



WESTCHESTER ASSOCIATION FOR THE
EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

NEWSLETTER

September 2007

WAEYC Mission Statement:

The Westchester Association for the Education of Young Children is a professional organization which advocates for children birth through eight years. It educates, guides policy, and promotes

President's Letter

A Hearty Welcome Back to our Friends, Colleagues and Members!!

Whenever September arrives, it is always with excitement and anticipation. Oh yes, we're sad summer has left us and the chill returns to the air, but we know our schools will soon fill with eager children and anxious parents (or the reverse!!) But of course we are happy to get back to our classrooms, schools and centers to fill that great need which drives us all- to fill the days of young children with quality preschool, a warm and nurturing environment, a place to be in the care of professional and talented teachers.

And on the heels of September, once we all get settled in, comes October and the anticipation of WAEYC's wonderful Fall Conference. Details are posted inside. Our impressive keynote this year is Diane Levin, who has done amazing work on children and the media, and it's impact on their behavior and how we educate them. Her topic this year will be *Problem Solving Deficit Disorder: How Modern Times are Changing How Children Learn*.

This year I have the privilege of working with Linda Jo Platt as my co-president. I have known Linda Jo as long as I have been on the board of WAEYC. I know our co-presidentship will help move WAEYC along its path of providing information, outreach and training opportunities for our members.

So open up our newsletter and find information on upcoming events, opportunities for involvement and career enhancement.

Olivia Hewitt
472-6550

Linda Jo Platt
693-9072

WESTCHESTER ASSOCIATION for the EDUCATION of YOUNG CHILDREN

As the school year begins, we want to share with you the many ways your local professional organization, **Westchester Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC)**, can support you and your school throughout the school year.

Staff Training

The October Conference and Spring Workshops offer staff training opportunities at a very affordable cost.

- Our 43rd Annual Fall Conference will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at Manhattanville College in Purchase.
- The Spring Workshops will take place throughout the month of March.

Administrator Support

WAEYC Directors Meetings are held monthly, October – May, at various child centers throughout the county. We discuss topics of interest to school directors. These discussions are usually led by experts in the topic area. This past year topics included:

- Accreditation Credentials for Directors
- Creating Program Portfolios for Accreditation
- Quality in Toddler Education
- Building and Sustaining Parent-Teacher Relationships and
- Supervision of Staff

Networking

Membership and involvement in WAEYC provides opportunities to meet other administrators and teachers who are dedicated to providing an appropriate environment and educational experience for young children..

WEBSITE

Our website www.westchesteraeyc.com provides another venue to keep you up to date about early childhood happenings. Here you can

- Read local and national legislative alerts
- Post job openings
- Read the WAEYC newsletter
- Join the organization
- and much more.
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DIRECTORY

For the first time in 15 years we are compiling a directory of all early childhood programs in Westchester County. Our last edition, fondly referred to as **The Red Book**, was placed in local libraries as a resource for parents, and in the hands of program directors. The cost for inclusion in the current directory is \$25.00 per program listing which entitles the program to one copy of the directory. We have enclosed a copy of the listing form in this newsletter. The book will go to press in January.

Your WAEYC Board meets the first Monday of each month at the Child Care Council in White Plains. We are actively seeking new members to serve with us. If you want to join a lively group of, alas, all women who plan and implement each of WAEYC's activities please give one of us a call. Or just call to say hello and share any concerns or ideas you may have. A board application is also included in this newsletter.

Olivia Hewitt (914) 472-6550

Linda Jo Platt (914) 693-9072
WAEYC Co-Presidents

From our advocacy committee:

Below are the criteria being used for reviewing federal pre-k legislation and making comments back to the sponsors of legislation. The criteria are based on the NAEYC Public Policy Program statements as a whole. NAEYC is supportive of universally available, high quality pre-k as part of a system of well-financed, high quality early childhood education for all children from birth. However, there are also issues of appropriate federal, state and local roles and analysis of how new funding streams with new requirements would add to or detract from the goal of a well-financed, high quality comprehensive system.

At this time, NAEYC will maintain a position of silence on the various federal pre-K bills that have been and could be introduced. As representatives, we have been asked by members of Congress to comment on some bills, which we have done. Members of Congress recognize that we have concerns not only on some specific items in some of the legislation, but also on the larger issue of whether there should be another federal bill, designed to serve low income children, which would involve funding the expansion of available pre-k slots as well as enhancing quality. This program would be in addition to the current federal preschool programs or use of federal dollars for preschools such as Head Start, Title I, special education preschool grants, and CCDBG, which all compete for the same federal appropriations subcommittee dollars. Other concerns are creating yet another and different set of requirements for states, communities, and providers to meet in serving 4 year olds, and whether another federal pre-K bill for pre-K slots could have a chilling effect on the growth of state funds for pre-K in many states.

No action has been taken on any new federal pre-K bill at the committee or floor level at this time.

Criteria for assessing state and federal pre-kindergarten legislation

- Programs should have new funding streams associated with them and not be based on shifting funds from other early childhood education funding sources.
- New programs should be coordinated with other early childhood programs serving children birth to kindergarten, without supplanting services or programs, such as Head Start and child care in the state's birth to kindergarten system.
- New programs should allow multiple types of prekindergarten programs by making child care, Head Start and schools eligible for prekindergarten funds as long as standards are being met.
- Pre-K programs should be accredited or at least follow NAEYC early childhood education program accreditation standards, with particular attention to ratios and group size.
- Teachers should have a Bachelor's in early childhood education or related field with specialized knowledge of early childhood. Teachers in settings other than public schools should be allowed up to 6 years to obtain a Bachelor's degree.
- New programs should provide salaries for teachers in prekindergarten programs delivered in child care and Head Start settings that are equitable with public school teacher's salaries.
- New programs must use a developmentally appropriate curriculum which addresses all developmental domains including cultural and linguistically appropriate curricula and teaching strategies.
- New programs must include a system for self monitoring to insure they meet standards and to provide goals for continuous improvement.
- New programs must provide a link to comprehensive services which might be needed by children and their families.
- New programs must include funds designated to improve and if needed expand the supply of infant and toddler care.
- New programs must use a child outcomes assessment for the purpose of improving instruction and the overall program.

Application For Nomination for WAEYC Board

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day phone: _____

Evening or cell phone: _____

Present Position (if working): _____

Name of Program: _____

Address: _____

Work phone: _____

You must be a member of WAEYC to be a Board Member. ID# _____
(Number located on the address label of Young Children)

On a separate sheet, please answer the following questions:

- 1.) Qualifications/Background—include professional and organizational history.
Attach any additional information if necessary.
- 2.) Demonstration of Leadership—list offices held, committee involvement, project involvement on any project relevant to early childhood.
- 3.) If you are a previous WAEYC Board Member, please indicate the years you were on the Board.
- 4.) Why are you interested in joining the WAEYC Board at this time?

Thank you for your interest in Board membership. Please send the application and paperwork to:

WAEYC
PO Box 130
180 East Prospect Avenue
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

WAEYC BOARD LIST 2007-2008

Co-Presidents	Olivia Hewitt Linda Jo Platt	472-6550 693-9072
Past President	Barbara J. Wright	764-7613
Vice Presidents:		
Advocacy	Fran Porcaro Monica Zenda	347-3227 969-9676 x13
Membership	Jeannette Mirabile	738-6760
Program Program Assistant	Debbie Lauer Donna Tortorici	948-2414 948-2414
Accreditation Liaison	Donna Tortorici	948-2414
Recording Secretary	Loretta Hearn Debbie Lauer	921-1417 948-2414
Corresponding Secretary	Donna Tortorici	948-2414
Treasurer Assistant Treasurer	Ronnie Wienberger Loretta Hearn	238-3756 921-1417
Newsletter	Monica Zenda Beth Farkas	969-9676 x13 472-4404 x13
Nominating	Joyce Guimeres Karen Coombs Mary Ann DeLessio	834-3984 273-1207 273-1959
Board Members	Suzanne Boydston Peggy Waskalewski Sandy Kewley	723-0922 948-2414 761-3456 x107

Directors' Support Group 200- 2008

WAEYC sponsors a support group for new and experienced directors. We meet every 6-7 weeks and address topics of interest to the group and try to help one another in this job of running a center. Please join us at any time throughout the year. To receive minutes of our meetings, please bring 5 self-addressed stamped envelopes to the first meeting or mail them to **Sara Arnon c/o Weekday Nursery School, 1200 North Avenue, New Rochelle, 10804**. I look forward to a great year ahead with colleagues from all over Westchester.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location / Director</u>	<u>Topic / Speaker</u>
Wed, Oct 17,2007	Asbury Nursery School 167 Scarsdale Rd Tuckahoe Linda Smith 779-3762	Calling All Directors: Policies & Procedures Bring your policies for staff and parents re: sick and personal days, refunds, phone usage, in school birthday celebrations, diapers, snack foods and drinks, teacher placement; holiday celebrations, health policies for children and staff.
Thurs., Dec 6, 2007	LAC Preschool 60 Forest Ave Larchmont Joyce Grimaraes 834-3984	How Parental Stress & Anxiety Interferes w the Preschool Relationships Paul Donahue, PhD
Wed, Jan 30, 2008	Christ Church Nursery School Rectory Street Rye MaryJane Burns 967-5758	Reaching Out to Parents: Letting Them Know What Really Matters in the Early Years Paul Donahue, PhD
Thur, March 13, 2008	Creative Playtime 59 Grand Blvd. Scarsdale Carole Guthrie 472-4777	Assessing Our Staff: A Panel of Experienced Directors will Share their Procedures / Forms Bring copies of your forms.
Thur, May 8, 2008	Transitional Learning Center 555 Davenport Ave. New Rochelle Jeannette Mirabile 738-6760	Planning for the Future Results of a benefits survey that we will compile throughout the year. What do you offer? Who pays?

These meetings are all at **4:00 PM**. We are unable to meet at many of the full-time daycare centers because of the time, but please remember that these meetings are for **EVERYONE**-part time nursery schools, licensed family daycare centers, full time programs--any director who administers a program for young children. I look forward to a great year. If you have any questions, please call Sara Arnon at 914-632-6758, but please call the directors listed above for directions to meetings.

Meet the WAEYC Board Members:

Linda Jo Platt Co-President

I have been the Director of the Community Nursery School of the South Presbyterian Church in Dobbs Ferry since January 1981. Prior to becoming the Director, I taught the 2's at CNS for two years. My career began in 1966 after graduating from Eckerd College in Florida as a social worker for children and families for the State of Florida. It was at this time that I began to realize that maybe education was the answer to many of the societal failings I encountered. I returned to school at the University of Virginia for a MEd in Elementary Education and Reading. I then spent two years teaching first grade in the mountains of Virginia before moving to an inner city school in Richmond Virginia.

My next move to Daytona Beach, Florida found me teaching a learning disabled population. I then moved on to rural Kentucky to teach Remedial Reading. In 1973, my husband Bruce and I moved to Dobbs Ferry with daughter Jennifer, (now a social worker on sabbatical to raise our grandchildren Harrison, 7, and Jocelyn, 3) and added Jonathan (currently a lawyer with the Federal Trade Commission) to the family in 1974.

I have served 9 years on the Dobbs Ferry School Board retiring in 2000 and 3 years on the Westchester Putnam School Boards Association. I serve on the Board of Trustees for South Presbyterian Church and am still involved in many local school and village committees. My hobbies include meetings, people, bridge, reading, and visiting family. I am so lucky to have found a profession and work that brings me such joy each morning. Working with young children erases all the problems of the day as I watch them navigate through the world with such new eyes. Each child teaches me something new each day.

Jeannette Mirable Membership Chairperson

Jeannette Mirable became a member of the WAEYC Board of Directors in 1986, 21 years ago! She is currently serving as the Membership Chairperson, but has held many positions on the Board including President. Jeannette began her professional career as a head teacher in a Montessori School that her daughters were attending as preschoolers in the late 1970's. In 1979 while completing her Master's Degree in special education, Jeannette wrote a proposal to the NYD Education Department Office of Developmental Disabilities to begin a program for preschoolers with special needs who would be "mainstreamed" into classes at that same preschool. After many visits to Albany, the proposal was approved and the program opened in January 1980. In September 1984 Jeannette made the decision to try it on her own and opened her own school Transitional Learning Center (better known as TLC) in Pelham, NY. Although the school has since moved to New Rochelle, Jeannette continues to serve as Director and President of the Board. In addition to serving on the WAEYC Board, Jeannette also served as a member of the Westchester Education Coalition and has been on numerous committees in the tri-state area that address the needs of pre-school children with

developmental disabilities. Jeannette holds a Masters degree in Reading and Special Education. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education N-6/Speech and an Associates degree in Nursery School Education. Jeannette has taught Administration and Supervision of Early Childhood Programs at the graduate level.

"Every child is special. It is our job as early childhood professionals to give them the tools that will maximize their potential, reinforce their strengths and let them know that they are valued for who they are!"

From the Editors:

Welcome to an exciting new school year!

As new editors of the WAEYC newsletter we want to make this newsletter yours! We would like to encourage you to send any suggestions you might have to us. The more input we have from you our readers, the more useful this newsletter can become. We hope to address a common issue for all early childhood professionals in each edition of the newsletter this year. Please take a minute to email any ideas or suggestions you might have to one of us. Some of our thoughts include: Multicultural Education In the Preschool Classroom; *Innovative Ideas for Extended Hours Programs*; *How to Support Special Needs Children in Typical Settings*; Interpreting the NYS Standards; etc.

Please let us know what your interests are by emailing us at the following addresses.

(Please put WAEYC Newsletter in the subject line).

Beth Farkas at bfarkas@alcottschool.org OR Monica Zenda at

mzenda@alcottschool.org

Thanks for your ideas!

**WAEYC 43rd Annual October Conference
Saturday, October 27, 2007
Manhattanville College, Purchase
New York**

**Keynote Speaker: Diane E. Levin, Ph.D.
Problem Solving Deficit Disorder-How Modern Times
are Changing How Children Learn**

Diane Levin is a professor of Education at Wheelock College in Boston. She has been involved in training early childhood professionals for over 25 years. She teaches courses on play, media and violence prevention.

Diane is an internationally recognized expert helping parents and professionals understand and counteract the harmful effects of violence, media and commercial culture on children.

Diane is the author of six books including *Teaching Young Children in Violent Times: Building a Peaceable Classroom* and *Remote Control Childhood: Combating the Hazard of Media Culture* and co-author of *The War Play Dilemma*. She and Jean Kilbourne are currently working on her next book *So Sexy So soon: The Sexualization of Childhood*. Diane is to co found of 2 organizations *Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment (TRUCE)* and *Coalition for a Commercial Free Childhood*.

***Watch for your brochure coming soon!
Featuring Diane Levin, Keynote speaker!
And 28 other workshops!***

Remember to register early for best workshop selection. (Expected attendance this year, more than 500 early childhood professionals!)

Co-Sponsored by Manhattanville College
Department of Early Childhood Education

Listing Information for Upcoming WAEYC Directory

Name of School _____

Address _____

Mailing Address if different from above _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____ Web Site _____

Age of children accepted _____
Please indicate age cut-off dates if other than December

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Days and Hours for:

Infants (birth to 18 months) _____

Toddlers (18 months to 2 Years 8 months) _____

2s _____ 3s _____

4s _____ 5s _____

Total Enrollment _____

Number of Teachers _____ Number of Assistants _____

OCS Licensed _____ NAEYC Accreditation _____
(as of September 1, 2007)

Voluntary Registration _____ Summer Program _____

Year Round Program _____ Transportation _____

Kindergarten _____ Scholarships Available _____

Special Needs Classes _____ Mommy and Me program _____

Other _____

Please enclose a check for \$25.00 payable to WAEYC

This entitles you to inclusion in the directory and one copy of the finished directory.

Mail to Linda Jo Platt, PO Box 35, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

Phone for questions or more information: 693-9072

Schedule of Board Meetings 2007-2008

Saturday, September 8	Olivia's house	9:30 am	Doris Ronald Brunch
Monday, October 1	Full Board	6:30 pm	Child Care Council
Monday, November 5	Speaker	6:30 pm	Child Care Council
Monday, December 3	Exec Board	6:30 pm	Child Care Council
Monday, January 7, 2008	Full Board	6:30 pm	Child Care Council
Monday, February 4	Board retreat	6:30 pm	Child Care Council
Monday, March 3	Exec Board	6:30 pm	Child Care Council
Monday, April 7	Full Board	6:30 pm	Child Care Council
Monday, May 5	Annual Mtg	6:30 pm	TBA
Monday, June 2	President's Dinner		TBA

Who was Doris Ronald, for whom our brunch is named?

Doris was a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She married Bill Groin and had two boys, Bill and Tim. She was active on the WAEYC Board, attending and giving workshops. She taught at Windward School. She moved on to start a therapeutic classroom at the Nursery School of the Ethical Humanists Society. The nursery school at EHS later moved and became the Nursery at the Center for Preventative Psychiatry.

Doris became the director of CPP and was part of the team for a training program for early childhood therapists. She was also active at WAEYC, leading a committee on children with special needs, all this before Special Ed was a mainstream topic!

Her husband Bill had died, and she met and married Al Ronald. She continued to be an active advocate for children and a steady guiding force and inspiration to all who knew and worked with her. Doris died much too soon from cancer.

Upcoming Events

Sponsored by WAEYC:

- **Saturday, October 27, 2007**
WAEYC 43rd Annual October Conference
Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY
- **March 2008**
WAEYC Leadership Conference
Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY
More info to follow.
- **Spring 2008**
WAEYC Spring Workshops
Details to follow.

Upcoming Events

Sponsored by Other Organizations:

- **September 28-30, 2007**

Children's Music Network (CMN) National Conference

CMN is a national association of educators and musicians dedicated to integrating music into children's lives through songs and movement.

Location: Holiday Turf Inn on Wolf Road, Albany, NY

Times: Friday, September 28th at 5:00 PM - Sunday, September 30th at 3:00 PM

Fees: Weekend rates start at \$200 without housing.

Half-day special rates available for teachers.

To pre-register and for more information: www.cmnonline.org

Features:

- Over 16 hours of creative, practical workshops, panels and discussions, how-to classes, and song swaps;
- Opportunity to gather new songs, ideas, and materials appropriate for a wide range of classroom situations;
- Sarah Pirtle will be honored Sunday morning with the CMN Magic Penny Award;
- Kim and Reggie Harris, who are known in the Capital Region as performing artists and teachers of African-American cultural heritage, will give a keynote presentation.

- **Wednesday, October 24, 2007**

Infant-Toddler Conference

Sponsored by the Child Care Council of Westchester.

Location: Manhattanville College (Reid Castle)

Time: 8:30-3:30

For more info, please contact the Child Care Council at 914-761-3456 or

www.childcarewestchester.org

- **Wednesday, April 9, 2008**

Consortium Day

Sponsored by the Child Care Council of Westchester.

Location: Westchester County Center

For more info, please contact the Child Care Council at 914-761-3456 or

www.childcarewestchester.org

- Other training opportunities are available from the Child Care Council at 914-761-3456 or www.childcarewestchester.org

To have your event listed in future newsletter editions please email the information to bfarkas@alcottschool.org and place WAEYC in the subject line.

WAEYC On-Line

www.westchesteraeyc.com

*Are you looking for information on upcoming WAEYC events??
Are you interested in becoming a member of WAEYC???*

*Take a minute to add us to your rolodex at work and home.
Bookmark our website in your computer and visit us often for up to date information on
training opportunities, public policy, membership, the Director's Group, scholarships
and more!!*

Public Policy Information

Winning Beginning NY is a statewide coalition working to inform policy-makers and the public about the many benefits of early care and learning to children, families and society. The coalition aims to build a broad-based constituency to make investment in quality early care and education a top public priority in New York State.

Winning Beginning NY is co-convened by the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, Child Care, Inc., the New York State Child Care Coordinating Council, and the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children.

For information on the latest issues in early childhood education go to:

www.winningbeginningny.org