

News for Members and Friends

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

APRIL, 2011

EDITED BY: SHEILA KLATZKY

Westchester Women's Agenda

WWA Women's Café Inspires Members

Upcoming Events:

Join the YWCA for its 3rd annual In the Company of Women May 6, 2011. 11am-2pm. Rye Town Hilton. Presenting: Tonya Lewis Lee, Author, Producer, Activist. Lee has served as the national spokesperson for A Healthy Baby Begins with You campaign by the US State Department. [In the Company](#) www.ywcawhiteplains.com

April 27 is Denim Day. Raise awareness about sexual assault and raise funds for the Rape Crisis program by wearing denim to work or school. To organize your agency (\$5 per individual, \$2 per student) contact Michelle Laaksonen at VAS: milaaksonen@westcop.org or 914-345-3113.

Save the Date! 2011 Child Care Council Awards Breakfast. Friday, June 3, 2011. Crowne Plaza Hotel. For details, see www.ChildCareWestchester.org

The Womens Enterprise Development Center presents its Franchising Expo. Wednesday, May 11, 2011. 6:30-8:30 pm. Presenters: Barry Kleinman, Prudential, etc. Contact [WEDC](#).

The Eileen Fisher Foundation is hosting a weekly meditation on Sunday mornings.. Open to the public.

Find WWA on [Facebook!](#)

An inspiring and motivated group of women (and one man), ages 16-60+, kicked off the 2011 WWA Women's Café season at the Yonkers Riverfront Library on Saturday, April 2.

The Café, intended to deepen the conversation around women's issues in Westchester County in preparation for a Women's Summit later this year, evoked stories of widespread concern over issues of identity, purpose, safety and isolation; with common threads of the



need to build our communities, to share our collective knowledge and strengths, and to enlist the resources of the larger community in caring for our children, our parents and our selves. Participants also proposed creative ideas for workshops at the Summit, including "Mothers of Teenage Daughters on Twitter" and a storytelling workshop.

WWA facilitators included CarlLa Horton, May Krukiel, Judy Schwartz and Sheila Klatzky. Antoinette Klatzky moderated the proceedings. Zóe Colon drafted the flyer. WWA members donated refreshments and flowers, and WWA contributed a prize of

cinema tickets to a lucky raffle winner.

WWA's Communications and Community Engagement Committee (CCE) plans to hold its next Café in Mount Vernon, followed by a Café in Peekskill and second Cafés in Yonkers and White Plains. Plans are also under way to seek funding and sponsors for the fall Women's Summit and to involve other groups in the planning process.



EFLI Expands Summer Leadership Program

After a successful launch in the summer of 2010, the Eileen Fisher Leadership Institute (EFLI) will offer two sessions of their Activating Leadership program and will make applications available to young women across Westchester County. For the summer of 2011, EFLI will be accepting 18-22 young women in 10th to 12th grades from across Westchester County for each of the two sessions. Interested applicants can submit a completed application which is available on the website by

either of the rolling deadlines: Friday, April 8th and Friday, May 6th.

The Foundation was delighted with the response to last year's inaugural program and decided to add a second session this year.

The program incorporates a blended curriculum based on the EILEEN FISHER Inc.



inspired by Girls Inc. of Westchester and the Brooklyn based Sadie Nash Leadership Project. Additionally, EILEEN FISHER employees will lend their talents to the program, which will be held at the company's headquarters in Irvington, NY.

For more information and a downloadable application, please visit eileenfisherleadershipinstitute.com or contact program director, Antoinette Klatzky at 914.473.8221.

Costs Rise; Income Drops

In Westchester County, like the U.S. as a whole, the rate of poverty has risen during the recession. Recently released Census data show Westchester County's poverty rate climbing from 8.4 percent in 2008 to 9 percent in 2009.

Women and children suffer the most. Families with children under 18 headed by single women are 7 times more likely to fall below the poverty line than are comparable married couple families.



WWA Stands with Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic.



Russians Attend Legislative Breakfast

A Russian delegation of political leaders attended the WWA-sponsored Legislative Breakfast which met with the State Delegation on February 11 at the offices of WEDC to discuss what can be done at the State level to preserve safety net services. The Russian delegation participated through a Rotary Club partnership.

Help Us to Organize Women's Summit!

Consider joining the WWA and help us to organize Westchester's first Women's Summit in September -- bring progressive women of all ages and backgrounds together to share information and experiential learning workshops, establish mentoring relationships, develop a public policy position paper, and register voters. Check us out at Westchester Women's Agenda on [Facebook](#).

Members in the News

Board of Legislators Honors EFLI

At its annual Women's History Month celebration on March 28, the Westchester County Board of Legislators honored the Eileen Fisher Leadership Institute and its director, WWA member Antoinette Klatzky, for their first ever summer leadership program to assist young women with self-confidence.



Karen Carroll Travels to Jordan

In March Karen Carroll traveled to Jordan with two physicians as a consultant for the U.S. State Department to train law enforcement, criminologists and physicians in child abuse, interpersonal violence and sexual assault. This was a follow up to a visit of members from Jordan to New York in 2010.

Spotlight on: The Hispanic Resource Center



The Hispanic Resource Center is a community based organization founded in 1998 by individuals from the Larchmont Mamaroneck area in response to the needs of the growing immigrant population. Its goal is to facilitate the integration of the recently arrived to the already established community. The center assists individuals and families in need with issues such as immigration, housing, health, employment and education.

HRC's vision is that through its own work and effective networking with other organizations

Westchester County celebrates and benefits from its cultural, ethnic and economic diversity. For more information, contact Z e Colon, Executive Director., [Hispanic Resource Center](#).



WWA Issue Priorities

Housing Development and Housing Support. Contact: Rose Noonan, Housing Action Council, 914-332-4144, rnoonan@affordablehomes.org.

Health Care. Contact: Lindsay Farrell, Open Door Family Medical Centers, 914-502-1450, lfarrell@ood.org.

Reproductive Rights. Contact: Reina Schiffrin, Planned Parenthood Hudson and Peconic, 914-467-7312, reina.schiffrin@pphp.org

Violence Against Women (a) Sexual Assault. Contact: May

Krukiel, Victims Assistance Services/ WestCOP, 914-345-3113, mkrukiel@westcop.org. **(b) Domestic Violence.** Contact: Carlla Horton, Hope's Door, 914-747-0828, x11, chorton@hopesDoorNY.org

Mental Health Care. Contact: Amy Gelles, 914-636-4400 x240.

Civil Legal Services. Contact: Barbara Finkelstein, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, 914-949-1305 x136, bfinkelstein@ishv.org

Economic Development. Contact: Anne Janiak, WEDC, 914-960-9725; Kim Jacobs, Community Capital

Resources kjacobs@cchrhv.org

Child Care. Contact: Kathy Halas, Child Care Council of Westchester, 914-761-3455 x102, kathyh@ccwny.org

Immigration. Enact the Farm Work Fair Labor Practices Act to eliminate exclusions in labor law (A1867). Contact Zoe Colon , [Hispanic Resource Center](http://HispanicResourceCenter.org).

WEDC To Provide Microloans

The Women's Enterprise Development Center has entered into a new partnership with the Brooklyn Outreach Center (BOC) Network that will enable their staff to provide microloans for their clients ranging from \$500 to \$50,000. For more information, contact [WEDC](http://WEDC.org).



WWA Membership Renewal Time is Now!

The time has come to renew your WWA membership for 2011. Through our advocacy and our working together, we have demonstrated that we can move mountains and accomplish great feats that support the people we serve. We urge you to renew your membership as soon as possible, and to recruit new members as well. If you have not been a member, join now. If you are a member, renew now!

support the people we serve

Credit Counseling Now Available in Westchester

Community Capital Resources is delighted to announce their partnership with Greenpath Debt Solutions to provide one-on-one financial counseling in their Hawthorne offices. Greenpath Debt Solutions is a national not for profit

agency that provides counseling on budgeting, credit card debt, debt management, bankruptcy, reverse mortgages and host of other financial matters.

All counseling services are provided free of charge and counseling is available in English and Spanish. Interested parties can make an appointment to speak to a highly trained debt counselor by calling (718) 239-4783 or (718) 239-4784 and asking for an appointment in Hawthorne. —



Westchester Women's Agenda

P.O. Box 302
White Plains, NY 10605
Co-Chairs: Rosemarie Noonan and
May Krukiel

To join, contact:
westwomensagenda@gmail.com

A Strong Voice for Women in Westchester

“The hardest thing to learn is not ‘how to juggle,’ but how to let the balls drop.” — Anthony Frost in “Improv Wisdom” by Patricia Ryan Madson.

Thinking of joining WWA?

Please contact akocsis@hdswh.org to receive a packet of materials.

Dear Community Activist and Leader:

Your membership enables the WWA to advocate effectively on behalf of Westchester’s women and children, which will be more important than ever. Please renew your membership or join today. If you have already renewed, we thank you. Your support is vital to our mission.

May Krukiel
Co-Chair

Rose Noonan
Co-Chair

Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Dues: Individual___\$50; Supporter___\$100; Nonprofit Organization___\$100; Corporation___\$200; Student/Special Needs___\$20.

Please complete, include your check made payable to WWA, and mail to WWA c/o Judith Schwartz, Treasurer , 300 Martine Avenue, Apt. 8C, White Plains, NY 10605. The WWA

Snapshot of the Westchester Women’s Agenda

The Westchester Women’s Agenda, a non-partisan feminist coalition, plays a significant role in Westchester County by advocating for and influencing legislative and social policy affecting women and children. We believe that by working together we generate greater visibility and more resources for the issues confronted by our shared constituents. Our recent successes include:

Increased funding for core programs that deliver:

- *Health care for the uninsured and victims of rape
- *Eviction prevention services and grants

- *Child care scholarships and infant/toddler services
- *Fair housing education
- *Micro loans and financial counseling
- *Legal, housing and job assistance for immigrants
- *Support for children in family court
- *Entrepreneurial assistance for women in business
- *Affordable housing loans
- *Domestic and sexual violence services for women
- *Legal services

New funding for special initiatives:

- *Eviction prevention assistance

and legal services

- *Supportive services for immigrants
- *Community education about the cervical cancer vaccine and emergency contraception.
- *Support services for immigrants
- *Support for shelters housing undocumented victims of domestic violence
- *Community based social/behavioral health services for young children and their families.

