

YUWO 2021

👉 Watch for Zoom Invites!

Lunch and Learn

Thursday, January 28, 12 noon
"Rigged"

Journalist and historian David Shimer (Yale '18 BA, MA) will speak on "Foreign Interference in U.S. Elections, Past and Present." Mr. Shimer is the author of *Rigged: America, Russia, and One Hundred Years of Covert Electoral Interference*.

and

Thursday, February 25, 12 noon
"Wikipedia, Democracy, and Academic Knowledge"

Professor Julia Adams is Professor of Sociology and International & Area Studies, Head of Grace Hopper College, and Chair of the Council of Heads of College.

(See page 3 for more details)

Save the Dates! Spring Lecture Series

The Commonwealth of Women:
Women Playwrights from
the (former) British
Commonwealth

Professor Murray Biggs

Wednesdays: March 31,
April 7, 14, 21, 28
10:30 am on Zoom



(See article, page 4)

Consider joining the Board!

The YUWO Board meets monthly (currently by Zoom). The Board is interested in identifying YUWO members with basic knowledge of (or willingness to learn) the database software, Excel, for several of our open Board positions for 2021-2023. If you are interested in one of these positions, or for more information, please contact Betsy Weber at eweber@edgedev.com

Assistant Treasurer – Works with Treasurer & Scholarship Chairs to manage Scholarship funds. Experience with or willingness to learn Excel required.

Membership Chair – Maintains the YUWO database on Excel and distributes checks. Experience with or willingness to learn Excel required.

Scholarship Chair – Manages the YUWO Scholarship program.



YUWO Members and Friends:

Julian Montague's design sums up 2020. The amazing fact is that not only did YUWO survive but we thrived with learning experiences on new platforms. Pre-pandemic, one Board Member walked the actual Gargoyle walk through Yale for 2 hours in nasty weather. In early January, YUWO was treated to a virtual tour in the comfort of our homes. Some sunny day we look forward to the actual Gargoyle walk. Ahead of us are monthly Lunch and Learn lectures from distinguished MacMillan Center speakers as well as our April Lecture Series with Yale Professor Murray Biggs from the Theatre Studies Department. Professor Biggs will give lectures on five plays written by women playwrights from the (former)

British Commonwealth." Sandra Greer will provide all the information in the YUWO March Newsletter. The lecture series will be offered to all YUWO members on Zoom. Our West Coast YUWO member, Jill Walsh, reports that her husband, John, will give an on-line lecture series on Picasso in March. Watch for news from Yale Art Gallery.

Mary-Jo W. Warren, YUWO President

YUWO VIRTUAL Monthly Book Groups – Read On!

Second Monday Afternoon at 2:00 pm on Zoom:

February. *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson. March, Tidelands by Philippa Gregory.
April. *The Other Americans* by Laila Lalami.

Contact Pat Goldstein (203-535-0734) or patgoldst@gmail.com

Second or Third Monday Afternoon at 2:00 pm on Zoom:

On January 16, Judy Cole led the discussion of *Deacon King Kong* by James MacBride. Susan Anderson's selection for February is *Love and Summer* by William Trevor. This book group makes its selections in December for the following year, and those who propose the book usually lead the discussion on Zoom. We deeply miss the members who do not negotiate Zoom and look forward to being together again.

Contact Louise Ciulla at lciulla@yahoo.com for more information about this group.

Second Tuesday Afternoon at 2:00 pm on Zoom:

After reading *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich, in January, the February 9 book is *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II*, by Sonia Purnell.

Contact Lyn Howe (203-606-0370) or lyn.howe66@gmail.com

Second Thursday Morning at 9:30 am on Zoom:

Thursday, December 10. We discussed *Leadership in Turbulent Times* by Doris Kearns Goodwin.
Thursday, February 11. Organizational meeting to plan and choose books for the coming year.

Contact Audrey DeFronzo (203-804-5572) or amdefronzo@gmail.com

Note: Most YUWO books groups have room for more readers; contact leaders for information.

What are you reading?

For those of you NOT in Book Groups or who are not Zooming, other good book choices are out there. Let's hear what you are reading! I enjoyed *Walking With the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement* by John Lewis and *Madame Fourcade's Secret War* by Lynne Olson, both non-fiction. *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson is an incredible but long and difficult dissection of America's deep-seated racism. Entirely worth reading. For fun, you might enjoy mysteries by Kate Atkinson (Scot), Tana French (American-Irish), Louise Penny (Canadian), Donna Leon (American living in Venice), and P.D. James or Agatha Christie, (English). —Susan Leonard, editor

YUWO Interest Groups

French Conversation

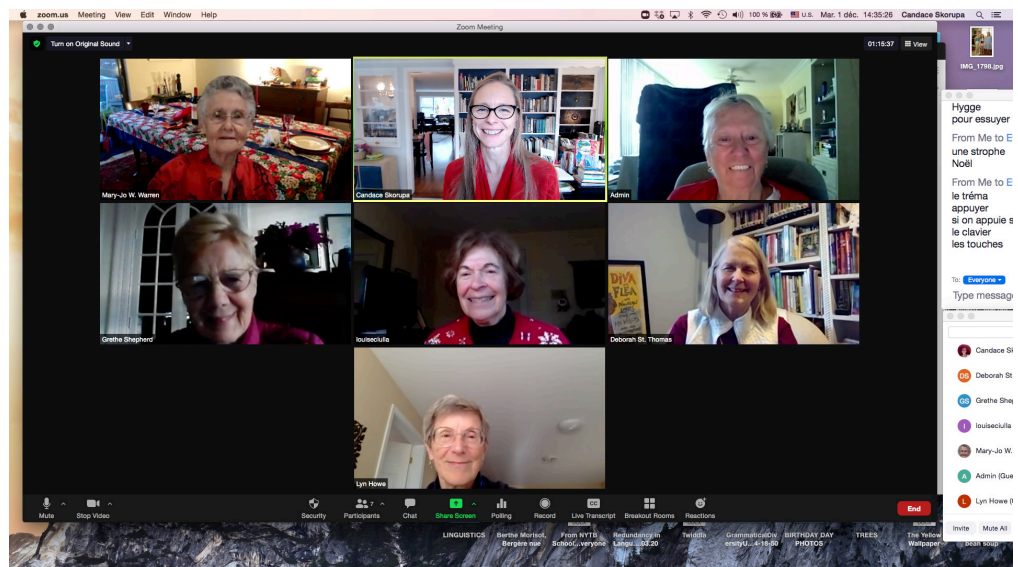
This group enjoyed a virtual holiday lunch on Zoom in December (see right).

Hiking

No hikes planned. Patty Pollard does lead hikes when the weather looks promising, though, and a happy crew walked the Branford Trolley Trail in January.

Memoir Writing

A new, introductory memoir-writing group will start in February.



LUNCH & LEARN

“RIGGED”

On **Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 12:00 noon**, journalist and historian David Shimer (Yale '18 BA. MA) will speak on “Foreign Interference in U.S. Elections, Past and Present.” Mr. Shimer is the author of *Rigged: America, Russia, and One Hundred Years of Covert Electoral Interference*. The book exposes the shadowy 100-year history of secret operations by the Soviet Union’s KGB, Russia under Vladimir Putin, and the CIA to influence electoral outcomes in foreign countries. It also offers a detailed account of Russia’s 2016 efforts to undermine U.S. democracy, and the Obama administration’s efforts to stop it, as well as similar efforts by Russian hackers in 2020. The book draws on archival research across continents and interviews with 130 officials, including a former KGB general and eight former CIA directors. For more information see <https://news.yale.edu/2020/08/20/rigged-details-long-history-russian-and-us-electoral-interference> for an August 2020 interview and a NY Times review <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/30/books/review/david-shimer-rigged.html>.

“WIKIPEDIA, DEMOCRACY, AND ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE”



On **Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 12:00 noon**, Professor Julia Adams will talk about, “Wikipedia, Democracy, and Academic Knowledge.” Dr. Adams is Yale Professor of Sociology and International & Area Studies, Head of Grace Hopper College, and Chair of the Council of Heads of College, among other responsibilities. She received a NSF grant for collaborative research with Hannah Bruckner (Vice-Provost for Faculty Diversity, NYU-Abu Dhabi) on “Wikipedia and the Democratization of Academic Knowledge.” The project analyzes the representation of scholars and scholarship, including gender- and race-specific patterns, with a goal of improving quality and reducing potential bias on digital platforms. We look forward to learning more about this complicated topic.

Margaret Flesher is an accredited leader of this method of life-story writing. Fee: \$80 for eight sessions. Contact Margaret (203-457-7111 or mcflesher729@gmail.com) for more information.

Lisa Ward wrote (*The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 10, 2017, “Why You Should Write a Memoir—Even if Nobody Will Read It”), “According to psychologists and researchers, writing a memoir—even just for personal consumption—can help the author review and make sense of his or her life, come to terms with traumatic events and foster personal growth... Life narratives are especially beneficial if they focus on redemption and overcoming adversity.” This editor has now participated in two eight-week memoir groups and has decided to stay on with my new friends in a less formal group with Margaret, writing for our own purposes and sharing as we wish. It’s been an extremely valuable experience for me, finding a thread of meaning leading through the maze of memory. (Susan Leonard).

Needlers

We are staying warm and safe inside, working on our own projects and hoping to gather in person later this year. If you have any questions or want to be added to the Needlers Group list, contact Dinny Wakerley at dinnyw999@gmail.com.

Membership Additions/Corrections (please note on your membership list!)

1. Christa Dove, 195 Lawrence Street, New Haven, CT 06511. dovechrista@gmail.com. 203-772-2226.
2. Judith Miller, 1 Indian Neck Ave, Unit 1D, Branford, CT 06405. judithmillerphd@gmail.com. 203-589-8335.
3. Mabel Peterson, 13 Ashlar Village, Wallingford, CT 06492. mabelpeterson@segweb.org. 203-499-7151.

YUWO SPRING LECTURE SERIES

with Professor Murray Biggs

Wednesdays March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28 at 10:30 am on Zoom



YUWO Spring Zoom Lecture Series

The theme for our series is: The Commonwealth of Women: Women Playwrights from the (former) British Commonwealth. More details about the subject matter and access to the five plays will appear in the March Newsletter.

Our speaker will be Murray Biggs who is a semi-retired Adjunct Associate

Professor of English, Theater Studies, and Film at Yale. Professor Biggs is known everywhere for his dynamic teaching style that inspires great enthusiasm and active participation. He has led week-long and weekend theater seminars in various locations: in London; at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario, and at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake; as well as in Ireland and at the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon. Professor Murray Biggs is still widely active at and for Yale.

Professor Biggs was born in England, brought up in South Africa, and returned to England as a Rhodes Scholar to take his second degree (in English) at Oxford, where he afterwards taught for two years. He later studied acting and for a time performed professionally in Boston. He worked at MIT for ten years. He also taught at Wellesley, Berkeley, and the University of Connecticut before joining the Yale faculty in 1986. He has published many articles and reviews, especially about Shakespeare and his contemporaries in performance. In 1991 he edited a collection of essays, *The Arts of Performance in Elizabethan and Early Stuart Drama*. He has directed over 40 plays, a third of them from the English Renaissance.



Where Are Our YUWO Scholars Now?

Update from a former Scholarship Recipient

To the YUWO Scholarship Committee,

I am eternally grateful to the YUWO for the impact this scholarship has played in my career. It allowed me in my later stage of life to complete my education by receiving the scholarship. I had always wanted to go to college; however, it was outside of reach. For many years I had to work two jobs to maintain my household. This scholarship was an answer to my prayers.

Now that I have graduated and although I have not left my current department. The dynamics of my job have changed considerably. My education gave me the confidence needed to advance to a leadership position. I now use multiple computer applications, and I work closely with management to develop procedures to ensure the daily operations run smoothly.

I hope in the future to continue my education and pursue a bachelor's degree. I recommend this scholarship to all women in the university to help them achieve their dreams.

Wishing you all the best in 2021, Lynette L. Holloway

The Scholarship Fund has always relied on checks from attendees of the Lecture Series, the Holiday Party and the Annual Meeting. In these challenging times, it is important to remember the Fund. Donations are tax-deductible.

Send checks made out to YUWO to Betsy Weber, 24 Turtle Bay Drive, Branford CT 06405 with the name of the Scholarship Fund you prefer—or the Annual Fund—in the memo line.

If you enjoyed Matthew Duman's presentation on the Gargoyles of Yale ...

here are some additional resources: Website: <https://www.thegrotesque10.com>



Books:

An Education in the Grotesque: The Gargoyles of Yale University

and his new book

The Grotesque 10: Amazing Architectural Sculpture from Ten American Colleges & Universities
Perfect Paperback [2019]