



The Larch Tree

Vol. 91, No. 2

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2026 / JANUARY 2027

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT, INC.

Calendar of Events

Note:

LAC—Larchmont Avenue Church

MTC—Mamaroneck Town Center

Ground Floor, Conference Room C

NOVEMBER 2026

Thursday, November 12

12:00 pm Federation Scholarship
Fundraiser Luncheon
Somers, NY

Friday, November 13

9:15 am Exec Board Meeting (MTC)

Saturday, November 14

11:00-1:00 Community Food Drive (LAC)

Thursday, November 19

10:15 am Book Discussion Group

Friday, November 20

12:00 noon **CLUB DAY/tea table** (LAC)

12:45 pm Business Meeting

1:15 pm Program

DECEMBER 2026

Friday, December 11

11:30 am **BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON**
Orienta Beach Club
Mamaroneck

JANUARY 2027

Monday, January 4

10:30 am Federation Board of
Directors Meeting (Zoom)

Friday, January 8

9:15 am Exec Board Meeting (MTC)

Thursday, January 21

10:15 am Book Discussion Group

Friday, January 22

1:00 pm Public/Community Affairs
Program—"What's Going On?"
(LAC/Russell Hall)

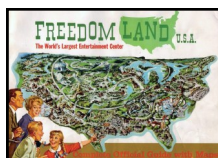
CLUB DAY

Friday, November 20, 2026 — 12 noon
12:45 pm Business 1:15 pm Program

Freedomland U.S.A.

The Definitive History

Guest Speaker: Michael Virgintino



This presentation is a detailed history of Freedomland, a 1960s theme park in the Bronx that aimed to present American history through rides and shows. Learn about the people behind its creation and the executives, entertainers, and sponsors who kept it running.

The park was open only from 1960 to 1964. Heavily in debt, it declared bankruptcy and closed. The area eventually became Coop City and Bay Plaza Shopping Center. What happened?



Michael Virgintino manages social media memory pages on Freedomland, and has written two books about the park. He has spoken at libraries, historical societies, civic groups, and various other organizations since 2018. A table with park memorabilia will be on display.

Tea Table The Tea Table will precede the program. If you are able to help with the committee, please let me know. This is a great way for new members to meet others.

Nancy Keelan (914) 473-2843



Special Events / Dates to Remember

Sat. November 14 Community Food Drive
Fri. December 11 Book & Author Luncheon
Fri. January 22 Community Affairs Pgm
Thu. April 29 Philanthropic Luncheon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Club Members,

October 2026

The leaves are still falling from the trees as we reflect on a busy autumn for the Woman's Club. As we welcomed our new members at the September Club Day meeting, a special Thank You to Theresa Fanelli and her committee for arranging such a lovely afternoon! We truly look forward to our new members future involvement in all Club events. Also at our September meeting, we had the pleasure of hearing from a New York State trooper, who spoke about important changes to be aware of as drivers/passengers/pedestrians, as a consequence of the legalization of cannabis and its effect on road safety. The questions and answers offered great insight into this topic. Thank you to Ronnie McGovern and Joyce Callahan for arranging this talk!

This month we have already had one lovely event, where we all got to try and capture the season in watercolor at the Sheldrake Environmental Center. This workshop was expertly led by our own Dorothy Rainer as she made us all feel like budding artists. Thank you again to Dorothy!

At our upcoming American Home Luncheon in October, we will be welcoming Presidents of other local Woman's Clubs from around Westchester County. Thanks go to Mary Ann Martucci and her committee for such a great opportunity for us to meet and learn from our peers! We will also be hearing from Elish McGrath and Tania Weiss, representatives from the Cancer Support Team, speak on the latest information for breast cancer awareness. Thusly, our October monthly raffle proceeds will be going to Chemo Comfort, a philanthropic group, founded by a former Larchmont resident, which provides patients with products made to ease the effects of chemotherapy.

Members are also looking forward to a fun-filled cruise day in Manhattan this month, learning about the magnificent buildings & their history, as seen from the water with our architect docent. Thanks to Nancy Keelan for arranging this excursion!

In November we will be enjoying a talk about the iconic historic Freedomland Park, organized by Joyce Callahan and Ronnie McGovern.

Looking ahead to December, we will have our annual, highly anticipated, Book & Author Luncheon, on December 11th, to take place at Orienta Beach Club. It's always a great event and a chance to pick up some books as holiday gifts. More details to come next month!

Even as we are nearing the busy holiday season, our Club work continues. The turkeys and roasts will soon be in the ovens, the pies and holiday cookies will fill our homes with delicious aromas, and the lights will begin to twinkle even as the days grow shorter. The Woman's Club upcoming events hope to add even more joy as we enter this season.

Enjoy this 2026 season! And we will see you all at the events!

Nancy McGarr, President



Holiday Book & Author Luncheon

Friday, December 11, 2026

Reception & Cocktails 11:30 AM — Luncheon 12:15 PM — Orienta Beach Club

WCL Literature Committee happily presents the following authors:

DAVID E. FELDMAN — *Siblings, Love, and Murder*



David Feldman is known as the author of seven books of his own and the ghost-writer of several others. He is well known for the Dora Ellison Mystery Series. His film, *Everyone Deserves a Decent Life*, won the Alfred Fortunoff Humanitarian Film Award at the Long Island Film Expo, 2014. His film, *Let Me Out!*, won Best Psychological Thriller at the 2009 New York International Film Festival. His play, *Love Lives On*, was a winner of the inaugural Artists In Partnership Inaugural Playwriting Contest.

David's mysteries are shaped by the same headlines we all wake up to: political tension, institutional failure, abuse of power, the quiet compromises people make when the rules stop working. While these stories are grounded in contemporary American life, they aren't written to preach or persuade. David makes a deliberate effort to represent multiple viewpoints—because real life is rarely simple, and justice is never partisan. Instead of slogans or talking points, these books focus on consequences: how decisions ripple outward, how systems break down, and how ordinary people are forced to decide what they'll tolerate—and what they won't. If you're drawn to crime fiction that feels uncomfortably real, that respects your intelligence, and that trusts readers to think for themselves, you're in the right place.

DIANA HECHLER — *Strolling With Your Elephant: Perfect Moments in Travel*



"As President of D. Tours Travel, I truly love what I do. My work makes people happy. What a great profession! I've always been interested in seeing the world myself and I would talk about travel naturally, even if I didn't make my living from it. I am just plain interested in what this world has to offer". Diana Hechler traces her passion for travel to a childhood in Italy and a father with an "itchy foot." In 1999 she opened D. Tours Travel and started happily producing adventures around the world for her clients. In addition to earning various destination credentials, she has been named to the Top 25 Travel Agents list by Travel Agent Magazine.

For everyone who dreams about extraordinary travel experiences but wonders how to find and enjoy them, the answers can now be found in "Strolling with Your Elephant: Perfect Moments in Travel." This collection of almost 80 experiences for all ages and interests draws on Diana Hechler's 23 years of experience as a travel advisor. These unique experiences range from fun to unusual to thrilling adventures that many people do not know are available for everyone.

JUDITH P. SUMMERFIELD — *Compositions, A Life*



Judith P. Summerfield, Professor of English, Emerita, Queens College, The City University of New York. B.A., English and History, M.A., English, University of Pittsburgh. Ph.D., English Education, New York University. Her writing, teaching, teacher research, and university-wide program development have been honored by major local, state, and national organizations, including being named New York State Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation. The author or editor of ten books, and dozens of scholarly chapters and articles, she also writes fiction and poetry, and even keeps a daily journal.

Larchmont resident Dr. Summerfield shares her fascinating story of her life and work in *Compositions, A Life*, and how it impacted the lives of many students and teachers. She tells stories of her life and work, how she grew up in a coal-mining town in southwestern Pennsylvania and found her way to New York City to become a professor of English at Queens College and a writer and editor. Dr. Summerfield will also discuss *Stories to Live On and On: Engaging the Narrative Imagination*: her latest accomplishment to be published in December 2026.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Dear Members: A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!



Our New Member Reception on September 18th was a wonderful start to our year! We enjoyed a lovely light lunch and, most importantly, had a wonderful afternoon together getting to know one another.

A special thank you to all of our new members who were able to attend, the new members that could not attend, and the new members who joined on the day of the New Member Reception.

For those who were unable to join us, we missed you and hope to see you at our next event! We look forward to getting to know each of you and welcoming you into the Woman's Club of Larchmont.

Don't forget to get involved and stay involved. It's a great way to make new friends while helping the communities all around us.

If you have a friend who wants information, please contact me at 914-403-2388.

Warm regards *Theresa Fanelli, Membership Chair*



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Seconded by: Michele Laurino



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Seconded by: Theresa Fanelli



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Seconded by: Theresa Fanelli



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Seconded by: Irene O'Neill



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Seconded by: Michele Laurino



ROBBIE MORELL

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Proposed by: Joyce Callahan
Seconded by: Bonnie Vail



IN MEMORIAM

**Pauline Ungar October 2025
Member since 2000**

CORRECTION

Diane Sjostedt Phone #: [914-552-2566](tel:914-552-2566)

PHILANTHROPY NEWS

CLUB DAY FOOD COLLECTION — Sept 18, 2026



The bountiful raffle basket, provided for the September members' meeting by Ronnie McGovern and Irene O'Neill, garnered \$265 plus \$20 which will provide 19 fifteen-dollar Speedway gift cards for laborers who "shape up" at the gas station. Gonzalo Cruz, Coordinator of Workers Center at CRC and works with Speedway, will distribute them. The Workers Center, located at 134 Center St. in Mamaroneck, provides job placement and training but also is dedicated to defending the rights of low-wage workers that are "vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination, and unsafe conditions." Next month, October, is Breast Cancer Awareness month. The raffle basket will be provided by Dorothy Rainier and Noel DelBorgo with proceeds going to Chemo Comfort which supplies kits composed of teas and other items to help those suffering with cancer and its treatment.

Gerry Gerace, Georgia Jesse, and Carolyn Gallaher were on hand before September's meeting to collect food and items for Hope Food Pantry in New Rochelle. Over \$175 worth of food items and diapers were delivered to Hope along with \$95 in checks and cash. With money Hope is able to take advantage of savings by purchasing needed food items in bulk.

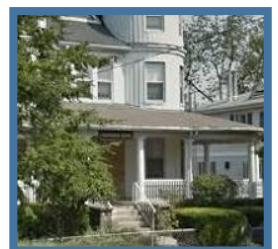
Carolyn Gallaher, Philanthropy Director

A HEAD'S UP: IDEAS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS



Three members of the Philanthropy Committee visited Providence House in New Rochelle to see if The Woman's Club of Larchmont might be of help in their work with homeless women. Leah Martin Adams, the new and vivacious Program Manager, gave us a tour of this 10 bedroom hundred-year-old Victorian house complete with large kitchen, spacious (newly repaired) porch and front rooms that can be used as living or study area. Founded by Brooklyn-based Sisters of St. Joseph in the 80s, they work with DSS to provide shelter to women and children (up to age 7) who have found themselves on the street due to loss of job, spouse abuse, lack of education, family disruption, or trauma. Possible ways to help would be providing holiday gifts of PJs & slippers for the 5 children plus something special for the adults to be followed by a spring drive for sheets, towels, and other needs. The committee members are excited by this opportunity to help others and trust the Executive Board will agree.

Last year's gifts for CRC children was so enjoyed by members, we will do this again with toys and gifts to be donated in November in time for their holiday party. Members can choose between Providence House and CRC or have the fun of contributing to both. If approved, Mary Ann Mazza will create a sign-up sheet for the October meeting.



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday, Oct 22, 2026 10:15 am

"The Shoemaker's Wife"
by Adriana Trigiani

Thursday, Nov 19, 2026 10:15 am

"The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny"
by Kiran Desa

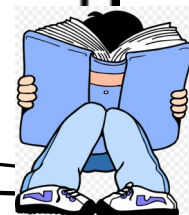
Thursday, Jan 21, 2027 10:15 am

"Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte

Our book discussion group will be at the home of Hannah O'Brien 35 Locust Ave Larchmont.

If any member would like to join the Book Group, please contact

Ann O'Brien (834-0961) or
Dorothy Rainier (834-0507)



Larch Tree Deadlines

Issue	Distribute	Submit
Sept/Oct	August 15	August 1
Nov/Dec/Jan	October 15	October 1
Feb/Mar	January 15	January 1
Apr/May/Jun	March 15	March 1



ENJOY OUR WEBSITE

www.womanscluboflarchmont.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/WCOLarchmont

ZELLE: treasurerwcol@gmail.com

RESERVATION for BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON

NAME & ADDRESS _____

Tel # _____

Please reserve _____ seat(s) @ \$70.00 pp for the Holiday Book & Author Luncheon on December 11.

Reservations must be made by December 3, 2026

Seating requests (max 8 people per table) _____

Pay by Zelle: treasurerwcol@gmail.com (Indicate Book/Author Luncheon)

or check: \$_____ payable to The Woman's Club of Larchmont, Inc.

Please send to: **Anne-Mieke Smeets**, 48 Country Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543 914-522-3844

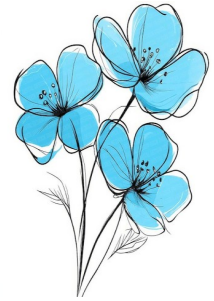
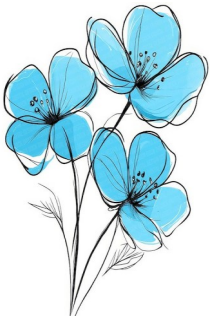
There will **not** be a collection of food or other items at the Book and Author Luncheon

Book purchases will be cash or check only

Club Events

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION — September 18, 2026

The Woman's Club of Larchmont officially welcomes the new members who have joined in the past year. We have 11 new members this year!!



WCL New Members introduced at the Club Day on September 18, 2026

From left to right: Diane Sjostedt, Patricia Lewis, Ronnie McGovern, Michele Laurino, Nancy Borzain, Stacey Fahey, Robbie Morell, Karen O'Haire, Sue Romagnoli, and Kathy Staudt.

Missing in the photo: Mary Stein.



L: Listening to Nancy McGarr

R: Bonnie Vail, Karen Robb,
Dorothy Rainier, and Nancy
Borzain



PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM — Friday, January 22, 2027 1:00 PM (Russell Hall)

"WHAT'S GOING ON?"

As residents we often have questions about our communities that affect our daily lives: traffic, roads and sidewalks, parking and flooding, for example. We wonder about affordable housing, long-term planning, and increasing taxes.

We will have the opportunity to hear from representatives of our three local municipalities, the Village of Larchmont and the Town and Village of Mamaroneck on Friday afternoon, January 22, at 1:00 in Russell Hall at the Larchmont Avenue Church.

Please join us for this interesting program and find out "What's Going On?"

WESTCHESTER COUNTY FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Thursday, November 12, 2026 —11:30am



Bistro on the Green
100 West Hill Drive
Somers, NY 10589
\$55 per person



Proceeds go to Westchester Community College Scholarship Fund
for deserving young women. Last year 8 - \$1000 scholarships were given out.

Cash Bar

Please notify Camille Odierna if you want to attend
Reservation Deadline - November 1, 2026

Make check payable to **WCFWC** and mail to:
Camille Odierna, 5 Highridge Road , Larchmont, NY 10538
Carpools will be arranged

WESTCHESTER COUNTY FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Many of us have heard of "Federation" but may be unsure of its function.
Hopefully we can clear up any confusion in this regard.

The Westchester County Federation of Women's Clubs is a philanthropic organization comprised of all the women's clubs of the county. We currently have 1300 members in 16 separate clubs. WCFWC is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.

One of the primary objectives is to provide scholarships for deserving women to attend Westchester Community College. Federation has been providing these scholarships for more than 70 years. The amount of the scholarship has increased over the years and last year the organization was able to present \$8000 to the College for scholarships.

The main fundraiser is a Scholarship Luncheon which will be held this year at Bistro on the Green in Somers, New York, on November 12, 2026.