

# DISCOVER

E-Newsletter  
Issue 6  
October 2008

## Welcome...

Great news! The Westchester Children's Museum has appointed an Executive Director, Tracy Ralph Kay. [Read below](#) about his outstanding background in the nonprofit and government sectors.

Ann LoBue, Editor

[aglobue@verizon.net](mailto:aglobue@verizon.net)

## Museum News

**Westchester Children's Museum (WCM) appoints Tracy Ralph Kay as Executive Director.** Tracy is a highly experienced government and nonprofit executive who has served as Deputy Commissioner, Nassau County NY Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Museums; Executive Director of the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education in Philadelphia; and Executive Director of Rye Nature Center in Rye NY. He has also been a consultant to the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, the American Association of Museums, and the Association of Nature Center Administrators, and he is a member of the Adjunct Faculty in the Education Department of Swarthmore College. Throughout his career, Tracy has partnered extensively with government, educators, funders, cultural institutions and nonprofit organizations to build regional centers for learning that have gained wide recognition as well as prestigious awards.

**"Museum Without Walls" activities led by WCM volunteers spur children to explore nature and culture.**

- Participants in the **New Rochelle Public Library's** "Birds Take Flight" event (pictured here) visited the WCM booth to build their own birds' nests and learn about the kinds of materials required to build different types of nests.
- At the **Irvington Library**, children and parents stopping by the WCM booth created Fall mobiles and discussed the changing seasons.



## In This Issue

[Museum News](#)

[Campaign News](#)

["Museum without Walls" -- a family activity](#)

[Did You Know? -- fun facts about children's museums](#)

[WCM Featured Events](#)

[WCM Events Schedule](#)

[Volunteer Center](#)

## WCM Featured Events

**"A PERFECT GANESH"**

by Terrence McNally

**Performance to benefit Westchester Children's Museum**  
and other local organizations

Oct 30-31

Nov 1,2, 6-8, 13-15

**DeWitt Wallace Auditorium**  
at Reader's Digest, Chappaqua

Tickets \$100\*, \$75\*, \$25

- Over 300 **Girl Scouts** visited the WCM's booth at the Heart of the Hudson region's Fall Community Event at FDR Park in Yorktown Heights to create a picture frame (supplied by Michael's Arts and Crafts) and snap a photo of friends and family, in keeping with the event theme of "Creating Cultural Connections."
- Museum Without Walls activity booths were present at the **Gedney Farms Association** Halloween Party and **The Center for Literacy Enrichment Program at Pace University** in White Plains this past weekend.

For a schedule of Museum Without Walls events in November that are open to the public see the [WCM Events Schedule](#) at right. Thanks to **Community Outreach Coordinator Pat Caruso** for her leadership and to our tireless crew of volunteers.

**"Museum Without Walls" events gain support from high school student volunteers.** Volunteers from area high schools - including White Plains High School, Valhalla High School, the French American School, and Iona Prep - have played a major role in staffing Museum Without Walls events this Fall. Thanks to **volunteers Linda Cohen and Karol London** for connecting with over 40 potential high school volunteers at the White Plains High School Volunteer Fair in Oct. Special thanks to **Anthony Touchet, a student at Iona Prep**, who has repeatedly volunteered for Museum Without Walls events. The WCM will recruit volunteers at Manhattanville College's Volunteer Fair in November. **If you are a high school or college student interested in volunteering with the WCM, please contact one of the Volunteer Coordinators listed in the [Volunteer Center](#) section of this newsletter.**

### Campaign News

**"Charity Golf Classic 2008" raised over \$40,000 for the museum campaign.** On a fabulous fall day, over 50 golfers came out to the Glen Arbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills, NY. They enjoyed 18 holes of golf and numerous on-course contests, a cocktail reception and dinner. Special thanks to **Board Members Ira Greenstein and Jim Gurfein** and the **Event Committee members**, to outing sponsors **Signature Bank; Mark Rattner/ Terrapin; Jones Lang La Salle; Curry Automotive; Mercedes-Benz of Larchmont;** and **Nathel & Nathel;** and to our enthusiastic volunteers for making this second annual event such a resounding success.

To order, call 914-831-4735 or email [ganesh@thatssocool.net](mailto:ganesh@thatssocool.net)

\*Benefit tickets tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

### WCM Events Schedule

#### November

Sat, Nov 8

#### **Yonkers Family Day,**

Yonkers Riverfront Library,

WCM "Museum Without Walls" activity,

10am-4pm.

Sat, Nov 15

#### **Native American Day,**

Tuckahoe Public Library,

WCM "Museum Without Walls" activity,

noon-3pm.

Sat, Nov 22

#### **Museum Day,**

Chappaqua Public Library,

WCM "Museum Without Walls" activity,

noon-4pm.

**For more info, please contact the WCM office at 914-421-5050.**

### Volunteer Center

**Volunteers needed for Explore-A-Thon 2009, our annual family fundraiser in June. Currently seeking individuals interested /**



**Children representing the WCM delighted a large, enthusiastic audience for "Fashion Now - Museum Now".**

Displaying confidence and natural charm, over 20 kids modeled the latest in children's fall fashion on a real runway at The Westchester in September. The event, sponsored by **The Westchester, WAG, Westchester Magazine**



and **Venture (new generation portraits)**, raised awareness and funds for the museum campaign. Special thanks to **WCM Board Member Bets Miller** for her leadership and to **WCM Director of Development Jayne Restivo, WCM staff member Bergita Nokaj, and Volunteer Coordinator Beverly McAllister** for coordination.

**WCM campaign meets local early childhood educators.**

For the first time, the WCM was represented at a major conference sponsored by the **Westchester Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC)**. The conference, held this year at Manhattanville College in Purchase on Oct 25, has for over 40 years drawn hundreds of teaching professionals for an exciting day of workshops, speakers and information. The WCM has also been invited to speak at the Nov meeting of the WAEYC's Board of Directors.



**In lieu of a present, ask party guests to donate to the Westchester Children's Museum!** We have developed a beautiful card that your children or grandchildren can enclose in their birthday party and Bar / Bat Mitzvah invitations to request that their guests contribute to the museum campaign. It's a great way to show that

"Kids Care" and teach an important lesson about charitable giving. For more information, please call the WCM office at 914-421-5050.

**Melanie Gluck and Julie Sayer are the new Co-Chairs for Explore-A-Thon 2009, the WCM's annual family fundraiser.** This year's event, scheduled for June 7, promises to be better than ever! It's not too early to think about volunteering -- check [Volunteer Center](#) at right for current opportunities.

**Museum without Walls**

experienced in corporate sponsorships. Contact Explore-A-Thon co-chairs **Melanie Gluck, [amgluck@verizon.net](mailto:amgluck@verizon.net), 914-329-5978;** or **Julie Sayer, [jsayer23@yahoo.com](mailto:jsayer23@yahoo.com), 914-714-1177.**

**Volunteer Coordinators**

Beverly McAllister, [bevmcal@aol.com](mailto:bevmcal@aol.com)

Susan Mackle, [themackles@optonline.net](mailto:themackles@optonline.net)

Pat Caruso, [iluv2tch1@verizon.net](mailto:iluv2tch1@verizon.net)

**Quick Links**

[Register Now](#)

[Related Topics](#)

[More on the WCM](#)

**Donate Now**

The Westchester Children's Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

*A fun educational activity for families*

**"Become a Tree Detective!"**

Begin your detective work in your yard, neighborhood or local park. Encourage your child to choose several different kinds of trees to investigate (don't forget about the evergreens). Create a folder or small notebook for each tree. Borrow a tree identification book from your local library and then begin the investigation!

- Observe the shape or silhouette of the tree from far away - is it round, oval, large or small? Draw a picture of the tree in your notebook.
  - Take a bark rubbing from the tree and add it to your evidence. Notice the different colors and textures of the different types of bark.
  - Gather "specimens" from the tree in a bag; these could be leaves, twigs and seeds your tree may have dropped on the ground (never pull anything off a tree).
  - Observe the color and shape of the different leaves. Are the edges smooth or jagged? How would you describe the shape of the leaf? Does it look like a star, a hand, an oval? Are the leaves on one tree all the same or does it have different types of leaves?

Gather all your evidence and head back home. Use your tree identification book to find out the name of your tree. Wait a few months and visit your tree again, and then again in spring. Make some more observations in your notebook and you may become a Tree Expert!

**Parents:** So many children are taught that the leaves fall off the trees in fall, but what about our evergreens? Do they have leaves? If so, why are they shaped that way? Why don't they fall off in winter? Do some investigating of your own!

This article is adapted from the "Learn by Doing" column by the Westchester Children's Museum found monthly in *Westchester Family* magazine, a media sponsor of the museum's Explore-A-Thon 2008.

### Did You Know...?

- More than 30 million individuals around the world visit children's museums annually.
- Children's museums are the fastest growing type of museum in North America.
- *Child Magazine* lists children's museums as "the hottest spots for learning and fun."

