

# News for Members and Friends

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EDITED BY: SHEILA KLATZKY

## Westchester Women's Agenda

### Safety Net Services Preserved!

#### Upcoming Events:

**The Alliance of Hudson Valley Women Business Owners** (an affiliate of WEDC): "Cost-Effective Marketing Strategies for the Small Business Owner & Sole Entrepreneur." By Sheila Klatzky. 12pm-2pm. 1133 Westchester Ave., White Plains, NY. \$25 for Alliance Members, \$30/pp, Nonmembers, \$40/pp, Walk-Ins. Contact Kenya Ajose @ 914-948-6098 x10 or email: [info@westchester-wedc.org](mailto:info@westchester-wedc.org). Online: go to [www.wedc-westchester.org](http://www.wedc-westchester.org)

**Upcoming PPHP Event** 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* Thursday, January 27, 2011. 6:30 p.m. – Registration/Refreshments. 7:15 p.m. – Screening of documentary "The Assassination of Dr. Tiller." 8:00 p.m. – Discussion/Q&A. Purchase College, Red Room at the Student Services Building. Suggested donation \$20; Students \$10; Purchase College students free.

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On December 23, 2010, the Westchester County Board of Legislators overrode the County Executive's veto and restored funding for the following critical safety net services supported by WWA:

\$150,000 for entrepreneurial training programs offered by the Women's Enterprise Development Center; \$443,000 for legal services provided by Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for eviction prevention; \$100,000 for technical assistance from Housing Action Council to develop fair and affordable housing; and \$100,000 for Community Capital Resources for pre-development services; \$1,280,339 for non-residential programs administered by the two domestic violence shelters – My Sister's Place and Hope's Door; \$188,742

for the Crime Victims Assistance SANE & Rape Crisis Program managed by Victims Assistance Services (VAS); \$797,603 for legal services provided by Legal Services of the Hudson Valley and Pace Women's Justice Center; and \$49,827 for the court advocacy services of VAS.

\$1.9 million was restored for the County's three community health centers. Funding for the Early Step Forward Program was also restored at a \$490,000 level. \$2,034,000 will be available to support programs that help at-risk children and teens. Funding for the Mt. Vernon Civil Legal Services Office, a collaboration among Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV), My Sister's Place and the Empire Justice Center, was

restored as was funding for elder law services provided by LSHV.

Case management funding for Westchester Hispanic Coalition was restored at \$70,000. The full \$100,000 for legal services for immigrants was restored, services provided by the Empire Justice Center.

This budget responds to WWA's position that the County government should provide a strong safety net of services that offers housing and homelessness prevention, child care, health and mental health care, economic development, and services for victims of crime and abuse. The advocacy efforts of WWA members, the constituents of its member agencies, and its colleagues during this County budget season should be noted. **It made a difference.** — contributed by Rosemarie Noonan

### Café Mobilizes for 2011 Women's Summit

The October 28<sup>th</sup> WWA "Call To Action" Women's Café brought together WWA membership and close to thirty new participants from across the county. Held at the YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester, this Café was designed to bring together leaders and membership of local organizations whose missions address the well-being of women, with



the specific goals of broadening our activist community and mobilizing energy for a 2011 Women's Summit.

Post-Café analysis by WWA membership was positive and energizing, but also identified the need to intensify efforts toward inclusion if we are to build a movement that reflects the diversity of our County.

The CCE Committee is planning another pre-Summit Café; details to follow.—contributed by May Krukiel.

## Long Overdue: Westchester's Clinic Access Legislation

The Westchester Women's Agenda Public Policy Committee decided in 2009 that it would support legislation to protect access to reproductive health care and to pursue legislation in Westchester modeled after the clinic access law enacted by the New York City Council in May 2009.

Westchester County Legislators Tom Abinanti and Judy Myers introduced the **Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Law** in September 2010. The legislation was scheduled to be considered by the Committees on Legislation and Community Services November 22. However, the hearing has been moved to an undetermined date in January so that the Legislature could consider the bill when they were not occupied with budget discussions.

This legislation is designed to protect those

at health care facilities from harassment, intimidation and violence. The proposed law will make it unlawful to physically obstruct or block a person from entering or exiting a reproductive health care facility. It also will make it illegal to follow, harass or intimidate a patient or health care provider within 15 feet of a health care facility. The law imposes both criminal and civil penalties.

"Although federal law protects freedom of access to clinic entrances, as does New York State law, this county legislation strengthens those protections here in Westchester and makes it easier for providers, as well as patients, to take action when their rights are violated," said Reina Schiffrin, President/CEO, Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic.

Protester activity in front of PPHP's Yonkers health center has increased steadily and become more aggressive over the past two years. Whether seeking family planning or abortion services, no woman should have to run the gauntlet of protesters outside her doctor's office. The law is not a blanket prohibition on protesting. It simply aims to prevent harassment of women by keeping protesters a respectful distance from women.

—Contributed by Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic.



### YWCA Recognizes WWA for its Efforts

At its annual meeting on October 26, the YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester recognized the Westchester Women's Agenda for their outstanding efforts against Domestic Violence and their support of the YWCA's Supervised Visitation Program. Amy Barasch, the Executive Director of the



New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, was the Keynote Speaker.

Since its inception in 1995, protecting children and families has been the primary goal of the Supervised Visitation Program. The YWCA offers the only affordable Professional Supervised Visitation Program in Westchester County. In 2009, the program provided 1,431 supervised visits, 453 safe exchanges, 49 therapeutic visits, and served 223 families, who have been instrumental to its success.

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### Members in the News

Karen D. Carroll RN SANE-A SAFE was one of 3 women from the US chosen as a consultant for the US Department of Justice to participate in the 15th National Congress of Legal Medicine and Forensic Science in Bucaramanga, Columbia, where she lectured and participated in discussions to improve criminal justice, forensic and medical responses to crimes of violence against women and children.



### Spotlight on: Zonta International



Founded in 1919, Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. With more than 31,000 members belonging to more than 1,200 Zonta Clubs in [65 countries](#) and geographic areas, Zontians all over the world volunteer their time, talents and support to local and international service projects, as well as scholarship programs aimed at fulfilling Zonta's mission and objectives. For more information, visit <http://www.zonta.org>

Local Zonta groups include Zonta Club of Westchester and Zonta Club of New Rochelle. Leaders of both groups participated in WWA's recent Women's Café.

Follow this link (<http://www.box.net/shared/r3g77p4iqp>) to hear Roxanne Neilson, host of Zonta Women's Community Radio, speak with WWA Co-Chair May Krukiel about our public policy platform, and to learn more about Zonta.

# WWA Issue Priorities

**Housing Development and Housing Support.** Contact: Rose Noonan, Housing Action Council, 914-332-4144, [rnoonan@affordablehomes.org](mailto:rnoonan@affordablehomes.org).

**Health Care.** Contact: Lindsay Farrell, Open Door Family Medical Centers, 914-502-1450, [lfarrell@ood.org](mailto:lfarrell@ood.org).

**Reproductive Rights.** Contact: Reina Schiffrin, Planned Parenthood Hudson and Peconic, 914-467-7312, [reina.schiffrin@pphp.org](mailto:reina.schiffrin@pphp.org)

**Violence Against Women (a) Sexual Assault.** Contact: May Krukiel, Victims Assistance Services/

WestCOP, 914-345-3113, [mkrukiel@westcop.org](mailto:mkrukiel@westcop.org). **(b) Domestic Violence.** Contact: Carlla Horton, Hope's Door, 914-747-0828, x11, [chorton@hopesDoorNY.org](mailto: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](mailto:bfinkelstein@ishv.org)

**Economic Development.** Contact: Anne Janiak, WEDC, 914-960-9725; Kim Jacobs, Community Capital Resources [kjacobs@ccrhv.org](mailto:kjacobs@ccrhv.org)

**Child Care.** Contact: Kathy Halas, Child Care Council of Westchester, 914-761-3455 x102, [kathyh@ccwny.org](mailto:kathyh@ccwny.org)

**Immigration.** Enact the Farm Work Fair Labor Practices Act to eliminate exclusions in labor law (A1867).

## First WC Intercollege Women's Café!

Westchester's first Intercollege Women's Café drew a crowd of impassioned students, both female and male, from several area colleges including Manhattanville College and College of Westchester to the Sarah Lawrence College dining room on November 13. Antoinette Klatzky and Hilary Ford organized the event. WWA members helped to facilitate the discussion. Sarah Lawrence students provided home-baked refreshments.

Issues of gender identity and sexuality as well as sexual politics on campuses dominated the lively discussion. Attendees vowed to broaden the conversation on-line and on their own campuses.



## 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.

## Hope's Door Receives \$12,400 to Educate Westchester Teens About Relationship Abuse

Hope's Door, a domestic violence agency and a member of the Westchester Women's Agenda, has received a grant in the amount of \$12,400 from Verizon to support the organization's teen education programs that promote healthy relationships based on equality, respect, and trust.

The contribution was presented by Catherine Gasteyer of Verizon to Hope's Door Executive Director Carlla Horton and an audience comprised of members of the board of

directors of Hope's Door, Thea DuBow of Westchester County's Office for women and other supporters of the agency .

"The consequences of domestic violence can devastate a family," said Catherine Gasteyer. "The Verizon Foundation is working closely with domestic violence service providers to provide financial, technical and human expertise to focus on education and prevention through our grant giving. The Hope's Door teen program will educate, raise awareness and empower young people to end the cycle of

violence."

—Contributed by Carlla Horton

Hope's Door offers comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence. For more information about Hope's Door, visit their website: [www.HopesDoorny.org](http://www.HopesDoorny.org)



# 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](mailto:westwomensagenda@gmail.com)

## A Strong Voice for Women in Westchester

“Never underestimate the ability of a small group of individuals to change the world. Indeed, they are the only ones who ever have.”  
—Margaret Mead

### Thinking of joining WWA?

Please contact [akocsis@hdsww.org](mailto:akocsis@hdsww.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 membership year runs from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

## 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.

