

## UPCOMING NOVEMBER EVENTS

**Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 11:00 am (note time change)  
Lunch & Learn (Zoom)**

Ruth Barnes, Thomas Jaffe Curator of Indo-Pacific Art  
*The Making and Meaning of Textiles in  
Eastern Indonesia: "Without cloth we cannot marry"*  
Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6734771539>

**Thursday, Nov. 17 at 1:00 pm  
Yale Center for British Art**

Docent Mona Pierpaoli leads a tour of the  
Njideka Crosby Exhibition  
Meet in the lobby at 12:45 pm



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Sunday, December 11 ~ 3:00 to 5:00 pm**

**YUWO's Annual Holiday Party  
at the Graduate Club!**



## AND COMING IN 2023 ...

**How To Help Address Climate Change!  
"Local Action for a Sustainable Future"**

Five Zoom meetings from 12:30-1:30 pm  
2nd Mondays in January - May  
Suggested reading: *Speed and Scale* by John Doerr

## YUWO NEWS IN BRIEF

What a busy fall! members enjoyed four lectures on the importance of volunteerism, Lunch and Learn talks, tours of New Haven Reads and the new Grove Street Cemetery Arboretum (with a repeat of this tour planned for spring).

And a 'just in time' docent-led excursion to Norwalk's impressive Lockwood-Matthews Mansion. It closes for two years of renovation in early 2023. But there's still time and Dana Nelson's description may tempt some to visit on their own. *See page 6 to learn more about it.*



*See pages 3-5 for more about YUWO activities!*



YUWO's Scholarship Committee has also been working hard, hosting two Zoom conversations with this year's scholars about ways to make a good program even better. YUWO scholarships do make a difference. Scholar Emily Roback said it well: "The YUWO scholarship has changed my life and I am forever grateful!"

To celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year of YUWO Scholarship support, we want to increase applicants, funding, *and* our impressive 60% giving rate! *Read more on page 7.*

*And as always, let us hear from you! We are eager for your input! Email us at [president@yuwowomen.org](mailto:president@yuwowomen.org)*

*Warm regards and a Good Thanksgiving, Elizabeth, Betsy and Sandra  
YUWO's 2022-2023 Leadership Team*

## Organizational Highlights: Supporting YUWO — “It takes a village!”

### Board Committees are hard at work. Here’s a snapshot of their plans—suggestions are welcome!

- All Committees (Membership, Scholarship, Education, Activities, Communication and Strategic Planning) are developing budgets to support their areas of responsibility; the Finance Committee will review their requests in early 2023 and develop a 2023-2024 budget for YUWO Board action in February. The Board approved Budget is presented to the full YUWO membership for adoption at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 3.
- Membership—Exploring ways to increase YUWO membership, now slightly over 200, and developing a more robust program to welcome newcomers; planning the annual Holiday Party on December 11, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Graduate Club; beginning plans for the Annual Meeting on May 3 at the New Haven Country Club. Considering whether different Membership categories (e.g., out of town, past leadership, senior) should be considered.
- Scholarship—Actively engaging current YUWO Scholarship Recipients; making plans for 2023 awards.
- Education—Planning a 2023 series of Lunch & Learn talks and Spring Lecture Series: developing an evaluation form and questionnaire on member interests. Developing a local tour and excursion program for 2023.
- Activities—Has added a new Climate Change Series of five monthly meetings for 2023) and considering reviving or adding new programs, e.g., Needlers, Bridge, and both a Poetry and Writing Group. (*See separate report of current book group and film activities*). Planning new art collection tours.
- Communications—Expanding on-line communications, using Constant Contact for bulletins to up-date and remind members of events; provide easy access to the YUWO Newsletter; developing an on-line calendar for YUWO activities.
- Strategic Planning—Reviewing Membership Profile and Interest Forms in anticipation of designing an all-member survey to inform its work in 2023.

### Other Projects are underway, as well:

- Review of YUWO’s financial structure: developing a reserve policy, using a common software for both operating and scholarship funds.
- Developing a comprehensive YUWO Board Book, building and expanding “YUWO Basics.”
- Exploring a Members-only program to showcase and take advantage of Members’ areas of expertise and background.
- Exploration of a technology training initiative for interested YUWO members.
- Considering adding volunteer activities, beginning with New Haven Reads.

## What YUWO Members are reading, watching, and doing now!

(all descriptions by your Newsletter editor)

Many ask for Book Club reading and film lists. Here's what YUWO members are reading and watching now, so that you can follow along.

**The Second Tuesday Book Group**, limited to 12 to best accommodate Zoom or hybrid, has members from Florida to Canada, and alternates fiction and non-fiction. Its reading list:

*This is Happiness*, Nial Williams (An enchanting novel of change in a small Irish parish after a thousand years, as a young man navigates coming-of-age and electricity arrives.)

*A Sense of Self: Memory, The Brain, and Who We Are*, Veronica O'Keane (The broken memories of psychosis are used to illuminate the human brain and a new way of thinking about our own personal experiences.)

*Horse*, Geraldine Brooks (A story of spirit, obsession and injustice during the Civil War, focused on America's greatest racehorse and his enslaved groom.)

**The Third Monday Book Group**—again in-person at Members' homes (2:00 p.m.) It has two new members and space for more!

*The Writing of the Gods*, Edward Dolnick (Decoding the Rosetta Store)

*The Sentence*, Louise Erdrich (A modern ghost story and an account of the pandemic and Black Lives Matter protests, narrated by a wry and resourceful woman, the victim of a bizarre crime.) In December the group plans its 2023 list.

**The Second Third Monday Book Group** meets in person, now fully subscribed, with plans for Zoom in winter months.

*The Magnolia Palace*, Fiona Davis (A novel about intrigue: the secrets, betrayal, and murder in one of New York's most impressive Gilded Age mansions: the Frick Museum, exposed after fifty years.)

*The Only Woman in the Room*, Marie Benedict (Known for her beauty, overlooked for her intelligence as an inventor, Hedy Lamarr's life is a fascinating story.)

**The Last Monday Film Group**, YUWO's newest, formed in 2021-2022; is a huge success, with almost 30 members watching on their own, and a smaller group joining a hybrid or in-person discussion. (A Dutch treat lunch is included, thanks to Mary-Jo Warren's hospitality). Rotating moderators follow pre-circulated questions.

Here's a snapshot of fall 2022 films; new selections will be made at the Film Group's December meeting.

*Midnight Cowboy*  
*Dead Poet Society*  
*Heavenly Creatures*

*Antonia's Line (foreign)*  
*The Sweet Hereafter*  
*Life is Beautiful*

## Historic Selections from Past Years:

### BOOKS: From YUWO's Past Reading List (2021-2022):

*The Other Einstein*, Marie Benedict (A mesmerizing novel about the extraordinary women who married with one of the world's greatest scientists)

*A Beautiful Country: A Memoir* by Qian Julie Wang (The Yale Law School graduate writes of the soul shaking experience of being undocumented; a life of conflicting opposites: the present and past, despair and perseverance).

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain (The 1885 classic is still the center of controversy for its language and satire of a racist world)

*Hidden Valley Road* by Robert Kolker, (A true picture of schizophrenia in a family of 12 children)

*The Magician*, Colm Toibin (An intimate, complex portrait of Thomas Mann, his remarkable wife Katia and the times in which they lived)

*Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead (By the two-time Pulitzer Prize winner; a gloriously entertaining novel of heists)

*Interior Chinatown*, by Charles Yu (A NYTimes best seller and winner of the National Book Award; a personal novel about race, culture, immigration, assimilation).

*Braiding Sweet Grass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants*, Robin Wall Kimmerer (A botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she believes that plants and animals are our oldest teachers)

*Stoner*, John E. Williams (A highly acclaimed story of a quiet English professor, adored by many. "...so well told and beautifully written, so deeply moving, that it takes your breath asway." *New York Times Book Review*)

*Fascism* by Madeleine Albright.

*My Monticello*, Jocelyn Johnson (A highly praised and timely debut novel—a story of a group of Charlottesville residents, ancestors of enslaved people, who take shelter in Thomas Jefferson's home during a white-supremacist siege).

### MOVIES:

#### In April 2021 the Group began with:

*Sliding Doors* (Prime Video, free)  
*The Dissident*  
*The Remains of the Day*  
*Howards' End*  
*Sound of Metal*  
*The English Patient*  
*Chinatown*  
*The Dead*

#### Continuing in 2022, the Group chose:

*The Grand Budapest Hotel* (Prime Video, \$3.99 rental)  
*Power of the Dog* (Netflix)  
*CODA (Children of Deaf Adults)*  
*The French Lieutenant's Woman*  
*Parasite*  
*Moulin Rouge*  
*Babel*  
*The Bird Cage*

## More News About YUWO Activities:

### ACTIVITY GROUPS

Activity Chair Bernie Wilcox invited Group Leaders to a Zoom conversation with YUWO President Elizabeth Parker on October 18, to explore what was working, what was new and discuss ideas. Elizabeth also brought the Leaders up to date on changes in communications and Board activities.

**The French Group** continues to meet in person the second Tuesday of the month at Chestnut Fine Foods, led by Debbie St. Thomas. The Group has begun to read selections in French and is sometimes joined by Candace Skorupa, of Yale's Department of Comparative Language and French.

**The Italian Group's** six participants, led by Elena Phillips has met twice, the second Wednesday of each month, first at Belle Vie Care in Guilford and next at the Guilford Library. The Group has plans to host a dinner with special guests—Agatha Christie and Caterina DeMedici! We hope there will be a full report!



**The Gourmet Group** has had an excellent fall: meeting at the Gouvea Vineyard in September, at Bernie's house for an appropriately themed Dutch luncheon in November, and a third meeting scheduled for Carmen Rodriguez's home in December. It's easy to see why the group is so popular!

**YUWO Walkers** are also underway! The Group has 24 members, with 7 new to YUWO. Sally Fazzone is leading the group and has introduced a new "pop up" approach—walks when weather welcomes!

- The season began with a walk to the Tower of Sleeping Giant and plans to continue every two weeks as the weather permits.
- A "pop-up" walk followed on Friday, October 28, taking advantage of particularly fine weather. Eight walkers were joined by two show quality dogs in a trek along the Branford Trolley Trail.

### YUWO TOURS, EXCURSIONS and NEWCOMERS EVENTS

- A Tour of New Haven Reads on September 27 offered members a chance to learn about an important community activity: a non-profit effort to address the lack of reading ability among New Haven K-12 students, exacerbated by the pandemic. Several Members expressed interest in volunteering as reading coaches in this well-organized program and Barbara D'Ambruoso has graciously offered to co-ordinate this initial group.
- The Fall Lecture Series, "Volunteerism: A Promise of Hope" with inspiring talks by three local social entrepreneurs, added to the interest of a number of YUWO members in identifying ways to make the idea of "Women Helping Women" a practical reality.
- October also saw a tour of the Grove Street Cemetery Arboretum with Channing Harris—a perfect fall day for YUWO members and newcomers alike, followed by lunch at Mory's and a tour of the Mondrian Exhibit at the Yale University Art Gallery with popular expert John Walsh.

**Excursion Co-Chair Dana Nelson was enthusiastic about YUWO’s November 2 docent-led tour of Norwalk’s Lockwood-Matthews Mansion (295 West Avenue, Norwalk, CT.)**

Here is her brief report.

I enjoyed the tour immensely. Our tour guide Tom was a terrific docent who clearly loved his subject matter. All of us who attended enjoyed it. I particularly enjoyed the exhibits that were highlighted in the house including fashions created with dangerous dyes and murderous millinery, or hats made in Danbury with mercury (The origin of the “mad hatter” name for those manufacturers...). All of this took place during ‘The Gilded Age,’ which was the time period of the house.



The exhibit of porcelain dolls gathered for tea parties was memorable.

Personally, I was delighted that Norwalk preservationists saw fit to save the mansion (albeit at the 11th hour). It is an extraordinary early and very significant ‘second empire’ country home (ca. 1868), built twenty years or more before the Newport mansions were constructed.

Our docent also told us about films shot at the mansion, the latest, a Stephen King short story on Netflix is *Harrigan’s Phone*. I watched it late last night and had the feeling that we had walked onto the movie set but had missed Donald Sutherland holding court with a young boy. It was a compelling film.

Who knew that the museum will close at Christmas for two years in order for the museum to be “fireproofed!” The YUWO tour was just in the nick of time.



## Yale Scholars Continue Doing It All!

Jane Shaw, Scholarship Chair

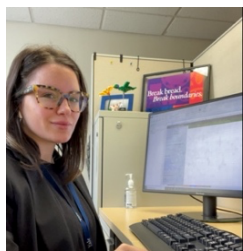
*When do you sleep?* That's a question posed by one of our Scholarship Committee members at two Zoom meet-ups where eight recent Scholars updated us on their activities and discussed ways to help us reach more applicants. YUWO Scholars continue to dazzle us with their energy, hard work, dedication, and passions which extend beyond academics to include family life and community engagement. All of them have expressed gratitude for YUWO's support, which some have described as life changing.

**Cami Schott** is pursuing courses online and in-person at Quinnipiac while working full time as a Financial Analyst at Yale. **Famatta Gibson** is also on the campus at Quinnipiac, where she has received a fellowship to work with low income and refugee families while she completes her MSW at the Nyack School of Social Work. Famatta found time to ride 65 miles in the *Closer to Free* fundraising event for the Smilow Cancer Center. Both **Emily Yang** and **Amelea Lowery** are studying for MPH degrees at YSPH. Emily is looking forward to publications of articles she submitted to medical journals. Amelea has received an NIH grant, adding that to her full-time studies. Scholarship Committee member Adrian Sterling was thrilled to see **Emily Roback**, Senior Program Director of Yale Conferences and Events, doing an outstanding job as the central person coordinating with YDS for their four-day Convocation, an event with an enormous scope of events. **Emily Chew** graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in May, received a promotion at Yale, and is working with arts education in the New Haven public schools. **Tahreem Wasti** is working toward her MBA at CCSU while working at Yale's MacMillan Center. She is very grateful for the support she gets from her Yale co-workers as she juggles her work and school schedules. **Colleen Maguire** is studying non-profit management as she completes her MPA at UNH, juggling family life with three teenagers while working as a Facilities Financial Analyst at Yale.

Scholars suggested many ways to increase our applicant pool through the use of Yale's eight Affinity Groups. Several additional groups were suggested as avenues for advertising our program, offering us an alphabet soup of choices: DICE (Diversity, Inclusion, Community, Engagement, Equity), MORE (Minority Organization for Retention) and SWIM (Status of Women in Medicine), to mention a few.

Tahreem shared her own frustration at learning how to calculate Yale's tuition reimbursement policy for our application, and offered to help clarify the process and be available this year to applicants for online consultation. A discussion of the importance of mentoring piqued our interest in learning how YUWO members might serve as mentors for women continuing their educations. The Working Women's Network at Yale has a mentoring program which the Scholarship Committee will investigate.

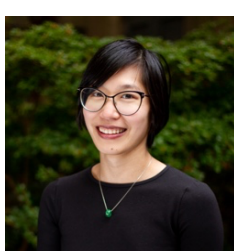
As a wonderful coda to our Zoom sessions, Emily Roback expressed interest in beginning a Scholars Alum Program to foster connections among a group of women with shared experiences. We look forward to pursuing this initiative!



Camila Schott 20-21



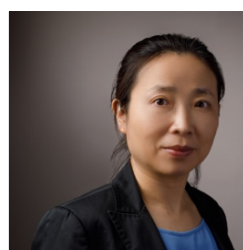
Famatta Gibson 20-21



Emily Chew 21-21



Emily Roback 21-22



Emily Hui Yang 21-22



Colleen Maguire 22-23



Tahreem Wasti 22-23



Amelea Lowery 22-23

## The 2022-2023 YUWO Membership Profile and Interest Forms: A First Look

No surprise: YUWO is a remarkable group of women! Here's a snapshot of the Membership Profile and Interest Forms—and the ideas they suggest for taking advantage of YUWO's wealth of talent.

**Women's health** is a continuing topic of interest mentioned by YUWO members. Several Members asked for a series on this topic.

Look no further. YUWO has retired doctors, several former professors at the Medical School, numerous members engaged in scientific research, a retired University public health professor, nurses who taught and also practiced, a college anthropology professor.

**Current events, politics, civic engagement, education, foreign affairs and law** were additional areas suggested for discussion.

YUWO has 16 teachers, eight lawyers, university professors of economics, law, anthropology, medicine, and linguistics, four law school administrators, a senior staff from the Jackson School of Global Affairs. We also have Members working in community governance, 'getting out the vote,' former Secretary of State and member of New Haven's Civil Service Commission—an ideal group to develop and guide a discussion or even create a new interest group.

**Art and tours** continue at the top of Members' interests.

Imagine this: YUWO boasts two senior administrators of local art organizations, docents at the Metropolitan Museum and Yale's British Art Center, six professional artists, one doing work to revive a textile collection at the Atheneum, a landscape architect, and a professional advisor on collecting art!

Could YUWO add a series of talks or even create its own art show?

**The theater, opera and music** are interests frequently mentioned in the Membership Forms.

Once again, YUWO has it all: musicians, music teachers, a Long Wharf Board member.

**Writing** was another interest, with one Member even offering to lead a new group.

YUWO Members have backgrounds in journalism, teaching writing, publishing books and research articles, plus a retired professor of language and linguistics. Not hard to find interest here! Several also mentioned poetry as a particular interest.

**Health and Fitness** were consistently mentioned: everyone seems to love YUWO's Walkers.

Here again YUWO members have much to offer: two professionals in physical therapy, a yoga, tai chi and chi gong instructor, countless walkers and kayakers and bike riders, too.

**Surprises** in the forms raised intriguing possibilities:

An international wine historian, willing to educate members' pallets.  
An expert in teaching firearms safety.  
An investment advisor, several with experience in real estate.  
A retired Minister.