



The Larch Tree

Vol. 90, No. 2

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT, INC.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Calendar of Events

Note:

LAC—Larchmont Avenue Church

MTC—Mamaroneck Town Center

Ground Floor, Conference Room C

NOVEMBER 2025

Thursday, November 13

12:00 pm Federation Scholarship
Fundraiser Luncheon
(Hastings-on-Hudson)

Friday, November 14

9:15 am Exec Board Meeting (MTC)

Saturday, November 15

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

Thursday, November 20

10:15 am Book Discussion Group

Friday, November 21

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

12:45 pm Business Meeting

1:15 pm Program

DECEMBER 2025

Friday, December 12

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

JANUARY 2026

Monday, January 5

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

Friday, January 9

9:15 am Exec Board Meeting (MTC)

Thursday, January 15

10:15 am Book Discussion Group

Friday, January 23

1:00 pm Public/Community Affairs Program
(LAC/Russell Hall)



CLUB DAY

Friday, November 21, 2025 — 12 noon
12:45 pm Business 1:15 pm Program

Medicare . .

What we need to know

Guest Speaker: Christine Randolph



Medicare can be a confusing topic to navigate. Christine Randolph will explain what changes there are and what we should be doing during the open enrollment period. She will also discuss the pros and cons of Medicare Advantage. There will be time at the end of the discussion for questions.



Christine Randolph became a trained patient advocate and Medicare counselor with the Westchester Senior Benefits Information Center in 2008 and holds a HIICAP certification from the New York State Office for the Aging. She has served on the boards of At Home on the Sound and Larchmont Friends of the Family. She is currently a member of the Greenwich Hospital Board of Trustees.

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 15Community Food Drive
Fri. December 12Book & Author Luncheon
Fri. January 23Community Affairs Pgm
Thu. April 23Philanthropic Luncheon
Thu. April 30Drama Trip

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Club Members,

October 2025

This Fall we complete our Centennial Year's celebrations with the publication of "A Continued History 2000-2025." You will receive your copy in October. Kudos to our Centennial Committee, chaired by Anne-Mieke Smeets and her hard-working writers, editors, compilers, proof-readers, and everybody else who contributed to this effort. It looks terrific.

We began our Program year in September with greeting our new members and thanking Membership Chair, Theresa Fanelli, for her great outreach. We listened to Larchmont Police Detective Natalie Hecht bring us up to date on the latest scams plaguing our community. We all have our own stories and Det. Hecht was very helpful. Since sending checks through the mail continues to be a problem, let me remind you that you can RSVP any Club event using Zelle. Our address is: **treasurerwcol@gmail.com**, just put the name of the event on the memo line. This is especially helpful if you bank online.

Our October American Home Luncheon is our traditional Visiting Presidents' Reception. We will be distributing our Centennial History and enjoying "The Songs of Sinatra." Also we history buffs enjoyed the walking tour of old New York City, the St. Patrick's Old Cathedral. Right out of the 1830s! Thank you Nancy Keelan.

November has three important events. The annual Federation Scholarship Luncheon is Thursday, November 13. Our Club has always been a big supporter of this event which raises funds for scholarships to SUNY Westchester Community College. Next, our Community Collection for the HOPE Food Pantry will be on Saturday, November 15. (More on that later, below.) Our Club Day on November 21st will feature "Medicare...What we need to know." We will soon be entering that "enrollment period" with all those TV ads. Christine Randolph will guide us through that maze.

December of course brings our annual Book and Author Luncheon on December 12th. Karen Robb and Bonnie Vail are working hard to make this a highlight of our year. Remember to invite a friend. It is a great introduction to our Club.

Our annual Public/Community Affairs will be on January 23rd. This year we have invited the Mamaroneck Superintendent of Schools and the Principal of Chatsworth Avenue to our forum. Details are in this issue of *The Larch Tree*. Please note that it will be held on the first floor of the LAC, Russell Hall.

Finally, we can happily add more information about our philanthropic efforts to what was in the Year-book. Carolyn Gallaher, our Philanthropy Chair, added up all the checks and various items (diapers, cereals, canned goods, etc.) donated at the Community Collection Days and our Club Days for the Hope Food Pantry. Her annual total was close to \$4600! Next, we will compile the final amounts contributed to the Bedford Prison Project. Well done, ladies! Now that the Club is a 501(c)(3) organization we will be sending our specific information to the membership in October about charitable giving through the Club.

Anne McAndrews, President



Holiday Book & Author Luncheon

Friday, December 12, 2025

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

WCL Literature Committee happily presents the following authors:

KEVIN CURNIN — *THE MORE WE TAKE*

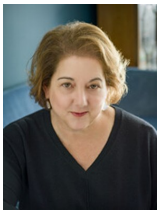


The More We Take tells the tale of two tragedies: the attempted extermination of indigenous people from North America and relentless extraction from their stolen lands in the wake of climate change, corporate greed, and bureaucracy. The violence of the two tragedies seems to leave little room for hope. At the nexus of racism and climate change, three ordinary Nebraskans, aided by legendary Lakota leaders of the past, stumble onto a path that seems to offer a way out.

Clete Bauer is a surveyor searching for himself. His job is to scrutinize the land and advise people on how to "improve" it. Through painful but redemptive spiritual journeys, Clete, his sister Kathy, and his partner Irene, a Lakota nurse, band together to protect what remains of the prairie and the sacred but depleted Ogallala Aquifer. But they are initially outgunned, opposed by apathy, racism, and Big Agriculture. And yet, unseen doors open and they are met in real time by ancestral leaders such as Crazy Horse. The alliance now spans generations and cultures -- and the tide begins to turn with astonishing results.

Kevin Curnin's career covers teaching, journalism, and the law in which he founded the Public Service Project through which he provided crucial services to NYC's poorest and most vulnerable communities. After growing up in Larchmont, Kevin and his family moved to Maine twenty years ago to be close to nature.

KAREN DUKESS — *WELCOME TO MURDER WEEK*



When thirty-four-year-old Cath loses her mostly absentee mother, she is ambivalent. With days of quiet, unassuming routine in Buffalo, New York, Cath consciously avoids the impulsive, thrill-seeking lifestyle that her mother once led. But when she's forced to go through her mother's things one afternoon, Cath is perplexed to find tickets for an upcoming "murder week" in England's Peak District. The theme involves a whole town which has come together to stage a fake murder mystery to attract tourism to their quaint hamlet. Baffled but helplessly intrigued by her mother's secret purchase, Cath decides to go on the trip herself—and begins a journey she never could have anticipated.

Karen Dukess is the author of *The Last Book Party* and *Welcome to Murder Week*. She has been a newspaper reporter in Florida, a magazine publisher in Russia, and a speech writer on gender equality for the United Nations. She has a degree in Russian studies from Brown University and a Master's in journalism from Columbia University. She lives outside of New York City and in Truro, Cape Cod, where she interviews some of today's most acclaimed writers as host of the Castle Hill Author Talks at the Truro Center for the Arts.

NOËL CARACCIO — *SECRETS AND REVENGE*



Secrets and Revenge, a 2023 novel by Noël Caraccio, is a suspense thriller about a father seeking to protect his family from a criminal from the past. The novel centers on Rick Singleton who thought he was safe after exposing a black market adoption ring run by a wealthy lawyer named Steve Goldrick. However, Goldrick returns to seek revenge, kidnapping Rick's infant daughter. To help her family Rick's wife, Maizie, receives help from the ghost of her long deceased grandmother, Fannie, who can move in the physical world and assist them.

Noël F. Caraccio is a full-time practicing attorney from Rye Brook in Westchester County. She has served on numerous not-for-profit boards, including Marian Woods, School of the Holy Child, Westchester County Bar Association Grievance Committee, Bonnie Briar Country Club, and WARC Properties. She is an avid golfer and belongs to Bonnie Briar Country Club, where she won the Women's Club Championship. The co-author of *Secrets Change Everything*, the prequel to *Secrets and Revenge*, Noël is also the author of *Shattered City* and *Stand in the Box*. Currently she has two more novels in the works.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Dear Members,



The Woman's Club Of Larchmont brings people together. Share that spirit by inviting a friend to one of our wonderful events. You'll be surprised how a simple, kind invitation can grow our membership and strengthen the good work we do for our community. "The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team." – Phil Jackson, American retired basketball coach and former player. At The Larchmont Woman's Club, membership is our team — together we achieve more. Bring a friend. Share kindness. Membership is a team. Together, we make a difference. Join us at The Larchmont Woman's Club!

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

Warm regards, *Theresa Fanelli, Membership Chair*

BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

ANITA ABSEY

35 N. Chatsworth Ave. #4F
Larchmont, NY 10538
Tel #: 917-941-3926
Email: anitaabsey@gmail.com
Proposed by: Anne McAndrews
Seconded by: Theresa Fanelli

CAMILLE COYLE

30 Wendt Avenue
Larchmont, NY 10538
Tel #: 914-275-5313
Email: coylecamille@gmail.com
Proposed by: Kathy Tamagna
Seconded by: Theresa Fanelli

LYNN McCABE

7 Pine Ridge Road
Larchmont, NY 10538
Tel #: 914-830-2730
Email: lynn56@gmail.com
Proposed by: Mary Cox
Seconded by: Suzi Gerosa

ANN MANGONE

29 Helena Ave.
Larchmont, NY 10538
Tel#: 917-273-7610
Email: asmangone@gmail.com
Proposed by: Judy O'Gorman
Seconded by: Theresa Fanelli

IN MEMORIAM

Maria Massimi Aug 12, 2025
Member since 2005

Joanne Rosamond Sept 6, 2025
Federation President

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/June	March 15	March 1

ENJOY OUR WEBSITE

www.womanscluboflarchmont.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/WCOLarchmont

PHILANTHROPY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 19 HOPE AND RAFFLE COLLECTIONS

Georgia Jesse and Carolyn Gallaher were on the corner of Larchmont and Forest Park Avenues collecting food and needed items for New Rochelle's HOPE Food Pantry on September 19. That Gerry Gerace was missed can be measured by the many people who inquired after him. All were relieved that Gerry was well, but he had to stay home for workmen.

Members generously gave over 120 food items as well as packages of 271 of (much needed) diapers. In dollars, I would estimate a total value of at least \$400 for the items plus we received \$25 in checks. Pretty impressive! Our next collection will be October 17th at Club Day. The Community Donation Day will be Sat. November 15 from 11-1.

September's raffle earned \$258 for World Central Kitchen and 2 members won beautiful baskets! We received this interesting notice from WCK about their ongoing efforts in Gaza:



"World Central Kitchen is taking a major step forward in Gaza - building two new large-capacity kitchens that will double our daily meal production and move us closer to serving one million hot meals every day. These new kitchens come at a critical moment, nearly doubling WCK's capacity beyond the 300,000 meals we already serve daily through an existing network of two large-scale kitchens, dozens of community kitchens, and restaurant partners. This expansion will increase our ability to bring meals to displaced Palestinian families, working to keep pace with overwhelming need."

Carolyn Gallaher, Philanthropy Chair

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER (CRC) — an introduction



CRC began in 1995 as the Hispanic Resource Center of L/M, Inc. on BPR. Then in 2011 it moved to the former CAP Center where the name was changed to the Community Resource Center to better reflect the inclusivity of all its members and clients. Hurricane Ida flooded their building in 2021, resulting in the extensive renovations. L/M Women's Club members celebrated with hundreds of others at the gala reopening of the CRC's building on Centre Avenue in September.

CRC's programs seek to empower "immigrant and low-income families" by providing the resources and advocacy to help them become self-reliant and thriving members of the community. The dedicated and talented leadership team is headed by Executive Director Jirandy Martinez, (who spoke to us about Affordable Housing in 2023, and was designated one of 40 under 40 Westchester leaders in 2024).

WCL has consistently supported CRC financially through annual Philanthropic Allocation donations as well as through raffles. Our May 2025 raffle, for example, raised \$464 to provide a swimming lesson scholarship at Swim Tank for a CRC non-swimmer. Over the years more than 10,000 people have been provided services by CRC which include workforce development, digital training, ESL, adult literacy, high school equivalency classes. Here is a Workers Center where trained laborers can be contacted for employment in construction, landscaping, moving, housekeeping, catering, among other positions. In addition clients have received legal services and case management services covering health, housing, food, wage theft, advocacy and support for victims of domestic violence.

Our most current support is spearheaded by Mary Ann Mazza of the Philanthropy Committee in the heart-warming project where, at the October meeting, WCL members had the opportunity to choose from a CRC-provided list to bring a \$25 holiday gift for boy or girl (ages 1-12) to our November 21st Club Day gathering.

Carolyn Gallaher, Philanthropy Chair



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday, Nov 21, 2025 10:15 am
"Daughters of Shandong"
by Eve J. Chung

Thursday, Jan 15, 2026 10:15 am
"James" by Percival Everett

Thursday, Feb 19, 2026 10:15 am
"The Stolen Lady"
by Laura Morelli

Thursday, Mar 19, 2026 10:15 am
"The Lion Women of Tehran"
by Marjan Kamali

Our book discussion group will be at the home of Ann 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)

We will send out a reminder email at the beginning of the week. All those interested are welcome.



happy holidays

RESERVATION FORM for BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON

NAME & ADDRESS _____

Tel # _____

Please reserve _____ seat(s) @ \$70.00 pp for the Holiday Book & Author Luncheon on December 12.

Reservations must be made by December 4, 2025

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 19, 2025

The Woman's Club of Larchmont officially welcomes the new members who have joined in the past year. We have 13 new members this year !!



The new members shown here are: Camille Coyle, Janet Lan, Mary Spollen, Mary Cox, Lynn McCabe, Judy O'Gorman, Anne Ritz, Patricia Lewis, Ronnie McGovern, Noel DelBorgo. Not shown are: Rebecca Daniele, Nancy Borzain, Nili Asherie.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM — Friday, January 23, 2026 1:00 PM (Russell Hall)

"The Changing State of our Schools"

Charles Sampson, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools, Mamaroneck School District

Lauren Scharfstein, Principal, Chatsworth Elementary School

We know our schools are a vital part of our community and many of our members were active volunteers while our children were enrolled. We wonder — have the schools changed? How are they facing post-COVID and internet challenges? We will discuss all these issues on Friday, January 23, 2026, at 1:00 in Russell Hall (LAC). Please join us. All are welcome.

Drama Trip — *Catch Me If You Can*



The Drama Department is planning a trip to the White Plains Performing Arts Center on Thursday, April 30, 2026, to see the 2:00pm show of *Catch Me If You Can*. The cost will be \$58 per ticket, and car pools will be organized. Any questions? Contact Janet Delbrook Day (914)-834-9308

WESTCHESTER COUNTY FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Thursday, November 13, 2025 —12 Noon



Westchester Manor
140 Saw Mill River Road (Rt. 9A)
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
\$60 per person



Proceeds go to Westchester Community College Scholarship Fund
for deserving young women. Last year 9 - \$1000 scholarships were given out.

Hors d'oeuvres, Salad
Entrée—Chicken Marsala, Alaskan Salmon, Pasta Primavera
(choice to be selected at the event)
Dessert, Coffee, Tea, Soda, and a Kimbo Espresso Bar
Cash Bar

Please give checks to Carmen or Sophie at our next Club Day (10-17)
Reservation Deadline - November 6, 2025

Pay by Zelle: **treasurerwcol@gmail.com**
Or by check(s) payable to **WCFWC** and mail to:
WCFWC - Carmen White, 220 Barnard Rd, Larchmont, NY 10538
Carpools will be arranged

WESTCHESTER COUNTY FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUB SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON/BRIDGE RESERVATION FORM

Thursday, November 13, 2025
Luncheon at 12 noon \$60 per person

Name_____

Guests_____

Reservation Deadline — November 6, 2025
Pay with Zelle: **treasurerwcol@gmail.com**
Or mail reservation form and Check(s) Payable to **WCFWC** to:
Carmen C. White, 220 Barnard Road, Larchmont, NY 10538

Venue of Luncheon

Westchester Manor, 140 Saw Mill River Rd, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706