



**Affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children  
And the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children**

**WESTCHESTER ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN  
NEWSLETTER  
September 2017  
[www.westchesteraeyc.com](http://www.westchesteraeyc.com)  
[westchesteraeyc@gmail.com](mailto:westchesteraeyc@gmail.com)**

**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 quality early childhood programs.

## **53rd ANNUAL OCTOBER CONFERENCE**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Mercy College Department of Early Childhood Education  
and  
Westchester Association for the Education of Young Children**

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Hedda Sharapan**



**Senior Fellow - The Fred Rogers Center**

**“Going Beyond Try, Try Again:  
Ways to Encourage Perseverance, a Key 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skill”**

**Saturday, October 21, 2017**

**Mercy Hall Rotunda, Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Mary Lou Sgro**

**Summer 2017**

Summer is nearly over, and it has been more than three months since the Annual Meeting at the Harrison Tavern. How quickly time goes by! I hope everyone is finding time to refresh and reflect. On May 8 our featured speaker, Rob Lieblein, advised us to be mindful and take life in the moment, keeping thoughts of the past and future at bay. His workshop and the buffet dinner at our meeting were applauded by those who attended.

Many of you know that the WAEYC board and membership has voted to approve the merger with NYSAEYC in accordance with the national re-structure. It has been a year of careful thought and inquiry. Westchester will become a chapter of NY and part of a regional collaboration that includes the NYC, Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland, and Mid- Hudson chapters. The Westchester Leadership Council is composed of myself as Leadership Council Chair; Idie Benjamin, Advocacy Chair; Barbara O'Dell, Finance Chair; Elena Nitecki and Aki Ohseki, Members at Large. It is anticipated that we will offer shared events that are open to everyone in the region. As you will see in the following pages, the Westchester October conference at Mercy College has been finalized. Please take a look at the program and register early. We look forward to seeing you!

On July 10, I attended the Thomas H. Wright Lecture at Sarah Lawrence College: "When All Else Fails, We Must Protect Childhood", presented by Denisha Jones, Ph.D. , assistant professor at the Trinity Washington University College of Arts and Sciences, Washington DC. Her focus was on the need to change the narrative in Early Childhood advocacy by turning our failures into successes. Being a teacher is not enough, we must become activists and advocates. Where have we failed? Prof. Jones listed charter schools, opt out, common core, Teach for America, and the racial disparity in discipline for children in schools. She believes that protecting childhood is a non-partisan issue and "a matter of national security". This is because the country needs competent problem-solvers to face tough economic and social issues. Dr. Jones has an impressive resume that supports her position. She serves on the boards of several organizations and is a founding member of the Badass Teachers Association.

WAEYC has always been an advocate for young children, families, and Early Childhood programs. What can each of us do to spread the word that education is a right for all children? How can we promote professionalization over materialization?

I am sure you will find that the keynote and workshops on October 21 will inspire you with new ideas that will enhance your work.

If you have ideas and questions for the Leadership Council you are invited to contact me at [Marylou.sgro@sunywcc.edu](mailto:Marylou.sgro@sunywcc.edu).

Enjoy the summer!

## Board Membership Available for You

**The future is literally in our hands to mold as we like. But we cannot wait until tomorrow. Tomorrow is now. - Eleanor Roosevelt**

**Do you wonder about advancing your leadership ability? Have you considered joining the board of Westchester AEYC?**

**We need your expertise to assist our work as we transition to our new chapter relationship with NYSEAYC.**

**For more information please contact [marylou.sgro@sunywcc.edu](mailto:marylou.sgro@sunywcc.edu)**

### **Beth Anne Farkas Scholarship Awarded**

The Westchester AEYC is pleased to announce that Ida Barrington, who is pursuing her Master's degree in Special Education at Mercy College, is the 2017 recipient of the Beth Anne Farkas Educational Grant. Ida has consistently demonstrated excellent work, enthusiasm, and a strong work ethic toward achieving her goal. She was highly recommended by her graduate professor who teaches courses about autism.

This award honors the memory of Beth Anne Farkas, former Executive Director of the Alcott School in Scarsdale NY, who provided exemplary support and guidance to countless children and their families in the Westchester area. Congratulations Ida!

### **53rd. Annual Early Childhood Conference**

**October 21, 2017**

**Keynote: "Going Beyond Try, Try Again: Ways to Encourage Perseverance, a Key 21st Century Skill"**

**Speaker: Hedda Sharapan**

### **OCFS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:**

Family child care providers, school age program staff and center staff must have at least thirty (30) hours of training every 2 years. Fifteen (15) hours of such training must be completed during the first six months of a program's licensure or registration, or employment by any staff member. Training must cover all nine categories listed below. Use this list to help ensure that you meet your training requirements. Each course in the Workshop Description states the training category it fulfills by the corresponding numbers listed below.

1. Principles of childhood development, including the appropriate supervision of children, meeting the needs of children enrolled in the program with physical or emotional challenges, and behavior management and discipline.
2. Nutrition and health needs of children.
3. Child care program development.
4. Safety and security procedures, including communication between parents and staff.
5. Business record maintenance and management.
6. Child abuse and maltreatment identification and prevention.
7. Statutes and regulations pertaining to child care.
8. Statutes and regulations pertaining to child abuse and maltreatment.
9. Education and prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome. (Not required for School Age program staff).

## About Hedda Sharapan:

Hedda Sharapan, M.S. Child Development  
Senior Fellow, The Fred Rogers Center

Hedda Sharapan began working with Fred Rogers over 50 years ago at the very beginning of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* in October, 1966, while completing her M.S. in Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh. Hedda became a highly sought-after speaker at conferences around the country, connecting the insight she has gained over the years from working closely with Fred Rogers with treasured video segments and stories from early childhood professionals around the country. She continues to serve as Child Development Consultant at The Fred Rogers Company, for its popular PBS children's series *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* and other productions. Through The Fred Rogers Center at St. Vincent College where she received an honorary doctorate degree in 2013, she is a Senior Fellow and writes a monthly e-newsletter "What we can continue to learn from Fred Rogers" that reaches 15,000 subscribers.

In 2010, Hedda was named one of two "Heroes on the Horizon" at the annual NAEYC conference, and in 2011, she was given a Lifetime Achievement Award from NAFCC (The National Association for Family Child Care).

About the keynote: "Going Beyond Try, Try Again: Ways to Encourage Perseverance, a Key 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skill"

When we help children develop persistence, we're helping them with one of the most important tools for learning. But it's much more than just saying "Keep on trying." Through research findings, anecdotes from school and home, along with video clips from the "Neighborhoods" of Mister Rogers and Daniel Tiger, we'll explore messages and strategies that can help children keep on trying when they feel like giving up.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Registration	8:00-9:00
Light Breakfast/Vendors	8:00-9:00
Welcome	9:00-9:15
Keynote Speaker – Hedda Sharapan	9:15-10:30
Vendors	10:30-11:00
Break-Out Workshops	11:00-1:00

## 2017 WORKSHOPS

### **1. From STEM to STEAM: What We Can Learn from Fred Rogers' Approach for Today's Children**

For young children, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math) isn't "rocket science." Children come to us with a natural curiosity about the world around them. How can we become more comfortable responding to their questions and giving them opportunities to explore and discover? Through fun hands-on activities, short engaging videos (including the popular crayon factory visit on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood,) and real-life stories from children and teachers, we'll explore ways to become more at home with STEAM concepts in early childhood.

Presenter: Hedda Sharapan

OCFS: 3

### **2. Puppets are More than Just Play**

Drama, music, puppetry and movement with hand, stick and rod puppets are great for language development, flexibility, and self-esteem. Working with children who have special needs through the use of puppetry will open a new world of learning, while having fun. Bring a recording device.

Presenter: Nancy Tepper

OCFS: 3

### **3. Science Exploration for Mixed Age Groups**

We can teach chemistry, biology, anatomy and life science to children of all ages. This workshop will explore how we can teach children in mixed age groups hands-on, fun lessons. Get ready to explore through hands-on activities, including how to make child-safe slime, homemade play dough, homemade bug habitats, homemade butterfly nets, and much more.

Learn how to let go of your bias against bugs and insects and why that is so important. Most of all - get ready to have fun.

Presenter: Angela Bayer-Persico

OCFS: 3

### **4. Potty Training Deconstructed: What Kids Need to Know to Succeed**

Toilet training is occurring later in childhood, and parents often depend on teachers to initiate or complete instruction. By identifying crucial sensory, motor, and social/communication skills needed for success, typical and special needs children can make more progress with less stress. The speaker, author of *The Practical Guide to Toilet Training Your Child with Low Muscle Tone*, will teach participants how to build toileting independence and confidence in young children with fewer tears (for everyone) and fewer accidents.

Presenter: Cathy Collyer

OCFS: 1, 3

### **5. More Fun Circle Time Activities**

Participants will learn new songs and movement activities for circle time and expand the curriculum. Your classroom will benefit from the activities introduced in this workshop. Bring a recording device.

Presenter: Barbara Wright

OCFS: 3

### **6. Wonders of Managing Difficult Behaviors**

Young children often exhibit challenging behaviors. Seven principles are offered as suggestions to manage such behaviors. Specific scenarios are presented and discussed in individual groups, in order to gain maximum understanding of each principle. Time is allotted for personal scenarios to be presented.

Presenter: Vicki Messina

OCFS: 1, 3

### **7. Language Modeling-Building Communication, Vocabulary and Verbal Clarity**

The focus of Language Modeling is for teachers to model more complex language and to increase the amount of talking kids do. High-level language modeling skills are essential to promote learning, improve communication, and foster positive relationships in the classroom.

Utilizing a variety of methods, this workshop will help teachers learn how to achieve high-range language modeling.

Presenter: Monica Levy

OCFS: 1, 3

### **8. Reaching Students on the Autism Spectrum AND the Parents Who Come With Them**

More students on the autism spectrum are being included in general education classrooms than ever before, and early childhood educators are often the first professionals to broach difficult conversations with parents and caregivers. This powerful session takes a close and forthright look at why these conversations can be so mind-bogglingly challenging. We explore the acute academic challenges confronted by educators, in addition to the chronic practical and emotional challenges facing parents and caregivers. Participants take away meaningful strategies for bridging gaps in communication and clearing a path for effective collaboration between school and home. Together, parents and professionals become a vital force in bringing out the best in the children we share.

Presenter: Barbara Boroson

OCFS: 1, 3

### **9. SOS- Supporting Our Students: Supporting and Building Social Competence**

This session will provide an opportunity for the participants to check their knowledge of typical developmental milestones in the social/emotional domain by participating in a hands-on sequencing activity. Factors that impact the development of social skills will be discussed including executive functioning, temperament and developmental delays in this area. In addition, the session will include an overview of the research on how to best support the social-emotional development of young children by utilizing environmental and social supports to reduce inappropriate behaviors and promote the development of prosocial behaviors.

Videos, self-assessment checklists, hands-on activities and small group discussion will be used to keep the session lively!

Presenter: Barbara Kestenbaum

OCFS: 1, 3

### **10. Mindfulness in the classroom**

Mindfulness is the practice of seeing ourselves clearly, while being fully present in the moment.

In this sometimes fast-paced, stressful world, we all need that reminder sometimes. As teachers, it's especially important.

Participants will share stories, play games and discuss methods to becoming a more present, patient, and positive teacher.

Presenter: Emily Gosweiler

OCFS: 3

### **11. Observing Young Children: "Making Learning Visible"**

This interactive workshop will examine the framework of Reggio Emilia and how our observations of young children help us understand the diverse ways in which children learn about the world. Participants will practice their observation and documentation skills by examining the work of young children and will explore the important connections between such observations and our teaching practice.

Presenter: Aki Ohseki

OCFS: 1, 3

### **12. Setting the Stage: Promoting Language and Literacy Development through the Arts**

In this interactive workshop, participants will learn how to lift lesson plans from the page and bring them to life through the arts. Research supports that involvement in the arts by at-risk preschoolers is linked to increased cognitive development. This workshop will explore how to design developmentally appropriate strategies to integrate Arts into the curriculum to support language, literacy development, and social/emotional growth.

Presenter: Teresa Quackenbush

OCFS: 3

### **13. How Big is a Foot? - Linking Mathematics to Literature in the Primary Grades to Help Children Develop Their Understanding of Measurement and Geometric Shapes**

The children's literature and hands-on activities presented in this workshop will help participants disseminate ideas for concretization of mathematical principles promoting content-rich interactive learning in the mathematics classroom and opportunities to explore ways to make measurement, and geometric shapes meaningful.

Presenter: Bill Farber

OCFS: 3

### **14. Advocacy: You NEED to do this!**

Participants will be provided with factual step-by-step information about the process of advocating for children and families. Support information will be investigated. Advocacy organizations will be explored and time line discussed for beginning an advocacy project.

Presenter: Lynda Merchant

OCFS: 3

## Westchester AEYC October Conference Fees

All participants and presenters must first check in at the registration table on the first floor of Mercy Hall to pick up workshop assignments and room assignments.

*All registrations postmarked after Friday, October 13, 2017 must pay onsite registration fee listed below.*

Member # \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \$30

*(copy line of numbers above name from Young Children-See membership information on NYSAEYC website on how to join)*

Non-member ( ) \$40

Mercy College Student ( ) \$10  
(Student must submit copy of current student ID)

College Student from another college ( ) \$15  
(Student must submit copy of current student ID)

On Site Registration on /or after October 14 ( ) \$50

**Please print clearly**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Program Affiliation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop Choices. Alternate choices are requested.**

A separated registration form is needed for each registrant.

**Workshop choices: (1 – 14)**

1<sup>st</sup> choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> choice \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> choice \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Westchester AEYC. Conference fees are non-refundable.**

**Include a self-addressed stamped envelope.**

Send the REGISTRATION FORM and CHECK to:

**W.A.E.Y.C., PO Box 636, Hartsdale, New York 10530**

# The Westchester Association for the Education of Young Children

P O Box 636

Hartsdale, NY 10530

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Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage paid

Permit #1306

**Dated Material**

**Open Immediately**

## **Directions to Mercy College, 555 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522**

### ***From Lower Westchester County & New York City:***

**Saw Mill River Parkway (North):** To Dobbs Ferry / Ashford Avenue exit. Turn left onto Ashford Avenue. Turn right onto Broadway (Rt. 9), continue 1/2 mile to entrance on left.

**New York Thruway (North):** To Exit 7, Ardsley. Turn right at end of ramp and continue to traffic light. Turn left onto Ashford Avenue. Follow route as above.

### **From Northern Westchester & Putnam Counties:**

**Saw Mill River Parkway (South):** To Dobbs Ferry Exit. Exit onto Ashford Avenue. Follow route as above.

### **From Rockland & Orange Counties & New Jersey:**

**Tappan Zee Bridge:** Exit immediately after toll (exit 9). Turn left at end of ramp onto Broadway (Rt. 9). Continue 4 miles to entrance on right.

### **From Westchester County & Connecticut:**

**Cross Westchester Expressway (West), to New York Thruway (North):** To Exit 9, last exit before Tappan Zee Bridge. Turn left at end of ramp onto Rt. 119. Turn left at traffic light onto Broadway (Rt.9). Continue 4 miles to entrance on right.

**Train Schedule:** Mercy College is just a short walk from the Ardsley-on-Hudson Station of the Metro North Hudson Line.