**Yale Club of London**

**AGM**

**ACA, 130 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 4UR (TBC)**

**12 November 2019; 19.00**

**Agenda [DRAFT]**

**Attending:**

Joe Vittoria (President)

Anica Alvarez Nishio (Secretary)

Abbas, Samar (Membership)

Arku, Kamilla (Day of Service)

Cesear, Renata (Yale International Alliance)

F Cura, Nixi (Art Circle, Country Walks, Bulldogs)

ord, James (Feb Club, Music/Singing Groups; Young Alums)

Gibson, May (Theatre Circle)

Legbelos, Yanni (Dance Circle, Mentoring)

Tsukanov, Nikita (Young Alums)

**Awaiting Reply**:

Akosa, Fredua (Oxford)

Costeletos, Philippe (shadowing President)

Denney, Lucinda (Mentoring)

Go, Karen (Yale Women)

Kim, Kyoung (Art Circle, shadowing Treasurer)

Merryweather, Melissa (shadowing Secretary)

Glover, Margaret (Day of Service)

Okhai, Megha (ASC)

Tsomocos, Dimitri (Oxford)

**Regrets**:

Burston, Richard (ASC)

Irwin, Kevin (Quiz Night)

Jani, Anant (Oxford)

Klohr, Amy (Cambridge)

Severi, Marco (Treasurer)

Stainsby, Victoria (ASC)

1. Welcome and apologies
2. 2018 Minutes and action points
3. Chairman’s Report (JV)
4. Treasurer’s Report (MS)
5. Secretary’s Report (AAN)
6. Membership Report (SA)
7. Election of Officers
8. Membership: Updating of eligibility criteria
9. Dates of 2020 meetings, calls, AGM
10. Christmas Dinner
11. AYA Assembly – 2019 rep
12. AOB

**Treasurer’s Report**

THE YALE CLUB OF LONDON

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

In its sixth year as a registered membership association, The Yale Club of London has continued to offer members a wide variety of cultural and social events, while operating on a sustainable basis and improving its financial position.

**Membership**

Since 2018 was the year of reorganization of our web platform, members were asked to update their status and to renew their memberships, to avoid being removed from the database. The result was an historic record in membership subscriptions; 400+ members renewed or signed up for membership. Not all of those renewed their memberships in 2019, and currently the Club counts 176 active members and 207 memberships overdue or lapsed.

Total income generated from membership fees this year was £3,545 (gross) from £5,447 of last year.

**Events**

This year the club organized close to 30 events, and shared information of a number of other events sponsored by alumni associations. Some events were purely social, while others were part of YCL programs.

Cultural events directly organized by YCL in 2018-19 included:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 24/07/18 | Volunteering The Yale Way |
| 07/09/18 | Art Circle: Migration Museum, private tour and drinks with Aditi Anand |
| 25/10/18 | Theatre Circle: Parents' Evening directed by Stella Powell-Jones |
| 01/11/18 | YaleWomen WellWomen |
| 19/01/19 | Art Circle: Strawberry Hill, private curator-led tour and drinks |
| 28/02/19 | Theatre Circle: Cost of Living by Martyna Majok |
| 14/03/19 | Glee Club (2 of 3): Dinner in London |
| 28/03/19 | Theatre Circle: UNDER THE UMBRELLA by Amy Ng (YC '96) |

The club also organized a number of social events for its members, including:

* British Bulldogs pub night (14 July 2019)
* 2 Yale Days of Service: 11 May | Day Out with the Refugee Council Children's Section & 02 Jun 2019 | Permablitz: Transform a London Landscape
* The Quiz Yale vs Harvard (14 November 2018)
* The Game (17 November 2018)
* Christmas Dinner (28 November 2018)
* The first Annual Fourth of July Summer Barbecue, hosted by Piotr Karasinski and his wife Catherine (7th July 2019)

It should be noted that a number of new volunteers have stepped forward to take on leadership of existing programs; among them Nikita Tsukanov and Danae Sossidis are now leading the Christmas Dinner organization.

This year events generated £7,756 gross income and contributed with a small profit of app. £500 (mostly Christmas dinner).

**Finance**

Following a profit of £2,693 registered in 2018, the Club reported a net surplus of **£1,251** for the year ending 30th June 2019. Cash at the bank and in the Paypal account totaled **£24,088** as of 30th June 2019.

Admin expenses have been higher this financial period, mainly due to an increase in the cost of the Wild Apricot subscription (USD130/month – £1,308.50 for the period).

**Governance**

The YCL remains governed by formal rules adopted on 23rd April 2014. These rules define membership eligibility and provide for a Management Committee headed by a President, Secretary and Treasurer. Other roles on the Management Committee provide support for different activities including: the Speaker Series, Day of Service, the Art Circle, Communications and Website, Membership, Young Alumni, Bulldogs, Music/Singing groups, Yaletech and YaleWomen.

**Secretary’s Report**

The YCL continues to offer its members a wide variety of continuingly evolving social opportunities, many of which have been detailed in reports elsewhere. The governance strategies put in place in 2018 have bedded in well. The trial strategy of alternating meetings/calls has made it easier for more members to participate and for queries and proposals to be dealt with in a timely fashion. There has been good response from the management committee and lay members alike to the scheduling of calls/meetings for the prospective calendar year to aid planning. We will continue this strategy in 2020. We continue to supply volunteering opportunity suggestions each month. This initiative has also met with good response. Melissa Merryweather has followed the flow of email to the secretary@ mailbox, and has agreed to more actively shadow/job-share in 2020, with an eye to taking over completely in 2021.

**Membership Report**:

At the time of writing, there are 281 ‘active’ members of YCL – ‘active’ defined as members who have either joined or renewed their membership in the last 12 months.

2.       There are a further 276 members whose membership renewals are currently overdue. Experience tells us that some, but not all, of these members will renew in the near future. (Even my own membership was pending renewal when I logged in to prepare this update – it is natural that one doesn’t always renew promptly.)

3.       Therefore, the number of actual ‘active’ members is probably a bit higher. However, those accounts which are not renewed for an extended period of time are considered lapsed and, for data protection reasons, should be culled on a reasonably regular basis. The last such cull took place at the beginning of 2018 and I propose doing another round in the beginning of 2020.

4.       Of the ‘active’ members, 120 are senior members, amounting to around 42% of membership. Another 55 (just under 20%) are junior members. The remaining 106 members fall under a variety of categories and sub-categories, with current graduate students (36) and current undergraduate students (28) making up the largest contingent.

**Reports on Initiatives and Sub-Groups:**

**ASC**:The UK remains one of the largest single ASC’s in the world – with more than 400 applicants annually, the demands on interviewing remain high.  We are active in spreading the word about Yale at College Fairs and at schools and we always seek to interview as many, if not all, of our applicants as possible.  The UK ASC continues to set an excellent standard of practice according to Keith Light, Associate Director of Yale Undergraduate Admissions. We have an active, albeit (due to people moving in and out of London ) somewhat transient, community of interviewers and would welcome new ambassadors for Yale who are willing to help. As we embark on another admissions cycle, if you are not an ASC member please sign up on the Yale ASC website (INSERT URL)  and encourage any Yale College friends to do the same!

**Art Circle:** In 2019 the Art Circle saw fantastic uptake for a wide range of events: a private curator-led tour of Strawberry Hill House & Garden (19 Jan); a viewing of *Rarefaction* at the Art Rooms by co-founder Beatrice Spengos SY'02 and artist-in-residence Alice Kemp (25 May); and a joint outing with YCL Country Walks along the Thanet seaside with artist Emily Allchurch, culminating at the Turner Prize exhibition at Turner Contemporary (5 Oct). Upcoming in November, Nixi Cura SY'88 will have led a gallery crawl of Asian Art in London (3 Nov) and will show up again in Venice with Ed Oliver (16 Nov) to take in the final days of the Biennale Arte 2019 alongside other alumni invited from YCL and European clubs.

**Bulldogs:** Owing to a reduction in funding from the Yale Office of Career Strategy (OCS), the YCL organised only one British Bulldog event (as opposed to three in recent years). The 15 July Pub Night and Networking Event in Soho brought a jolly group of past and present Bulldogs together, many of whom would later participate in other YCL summer events. Several students praised the YCL website, which to their eyes enhanced their London possibilities better than OCS efforts.

**Cambridge**: Two musical events in 2019 and one lecture: Trinity College Choir hosted a very successful Yale Glee Club visit to a packed Trinity College Chapel. Yale Alums were summoned to the stage to join in Bright College Years. We welcomed the Vera Duo, this time with a sold-out lunchtime recital of music new and old for viola and guitar, in Pembroke College Chapel as part of the Cambridge Summer Music Festival last July. There followed a very special illustrated lecture by Mark Bailey on the launch of the new Yale Historical Sound Archive. Amy Khlor is in discussions with Kamilla Arku about hosting a recital in Hughes Hall after their London concert in May.

**Country Walks:** T he theme of YCL’ s Country  Walks this year was ‘near and far’  We had our first spring walk in the ancient woods of Epping  Forest in the eastern environs of London. Our second walk in July in Kent was cancelled due to coastal flooding but was even better in early October when we combined with the Yale Art Circle to view The Turner Prize finalists in Margate at the end of a sunny beach walk.

**Dance Circle:** Please get in touch with Yanni Legbelos for details or if you have ideas for events.

**Day of Service:** This was the first year that the YCL offered two opportunities for Day of Service: a day out with the Children’s Section of the Refugee Council at Victoria Park and a new gardening project with Permablitz at Glengall Wharf Gardens. Following this year’s successes (good response from our partners, family-friendliness of activities, engagement in more than one DoS), we will be reaching out to possible partners for 2020 by year end.

**Feb Club Emeritus:** On 28 February 2019, 25+ Yale alumni came together to celebrate one of senior year's most treasured traditions at the Piano Works near Leicester Square.  As well as enjoying some libations, live music from across the ages provided a lively backdrop to this exciting annual event.

**Fourth of July/Summer Party**: [On Sunday July 7th the club organised the first Fourth of July celebration for its members.  Piotr Karasinski and his wife Chaterine hosted the event at their home in Camden Square, and the barbecue was organised by Marco Severi, Nixi Cura and May Gibson.  May took the lead in the organisation of the barbecue, preparing a rich meal in the true tradition of the US festivity. The event was attended by approximately 40 people and was open to families and kids.  No details were left out, including fireworks and games.  The event had a great success and the hosts have been extraordinarily welcoming and generous.

**Mentoring:** The Mentorship Program has switched from quarterly matching rounds to rolling matching effective July 2019.

* HISTORY: We have had the pleasure of matching more than **160**mentorship sessions in the past 3 years, and we now see demand from mentees, as well supply of mentors, to have softened. The program will continue organically from now on, and there will be no set times for entry of new mentees.
* PROCESS: We will be receiving new mentee applications and action them on a timely basis, within our usual **4 week timeline**, to confirm mentor availability. The matching process is now streamlined with **mentees selecting their mentor preferences at the time of signup**, removing the intermediate step. This means that the first signup process is longer but it ensures mentees do everything that is required in one go and have a clear expectation of the kinds of mentors we have. The mentors list remains anonymous as before, and open to all members that access the mentee signup for.
* MARKETING: The new rolling process means that we will **no longer send quarterly emails for new alumni signups**, and that the **signup forms will always remain open** throughout the year, accessible in the members area of our website. **We will continue advertising to students** twice a year (during Christmas and Summer breaks) via our established channels.
* FEEDBACK: We will be sending **feedback**forms twice a year to the mentees and mentors of the past year, to collect information for our annual report and to track ongoing success of the program.

**Music Circle**: This past year, the YCL has hosted and promoted **five** different music events which have been attended by in excess of 300 members of the YCL and wider community.  In December 2018, YCL members combined with Columbia alumni to enjoy some Christmas music at the Royal Albert Hall. In March 2019, Yalies enjoyed the wondrous tones of the Yale Glee Club in Cambridge and London. A particular highlight was the Glee Club's joint charity concert with the Choir with No Name, which was attended by more than 250 people and raised funds for the wonderful Choir with No Name. In April, the wider US community enjoyed the music of the Jerusalem Youth Chorus (which was founded and is run by a Yalie) hosted at the American School of London.

**Oxford:** Yale alums in Oxford had informal catch-up this year and hope to do more of the same in 2020, as well as perhaps planning some more formal events.  If you are interested in joining their mail list or getting involved with planning a get-together, please contact: Anant Jani (anant.r.jani@gmail.com), Fredua Akosa (freduaakosa@gmail.com) or Dimitrios Tsomocos (Dimitrios.Tsomocos@sbs.ox.ac.uk).  Anyone from Yale College, the graduate schools or post-graduate work would be most welcome.

**Quiz Night**: [In November 2018 another Harvard-Yale Quiz Night was held, with unfortunately the bad guys winning again. The proceeds on the night were donated to a charity of the winning team's choice. As of now, I have not scheduled a further Quiz Night. One of the main holdups is finding a suitable venue in London that will have us but without a crazy high minimum spend attached. The last venue we had had a minimum spend of 500 pounds, which isn't too bad, but I think on the night the participants only spent something like 350 pounds. Fortunately the venue didn't complain about it, but I'm reluctant to press my luck by reusing the same venue. If anyone has venue ideas, they would be well-received!

**Theatre Circle:** We’ve had another year of well-attended events. We kicked off with an outing to the Hampstead Theatre in February to see Martyna Majok’s (YSD ’12) 2018 Pulitzer Prize winning play COST OF LIVING, and followed up in March with Amy Ng’s new play, UNDER THE UMBRELLA at Tara Theatre in Earlsfield.  In August there was a West End outing to see THE STARRY MESSENGER starring Matthew Broderick and Elizabeth McGovern.  In the autumn, we promoted Andy Sandberg’s (YC ’05) staging of new musical, SHIDA, and had two further events: THE KING OF HELL’S PALACE at the Hampstead Theatre followed by HOLOCAUST BRUNCH, Tamara Micner’s (YC ’07) new one-woman show. Theatre Circle will kick off 2020 with Jackie Sibblies Drury’s 2019 Pulitzer Prize winning play FAIRVIEW at the Young Vic in January.  Jackie is currently a lecturer in playwriting at Yale School of Drama.

**Yale International Alliance:** The YIA has been gearing up for our inaugural conference for international alumni in Rome in March 2020, following the valuable input of European alumni leaders at this year's YAA Leadership Forum in Paris. Yale’s global community of scholars, alumni and international leaders will come together to explore Global Citizenship around the topics of the arts, civic engagement, climate change and corporate responsibility, and will include speakers and panelists from our own YCL. The aim is to connect attendees as partners and friends to make a positive impact in communities around the world.  Please join us! <https://alumni.yale.edu/yale-international-alliance-global-citizen-conference-2020>  We are currently planning a Global Citizenship event in London in collaboration with Yale Women to lead up to the conference.

**Yale Women:** [Karen Go]

**Young Alums:** In January 2019, 170 alumni from more than 10 different US colleges belatedly celebrated the New Year at the Bootlegger, a speakeasy in the City.  The Gatsby-themed event saw attendees sport costumes from the roaring '20s, and this attire was complemented by the live music of a local swing band. The annual Harvard-Yale football match took place in early July, and this year we were very pleased to have 21 people turn up to represent the YCL. Harvard's lacklustre turnout did not do them any favours, and Yale cruised to a second consecutive 6-3 victory!