Message from the President and Vice-President

Happy New Year to all YUWO members.

Pam Rackliffe, Johanna Becker and Chaline Johnson combined their multiple talents to create a lovely December party with intriguing interdenominational holiday décor. Beautiful holiday baskets assembled by Johanna and Chaline and their committee were raffled and the expanded silent auction again generated much interest and fun. We would particularly like to thank the Needlers, combined Book Groups, and the Gourmet Lunch groups for their very generous donations to the baskets reflecting their interests. This year over $1,100 was raised for the annual scholarship fund.

Professor Amy Hungerford will present the Study Group spring lecture series, The Booker through its Books: Prize Culture and the Making of Contemporary Literature. The lectures will begin on Wednesday, March 21, at the New Haven Lawn Club. You will find the registration form at the end of this newsletter. Once again preference will be given to YUWO members but guests/spouses may register later if space is available. The list of books to be discussed is included in the accompanying article so you can begin reading.

An early reminder: This year the Annual Meeting and Scholarship Luncheon will be held at the Lawn Club on Wednesday, May 2.

Audrey and Pam
The Holiday Party Committee would like to thank all the activity groups that so generously donated to the raffle baskets: book groups, the Needlers, the Gourmet Cooking group, the CT Wine Trail group, and Travel the Globe all gave either money or items that made the baskets truly amazing and very desirable. Of course, we also thank those individuals who contributed beautiful hand made and machine made things for the silent auctions. Our scholarship fund benefits greatly from these efforts. This year we raised about $1,100.

February Books
Thursday, February 9 – Book to be determined-- Eleanor Radune, (203-483-6528).
Tuesday February 14 – *The Hare with Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal. Lyn Howe, (203-288-1217).

Exploring New Haven will not meet in February. Look for future events in the March newsletter.

Activities

**ART AFICIONADOS** — Next tour is planned for March. Look for information in the next newsletter. 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 YUWO. Britta Chambers, 203-453-5813.

**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  Hayden cello concerto and Mahler symphony no. 4 with guest conductor Xu Zhong. Friday, February 24, at 8:00 PM, Morse Recital Hall. 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.

SKIING—Last year we did some cross-country skiing in Connecticut, before that, downhill in Massachusetts. If you are interested in this activity, contact Pam Racklifflé, 203-488-2667, or Johanna Becker, 203-488-2667.

TEennis — 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 GOURMET – We will resume activities in the spring. Next outing is planned for the last Tuesday in April. Nancy Ahlstrom, 203-865-2028.

TRAVEL THE GLOBE — The group is looking for a co-chair. If you are interested, please call Jodi Rucquoi, 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 February. We will have other walks in the spring. Please look in the next newsletter for announcements, or call Lyn Howe 203-288-1217.

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A Report of the Health Plan Representative

The Yale Health Plan meeting of December 9 was concerning patient outreach. This includes reminder letters from clinicians, postcard reminders for tests and services, (any postcard messages sent from YHP to members are enclosed in an envelope), and automated phone reminders.

For chronic illnesses such as Diabetes, newsletters and educational materials are sent, patients receive reminders of their appointments, and classes and support groups are offered.

On-line, charts for blood pressure and blood sugar are available. In the fall and spring there is a "Living with Diabetes" Education Series. This is offered in November and sometime in the spring. The meetings are 1 1/2 to 2 hours long. There is also a hypertension program. Go to the Health Plan Web site for more information.

Anyone age 50 or over will receive a reminder about Colon Cancer Screening. So far there has been a good response to this with many appointments scheduled.

Reminders for Pap tests, and mammograms are also being sent.

Many members have had complaints about Quest. Evidently they have reduced their staff. If you have a complaint in this area call or write a note to Margaret Hionis at YHP.

Plans are in the works to start a Cholesterol Management Course.

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
The Booker Through its Books: Prize Culture and the Making of Contemporary Literature.
Speaker: Amy Hungerford, Professor of English and American Studies at Yale.

March 28:  Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*
April 4:  Alan Hollinghurst, *The Line of Beauty*
April 11:  Emma Donoghue, *Room*

In the speaker’s words: “We live in an age where prizes in the arts have the power to make or break careers. What do literary prizes, and the books to which they are awarded, tell us about the role of literature, and of celebrity authors, in our culture today? In this series of lectures, we will consider the relationship between prizes and new writing by reading four novels that have won the Man Booker Prize. Each novel—and the story of its reception as a Man Booker winner—represents a different take on what we value in new writing. And each reflects a different understanding of the world encompassed by contemporary British, Irish, and Commonwealth writing. The novels range through colonial history, British politics, the English romance of the “great house,” the aesthetic legacies of Henry James and Jane Austen, the underground gay life in London, and the most intimate questions of love, freedom, and fear."

Amy Hungerford is Professor of English and American Studies at Yale, where she has taught since 1999. She is the author of two books on American literature from the mid-twentieth century through the present. She is currently serving as Acting Master of Calhoun College.

Questions? Please call Kirsti Langbein at 203-389-6564

REGISTRATION FORM
This course is open to YUWO members who will be given first consideration. If space is available, each member may register one paid guest. The fee is $50 per person for the series.

Please make checks payable to YUWO and mail to:
Pat Whitestone, 83 Turtle Bay Drive, Branford, CT 06405

NAME_________________________ PHONE_________________________
ADDRESS __________________________ Street _____________ City _________________ Zip

E-MAIL _______