

WOMEN'S FORUM

Sharing Wisdom

Dear Ladies,

The Dead of Winter is an expression that describes a time of year that can sound pretty glum. Looking back I always treated the first three months as a kind of "hibernation" period. And while it served its purpose with lots of reading and catching up on projects from the year before, somehow this year, the idea of "hibernation" has lost its charm.

So, in thinking about the first three months of the year, one by one - each with a personality of its own - let's look at what's in store for early 2024.

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In January (as I write) we are resolving and putting all manner of practices into action. Reading more, spending less, hopefully eating less. We had a great opener at our first event of '24 with Dr. Ellen Langer and her Mind-Body theory. Lots of chatter afterward about plans to

take on some of her findings!

We're following up on Dr. E with a bombshell of a woman - "the one that got away"! Francoise Gilot, artist, writer and former partner to Picasso, in promoting her memoir LIFE WITH PICASSO, tells her story in an interview that inspires taking mastery over your own life. (Being the only woman to have *left him* she is quite the "force" and a fascinating subject.

Picasso Luncheon, Thursday January 18 at noon.

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Come February, the tender emotions kick in. Valentine's month is the LOVEliest time of the year. As a Valentine to our ladies, WF is offering a big fun favorite - FASHION - with a trip to the Met focusing on the Costume Institute's latest fabulous exhibit! As per Met publicity:

WOMEN DRESSING WOMEN features the work of over seventy womenswear designers,

spanning ca.1910 to today, including French haute couture from houses such as Jeanne Lanvin, Elsa Schiaparelli. and Madeleine Vionnet, to American makers like Ann Lowe, Claire McCardle, and Isabel Toledo, along with contemporary designs by Iris van Herpern, Rei Kawakubo, AnifaMvuemba and Simone Rocha.

Trip to the Met, Thursday February 8. departing CDL at 9am. Return pickup at the Met 3pm.

Admission 40. Does not include entry to museum.

To honor Black History Month, and for our second February event, a luncheon, we continue to learn stories of triumph and in some cases of the unsung achievements of many of our African American brothers and sisters. This time we present an interview of a thespian of the highest order, by an icon who has raised the bar of excellence in career achievement for all women.

Oprah Winfrey, so deeply ingrained in our culture as to have reached the status of

becoming a household word, interviews Academy Award winning actor Viola Davis. Discussing her memoir, FINDING ME, Ms. Davis tells the story of a rise from the depths of searing poverty to the heights of artistic acclaim, fueled by passion, hunger and raw talent.

Having read the book, the interview presents an unforgettable first hand tale.

And, if you would like to read it, I found it on CLOUD LIBRARY as an audio read, narrated by Ms.Davis. BTW, CLOUD LIBRARY is a fantastic app available to Dillon Library patrons. For more info, call the circulation desk, 908- 234 2325.

Luncheon honoring Black History Month, Thursday February 29, at noon. Admission 20.

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By March all heads are turning toward Spring and a new vitality is arising. For an exhilarating literary exercise, WF is dedicating the month of March to Daphne du Maurier - English novelist, biographer and playwright. We'll cover her life

story, offer a book discussion of her novel REBECCA, with our in-house "literary maven" Nancy Harms, and then screen the Hitchcock movie version of the novel.

Three events, all Thursdays, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28. The 14th and 28th are luncheons. The 21st, at 1:30 is a book discussion of about one hour in duration, with limited seating in the History Room.

WF is offering this sneak peek into March in case any of you plan to read the book. The library is offering copies, free of charge, for those who are interested. (Registration for the March events will be available in the March newsletter.)

To register for our programs and for information regarding all events please reach us at:

womensforumusa@gmail.com.

Enjoy this lovely season.

Best always,

Evelyn

