

Westchester Newsletter

Volume 2011, Issue 1

Winter 2011



The Social Work Month 2011 logo communicates options and change. The circles represent movement toward the future. It often takes a variety of people and resources to create positive life change. Social workers “think outside the box” and help others view problems from all sides to overcome adversity. The Social Work Month 2011 theme promotes the role of social worker as positive change agent. There are [640,000 professional social workers](http://www.naswdc.org/pressroom/swmonth/) in the United States who have dedicated their careers to either helping people transform their lives, or improving environments that make such progress possible. <http://www.naswdc.org/pressroom/swmonth/>

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Davenport Club Hosts 2011 Social Work Month Dinner, Honoring Award Winners

Thursday, March 24, 2011

The Annual Awards Dinner celebrates the contributions that our colleagues have made to our profession and to human services. Join us to hear about the accomplishments of our four awardees. Make your reservations early. We are accepting table reservations for individuals, families, and groups! The evening begins with a cocktail hour with views of Long Island Sound and a chance for networking. Come and Celebrate!

Reservation form link:

www.naswnys.org/divisions/Westchester/2011%20Dinner.pdf

SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR

Barbara Waltman, LCSW, Director of Social Work, New York Presbyterian Hospital, Department of Psychiatry, White Plains, NY

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Carla Lessing, LCSW, Founding Member of Hidden Child Foundation. Private Practice, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY.

MERIT SERVICE to NASW Westchester

Diane Jaulus, LCSW, Mental Health Committee (Chair), Women’s Issues, Steering Committee. Social Worker, Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, Bedford, NY.

PUBLIC CITIZEN

Kathleen Halas, Executive Director, Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc., White Plains, NY

Additional Details on pg. 3

WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Michael Cappiello, LCSW

The theme for this year's SOCIAL WORK MONTH, "Social Workers Change Futures," promotes the role of social worker as positive change agent. Your membership in NASW is supporting a mission to shape the profession, as well as providing a network that impacts our professional life, and the lives of those we serve here in Westchester County. I am looking forward to meeting more of our membership at the **SOCIAL WORK MONTH AWARDS DINNER on Thursday, March 24th** at the Davenport Club. It continues to be a highlight of the year, where we get a chance to hear from some inspiring local social work professionals. Don't miss it! (<http://www.naswnys.org/divisions/Westchester/2011%20Dinner.pdf>)

I am pleased to report that the **Universal Healthcare Committee**, chaired by **Ellen Blauner**, LMSW, is exploring the expanding role that social work will play in case management under health reform. Professional social workers report that in most practice settings it is a large part of their work, and has a significant positive impact on lives (positive change agent). We are looking for more social workers to participate in the committee, as other professions are lobbying healthcare administrators and legislators for exclusivity of this work. NASW and the Case Management Society of America (CMSA) recognize that all social workers are qualified by their education to be case managers. This is at a national level, but the impact in Westchester has been seen in the decentralizing, downsizing, and even elimination of social work departments in various practice settings.

Thanks to **Diane Jaulus**, LCSW, who volunteered to revitalize the **Mental Health Committee**. Diane has been an active member of the Steering Committee and is on the Women's Issues Committee. She works at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in the Family Violence Program. The committee is working on an event that will be held in May (National Mental Health Month). We are eager to expand our offerings for training in mental health. On the policy side, we have been monitoring the clinic restructuring in Westchester that is required by the NYS Office of Mental Health, and implementation is being monitored statewide by our Chapter Staff in Albany. We are also tracking changes being made by the Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) in Westchester, as the threat of clinic closings could impact both employment of our members, as well as the families served there.

Barbara Probst, MSW, LCSW, PhD(c), is doing doctoral research that addresses how clinical social workers balance strengths and diagnosis/pathology. Several of our members participated in the research, and we are looking forward to a future presentation next year. Thank you.

Donna Festa, LCSW, has agreed to take over the **LGBTQ** committee work. She coordinates the Affirmative Mental Health Program at Westchester Medical Center. We also recently welcomed **Tina Atherall**, MSW, Executive Vice President of Hope for the Warriors, who is co-chairing the **Veterans Affairs Committee** with **Anne Treantafeles**, MSW.

I encourage you to save the date for the **WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR., MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM**, on **Friday, April 8th** at Concordia College. The topic, "HIV in Communities of Color: Is the Culture of Silence Being Reinforced?" will be addressed by **Robert E. Fullilove**, EdD, Associate Dean for Community and Minority Affairs at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. The committee is very eager to have Westchester agencies attend this event, a major offering of the Division.

A most special thank you to **Anmarie Dippolt** for her many years of service and devotion to putting out the Division Newsletter, she continues to serve in an advisory capacity that is much appreciated, and her assistance has been essential in keeping us in touch with membership and events.

There are so many people to acknowledge for their dedication that I am sure to miss people. I thank each of you for being a positive face of social work in your own communities. I hope you will each find a way to promote the profession during Social Work Month 2011. For more ideas, check out this link: <https://www.socialworkers.org/pressroom/swmonth/>

Thank you for your patience as we launch our on-line Newsletter. This issue will be available electronically as well as by USPS. It is our intention to eventually have the Newsletter on-line, and also in paper for those preferring that format. Your comments are welcome.

2011 Award Winners

The Annual Awards Committee recognizes people in Westchester for their outstanding contributions to the social work profession and to the human services. We are pleased to announce this year's winners.

The 2011 **Social Worker of the Year** award will be presented to **Barbara Waltman**, LCSW-R. As Director of Social Work at New York Presbyterian Hospital, she provides clinical social work leadership in the daily operations at Payne Whitney Westchester and Manhattan campuses. She is an outstanding clinician, leader and role model, who holds all social work operations and practices to the highest professional standards.

Carla Lessing, LCSW, will receive the 2011 **Distinguished Service Award**. She is the founding member of the Hidden Child Foundation/ ADL, and presently its vice-president. A clinical social worker in private practice, she specializes in working with Holocaust survivors and their children. She is a facilitator with the Hidden Children Support Group of Westchester County.

The 2011 **Merit Service for the NASW Westchester Division** has been awarded to **Diane Jaulus**, LCSW-R. Diane has been an active member of the Division's Steering Committee, and has taken on the leadership of the Mental Health Committee. She worked to present a program on incarcerated women for the Women's Issues Committee, based on her experience as a social worker at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, where she works in the Family Violence Program. She gave a presentation on "Compassion Fatigue" at a membership meeting.

The **Public Citizen of the Year** award for 2011 will be presented to **Kathleen Halas**, Executive Director of the Child Care Council of Westchester, for contributions to the well-being of Westchester's children and families. Her work and leadership has contributed significantly to improving access and affordability of high quality early childhood programs throughout the county. *Judy Goldstein*

Quick Fact: NYS Office of the Professions, Social Work, has over 3,600 licensed social workers registered in Westchester County. Check out stats online. www.op.nysed.gov/prof/sw

Multi-Cultural Affairs Committee Announces 34th Whitney M. Young, Jr., Symposium

Friday, April 8th, 8:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Multi-Cultural Affairs Committee, Co-chairs, **Billye Jones Mulraine** and **Rudene Scipio**, have announced that the 2011 Symposium, honoring Whitney M. Young, Jr., will address "**HIV in Communities of Color: Is the Culture of Silence Being Reinforced?**" The speaker, **Robert E. Fullilove, Ed.D.**, is Associate Dean for Community and Minority Affairs at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. Among his many affiliations, Dr. Fullilove has served on an Advisory Committee on HIV and STD Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control.

The Symposium will take place at Concordia College, Bronxville, NY. Advanced registration: \$45; student \$10; Senior/retired \$35

Whitney M. Young, Jr. Scholarship Deadline is March 28, 2011

The 2011 NASW (Westchester) Whitney M. Young, Jr., **Stipend for Social Action and Change** is available to BSW and MSW students who **reside** in Westchester, OR who are **enrolled** in a Westchester social work program and made a significant social contribution to the Westchester community.

Application is available online:
www.naswnys.org/divisions/Westchester/news.htm

Publication Name: NASW-NYS Westchester Newsletter USPS# 519-670

Publisher: National Association of Social Workers-NYS Chapter
Westchester Division, Michael T. Cappiello, Westchester Division Director
188 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210

Periodical Postage Paid at White Plains, NY

Frequency: Bi-Monthly (Except May/June, July/Aug)

Subscription price: Included in membership dues

Postmaster send address changes to: NASW-NYS Westchester Newsletter
188 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210
(518) 463-4741

Division Activities

NASW Holiday Party 2010 *Honoring Jane Edwards, DSW*



Ira Weinberg, Photographer

People's Institute & Antiracist Alliance: Gerry Radano, Sandy Bernabei, Susan McPherson, Cora Miles, Ron Chisom (back), Jane Edwards, Lynn Beville, David Billings (L to R)

The NASW holiday party was hosted by Fordham University and honored **Jane Edwards**, DSW, former Westchester Division Director, for her service to the profession of social work, and in particular, for her contribution to the Antiracist Alliance. Jane has resigned her post at Fordham, and will be continuing her work in North Carolina.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

The group just attended the NASW Webinar, **Health Care Reform and Beyond: Limits and Possibilities of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)**, Stephen Gorin, PhD, MSW. We meet regularly at various locations. Contact Ellen Blauner, Chair, at eblauner@verizon.net or call 914-948-4793.

Mental Health Committee

Diane Jaulus, LCSW, of Chappaqua, has been appointed as Chairperson of the Division's Mental Health Committee. The committee is being renewed and aims to bring information and insight on current mental health issues to the membership. Diane is a graduate of Fordham University and has 25 years of experience in the field. She has worked in hospitals and with psychiatric patients for many years. Diane now works at Bedford Correctional Facility treating women with histories of abuse. To work on this committee, contact **Diane** at diana464@verizon.net

New members welcome.

Westchester Hall of Fame



Linda Conte with State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Linda Conte, of Croton, was inducted into the 2010 Senior Citizen Hall of Fame in December at a luncheon sponsored by the Westchester Department of Senior Programs and Services. She was nominated for her more than 25 years of service to the Westchester Division of NASW, as well as for her activities with numerous organizations throughout the County.

Before receiving her MSW from Yeshiva University, Linda was a teacher for many years, and eventually became a school social worker in Peekskill. Currently, she is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). She is certified as a Rape Crisis Counselor in NY. She volunteers with the Westchester Mediation Center. She has worked with the UN NGO, and is a Representative to the World Federation for Mental Health. At the Bedford Correctional Facility, she is a volunteer teacher, and provides a host family.

Since 1984, she has worked with NASW in many capacities, and presently serves on the Division's Steering Committee. She has been trying to organize the Division's archives, and recently coordinated the member survey.

An energetic and fun person, Ms. Conte is in the singing group, The Raging Grannies. She is a mother, grandmother and wife.

Doris Bertocci, LCSW, an expert on families in custody litigation, was a presenter on "Parent Coordination" at a Westchester membership mtg. She is now assisting with an interdisciplinary conference to be held in Syracuse titled "**Tempering the Impact of Divorce on Children: The Paradox of Values, Ethics and Practices in Interdisciplinary Work with Broken Families.**" Social workers interested in the needs of families in custody litigation may contact her at: dbertocci@optonline.net Doris has also volunteered to be our practice liaison, and we hope to organize a future event here in Westchester.

National Association of Social Workers

WESTCHESTER DIVISION

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE
ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER
TO HONOR OUR COLLEAGUES**

**Social Worker of the Year
Barbara Waltman, LCSW-R**

**Distinguished Service to the Profession
Carla Lessing, LCSW**

**Merit Service for the Westchester Division
Diane Jaulus, LCSW-R**

**Public Citizen of the Year
Kathleen Halas**



**Thursday, March 24th, 2011, at the Davenport Club
6 p.m. cocktail hour, 7 p.m. dinner
400 Davenport Ave, New Rochelle, NY 10805**

\$50 earlybird special; \$55 after March 21st; Students: \$25

RESERVATION DEADLINE: MARCH 21, 2011

Directions to DAVENPORT CLUB: New England Thruway (I-95) to exit 15-New Rochelle. From north, LEFT turn to Main St. From south, RIGHT turn to Main St. to first traffic light. RIGHT turn to Weyman Ave., to end (Pelham Rd.) LEFT onto Pelham Rd. to Church St. RIGHT turn onto Church St. to end (Davenport Ave.). RIGHT turn onto Davenport. Short distance to **Davenport Club on left**.
From North Ave., New Roch.: Take to end. RIGHT on Pelham Road; LEFT at light on Church St. Go to end. RIGHT on Davenport Ave.

✂-----✂
(Please complete form and tear off)

NAME _____ PHONE (____) _____

ADDRESS _____

Email _____

Dinner preference: Roast beef Salmon Vegetarian I may need transportation

I wish to be seated with guest/honoree/table _____

No. of reservations _____ Table Student Amount enclosed \$

I cannot attend, but wish to contribute to a student scholarship in name of honoree _____ \$ _____

Make check payable to: **NASW - Westchester** ◆ Mail to: NASW Annual Dinner, Box 150, White Plains, NY 10602

New Practitioners – a great resource! NASW Westchester Division's Mentoring Group is for you!

Meets monthly. The group *conducts peer supervision, discusses issues faced by new social workers, lists current job openings and has outside speakers on a variety of professional topics.* Meetings are usually the 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon, at NY Presbyterian Hospital, 21 Bloomingdale Road, White Plains, 10605. Contact persons: Susan Gerbino - Sbg28@aol.com; Ira Weinberg – iraphoto@juno.com

The mentoring group has been using Yahoo Groups for exchanging information, receiving notices of meetings, speakers and events, and sending messages to its members. It is an interactive way of communicating with other professionals.

To learn more about the **WESTCHESTERNASW** Mentoring group, type in your browser:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/westchesternasw/>



Then become a member of **WESTCHESTERNASW**, click on the **Join Group** button or send an email to Westchesternasw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

This will allow you to become a member and receive our regular meeting announcements, job information and scheduled speakers. Members only can receive e-mails about the mentoring group and take part in a dialogue with other members.

REMEMBRANCES OF RUTH OLVER, MSW, ACSW

February 16, 1918 – March 20, 2010

Previous Westchester NASW Social Worker of the Year

From Linda Conte and Sarah Simpson

Ruth Olver was an early civil rights activist, who worked to integrate public facilities in Washington, DC, in the early 1940s. After her marriage to the late John Olver in 1944, she devoted herself to raising her children and supporting the UN career of her spouse. She was always very active in organizing schools, supplies and other social support for children wherever he served, especially in Libya and in the Palestinian Territories.

She became a psychiatric social worker in her forties, and, in addition to an active clinical practice, she was a pioneer in campaigning against spousal abuse in Westchester. She was a founder of the Women's Justice Council, which lobbies the police and courts for justice in abuse cases, and provides childcare and other support to victims wishing to pursue their rights. She was a founder of My Sisters' Place, a Westchester shelter for abuse victims. She also mentored and funded college studies for several young women who have followed in her footsteps.

In **1982**, Westchester NASW hosted the New York State NASW Chapter Annual Conference and Meeting at SUNY Purchase. The Conference Theme was THE CHANGING FAMILY IN A TROUBLED TIME. Westchester NASW was rich with professional talent, filled with passion and responsive to new ideas and information. It was an exciting time. It is not an easy

task to push professional boundaries, find new theorists, and identify new and credible professional connections and resources. Ruth Olver shone at discovering and relating to international talent and issues. She was highly motivated and amazing! The end result was a workshop entitled **The New Immigrant Families: Cross Cultural Influences in Family Practice**, and Ruth was the moderator. Workshop panelists were social work experts in their own cultures and generally unknown to Westchester professionals. Topics highlighted New Soviet Jewish Families, New Chinese Families, New Black Families, and New Hispanic Families.

Ruth invited **Linda Conte** (an NGO volunteer) and **Sarah Simpson** (Chair of the Conference Planning Committee) to lunch at the UN Dining Room during the planning process for the Workshop. Ruth also invited **Inel L. Stephens**, MSW, an administrator, clinician, and **Co-founder, Association of Professional Haitian Social Workers**. Until then, no one had ever heard of an Association of Professional Haitian Social Workers. Ruth worked tenaciously to find Inel. He was a jewel, as were the other panelists. The lunch/discussion was memorable. The New Immigrant workshop was filled to capacity and very, very well received. The professional appreciation for Ruth's very fine leadership and detailed work was palpable.

Linda Conte and Sarah Simpson

? Who'd have guessed it? ? **Did You Know?** You don't say!! ??? ??? Imagine That!

News about Westchester Social Workers

Deborah Healy-Seidlitz, of Pound Ridge, a social work intern, **Lisi Robinson**, LMSW, of Bedford, **Carolyn Subin**, Ph.D., LCSW of Bedford and **Linda Conte**, LMSW, of Croton-on-Hudson, all associated with the Bedford Correctional Facility, along with other members of the staff and volunteers, recently participated in a full day workshop and retreat given at Catholic Charities in Brooklyn. The workshop explored the issues of team building, communication, compassion fatigue, and other issues around the many services offered at Bedford.

M. Kim O'Connor, LCSW-R, ACSW. (917-453-2328 or mkimoconnor@me.com) of Rye has opened a private practice in her hometown. Ms. O'Connor has worked as a clinical social worker for the past 20 years in direct practice, administration, teaching and private consultation. The focus of her private practice is Parent Management Training (PMT), an evidence-based, short term therapy developed by Dr. Alan Kazdin of Yale University. It is highly effective for families who need assistance decreasing their child's oppositional, aggressive, and antisocial behavior. Ms. O'Connor is in the process of completing her certification in PMT through the Yale Child Conduct Clinic.

Valerie Canosa, LCSW, of Ossining, was recently honored with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Westchester Community Network, for all the work she does for the Ossining community and its families and children. Valerie is the Director of Programs & Services for the Interfaith Council for Action (IFCA). She is also the site coordinator and trainer for the IFCA VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program, which provides income tax preparation for low income people at the office in Ossining. IFCA is the oldest neighborhood preservation organization in Westchester County, New York, active in the ownership, rehabilitation and management of low and moderate income housing since 1968. It is registered in New York State as a not-for-profit agency, 501(c)(3).

Angela C. P. LaManna, LCSW, of New Rochelle, is the new facilitator of the Greenwich Lyme Support Group, sponsored by Time for Lyme, the City of Greenwich and the Greenwich Hospital. The group meets at the Greenwich Town Hall on the first Thursday of the month. She is also the founder of Lyme Lit on the Trail, (LLOTT), a speaker's bureau dedicated to educating mental health professionals about the neuropsychiatric sequelae of Lyme and other tick borne diseases. She has appeared on the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI NYC-Metro cable TV station and on Al Frankel's SHRINK RAP (www.alfrankelcsw.com)). Ms. LaManna maintains a private practice in New Rochelle and is

on the faculty of WCSPP (Westchester Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy). Her article, When Lyme Disease Presents as Mental Illness, was published in the WCSPP newsletter and is available on request (almmsw@gmail.com)

Dr. Douglas Waite, Medical Director at The Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry, a former social worker, gave a lecture on "Fetal Alcohol Neurodevelopmental Delay" at the Westchester Institute for Human Development recently. The meeting was arranged by the Westchester Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (WTFCAN). Dr. Waite discussed this widely under-reported developmental delay in the US and discussed the importance of timely diagnosis and specific interventions in education, housing, employment and parenting that help these children successfully integrate into society.

Sherry Fraser, LCSW, of Bronxville, Dean of Concordia College, was the speaker at the November 17th meeting of the Regional School Social Workers held at SW BOCES Rye Lake Campus in White Plains. The meeting was organized by Nicole M. Ciavardini, LMSW, Rebecca Phang, LCSW and Yolette Levy, LCSW of SW BOCES.

Margaret Lastique, LMSW, of Croton-on-Hudson, was honored at the Seventh Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration "Continuing The Dream" on January 16, 2011, at an event sponsored by The Preservation Company, Inc. Margaret has been a social worker for over forty years, and has worked for the Bureau of Child Welfare in New York City, The Jewish Association for Services to the Aged, Children's Village, Graham-Windham Home for Children, Westchester Community Opportunity Program at Aunt Bessie's Open Door / Peekskill Head Start, and since 2000, at Hudson River HealthCare in Peekskill, using her social work skill with many of their programs and services to individual, children, families, adults and senior citizens.

Ellen Sarna, LMSW, of Irvington, attended a series of workshops entitled, "Who is a Muslim? Exploring Myths and Realities about Islam" which were sponsored by the Westchester Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence, American Muslim Women's Association and the Interfaith Connection. Held in churches, a library and a mosque in Westchester locations, the series brought together people from many different backgrounds who together explored the basics of Islam, issues of rights and discrimination against Muslims, commonalities in the Islam, Judaic and Christian religions, and a session on the history of the proposed cultural center for lower Manhattan.

Have News about/of interest to Westchester NASW members? WE NEED YOUR HELP to keep our Did You Know? column going.

If you, or a colleague, have participated in an activity, started a new position or project, joined a study group, given a talk, written an article, received recognition, etc., please WRITE out the information and mail it to Linda Conte, 1420 Journey's End Road, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 or e-mail it to linda@conte.org with "Did You Know" in the subject line. THANKS!!

**Rethinking Trauma Treatment In Light Of New Research:
A Practice Seminar for Clinicians**

*Readings, Case Presentation, and Guided Supervision
by Howard Robinson, DSW, LCSWR*

5 weekly sessions beginning in April, 2011
\$250

Thursday Evenings, 7-8:30 pm, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.
(4/7, 4/14, 4/28, 5/5, 5/12)

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