

LEAP Dinners 2010

BOOK SIGNING

Our authors will have their recent books available at the reception and will be happy to sign them for you. Please bring cash or a check.

1. TENDER MEMORIES Share an evening with **Mary-Ann Tirone Smith**, a life-long resident of Connecticut and the author of eight novels and many short stories and essays. Ms. Tirone Smith will discuss her memoir, *Girls of Tender Age*, currently under option for a film, and share some of the early life experiences that influence her writing. *Hosts: Stanley & Roberta Friedman, North Haven*

2. SUPREMELY IMPORTANT Join Pulitzer Prize-winning legal writer and Supreme Court reporter **Linda Greenhouse**. Her 30-year tenure as Supreme Court reporter for *The New York Times* rivaled that of many justices. Ms. Greenhouse's biography, *Becoming Justice Blackmun*, is a highly regarded portrayal of the evolving thinking of the influential justice. She will discuss the dynamics of the Court under Chief Justice John Roberts. *Host: Cynthia Farrar, New Haven*

3. FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE Well-known for his story in *The New York Times Magazine* focused on New Haven's Westville neighborhood, **Mark Oppenheimer** is also a top debater. His upcoming book is a comical account of the author's hyper-articulate childhood that left him alienated until he joined the Debate Club. There will be room for argument — and laughter — as he shares his experiences as a debater and coach of the champion Yale debate team. *Hosts: Valencia & Gary Goodrige, Westville*

4. AGING WITH GRACE For the frail elderly, a fall can mean not merely a fractured hip, but a shattered life. Geriatrician **Mary Tinetti** is the nation's leading proponent of fall prevention research and intervention. Her leadership in this area earned a 2009 MacArthur Award. She will share her insights into why preventing falls, a seemingly simple goal, can be such a vexing challenge. She will also offer her advice on how to maintain health while aging gracefully — listen up! *Host: Barbara Geller, New Haven*

5. INAUGURATION INSPIRATION Elizabeth **Alexander's** beautiful words rang out across the crowds gathered to see the inauguration of America's newest President, Barack Obama. Her poem, *Praise Song for the Day*, will be immortalized in history. Spend some time with this artist of words and hear more about her life and work at this intimate dinner gathering. *Host: Anne Calabresi, Bethany*

6. PHILANTHROPIC WOMEN American philanthropy was developed by famous and wealthy men — Carnegie, Mellon, Rockefeller — in the late 19th century, right? Wrong. **Claire Gaudiani**, Professor of Philanthropy and Fundraising at NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Studies, discusses the pivotal role of women and how American philanthropy emerged from efforts of Revolutionary War era women of all economic levels. *Hosts: Rita Berkson & Randy Reinhold, Branford*

7. IQ OR EQ? Bring your own perspective to an illuminating conversation with **Peter Salovey**, Yale Provost and professor of psychology. He developed the theory of Emotional Intelligence, positing that just as people have a wide range of intellectual abilities, they also have a wide range of measurable emotional skills that profoundly affect their thinking and action. *Hosts: Martha & Josh Venter, and Marta Moret & Peter Salovey, at the Provost's House at Yale, New Haven*

8. ISLAND STORIES **Carlos Eire** will captivate you with his stories from an idyllic childhood in Havana until Castro's Revolution, and his flight from Cuba in 1962, leaving his parents behind. Today, Eire is a professor of history and religious studies. *Hosts: Lisa & David Totman, Hamden*

9. READ ALL ABOUT IT — ONLINE Coffee, orange juice and the morning paper — on your laptop. The Internet is changing the way news is delivered, calling into question the very existence of ink-on-dead-trees newspapers and magazines. As a senior editor of the online magazine *Slate*, a frequent contributor to *The New York Times Magazine* and the Truman Capote Writing Fellow at Yale Law School, **Emily Bazelon** is in a unique position to offer perspective on journalism's changing landscape. *Hosts: Jonathan Holloway & Aisling Colón, New Haven*

10. RETHINKING PUBLIC EDUCATION The landscape of public schools is changing. Participate in a thought-provoking conversation with **Garth Harries**, the man charged with planning far-reaching school reform in New Haven. In his previous work at the NYC education department, Harries oversaw the creation of over 330 district public schools and over 60 charter schools. *Hosts: Robin Golden & David Berg, New Haven*

11. NATURE'S EYES Documentary film producer **Ann Prum** and her company, Coneflower Productions, create an inspiring photographic record of nature through Emmy-winning artistic cinematography. Her most recent film, *Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air* was seen on PBS in January, and she's currently at work on *Cuba: An Accidental Eden*. You will be spellbound by the images and stories Ms. Prum captures. *Hosts: Debbie & Gary Desir, Woodbridge*

12. UNDERSTANDING EINSTEIN Yale professor **A. Douglas Stone** is writing a biography that aims to correct the surprising under-appreciation of Einstein's contributions to atomic physics. In this sneak preview, you'll learn about Einstein's remarkable work — in language accessible to those with little or no scientific background. Join a riveting exploration of the implications of Einstein's work for our technology-driven world. *Hosts: Stephanie & Leonard Farber, Branford*

13. ECONOMIC INDICATOR If only we had listened sooner! Break bread with one of the most far-seeing political economists of our time. **Robert J. Shiller** is internationally known for his brilliant forecasts of financial bubbles and his insights into market dynamics and how human psychology drives the economy. He offers a road map for understanding current economic challenges. *Hosts: Ellen Shuman & Doug Rae, New Haven*

14. GREEN GIANT You'll have a fascinating evening in Kroon Hall, Yale's greenest building, and new home to the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, which opened in 2009 and utilizes a host of interior and exterior design and technical features to use 50% less energy than a comparable modern building. Tour with Executive Architect **Mark Simon** of Centerbrook Architects who will share the secrets and strategies of this beautiful new-age marvel. *Hosts: Gordon & Shelley Geballe at Kroon Hall, New Haven*

15. THE PLAY'S THE THING Experience a crash course in dramaturgy with Pulitzer-Prize winner **Paula Vogel**, chair of Yale's department of playwriting. She is the author of *How I Learned to Drive* and *A Civil War Christmas* among many others. With an extraordinary level of intelligence and creativity, Ms. Vogel creates inspiring works of art. Experience the magic in the drama during this unique evening with an acclaimed writer. *Host: Joan Channick & Ruth Hein Schmitt, New Haven*

16. PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST Ever wonder about those beautiful horses on the mural gracing the Sports Haven building? Enjoy the creativity of **Tony Falcone**, local professional artist for over 30 years and creator of murals, portraits, and fine art. Mr. Falcone will share his thoughts and musings on being a working artist. *Host: Dave McCoart, Sage American Grill & Oyster Bar*

17. INCARCERATION NATION Engage with Yale assistant professor of English and American Studies **Caleb Smith** as he describes how incarceration has influenced U.S. society, the world's leader in locking people away. He will explore the themes from his book *The Prison and the Imagination* — the history of prisons in America, contradictions between liberty and captivity, and the many ways in which writers and artists have responded to institutions of confinement. *Hosts: Deb & Ron Nudel, Woodbridge*

18. CABLE MOGUL Incorporating old-fashioned corporate business sense with emerging technology, **Michael Fuchs** shaped HBO into a successful and influential network. Chairman for 20 years, he led the development of programming, including *The Sopranos*, that earned HBO six Oscars and 79 Emmy Awards. We can only imagine the stories he can tell! *Hosts: Tracey & David Scheer, Branford*

19. DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE **Lisa Sanders, MD**, the inspiration for the hit TV series, *House*, and author of the popular *The New York Times Magazine* "Diagnosis" column will discuss the fine line between diagnosis and diagnostic error. Dr. Sanders' gripping stories of difficult diagnoses and near misses illuminate both the art and science of medicine, underscoring why experience matters. *Hosts: Debby Applegate & Bruce Tulgan, New Haven*

20. GREAT CONVERSATION, HONEST(TEA)Ly Enjoy a refreshing evening with **Barry Nalebuff**, co-founder of Honest Tea, who will serve up the intriguing story of the company's start up, along with reflections on what they did right and wrong, and why forty percent of the business was sold to Coca Cola. This conversation, like the tea, will be honest and energizing. *Hosts: Susan & Louis Stone, New Haven*

21. BOOK CLUB Enjoy an evening with author **Alice Mattison**, an organizer of The Ordinary Evening Reading Series, which presents monthly readings at the Anchor Bar in New Haven. Share your views on why we love to read, and the emotions that reading elicits. The author of five novels and many stories, essays, and poems, Ms. Mattison's love of reading and writing will inspire an enchanting conversation. *Host: Ray Collum at Long Wharf Theater, New Haven*

22. THE TOPIC IS TERRORISM How does a democracy best respond to acts of terrorism? How can government balance response and the protection of civil liberties? Walk this tightrope with **Bruce Ackerman**, Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University. He is the author of 15 books including his most recent *Before the Next Attack*. *Hosts: Aron & Stacey Rose, Branford*

23. WHAT COLOR WERE THE DINOSAURS? For hundreds of years, people have wondered and fantasized about the color of dinosaurs. Progress in scientific understanding of the living dinosaurs — birds — is now helping us reconstruct the color of the feathered theropod dinosaurs. Join Ornithology Professor **Richard Prum** whose fascinating work earned a MacArthur Award in 2009. *Hosts: Anne Higgonet & John Geanakoplos, New Haven*

24. MAGIC IN THE MELODY Escape to the pleasures of earlier days and relax with the music of Cole Porter and standards from Broadway. Sing along with New Haven's own piano virtuoso, **Andy Rubenoff**. When he shares his talents you'll be swept away in song! *Host: Joseph & Karla Britton, New Haven*

ALTERNATE DATE

Saturday, February 27

25. HEALTHY DEBATE Join a lively conversation with **Jacob Hacker**, whose work has been a touchstone in the recent debate about healthcare. A frequent guest on *The News Hour* and the Stanley B. Resor Professor of Political Science at Yale, he is an expert on the politics of the U.S. health care system. His numerous books and articles, both scholarly and popular, include *Health At Risk: America's Ailing Health System and How to Heal It* (2008). *Hosts: Priscilla & Bob Dammies, New Haven*

26. HARVARD BEATS YALE, 29-29! Relive the rivalry and passion of the famous 1968 Yale vs. Harvard tie with quarterback **Brian Dowling '69** — the game that prompted a lot of attention, a book, and, last year, a film by Kevin Rafferty. Mr. Dowling and other Yale undergrads, including his host Charlie Pillsbury, were also featured in the *Doomesbury* strip created by classmate Garry Trudeau. Mr. Dowling will captivate you with his stories of the Yale gridiron. *Hosts: Charles Pillsbury & Alice Perry, New Haven*

27. THE CHEESE CHRONICLES Experience America through cheese. **Liz Thorpe**, author of *The Cheese Chronicles*, will discuss the changing food scene in America with the advent of farmers' markets and the rise of the locavore. Throw out your Velveeta, taste a range of cheeses and learn about them and their makers with the expert. Your taste buds will be singing with delight after this delicious evening! *Hosts: Greg & Ann Baker Pepe, Hamden*

28. FIT TO PRINT? Get an insider's perspective on how decisions are made at the nation's newspaper of record from **Jill Abramson** of *The New York Times*. Ms. Abramson joined the paper in 1997 and served as Washington bureau chief before being named managing editor in 2003. She'll talk about what makes the front page and why and share her take on the changes underway as the *Times* transforms itself in the internet age. *Hosts: Debbie Bisno & David Goldman, Branford*