



SHAPING POLICY
improving lives

2011

Annual Report

WCC WOMEN'S
CITY CLUB
OF
NEW YORK

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wccny.org

President's Report

“Funny, I don’t feel 95!” And yet, this illustrious organization began celebrating its 95th anniversary this year. The best part of our age is that we’re wise but not old and creaky! On the contrary, we’re as vigorous and essential as ever. I should also add: unique. We’re a non-profit of mostly (note: not exclusively) women. But we are not solely a women’s organization, as we are decidedly multi-issue and nonpartisan. We don’t emphasize the political, focusing instead on how to get results! Our mission statement talks about education and advocacy. But why? Because for 95 years we have prepared members to be outstanding advocates for the issues they care about on their blocks, in their neighborhoods, and citywide. That means knowing the issues and the players – and that entails education. It also involves working together with other equally dedicated and knowledgeable individuals in order to improve the lives of the people on those blocks, in those neighborhoods, and throughout the City.



Ruth E. Acker
President

We presented a special 95th Anniversary Civic Spirit Award on April 25th to Life Member and pioneering attorney Eleanor Jackson Piel and two additional awards to Fern Khan and David Caplan for their contributions to education. A record number of members and guests attended this very special dinner at the Cosmopolitan Club, and the Board of Directors joins me in sending our thanks to all who made this event a great success. We are also deeply appreciative of the individuals who became year-long sponsors of our 95th Anniversary activities.

I am happy to report that our influence continues to increase. We have recently instituted weekly advocacy and policy emails to our membership, informing them of action opportunities, linking them to online petitions, and alerting them to new issues. We are frequently asked to testify on election issues, pay equity, women’s reproductive rights, environmental issues, and other topics. City Council Speaker Christine Quinn consults with us regularly about several policy areas, including key women’s issues, sustainable food concerns, and physical education in the public school system. We have also called Comptroller John Liu’s attention to this problem. We work closely with him on a variety of issues and co-sponsor his Women’s History Month program. A meeting with Public Advocate Bill de Blasio’s staff focused on common areas of interest and how to achieve results. Similarly, we are working in tandem with the chairs of key City Council committees to craft legislative solutions to such issues as sex trafficking and government reform.

And now it’s time to turn the pages and read in greater detail about this year’s achievements. Heartfelt thanks to all – our volunteer members, supporters, and staff – who made it all possible.

WCC Mission Statement

The Women’s City Club of New York, established in 1915, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, multi-issue activist organization dedicated to improving the lives of all New Yorkers. The WCC shapes public policy to promote responsive government through education, issue analysis, advocacy and civic participation.

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Environment and Infrastructure

The Environment and Infrastructure Committee works to ensure a sustainable long-term future for New York City in light of a growing population, an aging infrastructure, and an environment increasingly at risk. It advocates for many initiatives, including public transportation, use of recyclable food containers, banning the use of Styrofoam in food service, the City Council's FoodWorks Plan, and prohibiting gas drilling by hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale and other areas that could impact the New York City watershed.

2010 - 2011 Highlights

May – July

Hosts "PlaNYC: Three Years and Counting – Where are we now, and what comes next?" Featuring Adam Freed of the Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability and Marcia Bystryn of the New York League of Conservation Voters.

August – October

As a result of WCC advocacy, the City Council passes 11 bills overhauling the City's 21-year-old program and establishing full recycling of plastics in 2012. Five days later, the Mayor passes into law this package of bills.



Deputy Director Adam Freed discusses the Mayor's PlaNYC

Testifies at City Council to oppose drilling in the New York watershed until an environmentally safe way is developed.

Presents public program, "The Pros and Cons of Hydrofracking," featuring an expert panel.

Testifies to City Council that food container materials should be recyclable/biodegradable.

November – January

Urges Assembly to bring bill suspending hydrofracking to a vote, and to support the Senate's August moratorium on hydrofracking. As a result of advocacy, the legislature passes a bill halting the issuing of hydrofracking permits until May 15, 2011.

The Governor vetoes the legislature's hydrofracking bill, issuing an Executive Order prohibiting horizontal hydrofracking in the Marcellus Shale through July 1, 2011.

February – April

Discusses public transportation



Environment and Infrastructure Committee Chair Arden Down

issues in New York City with Gene Russianoff of the Straphangers Campaign.

Meets with office of New York City Public Advocate to discuss ending City use of Styrofoam.

Supports New York City's use of healthful and sustainable food and food-related products.

In response to vocal opposition, State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens announces regulations that apply a stricter level of scrutiny to drilling permit applications.

Committee Members: Chair Arden Down, Juliet Alexander, Doris Cramer, Joan Freilich, Virginia Kassel, Bea Klier, Jean Moscow, Clara Peterson, Joan Rothschild, Mary Ellen Rudolph, Marge Schab, Marjorie Shea, Velia Torres, Adrienne White, and Blaikie Worth.



Health Issues Committee
Chair Annette Choolfaian

The Health Issues Committee promotes public policies to improve access to quality health care with special emphasis on overcoming barriers for New York's low-income and immigrant populations, eliminating financial barriers to health care, retaining and expanding coverage for all New Yorkers, and promoting universal health coverage. The committee informs members, representatives of other organizations, the general public, and elected officials about public health issues and legislation, empowering their decision-making.

2010 - 2011 Highlights

May – July

Hosts open forum, "Let's Talk About Healthcare Reform," accompanied by e-newsletters which educate about and monitor healthcare reform.

August – October

Writes to express support for Assembly bill A9717-A, which would enable School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) to receive reimbursement for mental health services provided to children enrolled in the Child Health Plus program; the Legislature passes the bill.

Participates in national SBHC coalition letter campaign to retain funding for construction and operations of SBHCs in Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Campaigns to promote sex education in New York City and empower local parents with tools to effectively advocate for medically accurate, age-

appropriate sex education in public schools.

Presents "Let's Talk About Medicare and Health Insurance Reform: What it Means For You!"

November – January

Requests U.S. attorney withdraw lawsuit challenging City's home care reimbursement for disabled citizens as it could violate the ADA.

Signs coalition letter to State legislators and Governor requesting they maintain funding for SBHCs. Funding is retained.



Dr. Stephanie Cosentino discusses her research on impaired self-awareness in individuals with Alzheimer's disease

February – April

Participates in New York City rally to protect women's reproductive health.

Submits testimony to State Medicaid Redesign Team supporting home care investment, maximizing use of technology and services, streamlining coverage review, and creating a one-stop information resource.

Holds symposium featuring an expert panel of scientists discussing recent research and developments in aging.

Committee Members: Chair Annette Choolfaian, Vice-Chair Phyllis Lusskin, Susan Alt, Carolyn Benbow-Ross, Virginia Brown, Marilyn DeLuca, Eileen Grigg, Amber Jamil, Rowena Kemp, Mary Jane Koren, Sharon Kroeger, Katherine Livingston, Katherine Lobach, Laurie Norris, Ethel Paley, Amy Paul, Marge Schab, Amy Schwartz, Amy Selwyn, Sandra Shohen, Katherine Williston, and Martha Wolfgang.

Poverty Issues

The Poverty Issues Committee was first established as a Task Force in 2001 to address problems facing low-income New Yorkers, the population most affected by fluctuations in the economy and potential budget cuts in services proposed by the City and State. It monitors and advocates for policies and programs that help lift people out of poverty and against those that would decrease services to this population.

2010 - 2011 Highlights

May – July

Urges Congress to vote for H.R. 4213, a bill that extends unemployment insurance and health benefits for the unemployed, and continues emergency Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding.

Expresses concern to Mayor Bloomberg over the Department of Homeless Services' plan to charge rent to homeless people in the shelter system, resulting in the policy not being implemented.



DHS Commissioner Seth Diamond and Poverty Issues Committee Vice-Chair Joan McAllister

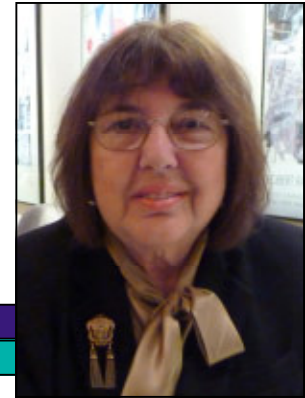
November – January

Hosts Commissioner Seth Diamond of the City Department of Homeless Services for a discussion of challenges facing his agency and plans to alleviate the problems of the homeless. Follow-up meetings continue to take place to discuss the Advantage Housing Subsidy for the Homeless recently cut by the City and State.

Asks Governor Cuomo to restore cuts in child care funding; avoid cuts in funding child welfare preventive service programs; maintain social services staffing; support Pre-K, schools, and colleges; and fund services supported 50% or more by the Federal Government.

February – April

Don Friedman of the Empire Justice Center discusses the impact of the Governor's proposed budget cuts on the poor. From this meeting, and recognizing that asking to save services without suggesting



Poverty Issues Committee Chair Elizabeth Lubetkin Lipton

revenue-producing measures is insufficient, the WCC writes a letter urging Governor Cuomo to close underutilized prisons upstate and continue the tax surcharge on higher incomes.

Contacts state legislators to express opposition to legislation that would establish the policy of Full Family Sanctions for people on public assistance. As a result, this legislation is not passed.

Committee Members: Chair Elizabeth Lubetkin Lipton, Vice-Chair Joan McAllister, Barbara Chocky, Pam Elam, Paulette Geanacopoulos, Susan Heitner, Marjorie Ives, Ann Loeb, Mary Murphree, Ann Sand, Lisa Starzyk, and Roschel Holland Stearns.

Women's Issues



**Women's Issues
Committee Chair
Marjorie Ives**

The Women's Issues Committee analyzes the role and status of women and girls in New York City, advocating for women on such issues as equal opportunity in employment, education, and athletics; health and reproductive rights; domestic violence, sex trafficking and sexual harassment; working conditions; and pay equity. The committee currently works to pass equal pay legislation and the New York Reproductive Health Act, enforce the New York Human Trafficking Acts, urge Senate ratification of the CEDAW, and supports new Drop The Rock measures to reduce prison population and capacity.

2010 - 2011 Highlights

May – July

Urges City Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor Chair to pass Paid Sick Time Act.

Asks State Assembly to support Strangulation Prevention Act. Act passed and signed by Governor Paterson in November.

Calls on Mayor Bloomberg to honor his pledge to make diversity a trademark of his office.

August – October

Co-sponsors "The Tragedy of Human Trafficking in NYC: What you can do about it."

November – January

Submits testimony in support of City Council bill mandating crisis pregnancy centers fully disclose the types of services provided. City Council passes bill in March.

Writes letter to Governor-Elect Cuomo outlining committee

priorities: closing prisons, equal pay, and reproductive rights.

Contacts U.S. Senators to approve passage of the Federal Paycheck Fairness Bill.

February – April

Rallies with 6,000 others to support women's rights and health.



WCC staff, members, and friends rally to protect reproductive health

Signs onto friend-of-the-court brief in WAL-MART STORES, INC. v. BETTY DUKES, et al., a pay discrimination class action lawsuit.

Meets with the Coalition Against Sex Trafficking to discuss action on New York Human Trafficking Acts.

Supports Drop the Rock Coalition's new campaign to reduce incarceration's harm on individuals, families, and communities.

Testifies at City Council hearing in support of City employers paying their employees equally.

Organizes female veterans' oral history project with Barnard and Columbia college students.

Organizes WCC participation in D.C. rally to fund Planned Parenthood and the national family planning program under Title X.

Committee Members: Chair Marjorie Ives, Vice-Chair Jan Vinokour, Helen Aronstein, Priscilla Balch, Carolyn Benbow-Ross, Danielle Cervelli, Pam Elam, Marilyn Ezzes, Ellen Gorman, Marisa Hagan, Susan Heitner, Janis Horn, Beatrice Klier, Carol Leimas, Day Piercy, Theresa Reilly, Barbara Rochman, Nancy Rucker, Kathy Wouk, and Bernice Zimney.

Other Public Policy

The Public Policy Committee coordinates the policy and advocacy activities of the WCC, its civic committees and task forces, and facilitates the presentation of public policy motions to the Board of Directors. It develops policy initiatives in areas not covered by committees. Current projects include advocating for legislation to mandate an independent redistricting commission, strategies to increase voter turnout, and implementation of recent charter changes.



Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs Joan Freilich (above) and Barbara Zucker (below)



2010 - 2011 Highlights

May – July

Signs letter calling on Charter Commission members to demonstrate independence, put an up-or-down vote on term limits on the ballot, and thoroughly consider new ideas.

August – October

Testifies before City Council Committee on Governmental Operations to urge greater accountability and to suggest a better program to recruit and train temporary poll workers.

November – January

Asks Governor-Elect Cuomo to

include more women in his transition team.

Testifies before State Legislative Advisory Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment to urge that the 2011 redistricting be performed by an independent, nonpartisan commission; include maximum transparency; involve the public through meetings; and utilize advances in mapping capabilities.

February – April

Co-sponsors forum on 2011 redistricting featuring the WCC, Assemblymember Hakeem Jeffries, the Brennan Center for Justice, League of Women Voters of New York City, State Senator Adriano Espaillat, and Filmmaker Jeff Reichert.

Testifies before the City Campaign Finance Board, urging the Board to require disclosure for communications that are the equivalent of an appeal to vote for or against a candidate or ballot measure, demand information as recommended by the National Institute on

Money in State Politics, and exclude the press and media from reporting requirements; also urges that the disclaimer on the communication contain as much information and be as informative as is feasible.

Committee Members:

Co-Chairs Barbara Zucker and Joan Freilich; Advisors Susan Alt, Phyllis Lusskin, and Mary Murphree; Pam Elam, Marjorie Ives, Carol Leimas, Elizabeth Lubetkin Lipton, Barbara Rochman, Ann Sand, and Marjorie Kelleher Shea.



State Senator Adriano Espaillat discusses redistricting

Charter Revision

Since Mayor Bloomberg appointed a Charter Revision Commission to examine the structure and operation of City government on March 3, 2010, the task force formulated policy, informed the public, and submitted testimony until the Commission concluded in November.

2010 - 2011 Highlights May – July

Testifies in opposition to term limits and nonpartisan elections and stresses the WCC's support for adding a "No Term Limits" option on the November ballot.

Testifies in support of eliminating sex discrimination in wages for employees of the City and

of private contractors doing business with the City.

August – October

Due to advocacy efforts, the Mayor backs down from demanding that the Commission approve a new system for non-partisan elections. The Commission issues a final report with two ballot questions. WCC recommends a vote of "No" on imposing Term Limits and "Yes" on election and administrative reforms.

Hosts forum, "Charter Revision: Future Changes Needed to improve New York City," featuring Commissioner Hope Cohen and Dr. Doug Muzzio.



Charter Revision Task Force
Chair Pam Elam

WCC responds to election results by calling for the formation of a new Charter Revision Commission to examine many of the issues the Mayor's Commission failed to address.

Elections

WCC's Elections Specialist, Marjorie Kelleher Shea, monitors Board of Elections meetings, and advocates for better election procedures and increased voter turnout.

2010 – 2011 Highlights May – July

With Board of Elections staff, reviews and revises educational pre-election materials mailed to four million NYC voters.

Urges Governor to approve legislation (A.10946/S.7860) requiring polls be accessible to disabled voters per HAVA law.

November – January

Suggests ways to integrate the Voter Assistance Commission (VAC) into the Campaign Finance Board as required by a WCC supported and voter approved City Charter amendment.

Testifies at City Council oversight hearing to request from the Board of Elections significant data in its Annual Report for 2010, leading to an increase in published data.

Testifies to the VAC that printing sample ballots, web-based voter surveys, and improved



Elections Specialist
Marjorie Kelleher Shea

poll worker recruitment programs could improve voter turnout. The Board of Elections has since adopted several WCC recommendations.

Physical Fitness

The WCC formed the Task Force on Physical Fitness in New York City Public Schools to urge the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to meet state mandates for physical education classes to promote student health, well-being, and improved academic performance. It seeks to educate the public and advocate for change with government officials.

2010 - 2011 Highlights

May – July

Develops and drafts report about insufficient physical education in City schools with recommendations for change. Holds meetings on the subject with Chair of City Council Edu-

cation Committee and with City Comptroller.

August – October

Releases report: “Physical Education in New York City’s Public Schools: A Missing Ingredient for Academic Success.”

November – January

Sends report to the New York City Chancellor of Education, other high DOE and government officials, academic institutions and advocacy groups.

Addendum outlines White House Task Force on Obesity physical education recommendations which align with the WCC’s stance.



Task Force on Physical Fitness Chair Amy Schwartz

February – April

Deputy Chancellor of Education responds to report. Communication with the DOE and other government officials continues.

Tours

Tours introduce participants to new and/or little known places of historical and cultural interest in New York City by exploring neighborhoods, parks, small museums and architectural gems with well-informed professional guides.

2010 - 2011 Tours

The African Presence in Early New York and the African Burial Ground National Memorial

Summer Cruise with the Working Harbor Committee: New York Harbor

Brooklyn Heights & The Brooklyn Bridge Park: New York in the 19th and 21st Centuries

Good Housekeeping Research Institute

The Islamic Cultural Center of New York

The New, Improved, Expanded Museum of the Moving Image



Co-Chairs of Tours

Carol Leimas (left) and Helen Aronstein (right)

Public Programs



Program Chair
Mary Ellen Rudolph

This year's Public Programs included a roster of superb speakers which fulfilled the education portion of the WCC's mission, providing in-depth presentations which enhance our advocacy. Committees organized programs tied to the ongoing work of the WCC, while other programs broadened participants' understanding of current issues. None of these programs could have been mounted without the extraordinary work of the WCC staff.

2010 - 2011 Programs

May – July

WCC Annual Meeting: honoring Elizabeth Lubetkin Lipton and featuring Keynote Speaker Nicholas Kristof

“Revising the City Charter”
Dick Dadey

Lunch with Legislators: Councilmember Daniel Garodnick

“PlaNYC - Three Years and Counting. Where Are We Now, and What Comes Next?” Adam Freed and Marcia Bystryn

August – October

“The Pros & Cons of Drilling for Gas by Hydraulic Fracturing” Dr. Jannette Barth and Paul Hartman

“Let's Talk About Medicare and Health Insurance Reform: What it Means For You!” Joe Baker

“Charter Revision: Future Changes Needed to Improve NYC” Dr. Douglas Muzzio and Commissioner Hope Cohen

“The Tragedy of Human Trafficking in New York City - What You Can Do About It”
Dorchen A. Leidholdt

November – January

“Winning the Race to the Top: What Will It Mean to New York's Public Schools?”
Chancellor Merryll Tisch

Lunch with Legislators: Councilmember Julissa Ferreras

“Department of Homeless Services” Commissioner Seth Diamond

“Composing a Further Life: The Age of Active Wisdom” Mary Catherine Bateson



Pulitzer Prize-Winner Nicholas Kristoff signs copies of his book *Half the Sky* at WCC Annual Meeting

February – April

“Contemporary Settlement Houses: Innovative Models”
Nancy Wackstein and Stephan Russo

“Public Transportation Issues in NYC” Gene Russianoff

“Will Redistricting Impact My Vote?” with LWVNYC; the Brennan Center: Myrna Perez, Erika Wood; Jeff Reichert; Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries; and State Senator Adriano Espaillat

“Women's History Month Film Series Part I: *Sisters of '77*”

“Women's History Month Film Series Part II: *Passionate Politics: The Life and Work of Charlotte Bunch*” Director Tami Gold

“New Frontiers in Aging: The Scientists Speak” Drs. Nir Barzilai, Mark Lachs, and Stephanie Cosentino

Young Professionals Policy and Networking Night

Civic Spirit Awards Dinner: Award recipients - Eleanor Jackson Piel, Fern Khan, and David R. Caplan

95th Anniversary Year

On January 11, 2011, the Women's City Club opened a year-long celebration of its 95th anniversary with a program and reception at Hunter College. Marking 95 years of advocacy for social and civic causes, this year-long commemoration will include programs, lunches, and a conference.



WCC President Ruth Acker with Speaker Quinn, Professor Perry, and President Wylde

2010 - 2011 Highlights



Mayor's Proclamation Commemorating the WCC's 95th Anniversary

inclusion. At the same time, the WCC continues to evolve and take action on new issues – such as the recent charter revision – by adapting its efforts to the changing needs of New Yorkers.

As the WCC celebrates its 95th anniversary throughout the year, we will have an opportunity to not only reflect on our past accomplishments, but also to look forward, forge new directions, and launch new initiatives.

On April 5, 2011, the WCC held the first of several programs in

celebration of its 95th Anniversary Year, "New Frontiers in Aging: The Scientists Speak."

Featuring Dr. **Nir Barzilai** of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dr. **Stephanie Cosentino** of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Dr. **Mark S. Lachs** of the Weill Medical College, this program explored the most recent research and developments in the field of aging.

The opening program and reception featured addresses by City Council Speaker **Christine Quinn**, **Kathy Wylde**, President & CEO of the Partnership for New York City, and WCC member **Elisabeth Israels Perry**, Professor Emeritus of Women's History at St. Louis University.

Since its establishment in 1915, the WCC has remained dedicated to the mission of its early members, such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Frances Perkins, to improve the lives of New Yorkers by advocating for policies of fairness, equity, and



From left to right: Dr. Nir Barzilai, Dr. Stephanie Cosentino, Dr. Mark S. Lachs, and WCC Health Committee Chair Annette Choolfaian

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss and remember with fondness and great respect the following WCC members:

Bernice Block
Patricia Bowers
Beatrice Brennan
Florence S. Daniels
Adele B. Filene
Edythe W. First

Dr. Grace L. Griffenberg
Gail Koff, Esq.
Esther Joy Krotinger
Phyllis Rovine
Jean Schoonover

Financial Highlights

The fiscal year ended April 30, 2011 was a positive year for the Women's City Club of New York. Due to successful special events and generous bequests of former members, WCC experienced an operating surplus for the year. In addition, WCC's invested funds continued to benefit from an improved stock market environment with increased earnings and asset appreciation.

THE WOMEN'S CITY CLUB OF NEW YORK, INC.

For the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2011

Unaudited Summary of Revenue, Expense (Cash Basis) and Invested Asset Values

REVENUE

Special Events	\$75,318
Programs	25,787
Members	82,507
Bequests	102,036
Investment Revenue	<u>38,400</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$324,048</u>

EXPENSE

Programs	\$205,623
Administration	46,945
Membership and Development	27,315
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$279,883</u>

NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR **\$44,165**

INVESTED ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR **\$850,842**

Current Year Revenue Less Expense	\$44,165
Fund Transfers to General Operating	(53,462)
Appreciation of Portfolio Assets	<u>64,613</u>

INVESTED ASSETS END OF YEAR **\$906,158**

Donors

The Women's City Club of New York is grateful for the generous support of its many contributors. Their gifts sustain our advocacy, programs, and educational efforts in New York City, helping us to sustain our leadership role in New York City's nonprofit civic community. With over twenty-five educational programs and tours, countless policy letters, numerous meetings with public officials, and frequent testimonies at public hearings over the past year, their generous support has enabled us to carry out our mission to improve the lives of New Yorkers.

Institutional Donors

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