



Y's Men of Meriden - Newsletter

June 2018

www.ysmenofmeriden.com www.facebook.com/ysmenofmeriden

June Programs

June 5 Presenter: Peter Burch Story Teller: Ken White
 Program: Patrick Comins, Executive Director of the Connecticut Audubon Society

“Landscaping for birds and other wildlife”

Patrick Comins will discuss what you may be able to do in your own yard or a public space to enhance the attractiveness of the area to birds and other wildlife. Native plants and native wildlife have developed together over time and by emphasizing native plantings in your landscape design you can enhance the availability of food, cover and other factors that can attract a wide variety of native birds and pollinators to even a small area such as a Meriden yard.

June 12 Presenter: Peter Burch Story Teller: Ken M. White
 Program: Carolyn Daniels, Arts and Education Program Director for the Meriden YMCA

“1-2-3-4-5? An adventure in South Africa”

A conversation in pictures about a South African journey through Cape Town and the Zulu Nyala game reserve, searching for the elusive “Big Five” (lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant and Cape buffalo).

Y's Men Picnic

See page 5 for details



Officers

Chairman	Mark Burwick
Vice Chairman	Paul Scollan
Asst. Vice Chairman	Mike Rohde
Secretary	Dewey Dow
Asst. Secretary	Tom Marshall
Treasurer	Sherwin Borsuk
Asst. Treasurer	Joe Giannetti
YMCA Rep.	Terry Clarke
Past Chairman	Terry Clarke

Directors

Dewey Dow
 Jim Teagle

Committee Chairmen and Associates

Awards	Jim Teagle
Bridge	Joe DeMaio Paul Lamoureux
Coffee	Steve Volpini Ken White
Cribbage	Walt Ziemba
CyberSeniors	Dennis Kababik Bob Newcomb
General Activities	Bill Glick Sherwin Borsuk
Hiking	Mark Burwick
Historian	Bill Glick
Hospitality	Joe Giannetti
Membership	Hamp Pratt
Newsletter/website	Peter Burch
Special Events	Bruce Burchsted Lenny Cheerman
Story Tellers	Phil Callan
Technology	Jack Brooks Matt Bushey Richard Grossman
Volunteer Services	Joe Kata

News Items

- We note with sadness the passing of Dick Kupstis on May 28, long-time Y's Men member, past Chairman (2005-2006) and avid Cribbage player. And we also note with sadness the passing on May 2 of Jeanne Cournoyer, wife of Joe Cournoyer, long-time club member (and photographer).
- Tom Grimshaw announced that his wife's daughter just received an award as the outstanding science teacher in the state of Connecticut. Wow!
- SherwinBorsuk displayed an antique Meriden record player cleaner, an antique “vinegar valentine” (which was designed to insult someone by making fun of them in a mean spirited way), and a cup painted by the Meriden Decorating Works (stating “a married man lives no longer than another; it only seems that way”).
- John Colaresi reported that while his dad was in the Air Force, he provided rides to both Clark Gable and to 3-star General Claire Lee Chennault (Commander of the legendary Flying Tigers) who insisted that his driver stop and join him for drinks at three successive bars.
- Steve Volpini will be organizing regular Tuesday morning walks and hikes throughout the summer. Contact him at stevevolpini2@gmail.com.
- The Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 4 at Hunter's Golf Course.

Bridge



- May 1 **1st** Paul Lamoureux (11 pts); **2nd** George Thomson, Ken White (tie-10 pts); **3rd** Joe Menna, Duke Sward (tie-9 pts)
- May 8 **1st** Paul Lamoureux, Ken White (tie-10½ pts); **2nd** Vinnie Rossitto, Herm Sochin (tie-9½ pts); **3rd** Bill Schultz, George Thomson (tie-8½ pts)
- May 15 **1st** Duke Sward (14 pts); **2nd** Herm Sochin (12 pts); **3rd** Vin Rossitto (10 pts)
- May 22 **1st** George Thomson (12 pts); **2nd** Paul Lamoureux, Ken White (10 pts); **3rd** Marv Beloff (9 pts)
- May 29 **1st** Paul Lamoureux (11½ pts); **2nd** Vin Rossitto, Herm Sochin, Bill Schultz (tie-10½ pts); **3rd** Ken White (8½ pts)

Cribbage



- May 1 (+39) Walt Ziemba, Jim Janz over Tom Marshall, Ron Carlstrom (+9) Dick Kupstis, Joe Young over Jim Brooks, Brian Mahon
- May 8 (+79) Walt Ziemba, Ron Carlstrom, Jim Brooks over Brian Mahon, Dick Kupstis, Joe Young
- May 15 (+3) Walt Ziemba, Jim Janz over Joe Young, Tom Marshall; (+49) Dick Kupstis, Jim Brooks over Charlie Deegan, Ron Carlstrom
- May 22 (+53) Ron Carlstrom, Dick Kupstis, Jim Brooks over Walt Ziemba, Joe Young, Jim Janz
- May 29 (+45) Jim Janz, Ron Carlstrom over Joe Young, Jim Brooks

Wise Words for Y's Men

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

Volunteering

"The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves." *Helen Keller*

Treasurer's Report

May 29, 2018 \$3901.07

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Raffle Winner</u>
May 1	68	George Thomson
May 8	60	Bob O'Sullivan
May 15	64	Bob O'Sullivan (again)
May 22	71	Bob Luby
May 29	64	Duke Sward

Y's Men record attendance of 89 was set on Oct. 19, 2004

<u>Guests</u>	<u>Introduced By</u>	<u>Date</u>
Layne Boynton	Dick Boynton	5/8/18
Ray Gawlak	Mike Rohde	5/15/18

CyberSeniors

Nine CyberSeniors met on May 1 and first discussed communications using SKYPE, FaceTime and Google Allo. This was followed by a video outlining events that likely will happen before the year 2050. A video review

of the Google Mini Home device (\$29) followed.

Seven CyberSeniors met on May 15 and were tutored by Bob Newcomb on the history of computer data storage. He described external storage with early paper punch cards from the 1700's and eventually magnetic drum storage in 1950, and the beginning of disc storage in 1962 with the earliest floppy discs arriving in 1971. Both flash drives and CD ROMs with eventual Blu-Ray technology came along in 1984, with SD cards in 2000. And today, cloud storage is very common. Much of internal storage with spinning discs has today given way to solid state storage. And in the future: perhaps DNA storage with a capacity of 2.2 petabytes/gram.

Eleven CyberSeniors met on May 29 for a program devoted to Google Photos. Google automatically creates a video from your photos taken during a given outing. Also covered were the popular touchscreen Chromebooks which run their proprietary operating system and interact with the Android operating system.



"Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week. A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing. He goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays."

May Programs

May 1 - Bruce Burchsted, traveler and club member “Harpers Ferry, an amazing history worth revisiting”

Introduced by Peter Burch

It's a small town situated at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers where Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia come together. But Harpers Ferry in West Virginia is chock-full of American history, as detailed to 68 Y's Men of Meriden on May 1 by Bruce Burchsted, traveler and club member.

In October 2017, Burchsted and his wife Sue embarked on a journey along a segment of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal (sometimes called the “Grand Old Ditch”), active from 1831 until 1924 alongside the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. to Cumberland, Maryland. Its 185-mile course featured 74 locks and 11 aqueducts to cross major streams as well as the 3118-foot Paw Paw Tunnel (whose construction almost bankrupted the Canal Company) and was principally used to transport coal from the Allegheny Mountains.

Using a PowerPoint show, Burchsted displayed images and videos taken at their first stop (Great Falls, Maryland) where they boarded the Charles F. Mercer, a renovated tow boat pulled by mules, for a ride along the canal. A 19th century photo showed children tethered to the boat deck (for safety); individual boats were often manned by families at that time. After a second stop at Lock 24 (Riley's lock) with a hike along the towpath, the journey ended at Harpers Ferry.

Named after Robert Harper, who started a ferry service in 1761 across the Potomac River, the town caught the attention of George Washington following the War of Independence. He initiated the construction of a new United States Armory and Arsenal, which subsequently produced more than 600,000 muskets, rifles and pistols.

In 1859, the abolitionist John Brown led a group of 21 men in a raid on the arsenal; he hoped to use the captured weapons to initiate a slave uprising throughout the South but was captured by US Marines, led by U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Lee; Brown was subsequently hanged. However, John Brown's Raid was a major catalyst in propelling the nation into civil war.

Harpers Ferry fell into Confederate hands in 1862 after a well-planned military maneuver led by General Stonewall Jackson. With 12,419 Federal troops captured by Jackson, the surrender at Harpers Ferry was the largest surrender of U.S. military personnel until the Battle of Bataan in World War II. However, the town proceeded to change hands eight times during the Civil War. Suffering from repeated devastating floods over subsequent years, the town today has a population of only 286.

May 8 - Dick Boynton, world traveler and club member “An Adventure in Sri Lanka”

Introduced by Peter Burch

Located off the southern tip of India, the island nation of Sri Lanka traces its roots to antiquity. Speaking

to 60 Y's Men of Meriden on May 8, Dick Boynton, club member and world traveler, painted a colorful canvas of this nation rich in vivid colors and dramatic sculptures.

With evidence of pre-historic human settlements dating back at least 125,000 years, Sri Lanka was for many years a part of India; indeed, a courageous rider on a spirited horse in the 1600's could cross the 30 miles to the mainland at low tide, long before the era of rising sea levels. Renamed Ceylon by British occupiers during 1815-1948, it is today an independent country, although still recovering from a 30-year rebellion ending in 2009 by the effective Tamil Tigers (Muslims and Hindus who invented suicide belts and pioneered the use of women in suicide attacks). Most of the population, which is 70 % Buddhist, travel in tuk-tuks (auto rickshaws powered by small motorcycles).

During a three-week visit here in March 2017 with his wife Layne, Boynton captured the flavor of the many traditions and wonders of this unique land. On the second evening, they attended an unusual theater in which the actor spent the first 20 minutes applying facial makeup, then proceeded with the play using only facial expressions for communication with the audience. A challenging 300-foot vertical climb by Boynton to the top of Lion Rock, a World Heritage site, was accomplished with physical assistance by a guide for \$3 (later upped to \$6).

A special treat was a visit to a public school where students, attired in white uniforms with neckties and universally polite, became very excited by gifts presented to them by the Boyntons. And then on to a successful safari in search of wild elephants. Other adventures included hand-feeding an elephant and an ox-cart ride.

A highlight was a visit to the ornate Temple of the Sacred Tooth, containing a carefully-guarded sacred relic from Buddha which today has magic powers; the faithful gather here to ask for help (such as a cure from sickness or help in passing a school exam). The tooth is washed every Wednesday, with the bath water then sprinkled on the worshippers below. After a visit to see Raja, a huge stuffed elephant, Boynton projected a spectacular video of a fire walking ceremony.

May 15 - Peter Martin, Managing Director at KPMG “Rebirth of a 1935 Ford Coupe”

Introduced by David Juliano

As a young child, he spotted a beautiful 1940 Ford Coupe in a neighbor's driveway and ran home to ask his dad to buy it. That purchase did not occur, but a passion for old cars had been ignited in Peter Martin, today a Managing Director at KPMG, an excitement he shared with 64 Y's Men of Meriden on May 15 as he described his renovation of a 1935 Ford Deluxe 3-window Coupe.

At age 17, his father offered him a choice of a VW Beetle or a Nash American, but instead he negotiated for a Corvette provided he would build it himself. Working in his garage, he was able by age 19 to put a 425 h.p. engine into the vehicle, which he later raced on a track (but never in the streets). But his passion for old cars continued and in 2004, he purchased the 1935 Ford Coupe, with renovation work being carried out during the 2012-2016 period.

This was a very popular model in its time, having

been built for women (a larger 5-window model was manufactured for men) and selling very well even in the height of the Great Depression. Using a series of slides, Martin illustrated the extensive work done to convert the vehicle into a hot rod. The 95 h.p. engine was replaced by a 1948 V-8 flathead engine generating 300 h.p. with an added supercharger (made in Italy), providing power to gain speeds of more than 150 mph. Other work included heavy-duty truck wheels, a 2-speed rear differential, a hidden dual exhaust, and replacement of the wooden roof.

Both the body and chassis were restored, a radio added (with an antenna made of chicken wire in the roof), the rumble seat refurbished, a new hand-made air cleaner installed, as well as racing pistons, high-performance valves, and custom brakes (with airflow cutouts to keep them cool) being added. And the seat belts were obtained from a B-29 bomber.

This car (nicknamed Miss Adventure) has never raced and indeed has never been driven faster than 85 m.p.h. All exterior and interior appearances are as Ford built it in 1935. And Martin proudly notes that it recently won the blue ribbon at the prestigious Concours d'Elegance in Greenwich.

May 22 - Joshua Ritter, Education Manager & Library Director at Goodspeed Musicals
"Goodspeed Musicals: The Home of the American Musical"
Introduced by Marvin Beloff

It stands like a queen on the eastern bank of the Connecticut River in East Haddam, this six-story Victorian-style opera house built in 1876 by local merchant William Goodspeed. Addressing 71 Y's Men of Meriden on May 22, Joshua Ritter, Education Manager and Library Director, used a slide show to depict the rich history of the Goodspeed Opera House along with its sister theater, the Terris Theatre (formerly a knitting-needle factory).

Goodspeed Musicals entertains 130,000 patrons annually and has produced more than 275 musicals, 21 of which moved on to Broadway, including Annie, The Man of La Mancha and Shenandoah. It owns and operates over 38 separate buildings on its campus and meticulously maintains the 398-seat Goodspeed Opera House, a national historical landmark. But it is so much more than creating six productions annually (three at each theatre); also included are the Max Showalter Center for Education in Musical Theater (providing training and educational programs for musical theatre students), the Scherer Library of Musical Theatre (the only library dedicated solely to the American musical) and the Goodspeed Musicals Costume Collection (with over 220,000 costumes kept in a climate-controlled facility).

And Goodspeed serves over 3,000 students each season. The Arts Education Collaboration annually exposes over 750 elementary, middle, and high school students to a high-quality musical theatre production, Sensory Friendly Performances are intended for those who are on the autism spectrum or who have other sensory issues, and Theatre Access Across Connecticut provides a program that gives underserved populations in CT educational experiences and benefits.

Additional outreach programs include the Johnny Mercer Writers Colony providing a four-week residency program for musical theatre writers and the Goodspeed Musical Institute which encompasses The Festival of New

Musicals, Music Direction Intensive, the NYU Writers' Residency, Goodspeed Movers Boot Camp, Goodspeed Audition Boot Camp, Scenic Painting Intensive, Song Coaching Workshop, and Observership Program. Plus, the Festival of New Musicals, a unique collaboration with emerging writers and students from The Hartt School and The Boston Conservatory. And the list goes on.

Did you know that the Opera House stage is not flat, but slopes up away from the audience, rising 3/16" each foot, a common construction in earlier years called "raking" to provide better visibility for the audience? Or that the "Singing in the Rain" production used actual "rain", with an elaborate collection and repumping system?

May 29 - Jaqueline Hubbard, Artistic/Executive Director
"The Ivoryton Playhouse - Past, Present and Future"
Introduced by Marvin Beloff

So, what would be the oldest self-supporting summer theater in the entire United States, where Katharine Hepburn had her acting debut and Marlon Brando gave his last professional performance? In fact, that would be the Ivoryton Playhouse right here in Connecticut, whose Artistic and Executive Director, Jaqueline Hubbard, spoke to 64 Y's Men of Meriden on May 29, outlining the impressive history of this artistic venue.

An initial video, produced in 2011, showcased the first 100 years of the Playhouse, starting as a recreation hall for the employees of the Comstock-Cheney factory; however, the 1920's which ushered in autos, radios and silent films provided harsh competition, draining Playhouse audiences. But the 1930's brought a revival, energized by actor/director Milton Stiefel and appearances by Cliff Robertson and Norma Terris, until the onset of WW II during which the theatre went dark (gasoline rationing made attending impossible for most).

But the Playhouse flourished again after the war, starring the likes of Art Carney, Talullah Bankhead, Helen Hayes, Ezio Pinza, Betty Grable, Vivian Vance, Groucho Marx, June Lockhart, Gloria Vanderbilt and Don Ameche. Then another decline set in during the 1970's and 1980's almost resulting in sale of the building, but saved once again by the formation of the non-profit Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation and a return to robust health that continues to this day.

The Playhouse currently sponsors the Women Playwrights Initiative (featuring one-act plays by and about women), Playhouse on the Shore, Summer Children's Theatre, school educational programs, and the Ivoryton Players (for staged readings). Other events are held in an adjacent tent, such as opening night galas.

Throughout this presentation, Hubbard glowed with enthusiasm as she described the 273-seat Playhouse, its staff, casts and productions. It now sports a yearlong seven-show schedule; this season includes productions of A Night with Janis Joplin, Grease, and A Chorus Line. An endowment fund started last year has raised \$1 million to date and continues to grow, looking ahead to dedicated parking, actor living space (many currently stay with local families), and an enhanced performance space.

Y's Men of Meriden Annual Picnic

Reservation Form

Picnic catered by Gus and Mindy Esteves (Oxford)
Former owners of Rick's on 5
BYOB - setups and soda provided



Monday June 18, 2018

Social Hour 5:00 pm • Dinner 6:00 pm
YMCA Mountain Mist Camp (576 High Hill Road, Meriden)

All entrees cooked to order
Hamburgers / cheeseburgers / hotdogs
Grilled chicken
Cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans
Eggplant parmesan, mixed garden salad with assorted dressings, rice pilaf
Sodas (diet and regular), water, decaf coffee, tea, milk
Dessert

Please note: Your additional guests are welcome to attend

Please return this entire sheet by the June 12 meeting, *or contact*

Leonard Cheerman - 42 Brownstone Ridge, Meriden, CT 06451

Phone: 203-634-1480 or Email: lenatcheer@aol.com



Your Name _____

Guest Name _____

Please print

Please enclose check for \$15.00 per person, payable to Y's Men of Meriden

Directions

Going east on East Main St. (Meriden), turn right at light
(just beyond the former Jacoby's Restaurant)
onto Cone Ave which becomes Thorpe Ave.
Turn left onto High Hill Road and go almost to the end of the road.
You will see a gate on the left with a sign for the
YMCA Mountain Mist Camp.