



December 2025

# The Y's Women Newsletter

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## GENERAL MEETINGS

*Open to members and their guests*

**Place:** Green's Farms Church, 71 Hillandale 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.*

## December 8 – Haley Cohen Gilliland: A Grandmother's Crusade



Journalist and director of the Yale Journalism Initiative, Haley Cohen Gilliland tells the fascinating story of a group of grandmothers who lost their daughters and daughters-in-law along with their grandchildren in Argentina. Together these brave women dedicated themselves to finding the stolen infants and seeking justice from the nation that had betrayed them.

Haley previously worked at *The Economist* for seven years, four of which were spent in Buenos Aires as the paper's Argentina correspondent. Following her time at *The Economist*, she has focused on narrative nonfiction—bringing history and current events to life through fact-based storytelling. She has published feature articles in *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, and *Vanity Fair*, among other publications. *A Flower Traveled in My Blood*, which tells the story of the Argentinian grandmothers, is her first book.

## Candlelight Concert Dress Rehearsal

The Y's Women have been invited to attend the dress rehearsal for the Staples High School Candlelight Concert on Thursday, December 11. When we learn the time of the rehearsal, we will share it in an eblast. This very special annual program – Staples' gift to the town – features 200 students from the high school's esteemed musical and orchestral groups, including the Orphenians. It's an annual Westport holiday tradition. If you've never been, you're in for a treat!

## 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** members will be gathering for their annual holiday luncheon on December 4. Please contact Nancy Bloom at [nancyerb@aol.com](mailto:nancyerb@aol.com) if you have any questions.

**Book Group 3** will meet at the Westport Center for Senior Activities on Friday, December 12 at 10:30 am to discuss *James* by Percival Everett. For more information, please contact Doris Levinson at [drjlevinson@gmail.com](mailto:drjlevinson@gmail.com).

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 Christmas Day. For information, contact Mona Unser at [mona.unser@gmail.com](mailto:mona.unser@gmail.com).

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### 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.

### INTEREST GROUPS

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**The Movie Club** will meet on Wednesday, December 17 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 December 12.

We will discuss the movies *Join or Die* and *Phantom Thread*. Both movies are available on Netflix, and a video of *Phantom Thread* is listed in the catalogs of the Westport and Fairfield Libraries.

*Join or Die* is a documentary that follows the half-century story of America's civic unraveling. It is based on the work of Robert Putnam, whose analysis of social capital resulted in a best-selling book and seminal work in social science. The film addresses the decline in community connections. It also analyzes our democracy's current crisis by exploring the workings of democracy, reasons for the crisis in democracy, and possible solutions for current conditions. The film features interviews with public figures and community groups working to revitalize civic life.

*Phantom Thread* is a 2017 American psychological period drama that follows haute couture dressmaker Reynolds Woodcock in 1950s London. Woodcock creates dresses for members of high society, including royalty. His clients view him as a genius whose creations enable them to become their best selves, but his creativity and charm are matched by his obsessive and controlling personality. The superstitious Woodcock is haunted by his mother's death and often stitches hidden messages into the linings of the dresses he makes.

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

The **Lunch and Trivia** group will not meet during December.

**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, but because of the holidays, we have moved our next meeting to Thursday, December 18 from 10 - 11:30 am at the Westport Library, Room 213. For information, contact Becky Ruthven at [bruthven06880@gmail.com](mailto:bruthven06880@gmail.com).

**Scrabble** meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am at 1630 Post Road East, Unit 214 (Lansdowne). Please contact Pennie More at [pcmore2@gmail.com](mailto:pcmore2@gmail.com) if you would like to play.

The **Solos Holiday Luncheon** will be on Saturday, December 6 at Rive Bistro, 299 Riverside Avenue, Westport at 12:30 pm. The cost is \$45. Lunch will include salad, a choice of three entrees, and dessert chosen that day. For reservations, contact Terry Queirolo at 858-1470 or [tmq44@icloud.com](mailto:tmq44@icloud.com) by Sunday, November 30 and mail her a check made out to Y's Women Solos.

Once again we will support the Westport Department of Human Services' Annual Holiday Giving Program. We ask that you bring two or more unwrapped new books for children in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They will be distributed to local families who have registered for assistance this season. Your generosity will help ensure that every child in our community has something special to unwrap this holiday season.



*Solos enjoyed a delicious Afternoon Tea at Gruel Britannia's new Westport restaurant on November 12.*

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## INTEREST GROUPS

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**The New Yorker Discussion Group:** This 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 personally can participate on Zoom. If interested, please contact Ellen Cahill at 856-6561 or [ellenjcahill@hotmail.com](mailto:ellenjcahill@hotmail.com) for details.

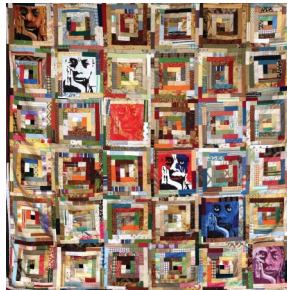
The **Tai Ji** class has been disbanded.

### In Memoriam: Mildred Bunche

We are sad to report that Mildred Bunche, a former president of Y's Women, passed away in November. She was 92 years old.

## CARPOOL & GO!

On Friday, December 12, Carpool & Go will return to Fairfield University's two art galleries to see their current unique and interesting shows. At the Walsh Gallery (in the Quick Center), we will visit two exhibits: **Stitching Time: The Social Justice Collaboration Quilts Project**, and **Give Me Life: CPA Prison Arts Program**. The quilts, created by men in the Louisiana



State Penitentiary, tell the story of a unique inside-outside collaboration. "Give Me Life" is a selection of work by presently or formerly incarcerated women at York Correctional Institution in Niantic, CT (one of the longest running projects of its kind in the United States).

In Bellarmine Hall we will see **Monuments: Commemoration and Controversy**, an exhibit organized by The New York Historical Society which explores monuments and their representations in public spaces as flash-points of fierce debate over national identity,

politics, and race that have raged for centuries. Michelle DiMarzo will be our docent for these shows, starting at 11:00 am. After the tours, we will lunch at The Sinclair, 1229 Post Road, Fairfield.



We will meet at Trader Joe's / Wells Fargo parking lot at 10:15 am for a 10:30 departure. Please contact Lydia Menendez at [lydiamnndz12@gmail.com](mailto:lydiamnndz12@gmail.com) or 319-1110 to reserve your spot for this trip, and indicate if you are willing to drive. Drivers are always needed and appreciated! There will be a \$3 cash gas reimbursement for drivers.

Jill Meyer cell phone: 216-7666

Lydia Menendez cell phone: 543-7484

*Happy Holidays!*