

our voice

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

YWCA of Westmoreland County Mission Statement

We create opportunities for women and girls to lead purposeful lives and strive for a community that values diversity.

Our One Imperative

“To thrust our collective power towards the elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary.”

2009-2010 YWCA Board Members

Nancy Anderson (Treasurer)
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YWCA Executive Staff

Bonnie Lewis, Executive Director
Joelyn Aukerman, Communications Director
Diana Basick, Fiscal Manager
Betty Hammer, Development Director
Marae Johnston, Childcare Director
Gina McGrath, Technology Director
Maggie O’Leary, Literacy Program Director
Cathy Young, Thrift Shop Manager

YWCA of WESTMORELAND COUNTY

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Spring 2010

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ywca business hours:
Monday - Thursday: 9am-5pm & Friday: 9am-4pm



Join the YWCA in taking a

► Friday, April 30, 2010

Stand Against Racism

THE YWCA TAKES A *STAND AGAINST RACISM*

On April 30, 2010 the YWCA of Westmoreland County is participating in an important new initiative. The YWCA "Stand Against Racism" is aimed at raising awareness that racism still exists in our communities and that it can no longer be ignored or tolerated.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights organization located in Montgomery, Alabama, the number of hate groups operating in the United States has grown by 54% in the last eight years (there are close to 1,000 active hate groups in the United States today). Hate groups have beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people. They promote hate, hostility, and sometimes violence.

In response, the YWCA has created the Stand Against Racism in order to combat the spread of hate and intolerance, and to honor and celebrate the richness of diversity. Last year over 30,000 individuals took a Stand Against Racism. This year the YWCA anticipates over 200,000 individuals attending an event at one of the participating sites. This powerful, unified, effort will raise awareness that racism hurts everyone. Participants will range from school-age children to elected officials, corporations, church leaders, and non-profit organizations.

The YWCA of Westmoreland County will host our Stand all day on Friday, April 30th at the YWCA headquarters and at the YWCA Thrift Shop. YWCA members, friends and members of the community are encouraged to stop by the YWCA and sign our pledge to work toward the elimination of racism in our community. Participants will receive a bookmark that outlines ways that each of us can combat racism. Plan on stopping by the YWCA on April 30th and add your commitment to work for the mission of the YWCA to eliminate racism.

The YWCA of Westmoreland County is also calling on all local organizations, corporations, churches and other houses of worship, government agencies and individuals in Westmoreland County to become a participating site of the 2010 Stand Against Racism. Any group of any size that believes in a society free of racism is invited to join us. Any organization or group of individuals can become a participating site by signing up through the Stand Against Racism Web site: www.StandAgainstRacism.org. Each participating site will host their own Stand Against Racism event at their own location (which can be private or open to the public). Participation in the Stand Against Racism is free and becoming a participating site is very simple. Strength comes from numbers. This year the Stand Against Racism will be a collaboration of over 70 YWCA Associations throughout the United States. For local information, please contact the YWCA of Westmoreland County at 724-834-9390.

thrift shop news



YWCA Thrift Shop March Newsletter

Imagine looking for work or starting a new job and knowing that what's in your closet isn't what you need to succeed. What would you do? PA WORKWEAR at the YWCA Thrift Shop helps people in our community get the clothing items they need at no cost to them. You can help others by participating in this initiative by donating interview-appropriate and business casual clothing. We are always accepting donations of scrubs, black or tan pants in sizes 2 to "Plus". New packages of underwear, socks, bras and toiletries are needed items also.

Tired of all the snow and humdrum of winter? Do you need a pick-me-up? Visit the YWCA Thrift Shop and get a big dose of spring fever. The shop is awash with pastels, sandals and Easter items to make all of our customers happy as a bunny! Spring consignment started on March 1. Just a reminder we are charging a one dollar fee for every 12 items to defray the processing costs.

The annual volunteer banquet for National Volunteer Week will be held at the main office on Sunday, April 18 at 1:00 p.m. This year they will be treated to a "Hollywood Movie Night" with stars and awards! Our 50 plus volunteers are so appreciated with their loyalty and service. Anyone is welcome to join our family by stopping in the store and filling out an application.

The YWCA Thrift Shop has always followed the Greensburg Salem School program for closing the shop due to weather. After the last series of storms, this policy might not apply to every cancelled day. The only effective way is to take each storm day by day. We suggest volunteers and customers call the shop at 724-834-4339 to see if we are planning to open.

Most donations to the YWCA Thrift Shop qualify as a tax-deductible contribution.
Visit us at 221 South Maple Avenue in Greensburg.

The YWCA Thrift Shop is open 10a.m. until 4 p.m.,
Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Thursday.
If you have any questions, please call 724-834-4339.

child development programs

2010 Summer Camp

Safe and Affordable Program * Extended Hours * Free On-Site Parking * Easy Drop Off and Pick Up * Private Camp Entrance * On-Site, Outdoor Play Area * Professional, Educated Counselors * Theme Based Activities* Manageable Group Sizes * Air-Conditioned Facility

**June 7th - August 16th
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 6:00 PM**

\$120 per week / \$25 per day
(Scholarships available)
Contact the YWCA office for a registration packet.

YOUNG WONDERS

Summer Day Camp for Girls & Boys (ages 6-10)

The YWCA Young Wonders is a licensed child-care program that provides consistency and enrichment for children in a relaxed environment that encourages individual choice making. We are committed to supporting working parents/guardians by providing a safe, affordable program staffed by nurturing, competent, responsible people. And we're committed to making summer fun!

Camp Activities Include: games, movies, swimming, physical activities, playground visits, library, bowling, monthly field trips, crafts & projects, community visits, indoor & outdoor fun.

Minimum Enrollment is 20 Days
\$20 YWCA Membership Required per Family
\$120 per week or \$25 per day

Summer Camp Themes for 2010

- Make A Friend-Be A Friend
- How Does Your Garden Grow?
- Having A "Ball" at Summer Camp
- Camping/Catching Fireflies
- S'more Fun
- Under the Big Top
- wonders of Nature
- Winter Wonderland
- International Week
- Summer Olympics



GIRL'S PROJECT

Summer Day Camp for Girls (ages 11-14)

The Girl's Project provides campers with opportunities to become involved in their community and explore their own personal power. All camp activities are geared towards empowering our campers to be successful, happy, healthy, tolerant, productive leaders and citizens. Friendship happens here!

Camp Activities Include: swimming, gardening, bowling, library, field trips, cooking, crafts, car wash, pj party day, access to computer lab, picnics/luncheons, community service activities.

Minimum Enrollment is 20 Days
\$10 YWCA Teen Membership Required
\$120 per week or \$25 per day

Required Camp Equipment

- Positive Attitude
- Sense of Adventure
- A Backpack for Carrying Belongings & Stowing Treasures
- Swimsuit, Towel, Sunscreen and Extra T-Shirt for Swim Days
- Socks for Bowling
- Westmoreland Library Network Card
- Walking Shoes
- Bagged Lunch
(morning & afternoon snack provided)

2010- 2011 YWCA Preschool

Registration for 2010-2011 school year is now open.
Please contact the YWCA for more information or to schedule a tour of the preschool.

**We have something for all ages!
Read below to find out what we have for you!**

**JOIN US AND BECOME A ROBOGYRL!
ONE WHOLE WEEK OF FUN BUILDING ROBOTS FOR GIRLS 11 to 14!**

ROBOGYRLS SUMMER CAMP

**JUNE 21 - 25
10 am - 2 pm**

Join us for a fun-filled week of robotics. The girls will use a classroom kit designed by Lego® using the Mindstorm technology to build, program and activate working robots. They will work individually and on teams to build increasingly complex projects and create several working robots during the week. Any girl in middle school is eligible to register. Included in the camp fee will be a field trip. The last day of camp is a "Robo Expo" for the girls to demonstrate their working robots to family, friends and guests.

Registration is limited to 8 girls, so call early to register!

\$110 Members/\$130 Non-Members

(Scholarships available)

FUN FOR SENIORS!

OVER 50 COMPUTER CLUB

Join us the **first Tuesday** of every month from **2 - 3:30 pm (note the time change)** where we promise we will open up the world of technology for you in terms you can understand. Each month you steer the meeting by asking questions about what you need to know concerning your computer, cell phone or other technology challenges. No computer required, just an open mind and a willingness to venture into the world of technology. We promise to make your journey fun, easy and interesting!

Registration for each club meeting is required.

Club Fee: \$8.00 per meeting

Summer Club Dates: June 1 ~ July 6 ~ Aug. 3 ~ Sept. 7

FUN FOR THE ACCIDENTAL TECHIE!

BAGELS AND BYTES

If you are the *accidental techie* and work at a non-profit, then you will have fun at our Bagels and Bytes meetings. We are professional tech people working at non-profits that help accidental techies working at non-profits for "FREE"!! We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 8am, at different locations. Call Gina to attend next month's meeting or email her at ginam@ywcawestmoreland.org. *If you work at a non-profit we welcome all techies! Hope to see you at our next meeting.*

SUMMER FUN FOR EVERYONE AT THE

YWCA TECHNOLOGY CENTER!

- ☪ Computer Classes
- ☪ Private Tutoring
- ☪ Over 50 Computer Club
- ☪ RoboGYRLS Camp
- ☪ Professional Computer Trainings for non-profits and for-profits

FUN FOR ALL AGES !

Take a computer class in a relaxed environment, only 4 to 8 people per class. Look at the enclosed Computer Class Schedule and call 724-834-9390 to register today .

50th anniversary campaign

This year we are commemorating our 50 years of successful service to the community. As part of that process, we want to assure that we remain the strong community leader for women and girls and for the cause of racial justice.

It is important that we continue to be responsive and resilient in addressing our mission as we enter into our next 50 years of service. In recognition of both our history and our future, the YWCA of Westmoreland County is launching its 50th Anniversary Campaign to raise \$500,000 for YWCA programs and services. In the coming months, more information regarding our campaign will be mailed to you.

We move forward mindful of where we have been, what we have accomplished and where we are going.

Cherish yesterday. Celebrate today. Transform tomorrow!

6th ANNUAL MARDI GRAS CARNIVALE!

It was cold and snowy outside, but inside the YWCA it was HOT, HOT, HOT! Over 150 friends of the YWCA attended the Sixth Annual Mardi Gras Carnivale. Mardi Gras hats filled with ice and pony beer bottles served as centerpieces for each table while wine and Hurricanes were served from two bars. Our guests were happy to have cold beverages to extinguish the heat of the Cajun and Creole cuisine consumed throughout the evening. Jambalaya, Hoppin' John, crawfish, prime rib and shrimp were on the menu, followed by pralines, beignets and a complimentary tray of chocolates from "The Chocolate Shoppe" in Greensburg. It was a good thing the students from University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg led a "second line dance" throughout the mansion for exercise and entertainment. Elvis performed a juggling act before he "left the building" and palm readers told fortunes

to beguiled and inquisitive guests.

Congratulations to Mardi Gras Chairwoman Jan Merriman, helpers Michelle Teague and Rebecca Parry, and all of the volunteers for making this extraordinary event a huge success. Special thanks to our **Underwriting Sponsor First Commonwealth Bank**;



Purple Sponsors Prudential Preferred Realty: Marilyn Davis, Dennis Leshock, Carmen Spallone, Rebecca Parry, Jodi Repasky; Green Sponsors Kepple - Graft Funeral Home and the Ladies of WBN Laurel Highlands. Gift

Baskets were provided by Becky Thorne and The Center Spa and Salon. Save the date for next year-March 8, 2011! Congratulations 2011 Mardi Gras King and Queen, Frank Hodges and his wife Janice Smarto.

RED HAT DIVAS

The Divas gathered together in March for a delicious lunch at Earnest Gourmet which was followed by a delightful tour of the exhibit by Doreen Curry at the Greensburg Art Center. On April 15th hostesses, Eleanor Testa and Shirley Vitale have planned a dessert meeting featuring a jewelry demonstration at noon in the YWCA. For more information, 724-834-9390.

social scene



Literacy Program Updates

From the Desk of Maggie O'Leary, Literacy Director

Spring Edition, 2010

"No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another." ~ Author Unknown

ADULT BASIC LITERACY PROGRAM

Our Spring Tutor Training Workshop is scheduled for April 19, 20, & 26 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Please call the office if you are interested in becoming a tutor. Hand-books need to be prepared and materials need to be purchased, so please call to register for the workshop.

Also, if you know anyone who is struggling with every-day life because of a lack of reading and writing skills, please encourage that person to call me. I will do my best to reassure him or her that it's never too late to learn and match that person with a caring tutor.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

English Language Classes are in full-swing for the 2009-2010 school year. We are at our maximum capacity of 30 students. If anyone is interested in registering for the 2010-2011 school year, you can call our office to register.

Book Sorting & Our Annual Used Book Sale

In order to prepare for our book sale every September, a group of volunteers meets every Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at our book storage facility located on Route 119 by the Westmoreland County Blind Association. We receive book donations all year round, so book sorting is a much needed service. If you have a love for books and would like to be involved in the opportunity to sort our donations, please call Maggie to get all the details and directions to our site. We would be delighted for you to join us once a week or even once a month. . . whatever your schedule allows.

Thanks to all our volunteers!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 31	Sportswomen of the Year Awards Banquet
April 14	International Women World Day Lunch
May 19	Winners' Circle Luncheon
May 21	Preschool Graduation
June 7	Summer Camp Begins
June 15	Annual YWCA Membership Meeting
TBA:	5th Annual Fall Fashion Show

**Heartfelt and Sincere
Birthday Wishes
to YWCA Founding Member
Ruth Woomer
April 13, 2010**



HATHA YOGA with Christine Walko

This class will include yoga postures that help to position and work the body in ways that stretch and strengthen not only the major muscle groups but also the deeper muscles that maintain the health of the spine and joints.

Wednesdays: March 24 - April 28

5:30 - 6:45 PM

Class Fee: \$45 + YWCA Membership

YOGA AWARENESS with Nancy Michaels

This series is designed to focus on specific areas of the body to strengthen and stretch muscles. This class will help participants build strength, balance the body's system, increase body awareness, and increase energy while learning specific postures.

Thursdays: March 18 - April 22

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Class Fee: \$45 + YWCA Membership

Teen Yoga - Mom's Welcome! with Christine Walko

Daughters can come alone or invite mom to join them while they get in shape and have fun. This yoga class offers a way to increase stamina, flexibility, balance and body-awareness.

6 Wednesdays: March 24 - April 28

4:00 - 5:00 PM

\$45 per person/ \$65 per mom & daughter

Cook and Dine with Sergio

Spend a fun and flavorful evening with Sergio. Session fee: \$35 per night

6:00 - 9:00 PM Call Sergio 412-953-6424

March 22, 2010

Sauces will be featured this evening and the demonstration will include marinara, alfredo, and vodka sauces.

April 19, 2010

Crab cakes are always a hit with Sergio's dinner guests and I'm sure they will please your crowd also.

Power Kids Karate will begin new classes on May 10, 2010. Call for more information.

Red Cross Babysitting Class

Open to girls and boys ages 11 and above. All materials will be provided. Learn how to be a responsible babysitter and receive a certificate of participation from the Red Cross.

Bring a bagged lunch. Limited number of spaces available. Class includes CPR.

Facilitator: American Red Cross

Saturday April 24 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

\$55 per person

Astrology with Cathy Bednar

Saturday April 24

10:30 AM - 12:00 noon \$10 per person

Astrology shows that positive use of your planetary energies can guide you towards self-fulfillment and accomplishing your life's mission. Cathy, will explain how your chart shows your life's purpose and Karma along with your personality, motivations, career possibilities, relationships and more.

Self Defense for Women with Marissa Yaniszski

Saturday April 17

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM \$20 per person

Learn basic moves that may save your life.

BEGINNING TAI CHI with Linda Vucelich

This class is intended for those who have never taken Tai Chi or who have some experience with Tai Chi.

5 Tuesdays: April 13, 27, May 11, 25, June 8

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Fee: \$55 + YWCA Membership

CONTINUING TAI CHI with Linda Vucelich

This class is designed for experienced Tai Chi students looking to continue their practice.

5 Tuesdays: April 6, 20, May 4, 18, June 1

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Fee: \$55 + YWCA Membership

INTERMEDIATE TAI CHI with Linda Vucelich

Maintain your physical and mental health.

Beginning Tai Chi or experience prerequisite.

5 Mondays: April 12, 19, 26, May 10, 17

6:45 - 7:45 PM

Fee: \$55 + YWCA Membership



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Greensburg, PA 15601
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E-mail: info@ywcawestmoreland.org



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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2010 YWCA SPORTSWOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS!

Sports Girl of the Year: Morgan Ansell, Cross Country, Wendover MS, Greensburg

Sports Teen of the Year-Individual Excellence: Joelle Kissel, Tennis, Greater Latrobe SHS, Latrobe

Sports Teen of the Year-Excellence in a Team Sport: Bethany Smyda, Soccer & Track, Penn-Trafford SHS, Penn Trafford

Sportswoman of the Year-Individual Excellence: Taylor Seaman (Greensburg), Gymnastics, North Carolina State University, NC

Sportswoman of the Year-Excellence in a Team Sport: Rachel Roddy (Greensburg), Volleyball & Basketball, Point Park University, Pittsburgh

Special Needs Sportswoman of the Year: Chrissy Neptune, Special Olympics, Hempfield SHS, Greensburg

Girls Sports Team of the Year: West Point Girls All-Star Softball Team, Greensburg

Teen Sports Team of the Year: Jeannette Jayhawks SHS Girls Basketball Team, Jeannette

Sportswomen Team of the Year: Seton Hill Women's Basketball Team, Greensburg

Women's Coach of the Year: Janine Vertacnik, Jeannette Jayhawks SHS Girls Basketball Team, Jeannette

Health & Fitness Woman of the Year: Hayley Chemski-Horwat, Building Bodeez Fitness Center, Derry