



September 2019 Newsletter Part Deux



See You Thursday!

We Start With Four Great Speakers

Orin Grossman Entertains Us on September 5

Orin Grossman will open Y's Men's 2019-20 season with a music recital.

As Clark Kent, Dr. Grossman enjoyed a more than 40 year academic career at Fairfield University. He retired as its Academic Vice President, and today is Emeritus Professor of Visual and Performing Arts.

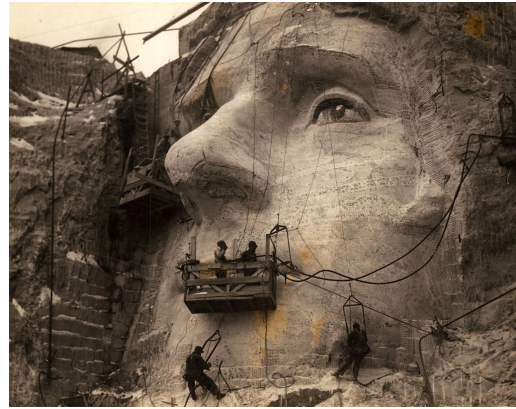
As Superman, he graduated Magna from Harvard, earned a Ph.D. in Music at Yale, then built a life long second career, touring the globe as an entertainer and, ever the teacher, as an interpreter of some of America's most notable music.



He will play our group through 100 years of American music history, from two of America's early jazz giants, Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington, on to 1930's swing, to 1940B's bebop, to today, pulling together Scott Joplin's ragtime, Zez Confrey's novelty piano, Jelly Roll Morton's Dixieland, and James P. Johnson's stride piano into contemporary jazz — America's Classical music.

Lou Del Bianco Offers an Immigrant's Story on September 12

Luigi Del Bianco was the chief carver of the Mount Rushmore stone portraits. Yet he was overlooked in the records of the National Park Service and completely ignored in the definitive book about the project.



On September 12 his grandson, Lou Del Bianco, will tell us a perhaps typical immigrant's story, about superior work unrewarded until Del Bianco and an uncle, Caesar Del Bianco, had spent 25 years researching the lost legacy and gaining his deserved recognition.

The senior Del Bianco's work, the younger men's efforts and much about Mount Rushmore and its carving is documented in Lou Del Bianco's book *Out of Rushmore's Shadow: The Luigi Del Bianco Story – An Italian Immigrant's Unsung Role as Chief Carver*. The book will be issued as a paperback on September 9.

Luigi Del Bianco was born on a ship in 1892. He studied stone carving in Europe as a youth, then immigrated to Vermont as a 17 year old to practice his trade. After fighting for Italy in WWI he returned to the US, ultimately settling in Port Chester, NY. There a friend introduced him to Stamford carver Gutzon Borglum. And there he also met his future wife, Nicoletta.

Borglum was named sculptor for Mount Rushmore in 1927. Four years later he brought on Del Bianco, who worked for four seasons, two as a driller, then, in 1936 and 1940 as the chief carver.

Del Bianco was an artist able to etch emotions and personality into the 60 foot high heads.

The carving ended in 1941 with Borglum's death and the loss of financing — and before the team of 400 could carve all four statues from head to waist.

The entire project cost \$989,992.32, all of it federal funds.

Borglum said Del Bianco "Is worth any three men I could find in America, for this particular type of work."

Moskin Makes A Mitzvah September 19

Alan Moskin, a World War II US Army veteran, will talk to Y's Men on September 19 about helping liberate one of the first concentration camps, and how he has used what was a long buried experience to help us stem hate and intolerance in our own lives.

Germany surrendered to the Allies on May 7, 1945. Three days earlier his unit, the 66th Infantry, 71st Division, a part of General George Patton's 3rd Army, stumbled on the Guns kirchen Concentration Camp in northern Austria, a sub camp of the Mauthausen death camp.

Among the liberators was 18 year old Staff Sergeant Alan Moskin. Guns kirchen was the first they had heard about concentration camps, though he knew of Hitler's antipathy toward Jews.

His unit was patrolling in the woods looking for the camp. Their first sign was a horrific odor. Next was the sight of barbed wire. Entering the camp they faced minimal resistance, though Moskin shot one of the few remaining guards for refusing to surrender.

The Americans came across piles of dead bodies, bodies with broomstick thin arms and legs. The living Moskin described as "zombies," wearing the striped pajama uniform of the camps with their yellow Mogen Davids, and calling out for food, water and cigarettes — not to smoke, but to eat the tobacco.

The prisoners were so malnourished that as they started eating they began choking, and grabbed their esophagus until the medics screamed "No solid food."

A lieutenant who knew Moskin was Jewish asked him to try to communicate with the prisoners — "Ich bin auch Jude" — "I am also a Jew" just came out of his mouth. One man wrapped his arms around him, saying "Danke, danke, Jude."

He didn't speak about his experience for 50 years — not uncommon among those who lived through or lost relatives to the Holocaust.

It wasn't until 1995 that he began to open up. Talking to groups he found he was a natural story teller, and that he had a message. Since then he's traveled nationwide, talking to audiences of all ages.

Moskin was born in 1926 in Englewood, New Jersey. He attended Syracuse University before and after his military service, then graduated from New York University Law School. He practiced as a civil trial attorney, and later became a business executive.

He is a Vice President on the Board of Trustees of the Holocaust Museum and Study Center in Suffern, and is also Past Commander of the Rockland/Orange District Council of Jewish War Veterans.

For all his generation did to rid the world of Hitler and his ideology, Moskin regrets that they were unable to rid the world of hate and prejudice.



Westport Art Curator Speaks September 26

Westport owns three art collections made up of 1,800 works. One is the town's, a second

the schools, and the third are WPA works, including murals done during the 1930s that still grace many of our older schools and town buildings.

Kathy Bennewitz, Westport's Curator, and a Princeton alumna, will talk to Y's Men on September 26 about "Reframing of Westport's Public Art Collections."

Many, perhaps most of the works, are products of local artists, including Len Fisher and Steven Dohanos. And through the generosity of many Westporters, the collections also include pieces by artists including Matisse, Picasso, Warhol and Calder (paintings, not mobiles).



Bennewitz said Westport's collection, perhaps uniquely, "is not housed in a museum, but in public buildings throughout the town," at Town Hall, in the Library, at the Senior Center and in school buildings.

Prominent as the WPA murals have become, some 50 years ago they fell out of favor and were relegated to building basements. They have more recently been restored.

The schools' collection was begun in 1964 by artist and Greens Farms Elementary School art teacher, Bert Chernow "with the vision that original art be a daily part of the educational environment of every student."

The town collection was established "to support and promote the artistic and cultural heritage of Westport."

Looking ahead, Ms. Bennewitz talked about the volunteers involved with the collections looking to social media, including Facebook and Instagram, and particularly otocast, a cell phone app she will discuss that offers short virtual tours guided by well known Westporters around downtown, Saugatuck and about a small bit of the collection.

"Does any other community have something equal?"

In Memorium

Let us remember the four Y's Men
who have passed on since we last met:

Frank Vener, 85, May 12

Herb Dubow, 96, June 6

Bill Brown, 91, June 23

Austen Doolittle, 89, July 16

Shot Time's Acomin' Flu Clinic — Thursday, October 3rd

Summer's over, Winter's on our doorstep.

Get ready, stay safe, get your flu shot — October 3, right after the meeting, in the large room down the hall from the lobby of the church's back entrance.

Make sure everyone's protected. Bring your spouse, significant others and friends.

Get the protection you want — regular or high dose, and new this year, quadrivalent. In years past the vaccine protected against three strains — two influenza A strains and a single influenza B strain. With the quad vaccine you get protection against two strains of each.

Here, more is better.

Bring your insurance card. Pay through Medicare Part B, or through most insurance carriers. United Healthcare is not eligible at this time.

Y's Man Otis Crawford will be managing the clinic run by the Westport/Weston Health District. Questions, email Otis at oty1@juno.com.

Look smart Show your colors

Y's Men Clothing

Polo shirts — A new item, blue and gold, \$26 each

Light Weight Jackets — Newly redesigned, blue and gold, \$28 each

Baseball Caps — Len Fisher's design, \$11

All with embroidered Y's Men logos

All available at Thursday's meeting

Shirts and jackets — Sizes Small to Extra Large

Roy Fuchs