

# Yale Club of the Suncoast

## ELines Newsletter

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### Welcome Back Party

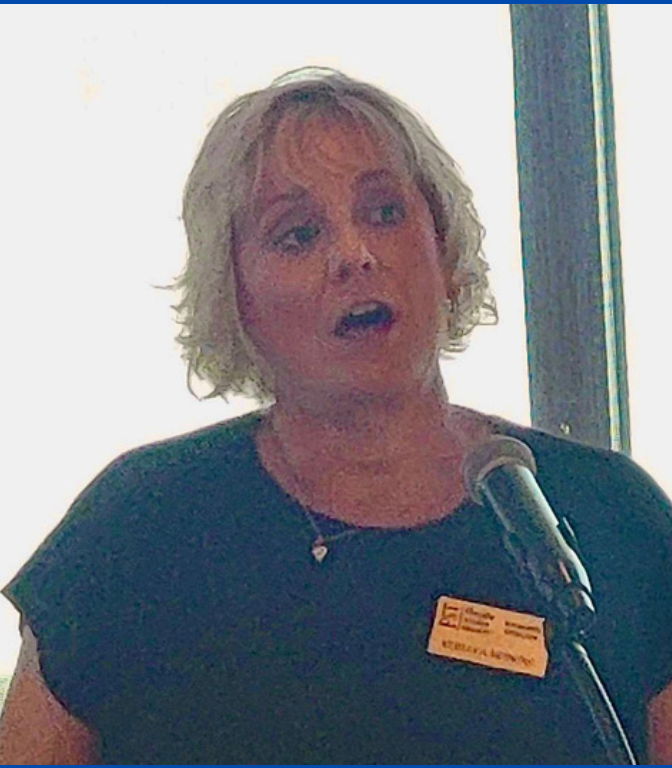
On Sunday, November 3rd, the Yale Club of the Suncoast officially kicked off our season with a welcome back party at Marina Jacks. Over 30 core members attended, enjoying food and libations before the onslaught of the snowbirds alighted in Sarasota!

### In This Issue:

Welcome Back Party  
Recent Events Recap  
Seen in Yale Daily News  
Upcoming Events &  
Activities





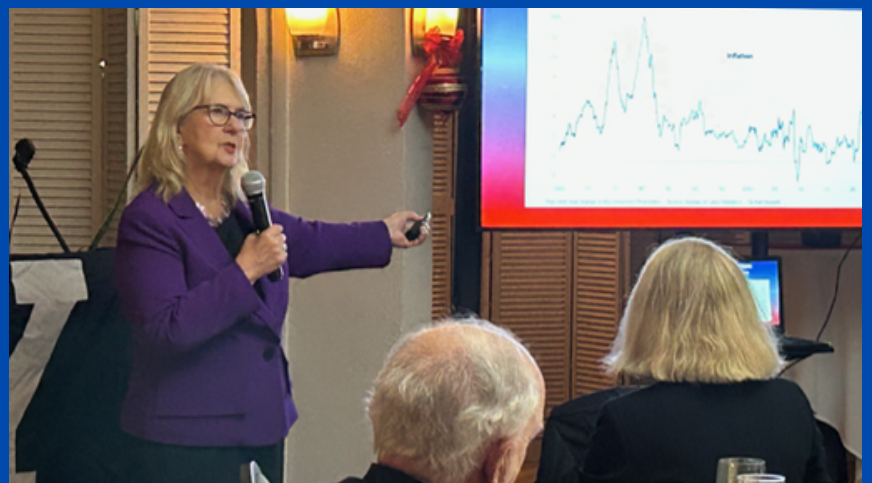


## Recap of Recent Events

The first speaker of the 2024-2025 season was Mrs. Rebecca Hopkins, Managing Director and COO of Florida Studio Theatre. Thankfully, she used no slides but rather held the attention of our fidgety crowd with a captivating talk on how this Sarasota performing arts company has built the largest subscription audience in Florida, and now puts on not four, not six, but 20 professional productions a year.

Mrs. Hopkins described how, eight years ago, when FST was planning its construction projects, she and the Artistic Director traveled the country to question leaders of other theatres to hear what they thought they had done right, and done wrong, when they built facilities; and how FST adopted those lessons in its building plans. Perhaps the single most interesting fact was that they judged themselves by how low they could set ticket prices, and were proud that the top price for an entire winter season subscription is only \$179. And that the run of their sold-out hit show *Waitress* has just been extended to January.

On December 14, with the election behind us and her deep-dive analytics compiled, sliced, diced and graphed, the ever-popular Dr. Susan McManus explained Florida and national politics and the election results to a rapt crowd upstairs at Marina Jacks. While the election results may have surprised most of us, Dr. McManus said the data on trends and mood were readily available for analysis, and she faulted Kamala Harris' team of speechwriters and analysts for not adapting to them, and for using economic indicators rather than terms like "prices", that people could connect to. Most interestingly, she showed how Republicans and Democrats have traded places on traditional issues and socioeconomic demographics.



# Seen in the Yale Daily News:

## New President at Yale

Maurie McGinnis joined Yale in July 2024 as its 24th President and is a Professor in the History of Art Department. Coming to Yale from the Presidency at Stony Brook University and prior to that, as provost and executive vice-president at the University of Texas at Austin,, her career in higher education spans three decades in various research, teaching and leadership positions at several universities, including her alma mater, the University of Virginia. She did her graduate studies in art history at Yale.

President McGinnis is a recognized cultural historian and scholar in the politics of art and slavery. Her five books include ***Slaves Waiting for Sale: Abolitionist Art and the American Slave Trade*** and ***The Politics of Taste in Antebellum Charleston***.

## New Course Offering at Yale:

Yale Professor of African American Studies Daphne Brooks will be teaching a new one-credit course on Beyonce and her cultural legacy. It will cover her music, fashion, and how she has dealt with the media, and will include consideration of Black intellectuals such as Frederick Douglass and Toni Morrison and “how we can apply their philosophies to her work.” Professor Brooks previously taught a similar course at Princeton.



## Notable Quotes of 2024:

Compiled by Fred Shapiro, Associate Director of  
Yale Law Library

*“Taylor Swift, Childless Cat Lady” -- the singer’s signature on Instagram post endorsing Kamala Harris.*

*“In Springfield, they’re eating the dogs, the people who came in. They’re eating the cats.” -- Donald Trump in the Presidential debate repeating a debunked conspiracy theory about Haitian immigrants.*

*“Today, I signed a pardon for my son Hunter”. -- President Biden, Dec 1, 2024.*

*“I’ve become friends with school shooters”. -- Gov. Tim Walz in the vice-presidential debate*

*“Some of you (women) may go on to lead successful careers in the world but I would venture to guess that the majority of you are most excited about your marriage and the children you will bring into the world”. --Kansas City Chiefs football player Harrison Butker, commencement address at Benedictine College.*

# Upcoming YCS Events

The Yale Club of the Suncoast has planned a number of educational and social events in the next few months! Please register or respond early to assure adequate room!

Rental, food and service costs have all been rising! In an effort to keep our speaker events affordable, and in the hopes of attracting more of our working alumni, your Yale Club of the Suncoast will be moving to Marina Jacks for our regular meetings. We will also be moving some meeting dates to the evenings, and will be tracking attendance to measure our performance against stated goals of increasing accessibility, turnout and membership. Of course, your membership is what powers our ability to offer rich and varied programming. Please consider joining, or renew your dues-paying membership today! Thank you!

**January Luncheon: Adapting to Sea Level Rise: A Dynamic Approach**, with Robert Mendelsohn '78 PhD, the Edwin Weyerhaeuser Davis Professor of Forest Policy at the Yale School of the Environment. Today, the gradual rise in sea levels is making storms ever more dangerous. How can coastal cities respond? In this presentation, Dr. Mendelsohn will step us through a dynamic approach that shoreline communities can take to protect themselves over time. As Prof. Mendelsohn will explain, the good news is that adaptation is effective; the bad news is that current federal policy discourages effective adaptation. He looks forward to taking our questions at the end of his presentation.

**Thursday, January 16, 2025, 12:00 pm at Marina Jack (upstairs). Look for signup on our website HERE soon!**

February Yale-Harvard-Princeton Luncheon at Michaels on East. This year, Princeton is hosting and our speaker will be Professor Kim Lane Scheppele, the Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Sociology and International Affairs. Professor Scheppele will deliver a popular talk on the crisis of democracy in the international context, a timely topic given current global politics.

**Friday, February 14, 2025, 11:45 am – 1:15 pm. Michaels on East. Register HERE.**

ELines will be published 3 times per year. The next issue will be out January 31, 2025. Please submit upcoming events, past event recaps, and any items for submission prior to January 24.



2025 FEB Club Emeritus! Begun in the late 80's as a salve for February's cold, dark days (and nights) Feb Club Emeritus was born when those 80's alums graduated and determined the tradition was worth keeping. Once, Feb club was a party *somewhere* on campus every night during February; now Feb Club Emeritus continues with *at least* one party somewhere around the country or world, every day during the month. Ours will be held on Sunday, February 16. No agenda, no speaker...it's just a party!

**Sunday, February 16, 3:00 – 5:00 pm, Gecko's Fruitville/Cattlemen,  
351 N Cattlemen Rd, Sarasota FL 34232**

## YCS Community Bulletin Board

The Whiffenpoofs of 2025 will be in Sarasota March 1-3. While this is not an official YCS event, we think folks would love to get out and see them and will post info as soon as available

Are you participating in a show, event or activity in February or later that you would like to share with the club? Send details to [Nurits@msn.com](mailto:Nurits@msn.com) for insertion in our next newsletter

