



Y's Men of Meriden - Newsletter

May 2018

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

May Programs

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 Rene Tompkinson
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

May 1 Presenter: Peter Burch Story Teller: Ken M. White
Program: Bruce Burchsted, traveler and club member
“Harpers Ferry, an amazing history worth revisiting”

We'll review the history of Harpers Ferry WV and see how it became the National Arsenal following independence, followed by its history during the Civil War. We'll also focus on its C&O Canal until the canal's demise due to railroad competition.

May 8 Presenter: Paul Scollan Story Teller: Sherwin Borsuk
Program: Richard Boynton, world traveler
“An Adventure in Sri Lanka”

Exotic Sri Lanka boasts 2000 year old Buddhist temples where monkeys run wild, caves high on rocky cliffs containing ancient religious paintings, and trained elephants doing the heavy work.

May 15 Presenter: David Juliano Story Teller: Rob Reiners
Program: Peter Martin, Managing director/Partner of KPMG
“Rebirth of a 1935 Ford Coupe ”

A car enthusiast since age 12, Peter in 2010 purchased a 1935 Ford (nicknamed “Miss Adventure”) and had it fully restored over a three-year period. It's muscle has gone from 95 HP to 300 HP, and can now move at 150+ mph.

May 22 Presenter: Marvin Beloff Story Teller: Phil Callan
Program: Joshua Ritter, Education Manager & Library Director at
Goodspeed Musicals

“Goodspeed Musicals: The Home of the American Musical”

Learn about the history of Goodspeed Musicals and its iconic Opera House located on the banks of the Connecticut River. This talk will also cover information about Goodspeed's recent artistic accomplishments and educational endeavors.

May 29 Presenter: Marvin Beloff Story Teller: Tom Kennedy
Program: Jaqueline Hubbard, Artistic/Executive Director
“Ivoryton Playhouse - Past, Present and Future”

A short video presentation and talk about historic Ivoryton Playhouse from its beginnings in 1911 through its years as a premier summer theatre, attracting big stars from New York and Hollywood.

News Items

- We note with sadness the passing of seven-year Ysman member Dan Hovey on April 16, and Ann Giannetti, wife of Joe Giannetti, on April 2.
- Nominating Committee Chairman Terry Clarke presented the slate of proposed officers for the 2018-2019 year. There were no additional nominations. The slate was unanimously approved by the attending members on April 3 (see page 2).
- Mike Rohde announced that his son Matt is the keyboardist for the Broadway smash hit Jesus Christ Superstar. Way to go Matt!
- Dick Boynton announced his granddaughter Alia has graduated from college in 7 years, paying her own way 100% while working part-time as a Yoga instructor.

Y's Men Picnic

See page 5 for details



Bridge



- Apr 3 **1st** Herm Sochin, Ken White (tie-11½ pts); **2nd** Joel Cohen, Bill Schultz (tie-10½ pts); **3rd** Marvin Beloff (9½ pts)
- Apr 10 **1st** Ken White (11½ pts); **2nd** Jim Chapman, Herm Socin (tie-10½ pts); **3rd** Joe Menna (9½ pts)
- Apr 17 **1st** Bill Schultz (11 pts); **2nd** Duke Sward, Ken White (tie-10 pts); **3rd** Marvin Beloff (9 pts)
- Apr 24 **1st** Herm Sochin (10 pts); **2nd** Joe Menna (9 pts); **3rd** Bill Schultz (7 pts)

Cribbage



- Apr 3 (+17) Brian Mahan, Tom Marshall over Walt Ziemba, Ron Carlstrom
- Apr 10 (+9) Jim Brooks, Brian Mahon, Tom Marshall over Joe Giannetti, Ron Carlstrom, Jim Janz
- Apr 17 (+48) Dick Kupstis, Walt Ziemba over Brian Mahon, Jim Brooks; Ron Carlstrom over Joe Giannetti (+6) and Jim Janz (+8) (3-man game)
- Apr 24 (+27) Joe Giannetti, Tom Marshall, Dick Kupstis over Walt Ziemba, Jim Brooks, Ron Carlstrom

Wise Words for Y's Men

What this country needs are more unemployed politicians.
Edward Langley, Artist (1928-1995)

Volunteering

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”
Audrey Hepburn

Treasurer's Report

Apr 24, 2018 \$NA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Raffle Winner</u>
Apr 3	66	George Lucian
Apr 10	66	Joe Kata
Apr 17	64	Dick Leary
Apr 24	72	Dick Leary

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

<u>Guests</u>	<u>Introduced By</u>	<u>Date</u>
Brian Lamphier	Marvin Beloff	4/3/18
Brian Mahon	Lenny Cheerman	4/3/18
Hermann Kasper	Peter Burch	4/17/18
Thom Knowlton	Lew Bither	4/17/18

<u>New members</u>	<u>Interests</u>
Brian Mahon	Cribbage
Hermann Kasper	
Thom Knowlton	Martial Arts, public speaking

CyberSeniors

Nine CyberSeniors met on April 3 and first discussed cloud storage of your computer data; there was a request for a future entire meeting on this subject. There was then a further discussion of “Informed Delivery”, a free program whereby the USPS will send you an email early each morning with images of mail you will receive later that day. And finally, there was a demonstration on how to use Bookmarks (Favorites) in your browser, and how to group them into folders for easy retrieval.

Ten CyberSeniors met on April 17 and first discussed how to have Gmail import all your contacts from Yahoo or another email provider. The meeting then focused on the creation of playlists, organized by you to store links to music, photos, videos or even text files. These playlists can then be sent to your email contacts, as well as being used by you.

Officers for 2018-2019 year

Elected by unanimous vote on 4/3/18

Chairman	Paul Scollan
Vice Chairman	Mike Rohde
Asst. Vice Chairman	Bill Puttre
Treasurer	Sherwin Borsuk
Asst. Treasurer	Joe Giannetti
Secretary	Dewey Dow
Asst. Secretary	Tom Marshall
YMCA Rep.	Mark Burwick
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Directors	Dewey Dow
	Jim Teagle

April Programs

Apr. 3 - Erik Ofgang, Senior Writer/Author at Connecticut Magazine

“Gillette Castle and the Creation of Sherlock Holmes”

Introduced by Bill Glick

His father was a U.S. Senator, his mother a descendant of Thomas Hooker (one of the founders of both the city of Hartford and the state of Connecticut). Speaking to 66 Y's Men of Meriden on April 3, Erik Ofgang, Senior Writer at Connecticut Magazine, described the remarkable life of actor William Gillette who brought the character Sherlock Holmes to life throughout America and built a unique home (castle) high above the Connecticut River on the southernmost of the Seven Sisters hills in Hadlyme.

Born in 1853 in Hartford's Nook Farm (today the site of the Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe Houses), Gillette turned a childhood fascination of acting into his lifelong profession (grudgingly accepted by his parents), ultimately becoming the most famous American actor of his time, due in part to his natural style on stage (as opposed to the stilted manner used by fellow actors). Early on, he began to write, direct and star in his own plays, encouraged by Mark Twain; his performances were often panned by critics but loved by audiences.

Meanwhile across the Atlantic, Arthur Conan Doyle pursued a medical career, but began supplementing his income by writing, eventually creating the characters Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in the 1887 novel “A Study in Scarlet” (followed by more than 50 additional novels and short stories). However, eventually tiring of these characters, Doyle allowed Holmes and his archenemy Prof. Moriarty to plunge to their death down Switzerland's Reichenbach Falls in the short story “The Final Problem”. But Doyle received an offer to create a Sherlock Holmes play with Gillette, who introduced the famed curved pipe, deerstalker hat and cape, and initiated the phrase “Elementary, my dear Watson”. Gillette went on to perform the play more than 1300 times, all highly successful.

Gillette was eccentric, very private off-stage, loved cats, and married once (no children). With funds from his successful acting career, he designed and built his curious retirement home from 1914-1919 which he inhabited until his death in 1937 at age 83. Built of stone (over an inner steel frame), it contained a series of mirrors and spy holes, intricate door mechanisms, and secret passageways from which he would suddenly appear to surprise his guests, including Charlie Chaplin, Helen Hayes and Albert Einstein. The grounds even included a three-mile narrow-gauge railroad.

Apr. 10 - William Barnett, Vice-president on the New England Camera Club Council Board

“India: a Different World”

Introduced by Marvin Beloff

It's a country filled with contrasts: severe poverty,

streets crowded with beggars, roads piled high with trash and choking pollution in the bigger cities, juxtaposed with the vivid colors and beauty of the people, their clothing, architecture and customs. Presenting a dynamic video/slide presentation to 66 Y's Men of Meriden on April 10, Bill Barnett, Vice President on the New England Camera Club Council, displayed images he encountered during his two trips to India in 2016.

In this presentation backed by cultural music and interspersed with historical dialogue by Barnett, he carried the audience on a pictorial journey through much of the country, including India's largest cities (Mumbai, formerly Bombay, and Delhi) and its smallest villages. An initial video displayed scenes (accompanied by sitar music) of harvesting rice, walking along a canal at sunrise, vegetable stands, bearded Sikhs, beautifully bedecked camels and even a vegetarian McDonald's! Images from Mumbai included palaces with ornamental gates, food marts bursting with color, streets clogged by bicycles and motorbikes, a sitar player beside the road and an amazing rats' nest of electrical and phone wires hanging across the street.

Scenes also included the ancient city of Haridwar “Gateway to Heaven” located on the Ganges River and site of religious Hindu rituals (including male head shaving by the holy). Hinduism, practiced by about 80% of the population, far outranks other religions in India (Buddhism, Sikhism and Jainism, as well as Christianity and Islam). Sikh Temples are famed for serving up to 100,000 free daily vegetarian meals.

Archeology sites included the famed elephant caves of Mumbai (with intricate carvings and sculptures), Delhi's Red Fort, forts in Jodhpur and Jaipur, and Agra's Taj Mahal. And a favorite pictorial spot was the backwaters of Kerala in southern India, where folks live on motorized houseboats which ply the brackish lagoons. Barnett's camera also transported the audience to colorful fairs including the Elephant Festival in Southern India (honoring Ganesha, the elephant god of new beginnings) and the Pushkar Camel Fair famed for livestock trading and camel racing.

And finally a series of still and video images of the people of India, Barnett's favorite subject, including a woman pounding clothing against a boulder with a wooden club (traditional Indian laundry), folks in noisy street scenes including a vegetable market, cobblers, tailors, barbers, water carts and camel carts, animated card players, and women in beautiful saris. As he noted, “India, it's a different world.”

Apr. 17 - Brian Mahon, Judge of Probate in Meriden, ret.

“How the Probate Court Works”

Introduced by Mark Burwick

Sixty-Four Y's Men of Meriden sat expectantly on April 17, awaiting a presentation which never occurred due to a miscommunication between the Y's Men and the scheduled speaker regarding the date. But stepping up to the plate as pinch hitter, Brian Mahon, recently retired Judge of Probate in Meriden after 17 years and a club member for only the past three weeks, proceeded with no prior notice to give an extraordinary “off the cuff” talk about the duties of the Probate Court as well as field a flurry of questions from the audience.

Mahon explained that in Connecticut, this institution is a statutory court and is not involved in criminal cases. Instead, it deals with estates, trusts, children's affairs (such as adoptions and terminations of guardianship rights), commitments and conservatorships. Conservatorship positions are split into Conservator of Person (managing an individual's requirements such as medical needs and housing) and Conservator of Estate (managing an individual's financial matters). The Court often is embroiled in family disputes (such as which adult will take care of a child), and in abuses of finances (e.g. embezzlement of an individual's assets). In some cases, the Court will appoint a non-family Conservator, sometimes driven by a long term care facility's request so that a patient can apply for Title XIX assistance.

Family disputes often extend as much as 30-40 years in the past. Mahon recalled one case in which the decedent's estate was worth \$1 million; however, there was no conflict regarding distribution of the money, but instead a fight over distribution of their father's wartime photos, a conflict requiring a full year to resolve.

If a potential heir contests the contents of a will, hearings in Probate Court can be protracted (involving witnesses, attorneys, and others). Mahon's advice: if you create a new will, promptly destroy (shred) any previous wills to help avoid future conflicts.

Apr. 24 - Mark Maged, Former CEO Schroders, Inc. and Chairman of Edgar Online, Inc.

"The USSR in Transition - My Adventures and Misadventures"

Introduced by Mark Burwick

An unusual childhood interest in the German invasion of the USSR during WWII, perhaps in part stemming from the emigration of his grandparents from Russia to America during the 1890's, was followed by an eventual graduation from Harvard Law School and a 14-year span of practicing law. Addressing 72 members of the Y's Men of Meriden on April 24, Mark Maged, Former CEO of Schroders, Inc. and Chairman of Edgar Online, Inc., described his subsequent career involving American-Russian economics.

As part of a United Nations team in the 1970's, Maged was instrumental in trying to revive a sliding Russian economy. At that time, the Moscow Circus which performed internationally and in some 70 locations throughout the USSR had available storage space beneath these stadiums. Maged arranged for an American company, Delaware North, to provide this storage space to multinational companies. However, this process was cut short by the murder of an "untouchable" Russian Mafia leader (nicknamed "Jaws" for his set of gold teeth); the subsequent funeral was attended by thousands of Russians drawn from every profession.

In 1991, The Soviet Union, having arisen from the 1917 October Revolution led by the Bolsheviks under Lenin and which ousted Tsar Nicholas II, was disintegrating, with Russia becoming an independent country, its economy and politics in shambles with widespread shortages of food and medicine. Store shelves were empty and public drunkenness was prevalent. Maged was invited to go to Siberia, where a burgeoning oil industry was saddled by poor management and its infrastructure, such as roads and airports, were in

disrepair.

Shuttling between America and Siberia, Maged brokered an agreement for a cash infusion from American companies Mobil Oil and Louisiana Land to stimulate oil production. Risky travel in rudimentary aircraft within Siberia became part of his job. Sadly, however, the powerful military in that part of Russia seemingly had no interest in solving the problems of starvation and development, and repeatedly stone-walled these agreements which never became fulfilled.

**Do you ever wake
up, kiss the person
sleeping beside you,
and feel glad that
you are alive?
I just did and
apparently will not
be allowed on this
airline again....**



Wife: 'Honey, please go to the supermarket and buy 1 bottle of milk. And if they have bananas, bring 6.'

So he came back with 6 bottles of milk.

Wife: 'Why the heck did you buy 6 bottles of milk?'

Husband (confused): '**Because they had bananas.**'

He still doesn't understand why his wife yelled at him since he did exactly as she told him.

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.