

WOMEN'S FORUM

Sharing Wisdom

Dear Ladies,

The 1940's was a decade of contrasts - years of conflict and death and then...a rebirth. A world war and a madman at the head of a hideous threat, a glorious, albeit very costly win for the Allied Forces, and a horrified and disbelieving world picking up the pieces and desperate to find a sense of sanity and normalcy again.

Some of us were born in the Forties and family pictures of our cute little selves also reveal Dads in military uniforms and worried looking and sometimes frazzled Moms. These were the capable women who were left alone to raise the kids and support the war effort however they could (often shouldering "man's work" in factories and arsenal building facilities).

The fashion industry cooperated by promoting the look of shorter skirts (not a yard to waste - uniforms came first) and combined the silhouette with the square padded shoulder. Hollywood then glamorized this look and by the end of the war, our GIs came home to their women in seamed stockings and platform shoes, flirty skirts and poufy hairstyles, pouty red lips and painted fingernails. What all this ultra femininity would lead to, one can only imagine!

As always, the art world would be the memory keeper. The fine arts, literature, music, theater, film and even fashion tell us stories of that most intense of times. And as we all know, technology, some of which - very scary - was surging apace.

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For the month of July, we'll be doing a study of the Forties starting with a duo of documentary screenings at our :

**REMEMBERING THE 40'S LUNCHEON:** Thursday July 10 at noon. Dillon Library, Bedminster NJ. Admission 20. \*To register see below.

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Our tribute to the Forties continues with a trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and a special exhibit titled:

BOOM! ART AND DESIGN IN THE 1940'S! *Tracing the surge in creativity and transformations in culture and the arts during one of history's most tumultuous decades, Boom! Art and Design in the 1940's looks at the complex shifts in technology, and the arts, including music, film and fashion, that surged in a thunderous decade...PMA*

TRIP TO THE PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART: Thursday July 24. Bus leaves Dillon Library, Bedminster NJ at 9am. Return pickup at the museum, 3pm. Admission 45. (does not include entry to museum) *To register see below.

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Looking forward to a great July of reminiscing, learning, and most of all, of *Sharing Wisdom* together!

As always,

Evelyn Breheney Glynn

Founder/Director

## **Women's Forum**

**\*To register for our programs reach us at  
womensforumusa@gmail.com or call the Dillon Library at (908)  
234-2325.**