Message from the President and Vice-President

We hope you will join us at the YUWO annual holiday party to be held on Sunday, December 11, from 4 to 6 pm in Horchow Hall on the corner of Sachem and Hillhouse. Please remember to bring a favorite sweet or savory ready for everyone to enjoy.

This party is a wonderful and festive way to support our YUWO scholarship funds. A number of activity groups are planning to prepare theme baskets for the raffle. Again, this year there will be a silent auction table. The gourmet luncheon group is planning to auction a dinner and other items are welcome. Please contact Johanna Becker (203-248-6391), Pam Rackliffe (203-488-2667) or Chaline Johnson (203-453-6304) for information regarding baskets or silent auction items and drop off points.

You will find the YUWO 2011-2012 directory in this newsletter edition. We would like to thank Mary Jo Warren for all her efforts and time spent preparing this. The membership always eagerly awaits the publication of the directory.

If you are planning to make a donation to one of the YUWO scholarships by mail this should be sent to Joan Lagervall, the assistant treasurer.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving festivities and we hope you join us at Horchow Hall on December 11th.

Audrey and Pam
Holiday Party
Sunday, December 11
4-6 PM
Horchow Hall
Hillhouse at Sachem

Please bring a savory or sweet dish to share, emphasis on savory. We are welcoming contributions for our raffle baskets or silent auction wines. Please call Pam 203-488-2667 or Johanna 203 248 6391 or Chaline 203-453-6304 with your contribution. Some activity chairs will coordinate theme baskets so that option is also open. All profits go to scholarships.

The Gourmet Luncheon Group will provide a prepared dinner for 8 for the silent auction at the Holiday party. There will be a choice from 3 menus and the dinner will be delivered to the recipient’s door on a night of her choice. Last year’s contribution was a great success for scholarships and was thoroughly enjoyed by the winner and her friends.

Significant others and friends are welcome!

Lunch and Learn

On Tuesday, December 6 at 12:15 noon Professor Heather Gerken of the Yale Law School will speak to YUWO members and their guests at the Yale Visitor Center on Elm Street in New Haven. Her very relevant topic will examine elections, looking back to the recent 2011 elections and forward especially to the 2012 federal elections. She will also address the troubling issue of voter suppression and efforts to limit voter registration. Coffee, tea, cookies and fruit will be available. The meeting will conclude before 1:30.

December Books
Tuesday December 6 -- The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers-- Raejeanne Kier (203-287-2443).
Thursday, December 8 – The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton -- Eleanor Radune, (203-483-6528).
Monday December 12-- Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann– Irene Smith, (203-248-2949).
Study Group Spring 2012

For your holiday reading, keep in mind the Study Group’s spring lectures, which will be in literature. There will be four lectures on March 21 and 28 and April 4 and 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Lawn Club. The speaker will be Amy Hungerford, Professor of English and American Studies at Yale. She has proposed the following theme: *The Booker through its Books: Prize Culture and the Making of Contemporary Literature*. Here are the books to read in order of discussion: 1) Salman Rushdie, *Midnight’s Children*; 2) Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*; 3) Alan Hollinghurst, *The Line of Beauty*; and 4) Emma Donoghue, *Room*. A registration form will arrive as part of the February newsletter.

Peabody Museum Lecture

There are still a few places available for a special talk by Armand Morgan on the Peabody Museum's 3rd floor dioramas. Armand is giving these talks on Wednesday, December 7 at 2 pm and Wednesday, December 14 at 2 pm. Armand gave us an outstanding talk on the Zallinger murals at our Fall Study Series, and this is a follow-up on that successful series of talks. The dioramas area can only accommodate 25 people at a time, so please select one of these dates or let us know if either date is possible for you, even if you signed up at the last lecture. We will give you a confirming e-mail or phone call after we organize two groups of 25 each. You should arrive at the Peabody about 1:45 pm. The entrance fee will be waived.

Please fill out this form and send to Dody Gall, 75 Charlton Hill Road, Hamden, CT 06518 or e-mail her at dmgall@aol.com or phone 203-288-6590.

NAME __________________ PHONE __________________ EMAIL __________________

____ December 7 ____ December 14 ____ either date

Activities

**ART AFICIONADOS** — Art Aficionados will have a tour of the Beinecke Library on Wednesday December 14 at noon. Timothy Young, the curator, will show us "Comic Inventions: the history of graphic narrative in the 19th century." This is the birth of the comic book. It will bring some smiles. Lunch to follow nearby. Call Diane McGuire, 203-488-4385 or Anneke Hathaway, 203 752-0460.

**BRIDGE GROUP** — This duplicate bridge group will meet for lunch and play at the New Haven Country Club once a month, usually on Wednesdays, starting in September. You can bring a non-YUWO partner, but at least one of each couple must be a member of
CONNECTICUT WINE TRAIL -- The Wine Trail will bed down until spring when there are hopes for a March speaker, and April/May visits to shoreline vineyards. Mary-Jo Warren rmjwarren@sbcglobal.net or (203) 288-5037.

FRENCH, CONVERSATIONAL — *Discussion de contes et de romans et discussion libre.* Meets Mondays at 2:00 pm at Chestnut Fine Foods in New Haven. French is spoken at the meetings, so intermediate proficiency and above is necessary. Debbie St. Thomas, 203-488-1859, and Julie Crowder, 203-288-7157.

ITALIAN CONVERSATION — Group members have enjoyed meeting on Monday mornings at the Yale bookstore during the past year, though the schedule is flexible and the venue may change. Depending on group interest, future discussions may focus on Italian films or operas. Desiree Galassi, 203-426-3214 or dgalassi@earthlink.net.

LUNCHEON GOURMET GROUP — Participants share the meal’s expenses and take turns planning the menu, and preparing and presenting the luncheon. Meetings are the first Thursday of the month. Dues are $10. Happy Thomas, 203-393-7239; Marty Sherman 203-605-5773; Carol Dhawan, 203-562-0017.

MUSIC TOGETHER Guitar Chamber Music, Benjamin Verdery, director. Morse Recital Hall December 14, at 8:00 PM. Meet for dinner at 6:30 PM at China Great Wall, 67 Whitney Avenue. Call Ileane Tombank, 203-288-5363 or Raejeanne Kier 203-287-2443.

NEEDLERS — Join the Needlers for conversation and light refreshment while working on your own project—knitting, crocheting, rug hooking, quilting, embroidery or mending. Meetings are the second and fourth Tuesdays at 1:30 pm in members’ homes. Call for directions. Betty Ann Levitin, 203-488-5862.

TENNIS — Advanced or intermediate players meet weekly for a round-robin at Yale’s indoor Cullman Courts on Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30 am. There is an hourly shared court fee, as well as a membership fee. Carol Dhawan, 203-562-0017.

TRAVEL THE GLOBE — We met on Sunday November 16 to discuss travel to Alaska. Several members have traveled to Alaska so we all benefitted from their experience. A bonus was Chaline Johnson’s report of her trip to Iceland complete with mouth-watering photos. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 19 at Starbucks in the Yale Barnes and Noble Bookstore at 7 p.m. We will be discussing South America; if you have traveled there, please come and share your experience; if South
America is on your wish list, you will enjoy the discussion. We welcome all who love to travel! Jodi Rucquoi, femmedeau@yahoo.com or 203-481-0160.

**WRITING GROUP** — If you have a secret (or not so secret) wish to write your memoirs, poetry, fiction or essays, join this group to share your work and get encouragement and advice from others. This forum will meet once a month to read and listen to new or edited work. Work shared will remain confidential within the group. Ina Jaffe, 203-288-9810.

**YUWO WALKERS**— We will not meet in December. We will have other walks in the spring. Please look in the Newsletter for announcements, or call Lyn Howe 203-288-1217.

YUWO Walkers in West Rock Park in November

In the photo are: Janice Beeghly, Patty Pollard, Marion Petrelli, Anne Schenck, and Marya Holcomb. Photo by Lyn Howe
A Report of the Health Plan Representative

On October 14 I attended the first meeting for this year of the Yale Health Advisory Committee.

The first topic was pediatrics, which does not directly involve many of us but there was some interesting information. Births have increased 40% over the summer of 2011 and this may be due to an increase in the general population at Yale. Immunizations have doubled over the past six years, with the number breaking a record at the Health Plan. There has been a rapid turnover in pediatricians with three new doctors hired. The number of visits has increased in accordance with new recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. There has been a 90% increase in immunizations. The waiting time for a pediatric visit has decreased to 12 to 15 minutes with the total time for most visits between 50 and 60 minutes. An interesting statistic is that the birth rate among YHP members is up but not in the general population.

The remainder of the meeting was concerned with the pharmacy. The pharmacy fills an average of 1,000 prescriptions a day. They are reporting a 94% accuracy in prescriptions filled, which is great unless you are among the 6%. The "Ready When Promised" statistic has improved since the move. The industry goal is 30%, YHP's goal was 50% and they have exceeded that now with 90 to 100%. The wait goal has been 20 minutes, the new goal is 10 to 15 minutes. It was reported that the phone service has improved with the average wait time reduced to 1.5 minutes.

There is a new manager of the pharmacy, they are adding staff and they now have automated inventory. If your Dr. has called in your prescription, go to the check-in line. If you have called it in go to the pick-up line. A new feature will soon be added--you will receive a call when they see you are running low on your meds. Another tip--over the counter meds are sold at YHP at cost or only slightly over.

I am still getting complaints about general phone service. They are working on the problem. They are hiring people to man the phones but have had very few applications. The pay is $15 per hour and part timers are welcome.

On November 11 I attended the second meeting. The topics were Ob/Gyn and Behavioral Health. The Ob/Gyn Department includes six MD's, three Nurse/Midwives, and one Nurse Practitioner.

From the fall of 2009 to the present there has been a 25% increase in births with no difference in the population of members. There is an average of 12 visits per pregnancy so the number of appointments for that department has increased quite a bit, which would explain why you might not be able to get an appointment as soon as you would want. Some space each day is held open for emergencies (more on that later). Right now the normal wait for an appointment is 3 weeks. To consult a nurse, no appointment is needed--just walk in.
This department is working on improving the following: better phone access, ease of scheduling appointments, decreased wait time in examining rooms, letting you know why there is a delay and ease of obtaining test results.

The Behavioral Health Department is headed by Boris Meandzija, MD and Cheryl Doebrick, PhD. This is a new department--in the past mental health issues were outsourced. Now this department is managed the same as other departments in the Health Plan. Magellon is a third party administrator for this department that manages an established group of out-patient practitioners. The Yale Health Plan co-ordinates the care with outside Doctors. The coverage is treated the same as your regular medical coverage, without limits. There is 24 hour a day phone service (800 MAGELLON), but for emergencies call Behavioral Health for referrals and advice. The Magellon web site can be reached by calling Behavioral Health or by a link from the YHP web site. All mental health issues are handled including elder care issues and any other life stresses. Magellon treats addictions and offers de-tox and residential treatment. To get to Magellon, either call Behavioral Health or go to the YHP web site. No referral is needed. You can drop into Behavioral Health at any time.

Urgent Care. Before going to Urgent care, phone them first. If you go there without calling, you will "take a number" and wait. All departments are now setting aside some "Same Day" appointments and you may be able to get one of those appointments for your urgent care.

As always--let me know about any concerns you have with the Yale Health Plan.
ba.levitin@gmail.com 203 488 5862

Betty Anne Levitin
Return Service Requested

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