



October 2025

The Y's Women Newsletter

GENERAL MEETINGS

Open to members and their guests

Place: Green's Farms Church, 71 Hillendale Road, Westport
10:45 am Coffee and Conversation
11:20 am Announcements
11:30 am Speaker

NOTE: Extra parking is available in front of the large lot on the grass and across the street in front of the Minister's house.

October 13 – Phillip James Dodd, The Gilded Age



Phillip James Dodd is a best-selling author, award-winning architect, and international speaker described by Julian Fellowes as probably the leading expert on the architecture of The Gilded Age. In this presentation, he will take us on an entertaining tour though some of the most magnificent buildings ever constructed in this country. He will also share some fascinating stories about the famous men and women who

designed and commissioned them – among them Astor, Carnegie, Frick, Morgan, and Vanderbilt, names that still reek of money.

Born and raised in the United Kingdom, Phillip moved to America more than 20 years ago. He has an undergraduate degree from the Manchester School of Architecture and an MA in architecture from the University of Notre Dame. Phillip is the recipient of several major architectural awards and author of a number of best-selling books. He is currently working on a new book with photographer Jonathan Wallen, due to be released next spring, on *The Mansions of The Gilded Age*.

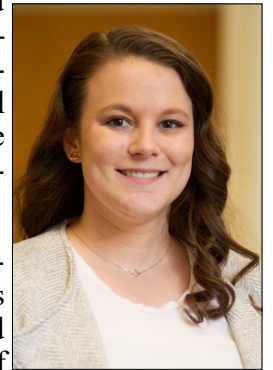
October 27 – Lindsay Wyman and Fiona Wilkes, Mercy Learning Center



Lindsay Wyman, President and CEO of Mercy Learning Center, is a dedicated nonprofit leader with a passion for education, equity, and community empowerment. With a strong background in nonprofit management, strategic planning, and fundraising, she has a proven track record of expanding program impact and fostering

meaningful partnerships. She holds a BA degree in psychology from the University of Virginia and a master's in elementary and special education from Manhattanville College, and is committed to advancing educational opportunities and transformative change for underserved communities.

Fiona Wilkes, Director of Development, leads strategic initiatives that support MLC's mission and growth. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration with concentrations in marketing and human resources from Susquehanna University and an MBA from Washington State University. Lindsay and Fiona will share with us the organization's efforts to educate and uplift women through English language learning, literacy, and high school equivalency programs.



Donations to Mercy Learning Center

Please bring donations of nonperishable food, diapers, and female daily necessities to the first Y's Women meeting each month. They can be left at the back entrance of the Green's Farms Church prior to the meeting. Thank you for whatever you can do to help.

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership

Please take a moment to renew your Y's Women membership through June 2026. Enjoy all that's in store for the coming months – the twice-monthly meetings with interesting speakers, small group activities, plus many special events. Use the Membership Form on page 4 to provide your up-to-date contact information, and send us your \$90 check now while you think of it – and be sure your name appears in the 2026 Membership Roster.

Jewels of Westport Van Tour

A tour of Westport's 13 outdoor sculptures took place on Sunday, September 21. Twelve Y's Women were surprised to see these incredible pieces of art, which they pass by nearly every day and never noticed before. They will now! This trip was so successful that we're having another van tour on Sunday, October 19 at 2:00 pm. To sign up, contact Jilda Manikas at jildam00@yahoo.com.

First Selectperson Debate

The Westport League of Women Voters will host a debate among the three candidates for First Selectperson at the Westport Library on Tuesday, October 28, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. The Y's Women are one of several sponsors. Space is limited, so please contact lwvwestportct@yahoo.com at your earliest convenience if you'd like to attend.

INTEREST GROUPS

(Y's Women Members Only)

NOTE: All Y's Women who participate in meetings held at the Westport Center for Senior Activities must be registered with the Center and check in before each meeting.

Book Group 2 will meet at the Westport Center for Senior Activities on Thursday, October 9 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. We will discuss *Time of the Child* by Niall Williams. Please contact Nancy Bloom at nancyerb@aol.com if you have any questions.

Book Group 3 will meet at the Westport Center for Senior Activities on Friday, October 10 at 10:30 am to discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Andrea Turner will lead the discussion. For more information, contact Doris Levinson at 227-3371 or drjlevinson@gmail.com.

The Movie Club will meet on Wednesday, October 15 at the Westport Center for Senior Activities. We meet informally at 2:00 pm to give members a chance to socialize, and our discussion begins at 2:30. Our room often changes, so be sure to ask the front desk about our location. We are limited to 25 attendees, so please confirm your attendance with Margaret Mitchell by October 12.

We will discuss the movies *The Penguin Lessons* and *Moving On*. Both films are available on Netflix, and a video of *Moving On* is listed in the catalogs of the Westport and Fairfield Libraries.

The Penguin Lessons is a 2024 comedy-drama directed by Peter Cattaneo and starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce. The film is based on Tom Michell's 2015 memoir, which chronicles his experience as a disillusioned itinerant British teacher who traveled to South America to teach at a boys' boarding school in Argentina in the 1970s.

Moving On is a 2022 American comedy starring Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, Malcolm McDowell, Sarah Burns, and Richard Roundtree. Fonda and Tomlin play Claire and Evelyn, estranged former friends who reconnect at the funeral of a mutual friend. They decide to exact revenge on their dead friend's widower for the harm he caused Claire decades earlier.

If you wish to be added to the email list for future events, please contact Margaret Mitchell at 255-9094 or margaret06824@yahoo.com.

The **Lunch and Trivia** group will meet at noon on Thursday, October 16 at the VFW Hall. The cost is \$25 (cash only). If you wish to attend, please contact Vicki Alli at victoria.alli@gmail.com or Pat Winter at 303-324-5805.

The **Mah Jong** group meets every Thursday from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Westport Center for Senior Activities. Proficient players are welcome. We will not be meeting on Thursday, October 2 because of the Yom Kippur holiday. For information, contact Mona Unser at mona.unser@gmail.com.

NewsTalk: Interested in national and world affairs? Join other Y's Women for lively and informative discussions at NewsTalk. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is on Thursday, October 23 from 10:00-11:30 am at the Westport Library, Room 213. For information, contact Becky Ruthven at bruthven06880@gmail.com.

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INTEREST GROUPS

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Scrabble: On the first and third Tuesday of each month, Pennie More will host a Scrabble game at 1630 Post Road East, Unit 214 (Lansdowne), beginning at 10:30 am. Please contact Pennie at pcmore2@gmail.com if you wish to join in the fun.

Solos will be going to **Quattro Pazzi Cafe**, 1599 Post Road, Fairfield for lunch on Thursday, October 23 at 12:00 pm. There is parking in the rear of the restaurant. We will be able to order off the menu and have separate checks. If you would like to attend, contact Terry Queirolo at tmq44@icloud.com or 858-1470 by Monday, October 20.

Solos will also be going to **First Folk Sunday** with Suzanne Sheridan at noon on Sunday, October 5 at the Saugatuck Rowing Club, 521 Riverside Avenue, Westport. The program – “Rollin On the River,” a celebration of water-themed music – starts at 12:30 pm. Tickets are \$20; Terry will order them and you can pay her that day. There is an a la carte menu and bar service available. If you would like to attend, let Terry know as soon as possible.

The New Yorker Discussion Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 10:30 am until noon in the Westport Library, Room 213. Each participant chooses an article from one of the previous month’s issues and leads a short discussion about the article. Participants who are not able to meet in person can participate on Zoom. If you’re interested, please contact Ellen Cahill at 856-6561 or ellenjcahill@hotmail.com or for details.

Tai Ji: Instructor Ruby Shih is an experienced long-time Tai Ji / Qi Gong and Meditation teacher and a founder of a Tai Ji School in Manhattan (Nanlaoshu.org). She offers a Tai Ji class that meets weekly on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10:30 am at the Saugatuck Congregational Church, 245 Post Road East, Westport, Room 109. The class focuses on breath and slow movement for relaxation, grounding, and balance to enhance our physical and mental well-being. A fee of \$10 per session is used to offset rental and insurance costs. If you’re interested, please contact Ruby at Rubypalace88@gmail.com or 917-816-6661.

In Memoriam: Doris Royce Skutch



We are sad to announce that Doris Skutch passed away peacefully on September 7. She was 94 years old. A long-time member of Y’s Women, Doris served on our Board of Directors and also led NewsTalk for many years. She was also a Life Member of the Westport League of Women Voters and held numerous leadership roles within that organization at both local and state levels. Doris will be sorely missed.

CARPOOL & GO!

On Friday, October 17, Carpool & Go will go to the **New York Botanical Garden** to see this year’s summer show, “Van Gogh: Painting with Flowers.” The themed arrangements of plants in the perennial beds are spectacular and original, as are the magnificent sunflowers – augmented by large-scale sculptural versions. Inside the conservatory, we will see some of the Dutch Masters’ paintings brought to life with living plants, complemented by ceramic pieces reflecting the colors, textures, and compositions of the familiar artwork. After our self-guided walking tour, we will lunch at their convenient restaurant, which offers many varied choices.

Our meeting spot is the Trader Joe’s / Wells Fargo parking lot at 9:15 am for a 9:30 departure. The cost of admission is \$31 for Seniors on weekdays, and we will pay individually upon arrival. Please contact Lydia Menendez at lydiamnndz12@gmail.com or 319-1110 to reserve your spot, and indicate if you are willing to drive; drivers are always needed and appreciated. The gas reimbursement for drivers is \$8 in cash.



In September the Y’s Women enjoyed a tour of Hogpen Hill Farms and its 100 whimsical sculptures.

The Y's Women Membership Form: July 2025 - June 2026

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

DUES

- Dues are \$90 a year from July through June. Make checks payable to Y's Women.
- Dues must be paid by October 31 in order to be included in the new Membership Roster.
- If you join after March 31, your dues are covered through June 2026.

PAYMENT

Please send your Membership Form and a \$90 check to **Y's Women Membership, PO Box 53, Westport, CT 06881-0053**. You may also join in person when you attend a meeting.

ACTVITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

Which of these Y's Women activities are you interested in attending?

_____ Twice-monthly presentations
 _____ Book groups
 _____ Carpool & Go
 _____ Day trips
 _____ Jewels of Westport
 _____ Let's Meet for Lunch
 _____ Lunch & Trivia
 _____ Mah Jong group

_____ Memoirs group
 _____ Movie Club
 _____ NewsTalk
 _____ *New Yorker* discussion group
 _____ Scrabble group
 _____ Solos social group
 _____ Spring party
 _____ Tai ji group

How did you hear about Y's Women?

For membership questions, contact Molly Alger at mollyalger@gmail.com. Please note that membership dues are optional after you reach 90.