



Top row: (L-R) Betsy Deisroth, Batool Hassan, Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Arva Rice, Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, Zerlina Maxwell, Eva McKend

Bottom row: (L-R) Deepa Purohit, Diana Mao, Andrea Shapiro Davis, Michelle Kaminsky, Catherine Keating, Bonnie Oliva, Shamika Lee

Women Leaders as Agents of Social Change The YW celebrates Women's History Month

This past March, in celebration of Women's History Month, women leaders raised their voices for the YW's "Women Leaders as Agents of Social Change" panel series. The panels were a platform for local, global, and young women leaders to express their views, challenges, and accomplishments.

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A Message from our CEO, Dr. Danielle Moss Lee

Dear Friends,

Joining the YWCA Movement has been one of the most rewarding things to happen to me in a long time. The history of this courageous, women-led movement, coupled with the possibility that our past opens up for us is enough to put a spring in my step each time I venture on the subway to come to the office in the morning. The future I'm busy creating with my colleagues at the YWCA of the City of New York is what drives my latest catch phrase, "Isn't it a great day to be a woman?" It's part question (the part where I look to my choir for a rousing 'Amen'), and part declaration - because I know on whose shoulders I stand and I know about the kind of world I want my own daughter to inherit.

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Women Leaders as Agents of Social Change *continued from page 1...*

Panelists shared their insights on a wide range of women’s issues including the right to work, balancing a successful career and personal life, the economic impact of investing in women, being true to yourself, and creating positive change. The panels were sponsored by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, BNY Mellon, and JPMorgan Chase & Co.



Above: (L-R) Bonnie Oliva, Global Operations Director, Inventure.org; Dr. Danielle Moss Lee; Shamika Lee, Director of East Coast Sales, BET Networks; Eva McKend, Sullivan County reporter for Your News Now; Zerlina Maxwell, Political Strategist and Writer

Below: (L-R) Michelle Kaminsky, Author of Reflections of a Domestic Violence Prosecutor; Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, Manhattan Deputy Borough President; Jean Walshe, YWCA-NYC Board Member; Catherine M. Keating, Head of Investment Management Americas, JPMorgan; Dr. Danielle Moss Lee; Andrea Shapiro Davis, Executive Director of the NYC Commission on Women’s Issues; Arva R. Rice, President & CEO, New York Urban League



Below: (L-R) Betsy Deisroth, Vice President for Advancement, The Hunger Project; Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, General Secretary, World YWCA; Batool Hassan, Head of Business Development, Acumen Fund; Diana Mao, Co-founder and President of Nomi Network



Above: (L-R) Marcia Sells, YWCA-NYC Board Chair; Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda; Dr. Danielle Moss Lee

Don’t try to be like the boys, be you. Be true to who you are - Shamika Lee

Words of advice from the panelists:

Women should not need permission to work - Diana Mao

Don’t wait for them to offer you a seat at the table - Andrea Shapiro Davis

Believe in yourself and claim your dignity. Be able to dare - Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda

People will ignore you until they can’t - Zerlina Maxwell

A Message from our CEO *continued from page 1...*

As I contemplate what women around the world have achieved in my lifetime, I am inspired. But, lately I've been getting a clearer picture of why it's so important for us to lift as we climb - by developing and supporting the next generation of women leaders. Our foremothers fought for a seat at the table, and in doing so they opened up opportunities that women of previous generations could not have imagined were possible. But, being at the table hasn't resulted in the equity many of us hoped for. Some women still raise their children while holding down jobs that don't offer the kind of flexibility parenting demands. And, while white women earn 77¢ on every dollar earned by their male counterparts, race is still a factor. Black women earn 68¢, and Latinas earn 58¢ on those dollars. We are in the game, but the rules haven't necessarily changed. We must commit ourselves to mentoring and developing other women so that we're not just in the game, we've changed the rules.

“ **Our foremothers fought for a seat at the table, and in doing so they opened up opportunities that women of previous generations could not have imagined were possible.** ”

What you'll see throughout this YWCA of the City of New York newsletter is that we are an organization with a clear focus, busy positioning ourselves to deliver on an ambitious mission – Eliminating Racism. Empowering Women. - while remaining dynamic enough to respond to the emerging needs of the communities we serve. How can you join the YWCA Movement? Give us your time, talents, and treasures. And, by all means, identify an emerging woman leader in your life and generously share your lessons, wisdom, and networks. Together we can accomplish great things.

Warmly,



Dr. Danielle Moss Lee

The YW Welcomes Two New Staff Members!

The YWCA is proud to welcome two accomplished women to our executive leadership team: Chief Program Officer Merle McGee and Chief Financial Officer Gail Cruse. Both women have extensive backgrounds in their respective fields, with a focus on youth development and nonprofit management.

A sought after presenter on youth development and program design and development, Merle McGee was previously responsible for the design, direction and oversight of a continuum of award-winning college preparatory programs.

With over 30 years of fiscal management experience, Gail Cruse is an active leader in the community and co-founder of multiple successful community-based initiatives.

▼ **Merle McGee,**
▼ Chief Program Officer
▼



Gail Cruse,
Chief Financial Officer ▲
▲
▲

38 Women Inducted into the YWCA Academy of Women Leaders at Annual Salute Luncheon

The 2012/2013 Academy of Women Leaders Salute Luncheon was held on Friday, February 15 at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel in Times Square. Despite a three-month delay as a result of Hurricane Sandy, the Luncheon hosted a full house of women and men to celebrate dynamic and inspiring women leaders. In the company of their colleagues, family and friends, 38 women were inducted into the Academy of Women Leaders, which now boasts a network of over 5,000 women honored for their professional achievements and leadership.



The AWL Class of 2012/2013 takes the stage.



Presenting Sponsor TD Bank celebrates at the AWL reception.



(L-R) YWCA-NYC Board Chair, Marcia Sells; YWCA-NYC CEO, Dr. Danielle Moss Lee; Woman of Influence - M. Michele Burns, Executive Director and CEO, Marsh & McLennan Companies' Retirement Policy Center; Host, Carol Massar, Chief National Correspondent, Bloomberg LP; Man of the Year, Gerard S. LaRocca, Chief Administrative Officer, Americas, Barclays.

Getting into the Game!

The Proskauer Women's Alliance and the Academy of Women Leaders Advisory Council hosted a special Women's History Month panel discussion on Wednesday, March 20 to provide tips and insights on working in the sports industry.



(L-R) Moderator Margaret Dale, Partner, Proskauer; Panelists Jennifer Duberstein, Business Affairs Executive, CAA Sports, a division of the Creative Artists Agency; Jennifer Vescio, Vice President of Business Development, ESPN; and Val Ackerman, Adjunct Professor of Sports Management, Columbia University.



Anmarie Paul, Senior Director of Elementary School Programs, helps deliver supplies to Coney Island.

Stronger than Ever! Recovering from Hurricane Sandy

In March, the doors to the Roberta Bright Early Learning Center reopened – ushering back in 50 toddlers and pre-schoolers who, since Hurricane Sandy hit, had been displaced from their beloved center while it was repaired. This reopening was one of many milestones our community has reached following Hurricane Sandy, which devastated many areas in New York City. The YWCA responded in the days following the storm and, thanks to the generosity of more than 50 donors and 13 companies, brought needed resources to families in the area. The United Way, Allstate Foundation, AmeriCares, Cole Haan, Starbucks, Wieden + Kennedy, Weil Gotshal & Manges, AllSector, FPWA, and even our sister YWCA in Minneapolis rallied with us to bring more than \$200,000 in clothing, outerwear, food, hygiene products, school supplies, blankets and other necessities to families. The swift responses of our friends and neighbors was a testament to our community's fortitude, despite even the greatest of challenges.

New Partners Join the YWCA to Help Empower Survivors of Domestic Violence

The YWCA's career training programs for women have long been regarded as effective, powerful and transformative. Last year, the Allstate Foundation helped us expand those services for an important portion of our clients: victims of domestic violence. With Allstate as a partner, we launched a support group and comprehensive, targeted financial literacy curriculum. Services help victims acquire the knowledge to become financially self-sufficient, which is critical to leaving an abusive relationship. Since then, we have been fortunate to receive the support of three foundations who are also committed to this work. We are pleased to announce the Verizon Foundation, the Hyde and Watson Foundation and the RealNetworks Foundation as well as the Charles A. Frueauff Foundation as partners in the provision of career training services for women, including victims of domestic violence.

Our Garden is Growing!

The YWCA's garden at PS 90 was recently the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from Seeds of Change. Seeds of Change's grant program, which supports community based gardening and sustainable farming, received more than 13,000 entries – of which we were one of the 12 selected. Through the garden students learn valuable lessons about the environment, sustainability, health, nutrition, and economical food choices. The garden also received a generous donation of gardening equipment from the Muhammad Ali Center, Yum! Brands Foundation and The National Gardening Association.



New York City Rallies for After School Programs



(L-R) City Council Members Margaret Chin, Robert Jackson, and Gale Brewer show their support.

“Invest in us, we’ll rise to the top! Give us a little, we’ll grow a lot!” was one of many chants heard outside of City Hall on March 28. The YWCA of the City of New York, alongside Campaign for Children and many others, rallied in protest of the Mayor’s preliminary budget for fiscal year 2014 -- a budget that includes \$130 million in cuts to after school and early childhood education programs.

The proposed cuts could affect more than 47,000 children whose parents rely on the academic, emotional, and developmental support of after school programs. In addition, parents benefit from the peace of mind knowing their children are safe during the “danger zone” of 3 to 6 pm, when children are most likely to experiment with drugs and alcohol, and juvenile crime rates nearly triple.

The rally featured a number of presentations from City Council Members, supporters, and those most affected by the proposed cuts – children enrolled in after school programming. The YWCA Warriors, PS 327’s official YW step team, prepared and performed a special routine for the day.

With the support of so many individuals, organizations, and City Council members, New York raised its voice and sent a clear message to the Mayor – We need after school and early childhood education programs!



PS 327’s Step Team, the YW Warriors, performs for the crowd.

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What your donation to the YWCA makes possible:

\$100 will update the library within one of the YWCA's early learning centers with books that promote cultural and gender equality.

\$500 will enroll a high school girl into innovative, girl-specific STEM programming where she'll gain hands-on experiences in thriving, high-earning industries.

\$1,000 will allow an unemployed or underemployed woman to attend a full-time apprenticeship program where she will learn computer, interviewing and career skills to help her secure employment.

\$2,500 will enroll a high school girl into a young women's leadership and college & career exploration program.

Your time as a volunteer can provide a high school girl or woman with the support and confidence she needs to succeed academically or professionally.



Help the YWCA Empower New York City Women and Girls. Give Today.

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I want to stay connected by joining the YW's email list!

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

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\$100 \$1,000

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Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

86%

of every dollar donated goes directly towards programs for New York City women and girls.

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YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.