



The Y's Women

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.

February 9 - Kevin Connors, Music Theatre of CT



Kevin Connors, Executive Artistic Director of the Music Theatre of Connecticut (MTC), co-founded the local professional theatre in 1987. A two-time recipient of the Tom Killen Award for Outstanding Contribution to Connecticut Professional Theatre, he has directed more than 150 equity MainStage productions at MTC, including *Cabaret*, *Evita*, and *Gypsy*. As a composer, he has penned the score for numerous musicals, including Live Radio Plays of *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *The Great Gatsby*. Kevin has served on the faculties of The Hartt School of Music/University of Hartford, Sacred Heart University, University of Bridgeport, and Musical Theatre Works in NYC.

He will be speaking to us about the process of founding and running a professional theater company – right in our own backyard.

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.

February 2026

The Y's Women Newsletter

February 23 – Bill Harmer, a Library Visionary

Bill Harmer, Executive Director of the Westport Library, stands out as a dynamic advocate for public libraries, asserting their crucial role in today's society. He has redefined library management, fundraising, strategic planning, programming, and community development.



Bill came to Westport in 2015 from Michigan, where he was Executive Director of the Chelsea District Library. He has made a significant impact at the Westport Library ever since, elevating it to national recognition for innovation and community engagement. His strategic leadership resulted in a remarkable 50 percent increase in fundraising revenues and the successful management of a major \$21.5 million renovation, revitalizing the library into a modern, multifunctional space. His efforts boosted library attendance by 30 percent and program participation by 40 percent, earning the Westport Library a prestigious 5-star rating and placing it among the top 1.6 percent of US libraries.

A visionary in incorporating cutting-edge technology and digital resources, Bill was selected by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as one of 120 global library leaders. His visionary approach and unwavering commitment have significantly transformed libraries into dynamic, essential centers for learning, culture, and community engagement in the 21st century.

In this presentation, originally scheduled for January 26, Bill will be speaking about the Common Ground Initiative and some other upcoming highlights that the Library has in store.

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 on Thursday, February 5 from 1:15 – 2:45 pm at the Westport Center for Senior Activities. We will be discussing *All the Water in the World* by Eirene Caffall. Please contact Nancy Bloom at nancyerb@aol.com if you have questions.

Book Group 3 will meet on Friday, February 13 at 10:30 am at the Westport Center for Senior Activities to discuss *The Art Forger* by B.A. Shapiro. The discussion will be led by Sarah Hock. Please contact Doris Levinson at drjlevinson@gmail.com if you have any questions.

The Movie Club will meet on Wednesday, February 18 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 February 14.

We will discuss the movies *Casablanca* and the 2025 version of *Frankenstein*. *Casablanca* is scheduled to be broadcast on PBS Reel 13 at 9:00 pm on February 14, and a video is listed in the catalogs of the Westport and Fairfield Libraries. *Frankenstein* is available on Netflix.

Casablanca is a 1942 American romantic drama directed by Michael Curtiz and starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, and Paul Henreid. Filmed and set during World War II, it focuses on an American expatriate (Bogart) who must choose between his love for a woman (Bergman) and helping her husband (Henreid), a Czechoslovak resistance leader, escape from the Vichy-controlled city of Casablanca to continue his fight against the Nazis.

Frankenstein is a 2025 American Gothic science fiction drama produced, written, and directed by Guillermo del Toro, based on the 1818 novel by Mary Shelley. The film stars Oscar Isaac as Victor Frankenstein and Jacob Elordi as the Creature, with Mia Goth and Christoph Waltz in supporting roles. The story follows the life of

Frankenstein, an egotistical scientist whose experiment in creating new life results in dangerous consequences.

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

NewsTalk: Interested in national and world affairs? Join other Y's Women for lively and informative discussions at NewsTalk. We meet the fourth Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 26 from 10 – 11:30 am at the Westport Library, McCall Room. For information, contact Becky Ruthven at bruthven06880@gmail.com.

Solos will be going to Zucco Gastrobar, 30 Charles Street, Westport for lunch at 12:00 noon on Friday, February 20. We will be able to order off the menu and have separate checks, but the restaurant has requested that we pay with cash if possible. For reservations, contact Terry Queirolo at 858-1470 or tmq44@icloud.com by Tuesday, February 17.

The **Lunch and Trivia** group will meet at noon on Thursday, February 19 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 each Thursday in February from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at the Westport Center for Senior Activities. For information, contact Mona Unser at mona.unser@gmail.com.

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Carpool & Go toured the newly renovated Lockwood-Matthews Mansion Museum in January.

INTEREST GROUPS

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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 personally can participate on Zoom. If interested, please contact Ellen Cahill at ellenjcahill@hotmail.com or 856-6561 for details.

Scrabble will meet every Tuesday at 10:30 am at 214 Lansdowne in Westport. Please contact Pennie More at pcmore2@gmail.com to reserve a seat at the table.

Potential Upcoming Theatre Trips



We are exploring some possible Y's Women bus trips to upcoming musical theatre presentations in Connecticut, provided by Jill Meyer through *Away for the Day*. All are for Wednesday matinees.

- **Jesus Christ Superstar**, Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam, CT, May 20
- **1776**, Ivoryton Playhouse, Essex, CT, July 1
- **Crazy for You**, Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam, CT, July 22
- **Annie**, Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam, CT, December 16

Plans are preliminary, but we would like to know if there is sufficient interest to go ahead with any of these. Please email Jill at jill@awayfortheday.net and let her know if you are interested in any or all of these shows. There is no commitment at this time.

CARPOOL & GO!

On February 27, Carpool & Go will revisit the recently renovated and enlarged **Bruce Museum** for a docent-led tour of three current special exhibitions:

- **Ursula von Rydingsvard: States of Becoming** shows this artist's monumental sculptures made of small blocks of cedar, carved and stacked from the ground up in abstract formations, as well as works cast from abaca and handmade linen paper embellished with cotton, lace and organic materials – both expressing the tensions between methodology and intuition, monumentality and vulnerability, meaning and ambiguity in her practice.
- **Georges Braque: Tactile Space, Selections from the Regis Krampf Collection** shows Braque's development over five decades, from Cubism through experiments with added textures, exaggerated dimensions, and perspectives, including three-dimensional pieces in bronze.
- **Gisela Colon: Radiant Earth** features eight sculptures made with her invented method of "structural color" layering and laminating plastics, carbon fiber, and green resins into biomorphic **Pods** and monumental **Monoliths** based on natural phenomena and deep space.

There will be time to see other parts of the Museum before leaving to have lunch back in Westport at Zucco Gastrobar, 30 Charles Street.

We will meet in the Trader Joe's / Wells Fargo parking lot at 9:15 am for a 9:30 departure. Our tour will start at 10:30 am. Please contact Lydia Menendez ASAP to reserve your spot (limit 14 people) at lydiamnndz12@gmail.com or 319-1110, and send a check, made out to Lydia, for \$17 to 388 Oldfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06824. (If we have fewer than 14 people, an additional charge will be required). The gas reimbursement for drivers will be \$5 in cash. Also, please indicate if you are willing to drive, as drivers are always needed and appreciated.

