The YUWO Scholarship Program: Women Helping Women

YUWO has one and only one fundraising goal: to provide scholarships for women whose studies have been interrupted or delayed, enabling them to continue their educations and advance their careers. Scholarships are awarded annually to women who have an association with Yale, typically through Yale employment.

YUWO Scholars are a diverse group of women who have demonstrated merit, financial need, and the strength to overcome obstacles. Our Scholars include New Haven Promise graduates, immigrants, first-in-family college students, and many who are more than 30 years old.

Since 1972, YUWO has awarded $535,000 to 365 women. Recent awards have ranged from $2,500 to $10,500, given to women pursuing degrees at two- and four-year colleges, public and private universities, and accredited online programs. YUWO Scholars are pursuing careers in public health, business administration, events management, engineering, data analytics, nursing, and more, with degrees ranging from advanced certificates to doctoral degrees.

YUWO celebrates these women every May at our Annual Meeting and Scholarship Awards Luncheon.

For details about eligibility, applications, deadlines, or to donate, please visit www.yuwowomen.org.
YUWO Activities & Interest Groups

YUWO offers a wide variety of activities, including fall and spring study series, noontime Lunch and Learn lectures, excursions, and interest groups in a broad range of fields that meet regularly. For the most up-to-date information about any of these activities, please see your monthly newsletter or our website at www.yuwowomen.org.

Activity Groups

Activities Chair — Bernardina (Bernie) Wilcox, 714.749.8998. Feel free to contact Bernie with general questions regarding YUWO activities. New groups currently under consideration include Bridge, Climate/Environment, Poetry and Skiing.

For up-to-date information on YUWO activities, visit our website at www.yuwowomen.org

ART AFICIONADOS — Anneke Hathaway
Yale museums are currently all open. We are excited to share museum experiences, including tours of permanent collections or special exhibits.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS — Book groups plan another hybrid year, with some on Zoom and others meeting in person. As of now, only two groups, denoted with asterisks (*), have openings. New book groups will be formed if there is sufficient interest.

Morning Group: Audrey DelBronzo
Second Thursday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am.

Afternoon Group: Pat Goldstein
Third Monday of the month, 2:00-3:30 pm.
* Afternoon Group: Louise Ciulla
One Monday each month, 2:00-3:30 pm.
* 2nd Tuesday Afternoon Group: Lyn Howe
Second Tuesday of the month, 2:00-3:30 pm.

EXCURSIONS, BUS — Dana Nelson/Winnie Seibert
YUWO organizes bus trips, one in the fall and one in the spring, to museums, gardens or places of interest. We will be traveling by bus when safe and until then we will rely on car pools.

EXCURSIONS, LOCAL — Shavaun Towers Bennett
YUWO offers opportunities to visit and learn about new, unusual or less well-known destinations in the New Haven area with several weekday tours.

FILM GROUP — Bernie Wilcox
The group meets on the last Monday of the month at 10:30 am on Zoom. We watch a film on our own, then meet and discuss. We are looking at options to meet in person in September.

FRENCH CONVERSATION — Debbie St. Thomas
We meet the first Tuesday of the month. Meetings will continue to be hybrid in 2022-2023 to accommodate all intermediate to advanced French speaking members by alternating Zoom with in-person get-togethers. Our first meeting will be at Cheznut Fine Foods, 1012 State St, New Haven on September 6.

ITALIAN CONVERSATION — Elena Phillips
Please contact Elena if you are interested in joining other YUWO women for intermediate level conversational activities and activities related to Italian culture.

LUNCHEON GOURMET — Melissa Lamoreaux
Pre-COVID, participants shared the meal’s expenses and took turns planning the menu, preparing and presenting the luncheon. Discussion of the recipes followed. There are six meetings per season in members’ homes and one outing to a restaurant or culinary activity. Plans are underway to resume luncheons in 2022-2023. Dues are $10.

NEEDLERS — Bernie Wilcox (temporary chair)
Needlers traditionally meet monthly in members’ homes from September through June. We sit, knit, crochet, stitch, and (some of us) spin. As we work on our own projects, we chat, laugh, and share light refreshments. This group currently needs a chair. Contact Bernie if you’re willing to lead this much-loved group.

YUWO WALKERS — Sally Fazzone
YUWO members. This year’s exciting series of six speakers begins September 20 at 12:00 pm, with a talk by Maura Grogan, a founding member of Yale’s first women’s ice hockey team, who will share plans for a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of both Yale Women’s Varsity Athletics and passage of Title IX. On October 4 we will hear a presentation by Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame. In November art historian Dr. Ruth Barnes, the inaugural Thomas Jaffe Curator Indo-Pacific Art at the Yale University Art Gallery, will share her insights about a remarkable collection. In December sociologist Dr. Jasmina Besirevic-Regan, associate dean of Yale’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, will describe her research on ethnic cleansing in the Bosnian city of Banja Luka and the emergence of a Bosnian Muslim refugee community. Additional speakers are planned for the spring.

The YUWO Lecture Series

Each fall and spring in the months of October and April, YUWO offers engaging presentations on topics covering the arts, science, music, current affairs, history and nature. This series provides members opportunities for continuous learning, developing fellowship, and strong support for the Scholarship Program. The themes for each season often reflect YUWO’s mission, that of women helping women, such as a previous series reflecting Women at Yale, or one discovering Women Irish Playwrights. We have also hosted a series devoted to the Middle East and a season of operatic love arias. The most recent was a series on Yale Sustainability with experts on climate change discussing relevant issues affecting our lives and our planet. The lectures are held on consecutive Wednesdays in October and April from 10:30 to 11:30 am at the West Campus Conference Center, and we will offer a hybrid Zoom/In-Person presentation. The membership and the general public are invited to attend. The fee is $65, and all profits support the YUWO Scholarship Program. We look forward to an exciting year of lectures reflecting world views and important issues of the day.

Lunch and Learn

Lunch and Learn’s use of Zoom last year was a resounding success, persuading us to continue this approach in 2022-2023. Zoom is an easy way to enjoy a wide selection of speakers, all free to YUWO members. This year’s exciting series of six speakers begins September 20 at 12:00 pm, with a talk by Maura Grogan, a founding member of Yale’s first women’s ice hockey team, who will share plans for a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of both Yale Women’s Varsity Athletics and passage of Title IX. On October 4 we will hear a presentation by Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame. In November art historian Dr. Ruth Barnes, the inaugural Thomas Jaffe Curator Indo-Pacific Art at the Yale University Art Gallery, will share her insights about a remarkable collection. In December sociologist Dr. Jasmina Besirevic-Regan, associate dean of Yale’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, will describe her research on ethnic cleansing in the Bosnian city of Banja Luka and the emergence of a Bosnian Muslim refugee community. Additional speakers are planned for the spring.

Membership in YUWO

Membership in the Yale University Women’s Organization (YUWO) is open to any person who, by virtue of individual or family 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 Willi Stahura at 203.678.4126 or by email at membership@yuwowomen.org.

YWU Newcomers

The Newcomers Group enthusiastically welcomes women already a part of, or eager to join, the Yale Community. We encourage all to attend YUWO’s Welcome Reception on September 8, from 4-5:30 pm at the Graduate Club, 155 Elm Street, New Haven. The Reception is a chance for new and returning YUWO members and learn about YUWO activities and volunteer opportunities. Later in the fall Newcomers will be invited to a reception designed to share more about YUWO’s history and future, and to learn about Newcomers’ interests and talents. For more information, contact president@yuwowomen.org. We look forward to sharing more about this exciting organization.

Women Helping Women — Join us!

YUWO used the Covid Pandemic years to develop new approaches to serving the social and intellectual needs of its members and building on the success of its scholarship program, now entering its 50th year. Technology has been a large part of the transition during this period and we are excited at how members have adapted to new approaches to community. Many have enthusiastically recommended more educational opportunities about the use of technology, along with ways to increase volunteer involvement with our remarkable Yale-New Haven Community and new programs responding to members’ interests. We hope to see even more women join us in achieving our goal of women helping women!

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