



Back Row (Left to Right): Pat Jones, Patricia Mulqueen, Maria L. Imperial Seated: Manhattanville student & students from Harry Truman High School with guest speaker Tonya Lewis Lee



Girls Empowered through Meaningful Support (GEMS) with Tonya Lewis Lee

Our Girls Empowered through Meaningful Support (GEMS) program provides at-risk girls with enrichment activities, academic assistance and mentoring to direct them on a path towards individual growth, self-confidence, and the pursuit of personal achievement. GEMS continues to empower young African American and Latina girls to "become the best they can be." This year, all of our GEMS high school graduates will attend college in September continuing their journey of achievement.

Special thanks to all sponsors, supporters, and attendees! You made the 2011 "In the Company of Women" a tremendous success!

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Event Co-Chairs

Karen V. Hill, President, Harriet H. Tubman Home and Patricia Mulqueen, Westchester Public Affairs Manager, Con Edison.

How to get involved...

Interested in participating in the 2012 "In the Company of Women" luncheon event? Jump on board early with other dynamic leaders to network, promote and ensure the success of "In the Company of Women." Contact L. Danielle Cylich, Director of Development at (914) 949-6227 x147 or email: events@ywcawpcw.org if you would like us to keep you updated on next year's event, dates, honorees, and speakers.

Other ways you can get involved is by being:

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Honoring Community and Business Leaders at YWCA's Benefit Luncheon

Noted community leaders show support for the YWCA

On May 6, 2011, the ballroom at the Rye Town Hilton was filled with noted community leaders including **District Attorney Janet DiFiore, Congresswoman Nita Lowey, State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Legislator Ken Jenkins, Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett, Legislator Alfreida Williams, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblyman Robert Castelli, Legislator Jose Alvarado** and almost 550 other guests.

They joined the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester in recognizing the 2011 "In the Company of Women Honorees" and supporting the mission of the YWCA – to eliminate racism and empower women.

Deputy County Executive Kevin J. Plunkett presented the Leader of Distinction award to **William M. Mooney Jr.**, President of The Westchester County Association. In his remarks, Mr. Plunkett noted that throughout his entire career, Bill Mooney has worked to make Westchester County a better place for women, girls and families.



Left to Right: Pat Jones, Anna Bruno, Dawn Kirby Arnold, Maria L. Imperial, Karen V. Hill, Tonya Lewis Lee, Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Patricia Mulqueen.

What's Inside

"In The Company of Women" Photo Gallery

Save the Date

How to Get Involved

With twinkles in their eyes, **Mollie Klaff Passero** and **Debbie Klaff Katz**, owners of Klaff's Luxury Home and Design Store, stepped up to the podium to receive the Women in Business Award. After 50 years in the business, the sisters still go into the office each week serving as role models to many an entrepreneur.

The final honoree of the afternoon, the Community Champion **Karen V. Hill**, has a long history as an advocate, supporter and leader in housing and community development. Ms. Hill is the President and CEO of the Harriet Tubman Home, leading the efforts to designate this property, including the Residence where Harriet Tubman lived for more than half of her 93 years - a national historic landmark.

"In the Company of Women" was launched three years ago to help the YWCA bring its story to the greater Westchester community and to showcase the work the agency does each day to eliminate racism and empower women. *(From supportive housing for low-income women and after school programs for at-risk youth, to early education and health and wellness activities, the YWCA services over 4,000 individuals each week at its facility on North Street and its Residence for Women on North Broadway.)*

The final part of the event program was the keynote speaker **Tonya Lewis Lee**. Her powerful message of diversity and advocacy made for a memorable afternoon. Audience members were inspired by her personal journey as a dedicated working professional, advocate, and mom.



Photo Above: Mollie Klaff Passero and Debbie Klaff Katz with YWCA Co-Presidents Patricia Mulqueen (back left) and Pat Jones (back right).



In Photo Above (Left to Right): Tonya Lewis Lee, Patricia Mulqueen, Sandra Miller, Karen V. Kill.



Photo at right (Left to Right): William Mooney, Jr., Patricia Mulqueen, Maria L. Imperial, Tonya Lewis Lee, William M. Mooney III.



Above (Left to Right): Patricia Mulqueen, William Mooney, Tonya Lewis Lee, Suzanne Clary, Hon. Nita Lowey, Sana Butler.

Below (Left to Right): Tonya Lewis Lee, Mark Rollins, and Judy Rollins.



"In the Company of Women" Keynote Presenters

Since the launch of In the Company of Women in 2009, the YWCA has featured a powerful array of keynote presentors. Producer, Writer and Diplomat, Ambassador Shabazz was the inaugural speaker, bringing her personal connection with the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester. Sharing her message of cultural diversity was an inspiration to all who attended.

In 2010, award-winning playwright Lynn Nottage took to the stage at the Rye Town Hilton with a motivating and captivating presentation that examined the personal impact of diversity and championed the importance of culture and the arts not only bring richness into our lives, but as a place to bridge racial harmonies.

Tonya Lewis Lee, author, producer, activist has served as the national spokesperson for "A Healthy Baby Begins with You" campaign and is dedicated to raising awareness of infant and maternal health. Outspoken on the issues of women and race, she has written for magazines such as *Avenue*, *Gotham*, and *O*; she contributed two campaign trail interviews with Michelle Obama to *Glamour Magazine*; and has appeared on Good Morning America and CNN.

Save the Date: May 11, 2012



To learn more about the YWCA's programs and initiatives, please visit us at www.ywcawpcw.org.