Y's Men of Meriden - Newsletter

Nov.-Dec. 2026 Programs

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

Officers

Chairman	Ron Pell
Vice Chairman	TBA
Secretary	John Colaresi
Asst. Secretary	TBA
Treasurer	Jack Brooks
YMCA Rep.	Dave Grodzicki
Past Chairman	Dave Grodzicki

Committee Chairmen and Associates

Coffee and...	Richard Gault
	Michael Devlin
Cribbage	Walt Ziemba
General Activities	Sherwin Borsuk
Hiking	Ron Pell
Historian	Bill Glick
Hospitality	Sean Stewart
Membership	Paul Scollan
Newsletter/website	Peter Burch
Programs	Ron Pell
Raffle (weekly)	Jim Chapman
Special Events	Bruce Burchsted
Story Tellers	Ron Abbe
Technology	Matt Bushey
	Richard Grossman

Nov 3 Presenter: Tim Orlie
Dr. Ginger Jewell, Director of Meriden Historical Society
"Liberty and the Hanging Hills"

Explores how a small but strategically situated New England community becomes intertwined with the broader struggle for American independence. Meriden's landscape shaped both its economy and its role in the Revolutionary War, from supplying goods and manpower to serving as a corridor for communication and movement. It details the tensions between loyalists and revolutionaries, and the ways ordinary residents experienced the upheaval of war.

Nov 10 Presenter: Bill Klaneski
Katie Joly, Gaylord Sports Association Program Manager
"Redefining Ability: Inside Gaylord's Adaptive Sports Program"

Athletes of all abilities discover new possibilities through sport. We'll explore what adaptive sports are, the equipment and modifications that make participation possible, and the wide range of activities we offer throughout the year. Learn how you or someone you know can get involved and experience the power of inclusive, life-changing recreation.

Nov 17 Presenter: Ron Pell
John Colaresi, Film Buff Extraordinaire and Ysmen member
"Sacha Guitry - France's One-Man Band of Cinema"

Sacha Guitry (1885-1957) was an acclaimed French stage and screen actor and director, playwright and screenwriter. From 1935 to 1957, he wrote and directed 36 films, all made in a style of his own that combined theater and cinema and were popular with audiences. He played the lead role in 31 of them. Besides being multi-talented, he was multi-married ... five times, always to young actresses, each wife younger than the preceding one, and whose careers he advanced on the stage and screen.

Nov 24 Presenter: Ron Pell
Ken Steller, a life-long learner who draws upon his life's experiences
"What are the Best Ways to Stay Healthy and Happy as we age?"

Ken is a life-long learner who draws upon his professional and personal experiences, current research in health, exercise and neuroscience, and Stoic philosophy to share best practices for staying healthy and happy as we age. This presentation will identify specific resources that participants can access in support of ways to enhance their physical and mental health and happiness.

Dec 1 Presenter: Peter Burch
John DiRoma, Photographer and Y's Men member
"Mission trips to Cuba (2012 & 2014)"

Photos of construction activities revolving around Christian churches in the southern parts of Cuba. Talk will be describing the life and activities of the people in that area.

Dec 8 Presenter: Peter Burch
Christina Volpe, Curator of the Barnes Museum
"Connecticut on the Rocks: Prohibition in the Nutmeg State"

From temperance crusaders to bootleggers and hidden speakeasies, Prohibition transformed everyday life in Connecticut. This presentation explores the people, politics, and places behind the state's complicated relationship with alcohol during the 1920s and early 1930s, with plenty of colorful local stories along the way.

News Items

> John Colaresi used a storyteller slot to describe, with video clips, two French movies about Napoleon: the 1927 French silent epic historical film "Napoleon" and the 1928 romantic melodrama "The Man Who Laughs" (based on the Victor Hugo 1869 novel).

> Ken White announcd he is now in his eighties.

> Steve Volpini used a storyteller slot to describe details about the growth of the Meriden Record-Journal, especially the Sunday edition.

> Bob Luby used a happy dollar to describe a wonderful recent trip to Italy, including visits to Capris,.

> Dave Grodzicki played a clever country song created by him and AI promoting the Y's Men.

> Ysmen Holiday Party Tuesday Dec. 15 - see attached reservation form.

Date	Attendance
Oct 6	30
Oct 13	39
Oct 20	29
Oct 27	37

Date	Raffle Winner
Oct 6	Bob Newcomb
Oct 13	Andrea Mullin (AARP guest)
Oct 20	Sherwin Borsuk
Oct 27	Lenny Cheerman

Treasurer's Report - $5,309.53

Guests
Sammy Muscat, introduced by Bob O'Sullivan
Gregory Gordon, introduced by Dave Grodzicki

New Members
Sammy Muscat
Gregory Gordon

Time to pay your $20 dues for 2026-2027
Cash or check to "Y's Men of Meriden"
Bring to the meeting or mail to
Jack Brooks, 24 Beechwood Dr.
Meriden, CT 06450

Oct. Programs

Oct 6 - Martha Colaresi, Meriden Historical Society Board member

"Sanctuaries of Diversity: The Role of Worship in the Immigrant History of Meriden"

Martha Colaresi, Board member of the Meriden Historical Society, presented an illustrated program to 30 attending Y's Men of Meriden on Oct. 6, titled "Sanctuaries of Diversity: The Role of Worship in the Immigrant History of Meriden". This was the second half of a two-part series.

This program dealt with recurrent technology issues with the projection of the accompanying slides, but the presentation educated the audience in the history of various immigrant waves that founded churches in Meriden. Some of these included the Unitarian Universalists, Congregationalists and the Salvation Army. In addition to dates of arrival, Colaresi provided information about numerous pastors of these churches, including Noah Pomeroy and Issac Lewis.

Episcopalians, Baptists and Lutherans all arrived and erected churches. The Baptist church was initially mainly German,, but by the 1920s had become more English. The Lutheran church appeared in 1867, provided sanctuary for Germans and Swedes, and currently has a location on Paddock Ave. The Italian Baptist church first met in parishioners' homes until a building was constructed in 1912.

Other arrivals have included the New Life church, Jewish Synagogues, Christian Science, Catholicism, Pentecostal First Assembly of God church, Seventh Day Adventists, Lighthouse Worship Center, Russian Orthodox, and a variety of Spanish churches. Colaresi provided dates and named early pastors for these arrivals.

~~O~~)ct 13 - Barbara Munck and Pat Lang, Volunteers from AARP of Connecticut.

Oct. 13 - "The Current and Future State of Social Security"

Barbara Munck and Pat Lang, AARP volunteers, presented an informational program regarding the shaky future of Social Security (SS) to 39 attending Y's Men of Meriden on Oct. 13. The program's format was an alternating presentation about the national program and active vocal involvement of the audience in this important subject.

They noted that retirees are living longer and lower birth rates are resulting in fewer workers paying into the system. They also described the nine AARP principles for protecting Social Security. And a few basics: workers earn payments through FICA taxes and you must have worked for at least 10 years to be eligible for payments from SS after retirement or disablement. In Connecticut, some 721,602 people are receiving benefits which average $2,114 monthly. And in this state, 51 percent of seniors rely on SS to stay out of poverty.

But SS is destined to have insufficient funds within 8-9 years to maintain its current level of disbursement. Possible solutions:

1. FICA taxes are paid only on the first $184,500 of wages. Raising or eliminating that cap would likely result in more money flowing into SS.
2. Increase payroll taxes. Currently the employee and the employer each pay 6.2 percent FICA taxes; perhaps, this level of taxation could be gradually increased.
3. Raise the retirement age from 67 for those employees born after 1960, perhaps to 68, 69 or 70.
4. Change the payment formula by returning less money to higher earners, or basing payments on income and assets at retirement.
5. Find additional funding for SS from other sources within the government.

Throughout this presentation, there was frequent, vocal and thoughtful feedback from audience members, many with strong opinions.

Oct. 20 - Nick Malouin, Food Waste Program Specialist

"Single Stream Recycling and Food Scraps Collection"

A group of 29 Y's Men of Meriden met on Oct. 20 to hear Nick Malouin give an illustrated two-part program about Single Stream Recycling and Food Scraps Collection. The audience enjoyed the engaging personality of the speaker, who is

a Food Waste Program Specialist with USA Waste & Recycling.

First up was Single Stream Recycling, locally served (for decades) by Murphy Road Recycling in Berlin CT. Waste recyclable materials are generally collected by your trash hauler and transported to this facility. With assistance from high speed cameras and artificial intelligence and moving on conveyer belts, the materials are sorted by size; magnets remove magnetic metals, and AI optical sorters use compressed air for further separation.

Acceptable materials include magazines, junk mail, paper bags, newspapers, aluminum cans, glass bottles & jars, phone books, flattened cardboard, and Plastics #s 1, 2,and 5. Following treatment, these materials may be recycled as newspaper, new cardboard boxes, yarn (for clothing) and high-density Polyethylene (for buckets, toys, lumber and outdoor furniture) and glass. Materials unacceptable for recycling include plastic bags, batteries, hoses, syringes, food waste, hazardous materials, Styrofoam, shredded paper, light bulbs, pots & pans, dishes and electronics.

And then came a presentation on food scraps collection, received from schools, restaurants and homes, with goals to keep it out of landfills and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While multiple solutions have a been utilized such as better meal planning, donating excesses to food banks, animal feed, or composting, the best solution is Anaerobic Digestion which converts food waste into renewable energy. The latter uses microorganisms to break down organic matter in the absence of Oxygen to produce Methane and Digestate (a nutrient-rich slurry that can be used as fertilizer).

Oct 27 - Phil Callan, Retired Radio Announcer and Y's Men member

"Highlights from the movie 'Harvey' starring Jimmy Stewart"

The Oct. 27 meeting of the Y's Men of Meriden included 37 members enjoying a video presentation by member Phil Callan regarding the memorable Broadway show and movie "Harvey". Written by Mary Chase in 1944, it ran for five years and then became a movie in 1950.

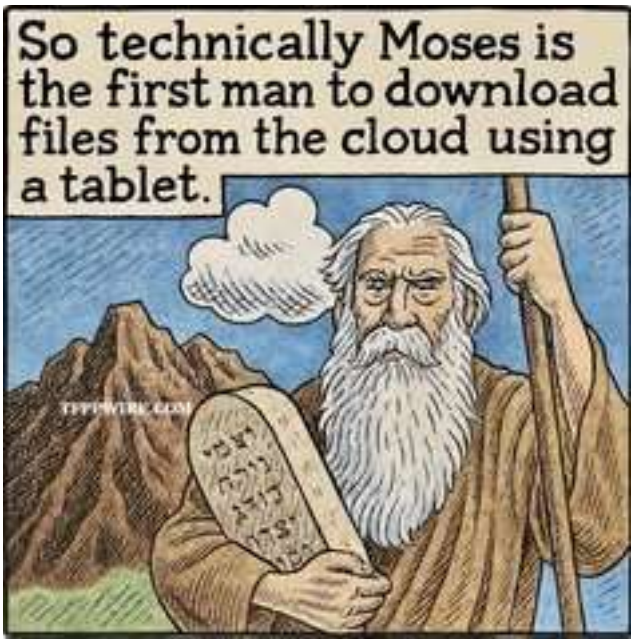
The B&W movie depicted an eccentric Elwood Dowd who "has" a 6'3" invisible rabbit named Harvey; the two are inseparable. Dowd is frequently introducing the invisible Harvey to his friends who eventually accept his presence.

Helen Hayes co-starred with James Stewart in the 1970 Broadway revival and the 1972 television film adaptation of this classic comedy.

I'm not sure now, but I used to think I was indecisive.

and for the Ladies

THE NIGHT EDDIE BECAME A TOAD.



Y's Men Holiday Luncheon Reservation

Tuesday, December 15, 2026

Manor Inn Restaurant

1636 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike
Plantsville, CT

Cocktails (cash bar)

Noon - 3:30pm

Music - Dancing - Raffles - And More

	Top Sirloin & Mushrooms	Chicken Marsala	Broiled Scrod
Name:			
Guest:			
Addl. :			
:			
:			

Please write clearly • Check off food choices • Note any food restrictions

Soup • Garden Salad • Ziti • Baked Potato • Mixed Vegetables
Vanilla Puff or Cake Roll or Spumoni
Coffee, Tea, Decaf

$38 per person (tax and gratuity included)

Make checks payable to: Y's Men of Meriden.
Please bring this form with payment to Y's Men, or mail to: Bruce Burchsted
230 Crystal Lake Rd., Middletown, CT 06457, *no later than Tuesday, Dec. 8.*
(for any questions, call Bruce at 203-631-8423)

Directions to Manor Inn:
From 1-91 or the Merritt Parkway: take Route 691 West toward Waterbury. Take exit 3 (Route 10) and turn right. At the second light, turn left onto Meriden Waterbury Turnpike. In about 1/2 mile, Manor Inn will be on your left.