Mark Your Calendar!

July 29th - Join us for a stellar evening, featuring a silent auction of some of the finest art found. Our North Street Activity Center will be brimming with works of art from a private office collection and great cocktails and light bites. Funds raised from the event will support our programs throughout the year. Learn more at www.ywcawpcw.org

September 19th - The YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester is hosting its Fourth Annual Movers & Shakers event! The annual theme of Turn Up the Heat, features female chefs and mixologists from Westchester County who will come together, for one night only, to cook for a cause – eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Join us and applaud the achievements of the honorees who best exemplify the mission of the YWCA – making the YWCA movement stronger every day.

ON A MISSION: AN UPDATE FOR YWCA SUPPORTERS

Spring 2017

YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester

A Note from Our CEO: Welcome Summer

Now that it’s June, there are many signs that summer is almost upon us. Graduations, cookouts, and warmer weather all mark the occasion. At the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester, we’re preparing for summer too!

- Our Girls Empowered Through Meaningful Support (GEMS) program will continue to thrive, giving girls confidence, knowledge, and skills by offering Robotic Classes and a “Wonder Woman” curriculum;
- Our Racial Justice program will continue to provide opportunities to foster diversity with our newest initiative – The YWCA Book Club;
- Our Special Programs will continue training for the Special Olympics;
- Camp counselors are planning activities for the YWCA’s Summer Camp, helping children build self-esteem while forming lasting friendships; and
- We are gearing up to honor the Movers and Shakers in our community at the Annual Turn Up the Heat event in September – featuring women chefs and restaurateurs.

June also means the close of our fiscal year. Before our year ends, please consider making a donation to the YWCA in support of our work, and help us #FinishStrong!

By making a contribution before June 30th, you will ensure that the YWCA can continue meaningful programming throughout the summer months when youth engagement is critical. You will support our staff and North Street Activity Center, both of which we expect will be busier than ever in the coming months. Your tax-deductible contribution will provide opportunities at the Women’s Residence and will be cultivating our garden; and

Remember, when you give to YWCA, you are investing not just in an organization, but in a movement — a movement to build a better world with peace, justice, and dignity for all. A donation of any size will be greatly appreciated.

As always, THANK YOU for your support!

Strong alone, fearless together.

Maria Imperial
CEO
**GEMS Dive Into Underwater Robotics**

Last summer, the YWCA was awarded a $5,000 grant from the Patrina Foundation to pilot an all-girls Underwater Robotics/STEM Program. Thanks to the Patrina Foundation, the YWCA offered a six-week SeaPerch program for 15 African American and Latina elementary and middle school girls who participate in our Girls Empowered Through Meaningful Support (GEMS) Program.

The SeaPerch Program provided the girls with the opportunity to learn about robotics, engineering, science and mathematics through building a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). The course was taught by Dawn Tucker, who is a STEM Enrichment instructor for communities serving female and minority students and certified in Learning Robotics Specialization Program. The girls built the ROV from a kit and tool box purchased with Patrina funds and followed a curriculum that taught basic engineering and science concepts with a marine engineering theme. The program was a unique, hands-on opportunity for the girls to learn engineering skills, including the use of a soldering iron to configure circuit boards.

A refresher workshop in SeaPerch was offered again to the middle school girls in the Spring, 2017. Once again, students were provided with the opportunity to explore a real life ROV design process while learning the responsibilities of different engineering disciplines. Students investigated different material properties and its affect and performance in different environments. The learning experience was fun, challenging and creative.

On May 10th, our middle school girls entered the first STEAM fair sponsored by the City of White Plains. They presented the ROV they created during the spring semester and won first place!

The Underwater Robotics/STEM program enables the YWCA to advance our mission of “eliminating racism, empowering women,” by addressing academic achievement gaps and career aspirations of at-risk girls. The program provided an opportunity for enrichment with STEM programming that allows our girls to explore talents and abilities that will help them achieve their full potential.

The purpose was to showcase the Center so attorneys could better describe the services to parents who need to bring their children to Family Court. The overall goal of the Centers is to provide a safe environment for children while their parents are in Family Court.

At the Center, children are able to play with a variety of games and toys available or enjoy their time with arts and crafts. There are a minimum of two staff people who supervise the children and there are safety procedures put into place.

Thanks to our generous donors, each child visiting the Children’s Center leaves with a book. We provide gently used clothing to children in need. During the start of the school year we distribute school backpacks stocked with much needed school supplies. During the winter holidays, children leave with a gift and we provide extra for parents who need that extra help.

In addition to the New Rochelle Center, the YWCA also runs the Children Center at the Westchester County Court House.
Welcome New Board Members

The staff and current Board of the YWCA are happy to welcome new board members: Andrea Foote and Yolanda Payne.

The YWCA is working hard to extend its reach and includes engaging new community and/or corporate leaders who support the mission of the YWCA—eliminating racism and empowering women—while promoting positive change for women and girls.

Andrea Foote is the Senior Director, Brand Communications at PepsiCo. Ms. Foote has developed a successful track record spanning over 20 years in communications and public relations specializing in brand management. She is passionate about Civil Rights and Social Action, Poverty Alleviation, and Social Services. Andrea currently resides in Tarrytown.

“Both of our newest Board Members embody the mission of the YWCA and bring their talent, expertise and energy to the YWCA. We are very fortunate to have them by our side as we continue to strengthen communities throughout Westchester County.”

Yolanda Payne is the Vice President of Marketing for the Intimate Health Brands at Combe Incorporated. Ms. Payne has spent her career in marketing leadership positions at companies that range in size from Start Up to Fortune 500, but specializes in product development and marketing for consumer packaged goods brands. She is passionate about the advancement of women & people of color in corporate America and an advocate for community involvement. She is a native of Brooklyn, NY but currently resides in White Plains with her husband and their two children.

Both new members join a 13 member board who ensure that the YWCA stays true to our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. Board members actively participate in strategic planning and financial oversight. The YWCA could not serve those in our programs without the dedication and commitment of these volunteers. Their hard work and time are greatly appreciated and valued.

To learn more about joining the Board of Directors, please contact Maria Imperial, CEO, at 914-949-6227 ext. 104 or mimperial@ywcawpc.org.

In the Company of Women
An Inspiration

On May 12th, the YWCA, in partnership with the Women’s Research and Education Fund (WREF), hosted its 9th annual In the Company of Women benefit luncheon, celebrating the strength, courage, and spirit of women. We proudly honored Millie Hernandez-Becker, Dr. Jin Li, Patricia Mulqueen, and WREF Hall of Fame Inductee, Assemblywoman Amy R. Paulin for their dedication to the community through their service and leadership.

Over the years, WREF has provided over $1,800,000 in scholarships to 76 qualifying scholars, our future leaders who represent the brightest in terms of uniqueness, skill, and hope for the future. This year’s deserving recipients were: Abagail Bonilla, Alexis Ingram, Aneesa Jagasia, Jamiiles Jimenez, Jennifer Madrid, Marcela Oyovide, Precious Simpson, Aujala Singh, Tiffani Soto, Johanna Torres, and Leyla Valero.

YWCA resident, Carolyn Garcia, moved the audience with her personal story of growth, life changes, triumph, and inspiration; thanking the YWCA for empowering her to become the ‘fierce’ woman she is today. As the emcee, Monica Bertran was heart-warming as she lauded honorees and scholars for their phenomenal accomplishments, not only as women, but as champions of our community. Our keynote speaker, Lauren Leader-Chivée provided meaningful context to our theme of empowering women, and inspired us to recognize and honor empowerment in ourselves and in others.

Maria Imperial and Carolyn Garcia

The luncheon raised more than $200,000 to support YWCA’s mission to empower women, children and families. Gifts are still coming in, and they will be counted toward the success of our event. Thank you to all of our funders, friends, and sponsors who supported the luncheon.

We look forward to seeing you next year!
**Volunteer Spotlight**

During Volunteer Recognition Month, held in April, the YWCA was proud to honor Haydee Lee Toro, the Creator of Love Thyself First workshops. Monday is a great day for women at the YWCA Women’s Residence in White Plains - that’s when Haydee Lee Toro conducts one of her Love Thyself First workshops/support groups. Ms. Toro created the workshops to foster women’s psychological and spiritual love through the arts and mental health advocacy. The YWCA thanks you and Haydee Lee Toro for your support, time, and loving presence.

**Book Club at the YWCA!**

We invite you to join a new and exciting initiative. In partnership with the White Plains Public Library, the YWCA has a volunteer opportunity to fit your needs. We value the time, energy, and talents each volunteer contributes to making significant differences in the lives of the families and children participating at the YWCA. We hope to work together to develop a program based around the book and its reflection of the experiences of immigrants, young women of color, and families in poverty.

We are starting our partnership by inviting people to make American Street one of their summer reading choices. Then, in early October, we will have a reception (TBA) bringing together people who were moved by the book. As representatives and members of some of our community’s most vital organizations, we hope to work together to develop a program based around the book and its reflection of the experiences of immigrants, young women of color, and families in poverty.

We’d like to hear from you if you’re interested in contributing to this initiative through reading the book, attending a future event, or sharing your ideas with us!

Contact Julia Nesbitt (YWCA) at jnesbitt@ywcawpcw.org or Ben Himmelfarb (White Plains Library) at bhimmelfarb@whiteplainsny.gov.

"On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find ‘une belle vie’—the good life. But after leaving Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola’s mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud, American cousins—Chantal, Donna and Princess—the grittiness of Detroit’s west side, a new school, and a surprising romance, all on her own. Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola must learn that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?"

~ From IbiZoboi.net

**Children’s Learning Center Updates**

During the Week of the Young Child™, an annual celebration promoted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the YWCA’s Children’s Learning Center celebrated early learning, young children, their teachers, and families. Thank you to Board Member Sabrina Magid Katz, DMD and Advanced Dentistry of Westchester for sponsoring the many activities, which included science experiments and cultural diversity programming aligned with our Stand Against Racism initiatives. This year, the activities culminated in a Teachers Appreciation Luncheon held on May 2nd. Throughout April, the Children’s Learning Center and the YWCA’s After School Kids Connection program participated in month-long science activities. The activities were made possible through funding from Con Edison. All of our toddlers, preschoolers, elementary and middle school students participated and demonstrated their knowledge of science, energy, math and adopting sustainable practices. Over 1,500 individuals, including parents and YWCA participants marveled at the exhibits.

As part of the students’ curriculum, parents were invited to the classrooms to share stories about their careers in STEM fields. Thank you to YWCA Board Member, Pat Jones, for setting in motion our Career Day!

**Now Accepting Fall Enrollment for Pre-K**

The YWCA’s Children’s Learning Center, which is one of the few National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited childcare centers in Westchester County, is committed to offering children a fun, safe, supportive, and diverse environment in which they can learn and grow.

Children benefit from: hands-on, minds-on exploration and discovery; a bright and cheery atmosphere; a caring, nurturing, non-competitive environment; an anti-bias curriculum where differences are embraced; encouragement to be self-confident, independent, and creative individuals.

Parents benefit from: a constant sense of security and safety knowing your child is in the care of compassionate instructors; a partnership in your child’s social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth and development.

All benefit from: an innovative anti-bias curriculum that teaches children to understand and celebrate diversity.

Call us today for a tour! Please contact Betsy Earnes at 914-949-6227 or via email beames@ywcawpcw.org.

**Support the YWCA**

Votre soutien est vital à nos efforts pour éliminer l’racisme et à la promotion des services qui aident les femmes à réussir. Votre don aide le YWCA à offrir des services d’éducation préscolaire et après-scolaire, des programmes pour les jeunes des milieux défavorisés, et des programmes de soutien pour les défavorisés.

Veuillez considérer faire un don aujourd’hui. Contactez-nous au 914-949-6227 ext. 147

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