Chair — Bernardina (Bernie) Wilcox, 714.749.8998. Feel free to contact Bernie with general questions regarding YUWO activities.

ART AFICIONADOS — Anneke Hathaway, 203.343.8480. Links to virtual museum tours will be offered until the brick and mortar museums re-open.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS — All book groups are meeting via Zoom.

Morning Group: Audrey DeFronzo, 203.804.5572. Second Thursday of each month, 10:00-11:30 am.

2nd Monday Afternoon Group: Pat Goldstein, 203.535.0734. Second Monday of each month, 2:00-3:30 pm.

Monday Afternoon Group: Betsy Suatoni, 518.483.6509; Patty Pollard, 203.668.6019. One Monday every month, 2:00-3:30 pm.

2nd Tuesday Afternoon Group: Lyn Howe, 203.606.0370. Second Tuesday of each month, 2:00-3:30 pm.

EXCURSIONS — Winnie Seibert, winnieseibert@gmail.com, 203.458.6516 and Willi Stahura, 508.653.8443. Each year YUWO organizes bus trips, one in the fall and one in the spring, to museums, gardens or places of interest. We will offer links to virtual tours during the pandemic.

EXPLORE YALE AND NEW HAVEN COUNTY — Shavaun Towers Bennett, 203.915.1858. YUWO offers opportunities to visit and learn about new or less well known destinations in the New Haven area. Plans are to tour outdoor spaces, Hill House Ave Landscape and Gardens, and to tour the roof deck greenhouse of the Yale Microbiology department.

FRENCH CONVERSATION — Debbie St. Thomas, 203.488.1859. The group has been meeting successfully on Zoom (instead of Chestnut Fine Foods), 1:30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

GOLF — Barbara Kryger, 203.288.1515; Pam Rackliffe, 203.488.2667. A golf clinic is offered in the spring for all levels of players. Currently there is a search for a new golf pro. Times, location and fees to be determined.

LUNCHEON GOURMET — Melissa Lamoreaux, 203.458.0857; Bernardina Wilcox, 714.749.8998. Participants share the meals’ expenses and take turns planning and preparing the luncheon. Traditionally there have been six meetings a year in members’ homes as well as one restaurant outing or other culinary activity. Dues are $10.

MEMOIR WRITERS — Margaret Flesher, 203.457.7111 or mcflesher729@gmail.com. A new activity invites participants to join a small group in which they’ll write about their lives, one story at a time. Major life themes serve as inspiration for a two-page story each week when the group gathers virtually on Zoom for discussion, creative activities, and sharing stories. The group will meet in eight sessions, beginning on Thursday, September 17; the cost is $80.

NEEDLERS — Dinny Wakerley, 203.624.9343 or dinnyw999@gmail.com. Needlers traditionally meet monthly in members’ homes on Tuesday at 1:30 for conversation, with light refreshments, while knitting, crocheting, working on needlepoint, mending or another conversation, with light refreshments, while knitting, crocheting, working on needlepoint, mending or another project of choice, from September through June. There is discussion on how to proceed depending on members’ comfort level regarding physical distancing and masks.

SCRABBLE — Louise FitzSimons, 203.530.4671 or cavancomm@gmail.com. Meetings have been in members’ homes on the third Sunday of the month and reports are that a wonderful time is had by all. The group may meet via an online option in the future.

TENNIS — Carol Munch, 203.278.3862. Intermediate and advanced players meet Tuesdays 10-11:30 October through April for a weekly round robin. Cost is $100 per season to Yale and $15 per play. Currently the Yale courts are closed and no commitment for the fall has been made.

YUWO WALKERS — Patty Pollard, 203.668.6019. Walkers meet in the fall and spring, weather permitting, for walks in nearby scenic locations. Difficulty level varies and walks are usually about two hours. The group has resumed hikes, with participants per hike limited to 8, maintaining 6’ physical distance and masks where appropriate.

Lunch and Learn

YUWO will host a number of speakers from the MacMillan Center throughout the year. Check your newsletter for details and dates. The MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale is the University’s focal point for promoting teaching and research on all aspects of international affairs, societies, and cultures around the world. It taps the interests and combines the intellectual resources of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and of the professional schools. Check your newsletter for details and dates.
The YUWO Scholarship Program

YUWO’s scholarship program was established five years after the founding of YUWO. Two women, Magee Fenn and Kay Ross, added another dimension to the YUWO purpose. In 1970 YUWO decided to raise money for scholarships for women whose education had been interrupted or delayed and who were pursuing educational programs to advance their careers. That original fund, the Annual Scholarship Fund, provided the first YUWO award of $100 in 1972.

In the years following the founding of the program, both YUWO and its Scholarship Program have grown and developed. Since 1972, 357 women have received YUWO scholarships totaling $474,375. In 2020 seven deserving women received a total of $30,000. The YUWO Scholarship Funds are now held, invested and managed by the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven (CFGNH) for both growth and protection. Thanks to the generosity and dedication of YUWO members, their families and friends, there are now four Scholarship Accounts with a combined amount of more than $280,000.

In addition to the original Annual Scholarship Fund, there are three trust funds: The YUWO Trust Fund, The Magee Fenn Trust Fund, and the Gustave and Carol Lynn Sirot Fund. YUWO receives an annual distribution from each of these funds.

The YUWO Scholarship Committee works year-round seeking, choosing and funding eligible candidates.

Membership in YUWO

Membership in the Yale University Women’s Organization (YUWO) is open to any woman who, by virtue of her own or her family’s affiliation, past or present, is associated with the Yale community. YUWO dues are $40 per year, payable at the beginning of the academic year. Payment of dues allows participation in any YUWO activity or interest group. Some interest groups have additional fees. Dues also cover a subscription to the newsletter. Membership forms are available online at www.yuwowomen.org. For more information, contact Membership Chair Margaret Sipple at 203-533-7439 or sipplemp@gmail.com.