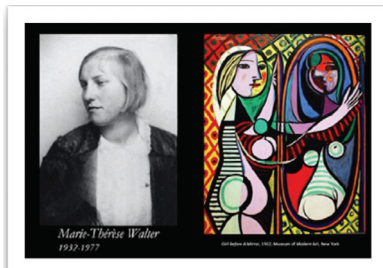


YUWO 2020-2021

👉 Watch for Zoom Invites!

ART AFICIONADOS (ZOOM)
Tuesday, December 8, 1:00 pm

Bob Potter will speak on Picasso's Portraits of Women



LUNCH & LEARN (ZOOM)
January, February, March

Lectures with Yale Faculty from the MacMillan Center for International & Area Studies.



Wishing Everyone

a

*Safe and Healthy
Holiday!*

YUWO Board Opportunities in 2021-2023

Consider joining the Board!

Assistant Treasurer – Works with Treasurer & Scholarship Chairs, and manages donations.

Membership Chair – Maintains the YUWO database on Excel and distribute checks.

Scholarship Chair – Responsible for distribution and information about scholarships.



YUWO Members and Friends:

I hope that this *New Yorker* cover will make you smile into the New Year. The YUWO Board, and I, send Best Wishes to all for a healthy and, eventually, mask-less 2021. With deep regrets, we cancelled our Annual Holiday Party. However, our Zoom meetings on topics far and wide will continue into the New Year, until we can meet together again on the West Campus, at the Welcome Center, and in members' homes for the small activity groups. In this joint December/January Newsletter there is a list of Board Members and Activity Chairs. Please feel free to contact these active members if you want to join an Activity or help with a field of Board activity. YUWO is only as strong as its membership. This is a double issue of the Newsletter so reach out by phone or email. The YUWO Directory will be published in mid-December.

Mary-Jo W. Warren, YUWO President

YUWO VIRTUAL Monthly Book Groups – Read On!

Second Monday Afternoon at 2:00 pm on Zoom:

Monday, December 14. We will *Daughter of Moloka'i* by Alan Brennart.

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

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

Monday, December 14. We will meet via Zoom for our annual Christmas party, poetry reading, and selection of next year's books. Prior to the meeting, send Betsy the title and a short blurb about your choice for 2021. The top 11 choices and their order will be decided at the meeting.

Contact Betsy Suatoni (518) 483-6509, or elsuatoni@sbcglobal.net

Second Tuesday Afternoon at 2:00 pm on Zoom:

Tuesday, December 8. we will discuss *My Father's Paradise* by Ariel Sabar. On January 12, 2021, the book chosen by consensus is *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich.

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

Second Thursday Morning at 9:30 am on Zoom:

Thursday, December 10. We are planning to discuss *Leadership in Turbulent Times* by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

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

[Editor's Note: I asked Lyn Howe to tell us a bit about the Second Thursday Morning reading group.]

Lyn: Well, our list of books read goes back to 2007. I think that's about when we started. Certainly, the group has changed personnel over time, but we stayed more or less the same size—about a dozen people.

Susan: How do you decide which books to read? Some titles are popular here, others elsewhere.

Lyn: I know what you mean about book popularity being somewhat regional. A friend from Toronto gave me suggestions of books that were quite unknown in book groups here, and a cousin in California had a list of books that were also not being discussed in the groups I knew here. It's interesting—when I suggested some of those “foreign” books, there was really little interest reading in them. I think word of mouth locally fuels interest that leads people to books. Louise Erdrich is well-known nationally, of course, so when someone suggested *The Round House*, people thought it was a good idea. We choose our books by consensus—people make suggestions and then we vote. Yesterday it was really a split between *The Round House* and *Overstory*, until one person switched her vote.

Susan: What are your meetings like these days?

Lyn: During the pandemic, meeting on Zoom, we almost always have our entire group at the meetings. We appreciate this and value sharing our views of the different books we've reading. Differing opinions can provide a chance to broaden our view, and we always have thought-provoking, respectful discussions.

Susan: Thank you, and remember, “A day without reading is a day without...” Just kidding. I have no idea!

YUWO Interest Groups

Art Aficionados

News Flash: In accordance with Yale's revised COVID-19 Protocols, the Yale University Art Gallery and The Yale Center for British Art are now closed to the public indefinitely. Go to the respective museum websites for further information about possible openings. Chair Anneke Hathaway hopes that some of you got to visit during limited hours, by ticket, socially distanced, when even that option was available.

Picasso's Portraits of Women
Tuesday, December 8 — 1:00 pm
Open to all current YUWO Members

Bob Potter is a graduate of Syracuse University's School of Visual and Performing Arts. In his early career, he was an art director at *Scholastic Magazines*, Time Warner and *National Geographic*. Over the past decade, he helped create an arts therapy program for Save the Children, was a corporate Development Officer for the National Gallery of Art and headed marketing for Mystic Seaport. In addition, he is a volunteer docent at the Yale Center for British Art.

His Art Aficionados lecture for YUWO members will explore the variety and the intensity of Picasso's portraits of women from the earliest days as a starving artist in Paris until his last years—presenting a retrospective of the changing and dramatic styles of the art of Pablo Picasso and the women who inspired his life.

Gourmet Group

Louise Ciulla lcquilla@yahoo.com is the “hostess” for the December 3 Gourmet Group Zoom, Discussion and Slide Show. The theme is Favorite Holiday Recipes. Members who wish to “cook” should send their recipes and photos of their cooking to Louise and Mary-Jo Warren at warrenmaryjo1635@gmail.com

Hiking

No hikes are planned.

Memoir Writers

A new, introductory memoir-writing group will start in February. This is your opportunity to join a virtual group on Zoom to write and share stories from your life, two pages at a time. See the registration form on page 5 for more detail and to sign up for an experience that YUWO members in the first memoir group found “productive,” “worthwhile,” and “an eye-opener.” Several of those members are continuing with an “advanced” Guided Autobiography class, which builds on the work done in the initial 8-week session and is available to those who've completed that course. Margaret Flesher (203-457-7111 or mcflesher729@gmail.com) is an accredited leader of this method of life-story writing. Fee: \$80 for eight sessions.



Above: the first introductory class of YUWO Memoir Writers: Top row, l. to r.: Willi Stahura, Margaret Flesher, Marion Russell; middle row: l. to r.: Bernardina Wilcox, Karen Nangle, Audrey Downey; bottom row, l. to r.: Elizabeth Parker, Susan Addiss, Susan Trucksess. Members Susan Leonard and Pam Rackliffe were not present for the photograph.

YUWO Interest Groups *(continued from page 3)*

Needlers

Now that colder weather has set in, it is unlikely that we will be able to meet again until either the weather warms and/or we have a vaccine. However, everyone seems to be well and busying themselves with crafts or other projects. Alice Simon is reported to have had a wonderful 100th birthday celebration. She received some 200 cards plus flowers, etc. Thank you all for contributing to her special day. If you have any questions or want to be added to the Needlers Group list, please contact Dinny Wakerley at dinnyw999@gmail.com



October Lecture Series Concludes

Our October 2020 Lecture Series, featuring three outstanding women at Yale in an on-line interview style, was a unique experience for all of us attending this Zoom event. Dr. Susan Gibbons, Linda Greenhouse, and Constance Royster gave us exceptional insights into their personal and professional lives and the paths taken to achieve their roles as leaders at Yale. While this format has been unlike others we've experienced through the years, there was much to learn and share with all the participants as we pursued goals of continuous learning on so many different levels. Many thanks to all for your attendance and certainly your patience as we found our way within a particularly strange environment and challenging time. Zoom does work, but not without a certain amount of good will and intestinal fortitude, of which we all seem to have plenty!

[Editor's Note: Constance Royster referred to the notion that women entering the formerly male college would need GRIT. Seems as if we all still need to demonstrate daily that we, too, have grit.]

Our next series in April will bring us back to a more traditional series as we study Irish Drama in the form of five plays about Commonwealth Women, to be offered by Dr. Murray Biggs. Once the plays are identified, copies will be made through Tyco in New Haven at a cost to be determined. We may also have the ability to have digital files created; we await decisions on this medium based on copyright requirements. Whether we are able to meet in our traditional fashion at the Yale West Campus, or if we will continue with our more experienced Zoom platform, this study of Irish plays promises to give us a stimulating course by a master scholar of Irish literature. More details will become available in the February newsletter, so please stay tuned.

At this time, I call on members to consider joining our committee in designing and developing the next lecture series for the Fall of 2021. We welcome your ideas and interests that will enrich us all as we hope to be coming out of a particularly challenging and difficult year—a truly terrific time to celebrate our unity, strength and tenacity that defines us all. Best wishes to all for good health, safety and happiness through the winter and better days beyond.—*Sandra Greer, Lecture Series Chair*

The Scholarship Fund has always relied on checks from attendees of the Lecture Series, the Holiday Party and the Annual Meeting. In these times of Covid-19 quarantine, 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.

Everyone Has a Story!
Learn to Write Yours, Two Pages at a Time

Beginning Thursday, February 4, 2021, YUWO member Margaret Flesher is offering an introductory series of eight virtual Guided Autobiography sessions on Zoom. Along with creative activities, writing tips, and helpful prompts, each session introduces a major life theme for a story to write at home and share with the group in a safe, supportive setting. The weekly sessions run through March 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and the cost for eight sessions is \$80. Group size is limited to seven, to allow time for all to read their stories and receive feedback. If the class is filled and there are enough interested members to form a second section, that will be held on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

If you want to leave a legacy for your family, gain perspective on a life transition, start a memoir, or simply reflect on your life experience, the new YUWO Memoir Writers group will get you started on the right track. With its thematic approach, Guided Autobiography makes memoir writing accessible to everyone. You'll dig deep into your memories and write a two-page story each week.

The Guided Autobiography technique was developed by James Birren, a pioneer in gerontology research at the University of Southern California. Because it was developed in an academic setting, the method has been the subject of extensive testing and research that supports its benefits in fostering a sense of how one's life has mattered.

Margaret Flesher is a writer and personal historian who helps individuals preserve memories and family history through writing their life stories. A graduate of Vassar College, she had a long career in publishing and corporate communications with top tier companies. Margaret is certified as a Guided Autobiography instructor by the Birren Center for Autobiographical Studies.

*To reserve your place in the class, please complete the form below and return with your check for \$80, **payable to Margaret Flesher**. Mail directly to Margaret at 38 Long Hill Farm, Guilford, CT 06437.*

Name _____ \$80 enclosed _____

Address _____

Email _____ Preferred phone _____

What are your goals in joining the group? _____

What is your experience with Zoom? _____

(Optional) Your major life work: _____

(Optional) Your favorite activities: _____

(Optional) An interesting fact about you: _____



Box 207165, New Haven, CT 06520-7165

YUWO Newsletter for December 2020/January 2021