Yale University Women's Organization

2020-2021 Annual Report

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President’s Report for 2020 ~ 2021

YUWO 2020-2021 – The Year of Zoom

The 2020-2021 YUWO Board authorized an expenditure for a Zoom Subscription in June of 2020. By September 10, we held our first open wide membership Zoom meeting with guest speaker, Henry (Sam) Chauncey, who presented an illustrated talk on his book, “May Day at Yale 1970: Recollections.” 90 women attended. In October, Sandra Greer arranged three virtual talks for the Fall Lecture Series to celebrate Yale’s Year of the Woman (50WomenatYale150) which was open, without charge, to the entire membership. In both Fall and Spring, Marianne Lyden organized informative Lunch and Learn Lectures from the Yale’s MacMillan Center. Our small YUWO interest groups thrived. Four book groups met monthly and managed to accommodate long distant members and snow birds. The Gourmet Group met a throughout the year. Inspired by Louise Ciulla, Sally Fazzone, Barb Kryger, Melissa Lamoreaux, Marion Petrelli and Marty Sherman, members presented photos of their gourmet dishes on slideshows, spoke of their successes and failures and shared the recipes as email attachments. The Covid confinement made time for reflection and Margaret Flesher offered an Introductory and an Advanced Guided Memoir Course which has taken on a life of its own. Patty Pollard continued to organize small, masked hikes through the months when weather permitted. In lieu of our Holiday Party, Anneke Hathaway presented Bob Potter, a fellow BAC Docent, for a Zoom Lecture on Picasso. He will return for a Gilded Age Lecture in mid-May. The Spring Lecture Series returned by subscription with Yale Professor Murray Biggs giving informative Zoom talks on “Women Playwrights from the (Former) British Commonwealth.” Almost 50 YUWO members and guests attended. This was Professor Biggs’ fourth lecture series for YUWO. My Vice-President, Elizabeth Rindskopf-Parker, though stranded in her West Coast home, managed to assist with the Memoir Group, participate in the Scholarship Committee and arrange our very special speaker, Representative Rosa DeLauro, for our YUWO Annual Meeting and Scholarship Awards Zoom. I want to thank Carolyn Gould and her Committee for her work on the required Bylaws revision, as well as my entire Board, new and old, and especially my faithful advisors, Audrey DeFronzo, Landa Freeman, Patty Pollard and Marion Russell who were always there for me.

Until we meet again, for my final year in office, this year has been a challenge, but at the same time a learning experience. I hope that you all feel the same. — Mary-Jo Warren, YUWO President, 2018-2022

Nominating Committee Report

The YUWO Nominating Committee presented the following slate for 2020-2022:

Assistant Treasurer: Carmen Rodriguez
Scholarship Chair: Jane Shaw
Membership Chair: Willi Stahura
Recording Secretary: Susan Anderson

— Betsy Weber, Nominating Committee Chair
YUWO BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2020 ~ 2021

President    Mary-Jo Warren
Vice President    Elizabeth Rindskopf-Parker
Treasurer    Nancy Rosenbaum
Assistant Treasurer  Betsy Weber
Corresponding Secretary    Janis Isenberg
Recording Secretary  Susan Anderson
Activities    Bernie Wilcox
Annual Luncheon  Audrey DeFronzo
Excursions, Bus    Winnie Seibert
Willi Stahura
Excursions, Local Shavaun Towers Bennett
Lecture Series    Sandra Greer
Lunch and Learn    Marianne Lyden, Consultant
Membership    Margaret Sipple
Newcomers    Mary Jane Miller
Newsletter    Susan Leonard
Publicity    Marion Petrelli
Scholarship    Sally Tyler
Web Consultant    Martha Sherman
Welcome Reception    Sally Fazzone

Plus

YUWO Advisors    Audrey DeFronzo
Landa Freeman
Patty Pollard

YUWO Welcome Reception

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the annual Welcome Reception was presented in a virtual form. Held on Thursday, September 10 at 4 pm, Mary-Jo Warren presented us with speaker Henry (Sam) Chauncey, a longtime administrator at Yale University who was special assistant to Yale President Kingman Brewster. Sam’s topic was “May Day at Yale, 1970: Recollections, The Trial of Bobby Seale and the Black Panthers.” He has written a book by the same name.

Of interest were the many photos of that time, showing the downtown New Haven community and the Yale campus, fully involved and supportive of the event.

The reception lasted until 5:15 pm and was very well attended.

— Sally Fazzone, Welcome Committee, Chair

YUWO Newsletter and Brochure

NEWSLETTER: The YUWO Newsletter Team of Mary-Jo Warren, Marty Sherman, and Susan Leonard planned for a normal year in 2020, but that was not to be. Nevertheless, we managed to put out a monthly newsletter between August and May-June (December-January also being combined), relying heavily on Zoom meetings and virtual lectures replacing the usual in-person activities. Many thanks to all of the board members, activity chairs, and lecture leaders for their perseverance in putting programs together and getting information and photographs to us, enabling us to send out our on-line letter on time each month. Thanks to Ideal Printers for their generosity and efficiency, although the number of letters actually printed is down. Here’s to a better 2021. — Susan Leonard, Newsletter Editor

BROCHURE: A brochure listing YUWO activities, board members, scholarship information and other background information, and accompanied by a letter of welcome and an invitation to the September Welcome Reception, was distributed to prospective members, including new Yale retirees, in late August. The brochure was also mailed to all current members, and is available on YUWO’s new website at yuwowomen.org — Marty Sherman, Publications/Webmaster
Lunch and Learn for 2020 ~ 2021

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the YUWO 2020-21 Lunch and Learn series took place via Zoom, from noon to 1:00pm. Each of the speakers was very informative, energetic, and engaging.

On October 13, Marci Shore, Yale Associate Professor of History and Director of Graduate Studies for the MA in European & Russian Studies presented a talk on her research titled, “The Ukrainian Night: an Intimate History of Revolution.” Professor Shore specializes in Eastern European cultural, intellectual, and Jewish history, especially Russia, Poland, and Ukraine. Her books include *The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe* (2013), *Caviar and Ashes: A Warsaw Generation’s Life and Death in Marxism*, 1918-1968 (2006) and she is the translator of Michal Glowinski’s Holocaust memoir *The Black Seasons* (2005).

On November 10 George Syrimis, Director of Hellenic Studies and lecturer in Comparative Literature and Women's and Gender Studies, gave a talk titled, “Women in the Olympics - impractical, uninteresting, ungainly…and improper” Dr. Syrimis completed his B.Sc. from Cornell in 1990, then pursued graduate work in Modern & Classical Greek and Modern Spanish Literature at Harvard. In 2001, he joined the new Yale Program in Hellenic Studies and in 2004 became Associate Program Chair. He has published articles on the oral tradition, Georgios Vizyenos, C. P. Cavafy, Mikis Theodorakis, and Nikos Kazantzakis, and has developed two electronic projects (Lexis and Ikones) for the instruction of Modern Greek.

On January 28, 2021, journalist-historian David Shimer (Yale ’18 BA. MA) spoke about, “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 gives 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. Named A New York Times Editors’ Choice Book and A Washington Post Notable Work of Nonfiction, the book draws on archival research across continents and interviews with 130 officials, including a former KGB general and eight former CIA directors.

On February 25, 2021, Julia Adams spoke 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. She co-directs Yale CHESS (Center for Historical Enquiry and the Social Sciences) and this year is Acting Chair of the European Studies Council. Prof. Adams received a NSF grant with Hannah Bruckner (NYU-Abu Dhabi) for their Wikipedia project, which 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.

On Tuesday, March 9, 2021 Leah Mirakhor spoke about “Intimate Histories: A Story of Iranian Jewish Migration & Its Aftermath.” 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.

— Marianne Lyden, Lunch and Learn Consultant

Membership for 2020 ~ 2021

Thank you to all YUWO members for your continued support through this pandemic year! Your loyalty has been much appreciated! In this fiscal year (June 1, 2020-May, 2021) we have a total of 258 paid members which include 14 new members and 17 Honorary members, all of whom hold leadership positions at Yale.

Our YUWO by-laws state, “The purpose of the organization is to provide women in the Yale community with opportunities to pursue intellectual and social interest; to develop friendships; and to support the scholarship program.” As you will see in this report, those purposes have continued to be met in spite of this year’s challenges.

We hope that you will renew your membership for the coming year and that you will introduce a friend to this fine organization. — Margaret Sipple, Membership Chair
YUWO Scholarships make a difference! The typical YUWO scholar is in her late thirties, and has been working at home caring for family, or at Yale New Haven hospital or the Yale Center for British Art. If she wants to enter the job market or apply for a position with higher salary and more responsibility, she will need to finish college or pursue a degree in, for instance, business administration. Education is the key to advancement in our world, and it costs money! Some candidates qualify for Yale’s tuition reimbursement program, but even with that assistance, tuition bills remain. That’s why so many women turn to YUWO for scholarship support.

The YUWO members who established the Scholarship Program, the many members who have contributed and those who created funds for the program within the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven wanted to honor and support women affiliated with Yale whose education had been interrupted or delayed. Since 1972, YUWO has given $504,375 to 364 women studying at accredited institutions in fields ranging from nursing, to business administration to arts education. This year the Scholarship Committee has selected five candidates whose personal statements and letters of recommendation were impressive and deserving. We are proud to announce their names and the institution they will attend and the degree they are pursuing.

2021-2022 Scholarship Recipients:

Magee Fenn Scholar
Emily Chew       Harvard School of Education (MA)

Kay Ross Scholar
Rowan McWade     Simmons University (MS)

Gustave and Carol Lynn Sirot Scholar
Hui Yang         Yale School of Public Health (MPH)

Annual Fund Scholars
Farah Kidwai-Kahn George Washington University (PhD)
Emily Roback     Southern Connecticut State University (MBA)

YUWO Scholarship Committee 2020 ~ 2021:
Members of the Scholarship Committee this year were: Terri Burditt, Margaret Flesher, Sandra Greer, Elizabeth Rindskopf-Parker, Adrian Sterling, Jane Shaw, Sally Tyler (chair), Mary-Jo Warren (YUWO President, ex-officio) and Betsy Weber (YUWO Assistant Treasurer). We relied on Marty Sherman for assistance in maintaining the online application process and on Susan Leonard for highlighting our scholarship program in the newsletter. Warm thanks to them both! Each person on our committee plays a role in the administration of this program, and is an active participant in reviewing applications and making decisions. We feel honored to be the representatives of all YUWO members, donors and fund creators who have trusted us with this responsibility, and we are full of respect for our YUWO scholars, whose educational pursuits will enhance their lives and strengthen our community.

For those who want to contribute to the Scholarship program, please send a contribution to YUWO Assistant Treasurer, Betsy Weber, at 24 Turtle Bay Drive, Branford, Ct 06405.

— Sara Tyler, Scholarship Chair
Taking to Zoom: YUWO Embraces the Challenges of a Pandemic World

YUWO leadership and membership’s increased internet skills enabled YUWO to publicize information about the organization, its programs, and its members — all challenged by the pandemic but coordinating creatively.

President Mary-Jo Warren sent timely all membership email notices and reminders, coordinated and sent postal mailings especially to those unable to access the internet. Her personal membership in organizations such as the Yale Club of New Haven and Mory’s gave us other connections for publicity.

Marty Sherman’s expertise and assistance on many fronts was and is appreciated.

Scholarship and lecture chairs publicized their programs to members via our newsletter, our website, and directly to specific individuals in organizations outside of YUWO appropriate Yale departments, living centers such as Whitney Center and Evergreen Woods, and ongoing learning programs coordinated by Albertus Magnus.

Our local excursion, bus trip, and Lunch and Learn chairs publicized their programs directly to the Newsletter chair.

My photography of YUWO events this past year has been limited to my participation in the activity groups meeting in person, specifically the hiking group led by Patty Pollard — local outings of fewer than ten. I relayed my photos to our hiking group, YUWO newsletter editor, Susan Leonard, to Marty Sherman, and Mary-Jo Warren.

Thanks to Mary-Jo, Gourmet Luncheon group members received collected photos and recipes of their home-based preparations showcased and discussed via zoom.

— Marion Petrelli, Publicity Chair
Lecture Series 2020 ~ 2021

The YUWO Lecture Series continues to provide continuous learning even through this challenging academic year, and we are so grateful for the substantial participation of all the membership. With the help of Zoom, the Fall series included talks with three outstanding women in the Yale community as we celebrated the Year of the Woman at Yale.

Susan Gibbons, Vice Provost for Collections and Scholarly Communications, described her journey to the position of University Librarian at Yale and on to her current role overseeing the Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, the Paul Mellon Center, Yale University Art Gallery, Yale Center for British Art, Yale Peabody Museum, and the Yale University Press. She provided us with excellent insight into the challenges, accomplishments and plans for the future in this complex leadership role.

Linda Greenhouse, the Distinguished Journalist in Residence at Yale Law School, opened our eyes to the issues that continue to confound and inspire us. We learned of her journey as Bureau Chief at the Supreme Court for the New York Times, giving us an understanding of the complex workings of the Supreme Court in ways the public cannot imagine. We were so fortunate to have the opportunity to ask questions from a very respected, articulate and dedicated journalist.

Constance Royster, the former director of Development for the Yale Divinity School, was in the very first class at Yale to admit women in 1969. Her journey was especially inspiring as we learned how she was able to build her career from publishing, establishing a highly successful law firm, serving as the first director of development for National Public Radio (WSHU), and then growing her development skills at Yale in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and then at the Yale Divinity School. Her story has also been chronicled in the book “Yale Needs Women,” a truly engaging look at the women admitted to Yale College in 1969.

This Spring, the Lecture Series presented Professor Murray Biggs, Adjunct Associate Professor of English, Theater Studies, and Film at Yale. His course is titled “Women Playwrights from the (former) British Commonwealth.” At this writing, the series has featured discussions of a play by Christina Reid (Tea in a China Cup), and My Sister-Wife, by Meera Syal. These will be followed by Winsome Pinnock’s Leave Taking followed by Three one-act plays from South African Playwrights, Geina Mhlophe’s Have You Seen Zandile?, Magi Noninzi Williams’s Kwa-Landlady, and Lueen Conning’s The Colored Place, The final play will be on Sharon Pollock’s The Komagata Muru Incident.

We look forward to an exciting series in the Fall, 2021, as we pursue speakers from Yale on Climate Change and its impact on our lives locally, nationally and globally. We welcome the valued input from our members as we develop our Spring series for 2022. Many, many thanks to all for your support of the Lecture Series. The fees generated support the YUWO Scholarship Program that provides support to women wishing to complete their degrees in their chosen fields after interruptions along the way.

— Sandra Greer, Chair

Newcomers 2020 ~ 2021

As with all activities, YUWO Newcomers suffered a downward trend during the reign of Covid. We did have 14 ladies join and they enjoyed joining many activities, mainly through Zoom meetings. To ensure their participation, members of the board made an effort to contact the ladies in their neighborhoods. There were six from New Haven, three from Madison, two from Guilford and the one each from Bethany, Redding and Fairfield.

We are all hopeful heard immunity will allow us to continue with newcomers activities this coming year such as the Mory’s Luncheon.

— Mary Jane Miller, Newcomers Chair
Note: Many plans were tentative throughout the 2021-2022 year and remain tentative looking ahead to the fall of 2022 due to the uncertainties surrounding the current Covid-19 pandemic.

**Art Aficionados** – Women interested in art are invited to tour exhibitions at Yale art venues. Museums have been closed due to the pandemic. Discussions are in progress on how to access art the fall of 2022. All our recent activities followed the CDC guidelines and thus were confined to Zoom. Over time there developed a plethora of Zoom experiences and once you logged into one you were referred to many others. A reliable starter was the Frick, cocktails with a curator. There was a Rembrandt tour at the Rijksmuseum, our own Yale Center for British Art had several Art in Context Zoom presentations. More recently the Yale Art Gallery had a John Walsh series on Picasso. The Met has been presenting their exhibits like Goya and Alice Neel on Zoom. The Morgan Library with David Hockney. We are all hoping that in the Fall we will be able to be back in person!

**Book Discussion Groups** – All book groups met in 2021-2022 via Zoom

- **Morning Group:** Second Thursday of each month, 9:30-11.00 am.
- **2nd Monday Afternoon Group:** Second Monday of the month, 2:00-3:30 pm
- **Monday Afternoon Group:** One Monday every month, 2:00-3:30 pm
- **2nd Tuesday Afternoon Group:** Second Tuesday of the month 2:00-3:30 pm

**Excursions** – Each year YUWO organizes bus trips, one in the fall and one in the spring, to museums, gardens or places of interest. Due to the current pandemic, trips have been put on hold, but we are looking forward to resuming in the fall, per CDC recommendations.

**Explore Yale and New Haven County** – YUWO traditionally offers a number of opportunities to visit and learn about new, unusual or less well known destinations in the New Haven area with several weekday tours of about one hour each throughout the academic year. Trips have been put on hold due to the pandemic, with plans to resume as circumstances allow.

**French Conversation** – The group has been meeting on Zoom, instead of at Chestnut Fine Foods, 1:30 pm first Tuesday of the month. This has worked well since people who live further away have been able to attend.

**Golf** – 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 Group** – Participants share the meals’ expenses and take turns planning the menu and preparing and presenting the luncheon. Discussion of the recipes follows each luncheon. Traditionally there have been 6 meetings per season in members’ homes as well as one outing to a restaurant or other culinary activity. All plans are currently on hold, until further information re Covid-19 limitations. Dues are $10.

**Needlers** – Sadly the pandemic meant the cancellation of all Needlers get-togethers from March 2020. In the meantime we have been keeping touch by email — sharing stories from lockdown and, to the extent possible, ensuring that everyone is ok during what has proven to be such a difficult time. Needless to say, we are eagerly anticipating a return to “normal” in September when we will begin meeting again at 1.30pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

**Scrabble** – All activities have been put on hold.

*(continued on page 8)*
Minutes of the Yale University Women’s Organization
Board of Directors Meeting of May 11, 2020 via Zoom

The YUWO Bylaws require that members elect officers and approve the budget at the Annual Meeting. Because the 2020 Annual Meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis a virtual meeting was held on May 11 via Zoom. Members were asked to vote by proxy for each nominee and the proposed budget. A ballot was distributed in the May newsletter preceding the Zoom meeting. Responses were sent to Landa Freeman by email or US mail. The minutes from the May 11 board meeting indicate that 280 ballots were sent out by email and 26 ballots by regular mail. 50 people voted to pass the budget and elect the slate.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Anderson, Recording Secretary

Report of the Corresponding Secretary 2020 ~ 2021

As Corresponding Secretary of YUWO, I sent the following:

165 thank you notes for donations. Several members sent more than one donation, but they received only one note. In addition, I sent 15 additional notes because several members did not receive the original note so I redid that particular batch. “Cheers” to the USPS!

I also sent following personal correspondence:
- a note to a member who had an accident
- five notes following the deaths of relatives of members
- one birthday card to mark a member’s 100th birthday
- a note of condolence to the family of Elliot Brause
- a thank you to Henry Chauncey for his donation to YUWO

— Janis V. Isenberg, Corresponding Secretary

Activities (continued from page 7)

Tennis – Intermediate and advanced players meet weekly for a round robin Tuesday 10-11:30 October through April. 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 – The group has enjoyed being able to be outdoors together throughout this year. With the exception of that very snowy February, we got together frequently, socially distanced and masked. The Stony Creek Trolley Trail has been a favorite, whether taking in the Fall colors or watching the osprey catching fish. Sandy Point Bird Sanctuary, Chet’s Path, the Farm River State Park, and Lighthouse Park were favorites, also. Join us soon. We welcome new members.

Memoir Writers – The inaugural season of YUWO Memoir Writers drew nine members who gathered each week on Zoom from the end of September till mid-November, with six women continuing to meet through mid-April. A second introductory YUWO group met during February and March, sharing stories from their lives and making meaningful connections despite isolation during the pandemic. Participants agreed that the intimacy of Zoom enabled them to open to one another in a way that created strong bonds within each group. Those who are in continuing their autobiographical writing plan to come together in the fall, whether on Zoom or in person.

— Bernadina Wilcox, Activities Chair
YUWO Scholarship Fund Report
1 June 2020 –1 April 2021

Annual Scholarship Fund
Member Donations: $7714
Fund Balance CFGNH* $33,237.

YUWO Scholarship Trust Fund
Member Donations: $1330
Fund Balance CFGNH* $150,567.

Gustave and Carol Sirot Scholarship Trust Fund
Member Donations: $265
Fund Balance CFGNH* $29,742.

Magee Fenn Scholarship Trust Fund
Member Donations: $900
Fund Balance CFGNH* $98,758.
Distribution 2021 $4,191.

Fund Balance Key Bank $18,510.
(Total donations YTD: $10,209)
*CFGNH is the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

YUWO Scholarship Awards 2020-2021

Scholarship Awards for Disbursements $33,675.
(Incl. $3675 balance from 2019/20)
Scholarship Awards Disbursed $33,536.
Balance $ 139.

Betsy Weber
YUWO Assistant Treasurer
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<tr>
<td>Welcome Event</td>
<td>546.00</td>
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<td>Excursion Expense</td>
<td>4,172.00</td>
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<td>Lecture Series</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
<td>1398.33</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Program Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,849.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,600.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,688.33</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,600.00</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Scholarship Committee</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer to Scholarship Funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>970.00</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,115.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$28,700.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,780.46</strong></td>
<td><strong>$36,275.00</strong></td>
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</table>

| **YTD INCOME** | **$13,130.00** | **YTD Expenses** | **$9,780.46** | **Key Bank Balance** | **$19,158.50** |
| **Income Less Expenses** | **$3,349.54** | **Community Foundation Reserve** | **$38,352.00** | **Treasurer** | **Nancy Rosenbaum** |
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