

## YUWO Spring 2021

👉 Watch for Zoom Invites!

**Tuesday, March 9, 12 noon  
Lunch and Learn**

Dr. Leah Mirakhor is a Lecturer in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration (ER&M) and the Program in American Studies

**Wednesday, March 31, 10:30 am  
Spring Lecture Series**

First lecture by Professor Murrury Biggs in the five lecture series on women playwrights from the (former) British Commonwealth.

*Registration inside this Newsletter.*

## Spring Lecture Series:

**“Women Playwrights  
from the (former)  
British Commonwealth”**



*Registration inside (see pages 4-5)*

## YUWO Spring Lecture Series

**March 31:** Christina Reid: Tea in a China Cup (Northern Irish)

**April 7:** Meera Syal: My Sister-Wife (Asian British)

**April 14:** Winsome Pinnock: Leave Taking (Caribbean British)

**April 21:** Three One Act Plays from South African Playwrights with a glossary of notes:

Geina Mhlophe: Have you Seen Zandile?

Magi Noninzi Williams:  
Kwa-Landlady

Lueen Conning: A Coloured Place

**April 28:** Sharon Pollock: The Komagata Maru Incident

## YUWO Members and Friends



If it's snowing, or it's hailing,  
Or late Winter checks the Spring-  
If the northern wind is wailing,  
Still this heart of mine will sing.  
A.A. Milne

E.H. Shepard

I hope that the winter snows are blanketing your crocus and daffodil bulbs. YUWO has a host of Zoom Programs to continue to entertain us in late Winter. Tune in to the March 9 Lunch and Learn with Dr. Leah Mirakhor. Register for the Spring Lecture Series when Professor Murray Biggs will open a window into the world of women playwrights from the (former) British Commonwealth. The plays discussed will be available as a PDF to all registrants or for purchase as a spiral bound copy at a minimal charge at Tyco on Broadway. Consider joining a small book group. Three groups have openings which are thriving on Zoom.

*Mary-Jo W. Warren, YUWO President*

## YUWO VIRTUAL Monthly Book Groups – Read On!

### Second Monday Afternoon at 2:00 pm on Zoom:

On Monday, March 8, we will be discussing *Tidelands* by Philippa Gregory. The next book (for April) is *The Other Americans* by Laila Lalami.

Contact Pat Goldstein (203-535-0734) or [patgoldst@gmail.com](mailto:patgoldst@gmail.com)

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

On Monday, March 15, our book is *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. Winnie Seibert and Susan Leonard will lead the discussion of this large and important book. Question: “If people were given the choice between democracy and whiteness, how many would choose whiteness?” --Taylor Branch on page 352.

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

### Second Tuesday Afternoon at 2:00 pm on Zoom:

On Tuesday, March 9, the group will be discussing *Nothing to See Here* by Kevin Wilson. On April 13, our book is *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. (Seems like many of us YUWO members are reading *Caste*.)

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

### Second Thursday Morning at 9:30 am on Zoom:

Thursday, March 11, we will discuss *Bag Man: The Wild Crimes, Audacious Cover-up, and Spectacular Downfall of a Brazen Crook in the White House*, by Rachel Maddow. This is the story of the other scandal, the one about VP Spiro Agnew, not Watergate, that rocked Nixon’s White House. Remember?

Contact Audrey DeFronzo (203-804-5572) or [amdefronzo@gmail.com](mailto:amdefronzo@gmail.com)

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## YUWO Interest Groups

### NEW INTEREST GROUP

#### Activity Group for YUWO? Needs a Leader.

What about a movie group? One member writes:

I recently joined a movie group that meets once a month on Zoom to discuss the film we have watched free from Netflix or Amazon Prime on our own. Our discussions are one hour long. Before the end of the hour, we leave time for selection of the next movie.

Anyone interested in organizing a YUWO Zoom Movie Group please contact Bernie (Bernardina) Wilcox, Activities Chair, at [bernardinawilcox@gmail.com](mailto:bernardinawilcox@gmail.com) or 714-749-8998.

## Lunch and Learn Resumes March 9



*Above, Luce Hall is the main building for The MacMillan Center*

**Mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 12:00 noon** when YUWO Zoom will host another special speaker from the Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale. Our speaker, Dr. Leah Mirakhor, will give a talk on her research.

Dr. Mirakhor is a Lecturer in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration (ER&M) and the Program in American Studies. Her research interests include American, African American, and Contemporary Literature; World Anglophone; Novel, Non-Fiction Prose, Literature & Visual Art; and the Twentieth Century. *For more information about Dr. Mirakhor's courses and publications, see <https://erm.yale.edu/people/leah-mirakhor>*

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### **YUWO Activity Groups** (continued from page 2)

#### **Luncheon Gourmet Group**

Marty Sherman sent out an intriguing invitation to Gourmet Group members for our March Zoom luncheon:

*Because Phoebe the Connecticut Hedgehog, standing in for the state groundhog Chuckles (not kidding!), has predicted 6 more weeks of winter, it's probably safe to bet it will still be cold and raw on March 4!*

*SO... let's have soup! But soups with a twist!*

*The idea is to find a recipe (it can be a family favorite or a new discovery) that has some unusual or "unexpected" twist... an unusual ingredient, or ingredients combined unexpectedly. Think unusual seasonings or "hard to guess" ingredients — that elusive flavor you can't quite identify in a dish.*

*But the REAL idea is to have fun! Anyone who wants to cook a pot of warm soup and settle in with a bowl on March 4 is welcome to do so. If you'd like the recipe included in a packet for other members, send it to me via email or by regular USPS mail by Feb. 26. I'll put them all together in a PDF that I will send out to everyone before the 4th. I hope everyone who makes a soup will want to share thoughts about it — unfortunately we can't share the flavors, but we can imagine them!*

[Editor's Note: I think maybe if others wished to participate, Marty might send you a zoom invitation, even if you are not officially a member of the Gourmet Group. Recipes are pouring in (pun intended) using every conceivable variety of vegetable and spice.]

## The Speaker, the Dates, the Plays, and the Registration



### Our Speaker:

Professor Murray Biggs 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. Professor Biggs assumes that we will be familiar with the play of the week. [murray.biggs@yale.edu](mailto:murray.biggs@yale.edu)

**The Plays, the Dates and the Times: Wednesdays at 10:30 on Zoom – A PDF of the plays will be sent as an email attachment to all participants. Option: Spiral bound copies are available to order in advance for pick-up at the Broadway New Haven Tyco Printing - (203) 777-8926 – Price @ \$34.**

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April 21: Three One Act Plays from South African Playwrights with a glossary of notes:

Geina Mhlophe: *Have you Seen Zandile?*

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Lueen Coming: *A Coloured Place*

April 28: Sharon Pollock: *The Komagata Maru Incident*

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Save the top of the Form  Cut Here and Return the Registration below with a \$40 check

### Registration for the Spring Lecture Series Women Playwrights from the (Former British Commonwealth)

**March 31, April 7, 10, 14, 21 & 28 at 10:30 am. On Zoom**

This course is open to YUWO members and the public. The Fee is \$40 per person for the series. Make checks payable to YUWO.

**Mail to Nancy Rosenbaum, 200 Leeder Hill Road, Apt. 503, Hamden, CT 06517**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Women Playwrights from the (Former) British Commonwealth

### Bios culled from on-line sources



**Christina Reid** (1942-2015) was from the Ardoyne area of Belfast and her plays provide a working-class, female and Protestant perspective on her society. She was one of a prominent group of Belfast playwrights whose work in the 1980s gave a more working-class take on the Troubles. Her play *Did You Hear the One About the Irishman?* won the Ulster Television Drama Award in 1980, while her breakthrough work *Tea in a China Cup* was a runner-up in the 1982 IT/DTF competition for plays by women. In 2002 she was awarded an Artist Award in recognition of her contribution to playwriting in Northern Ireland.



**Meera Syal**, writer, actress and comedian of Asian descent, was born in 1963 near Wolverhampton in the West Midlands and was educated at Manchester University. She co-wrote the script for 'My Sister Wife', a three-part BBC Television series, and wrote the film *Bhaji on the Beach* for Channel 4. She co-writes and is a cast member of the popular BBC Television comedy series 'Goodness Gracious Me' and 'The Kumars at No. 42'. She also works as a journalist and is a regular contributor to *The Guardian*.



**Winsome Pinnock** was born in [Islington, North London](#), in 1961 to migrant parents from Jamaica. Her mother was a cleaner, and her father a checker at [Smithfield Meat Market](#).<sup>[1]</sup> Pinnock graduated from [Goldsmiths, University of London](#) with a BA and from [Birkbeck, University of London](#) with an MA in Modern Literature in English.<sup>[1]</sup> She is an award-winning playwright and dramaturg. Her work has been produced on the British stage and internationally. She was the first black British female writer to have a play produced by the Royal National Theatre.



**Three South African Playwrights:** **Gcina Mhlophe**, born in 1958, is a South African [anti-apartheid activist](#), actress, [storyteller](#), poet, playwright, director and author. She does her work through charismatic performances, to preserve storytelling as a means of keeping history alive and encouraging South African children to read. She tells her stories in four of South Africa's languages: English, [Afrikaans](#), [Zulu](#) and [Xhosa](#)

**Magi Noninzi Williams** is a South African playwright and actress best known for a string of television shows. Williams obtained a drama teacher's diploma in 1993 but opted for a life in front of the cameras. She has also starred in several films. Her writing credits include a translated film script of the highly successful *Mapantsula*. Her theatre work has taken her around the world, touring many countries including the UK.



**Lueen Conning** is a South African playwright whose exciting play *A Coloured Place* explores the contradictions inherent in being 'colored' in postapartheid South Africa. Using multimedia staging, the play is unrelenting as its barrage of images, perceptions, and attitudes spill out onto the stage from disembodied voices.

**Sharon Pollock** (born in 1936 in [Fredericton](#), New Brunswick) is a Canadian playwright, actor, [director](#), who lives in [Calgary](#), Alberta. She has been Artistic Director of [Theatre Calgary](#), [Theatre New Brunswick](#) and Performance Kitchen & The Garry Theatre, the latter which she herself founded in 1992. In 2007, she was made a Fellow of the [Royal Society of Canada](#). Pollock examines historic events and tells them in a way that causes the audience to question the reality between the official story and what is shown on stage. Pollock is one of Canada's most notable playwrights, and is a major part of the development of what is known today as Canadian Theatre.

## Scholarship Committee Hard at Work

Just as admissions committees of schools and colleges are meeting this winter to review applications, the YUWO Scholarship Committee is planning to study applications for financial assistance.

The monies for these awards come from the income of several trust funds set up by YUWO at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven as well as from donations many of you make to our annual fund. We have promised applicants that decisions will be announced by the end of April, and in fact, we usually inform them of our decision before that date. Already applications are coming in for the 2021-2022 year beginning June 1, 2021. In addition to completing the application form itself, each candidate is required to submit two letters of recommendation, a personal statement and a copy of her recent IRS filing. Each member of our committee reads each paper of each submission, takes notes and evaluates the candidates. Then the whole committee meets – or nowadays, Zooms, - to make final decisions. We usually have several rounds of selections, and often we have lengthy discussions on the amounts to be awarded to each selected scholar. There never seem to be enough funds for all the worthy applicants. The last step, sending out the award letters, creates a feeling of accomplishment for us, and a joy. For even though this process is time consuming, our committee feels rewarded. Our scholarship applicants are close to heroic as they work diligently to bring home a paycheck to support their families, raise children and advance their careers. Each of you who has supported the scholarship program can be proud of the admirable lives our YUWO scholars have pursued.

### 2016-20 Scholars' Schools

Albertus Magnus College  
Baker College Center for Graduate Studies  
Bay Path University  
Branford Hall  
Central CT State University  
CT State University  
Gateway Community College  
George Washington University  
Goodwin College  
John Hopkins  
Nyack School of Social Work  
Quinnipiac University  
Southern New Hampshire University  
University of Hartford  
Western Governors University  
Yale School of Nursing

### Where Are They Now?

Stacey Bonet, 2020 recipient of a YUWO scholarship, started and stopped school many times on the way to completing her doctorate because “life got in the way.” She went back to school as an undergraduate with a child, completed her master’s degree in journalism and business administration while having two more children, and is currently working on a doctorate in business administration. She was working fulltime at Yale and part time at Kohl’s in order to complete her doctorate, but thanks to YUWO’s Scholarship Program, she has the freedom to concentrate on writing her dissertation on mentoring women in the workplace. She believes that being supportive of other women at work can further women’s achievement of senior leadership parity. Stacey plans to write a book offering evidence-based workshops and classes to test teaching women to support one another in the workplace. She is in the final year of her doctoral studies. Best wishes, Stacey!