



Spring 2012

Welcome to the Spring 2012 edition of the Connecticut Women's Forum—Member News! The purpose of this newsletter is to inform members of upcoming Forum events, to share the successes and accomplishments of our membership and to alert members to events of interest in the New York-Connecticut area. For future editions, please send a short synopsis to both Kate Larson (KateLarsonCWF@aol.com) and Jeanne Matson (Jeanne@starnetflooring.com.)

[CWF News](#)

Please welcome new members...

Molly Rees Gavin. Molly is the President of Connecticut Community Care, Inc (CCCI), a statewide, nonprofit organization that provides a host of community-based long term care services to 10,000 elders and persons with disabilities.

Eileen Lynch. Eileen is Senior Vice President and head of Global Brand Marketing at Thomson Reuters. She is responsible for oversight of all aspects of Thomson Reuter's brand strategy and marketing. A leading provider of intelligent information to the professional marketplace, Thomson Reuters was recently recognized by Interbrand as the 37th Best Global Brand.

Upcoming CWF events...

April 3, 4 and 5 – Dine Arouds in Member homes (Stamford, Madison, Wilton). If you have not RSVP'd, please let us know as soon as possible whether you are planning to attend. The Dine Around in Stamford is at capacity, but there are still openings in Madison (April 4) and Wilton (April 5).

May 8 - Mark your calendars for a fascinating evening with **Dr. Gary Rose, Chair, Department of Government and Politics, Sacred Heart University**, Fairfield, CT. Dr. Rose was recently awarded the 2011 Connecticut Professor of the Year for the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. We have reserved the Sacred Hearth University Boardroom for a dinner presentation from Dr. Rose, who will address "*The 2012 Presidential Election: Candidates, Politics and Forecasts*".

June TBD – Annual Meeting and Election of Officers The Nominating Committee will be meeting shortly. If you have any questions about the nominating process, or would like to be considered for the 2012-2014 Board, please contact Maureen Gorman, Nominating Chair.

[Member News](#)

Mary Barneby was recently invited to join the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Council for Education Reform (CCER), a non-profit statewide organization created to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the Connecticut Commission on Educational Achievement, create awareness of Connecticut's achievement gap and how it affects our children and our State's economy and support innovative initiatives to build momentum and capacity for education reform efforts. **Marna Borgstrom** is a longstanding member of the CCER Board.

Mary also joined the Board of the Stamford YMCA and will be focusing her efforts on helping the Y build a healthy lifestyles program for local kids and their families.

Maura Carley, President and CEO of Healthcare Navigation, LLC, recently published "*Health Insurance: Navigating Traps & Gaps*" The book details the devastating consequences of being 'coverage illiterate' as millions of Americans are because their employer or spouse's employer manages the process of providing healthcare coverage to them. Most people are ill-prepared to deal with our complex and irrational health insurance system, with potentially disastrous results both financially and emotionally. The book highlights the need for Americans to learn more about their healthcare coverage whether they are turning 26, facing divorce, the death of a spouse, retirement or retirement of a spouse or going onto Medicare.

Maura will be signing copies of her book at a special event at Barrett Bookstore, 314 Heights Road, Darien, on **Saturday, March 24th from 3 – 5 p.m.** The event is free and open to the public. Those interested in discussing the importance of understanding healthcare and health insurance in these changing times are encouraged to attend. Maura notes, "serious illness can be tragic but not understanding how your coverage will protect you can also be tragic."

Virginia Giuffre has been appointed Resident Director of the Merrill Lynch office in Westport, Connecticut.

Virginia has also been selected by The Diversity and Inclusion Business to moderate a discussion on Women and Health for all female employees of Merrill Lynch/Bank of America.

Maura Carley will be the guest speaker for the hour addressing, "*Navigating the Health Care System*". This segment which will be a virtual program, and is part of six series of issues which affect women and their families. The discussion will focus on the following topics: women as caregivers; effectively navigating the healthcare system; healthcare coverage through life transitions; what to do in a major health crisis; your healthcare coverage vs. the US healthcare systems; the insured vs. the uninsured; and understanding medicare coverage.

Ann Ives is a trained volunteer with AARP Foundation's Money Management Program. The program, established in 1981 for low-income older or disabled adults who have difficulty managing and paying their routine monthly bills, is operated locally by the South Central Connecticut Agency on Aging. Ann has been helping an elderly woman, now chronically ill, manage her seriously limited resources, write checks, and apply for hardship assistance to pay for her rent, utilities and food. Ann says the experience, although enormously gratifying as her client's need is so great, is also a sobering reminder of how quickly circumstances in one's life can change. Less than 7 years ago, her client was married and a homeowner with no major health issues. Today, she is widowed, living in a tiny apartment rental with no discretionary income.

In January, Sullivan & LeShane CEO **Paddi LeShane** was honored with the “2011 Creating Opportunities Leadership Award” from Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman and the YWCA Hartford Region, recognizing her “outstanding contributions to the Hartford community and the State of Connecticut.” “You have been an effective advocate on behalf of YWCA Hartford Region,” commented Lt. Governor Wyman. “Your support has displayed your strong integrity, spirit of leadership, care, and generosity. Your unwavering dedication to the rights, enrichment and happiness of family, friends and neighbors is an inspiration to everyone and contributes to the betterment of our community.”

Nancy May recently ran a board panel for Financial Executives International (FEI) that included two of our members: **Ann Gray** and **Karen Scappaticci**.

Nancy will be speaking on board issues for the women lawyers of the New York Bar Association at the end of May.

Andrea Obston, President, Andrea Obston Marketing Communications recently published a column in the Hartford Business Journal, “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly in Apologies” . You’ll find it at: <http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/news23106.html>

Virginia P’an reports that Yumi EcoSolutions, Inc. will be featured on CT TV Channel 12 “On the Money” program this weekend as part of "Earth Day" weekend. The show will be aired on Saturday at 6:00am, 9:30am, 1:00pm and 4:30pm, and on Sunday at 9:30am, 12:00pm, 3:30pm and 3:30am (Monday).

Pamela Reid has several updates to report...

She was elected to the Board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), a national policy organization for higher education.

She was elected to the Presidents’ Council for Division III of the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA)

She was named as 2011 Polaris Awardee by the Greater Hartford Leadership Council
She was presented the Maria Miller Stewart Award by the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund (CWELF)

She recently published an article in the professional journal, Psychology of Women Quarterly, entitled Wives of College and University Presidents: Identity, Privacy, and Relationships with co-authors Ellen Cole and Margaret Kern.

<http://pwq.sagepub.com/content/35/4/547.abstract>

Margaret (“Peggy”) Yocher UTC Finance Program Management Officer also chairs the Financial Executives International Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) Global Committee. She will be speaking at the FEI annual Chief Financial Officers meeting. She also is responsible for the UK strategy for the FEI International Committee

Housatonic Scholarships

In addition to the mutual support our members give each other, the Connecticut Women’s Forum is dedicated to helping women in our communities, and one of the most prominent displays of that assistance is our annual scholarship support to female students at the Housatonic

Community College. This year, CWF donated \$4,000 to be used to provide funding for a full time female student. We currently have two scholarship recipients, Barcatun Noccioli and Miyanda Mudingayi. Both young women attended our January 18th event at the Blue Lemon in Westport, and had the opportunity to meet with members and express their appreciation for our assistance.



Pictured left to right: Jeanne Matson, Valarie Gelb, Jo Dutcher, Siw deGysser, Miyanda Mudingavayi and Ingrid Manning

Support for Female Veterans

Our May 2011 program provided a unique perspective into the lives of Female Veterans returning to Connecticut after serving our country. In response to the presentation, CWF members have embraced the Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes transitional housing project in Bridgeport. We dedicated our holiday gift collection to the women residing in this facility, and Virginia Giuffre recently met with Joy Kiss, Executive Director of Homes for the Brave, for a tour of the facility and to personally deliver our donations. CWF members donated over \$1600 in gift cards and monetary donations for the home and its residents.



Pictured left to right: Nicole Lowery, Case Manager; Joy Kiss, CEO Homes for the Brave; Virginia Giuffre; Lauren Cust, Case Manager.

Ms. Kiss expressed her appreciation for the support, and encouraged members to attend their upcoming Gala in May:

**FEMALE SOLDIERS:
FORGOTTEN HEROES**
Coming Home Gala
SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2012
7:00 PM

St. Ann Club Hall
16 Hendricks Avenue
Norwalk, Connecticut

Bringing Hope & Healing to Those Who Serve

For additional information, please see : <http://www.kickfornick.org/FSFHFundraisingGala>

Upcoming IWF and New York Forum Events

(please see www.iwforum.org and www.womensforumny.org for additional details)

April 3, 2012, New York Forum, Lunch with Nancy Pelosi, Paley Center
April 14, 2012, Private Tour “Best Exhibits in Chelsea” with optional lunch at The Park
May 1, 2012, Cocktails with Maggie Craddock, Career Coach
May 18, 2012, New York Forum, Second Annual Elly Awards Luncheon at the Plaza Hotel

May 30-June 1, 2012, IWF Cornerstone Conference, Rabat, Morocco
October 24-26, 2012, IWF World Leadership Conference, San Francisco, CA

Upcoming Benefits Dedicated to Women’s Issues

In addition to the Benefit for the Female Soldiers: Forgotten Heroes project, members have advised us of other spring fundraising events dedicated to women’s issues:

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England Spring Luncheon, will be held on Wednesday April 25th at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich from 11am-2pm. The featured speaker is Eve Ensler, Tony Award-winning author, actor and advocate, Ms. Ensler is author of *The Vagina Monologues* and *I’m an Emotional Creature: The Secret Life of Girls Around the World*. CWF members **Kay Maxwell** and **Siw deGysser** are on the Board of the Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. Siw notes, “this is our annual fund raising event. It is a major undertaking and promises to be a very significant event this year.” For additional information, please contact Kay or Siw, or go to <https://giving.ppsne.org/SSLPage.aspx?pid=360>

The Women’s Refugee Commission 2012 Voices of Courage Awards and Luncheon will be held at Cipriani in NYC on May 4th. For additional information about the event, please contact the Women’s Refugee Commission Benefit Office at womensrefugeecommission@cmevents.net or 212.763.8590.

Upcoming Events of Interest

The First Annual Fairfield County “**Women’s HighNETwork**” **Educational Day** to benefit the Yerwood Community Center will be held on March 29th at Saks Fifth Avenue (Stamford Mall). This complimentary event offers an extensive array of speakers, panels, networking, and book signings. The luncheon features author Ruma Bose (***Mother Theresa, CEO***), and Kathy Eldon, filmmaker, author and inspirational speaker. 10% of purchases will benefit the Yerwood Center, a neighborhood community center for underserved children in Stamford. Advance registration is required, and CWF members are welcome to attend as guests of UBS (through Mary Barneby). Email windssofchange@thebarnyardgroup.com to register, and be sure to mention UBS as your host. .

The **World Affairs Forum** has a wide array of events planned for this spring – events listed as AR are for Ambassadors Roundtable members and guests, and WAF members and the general public on a space available basis; WAF events are free for members and open to the general public, Great Decisions (GD) events are free and open to the public. For additional information regarding these events including location and cost, go to www.worldaffairsforum.org or contact Kay Maxwell (CWF Member and Executive Director of the WAF):

March 29, 2012, WorldQuest XII Fundraiser, Italian Center (Special Event)

April 11, 2012 (AR), “Mongolia: The Legacy of Ghengis Khan in the 21st Century:”, Dr. Christopher P. Atwood, Chair, Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University, 7:15 am

April 16, 2012 (Special Event), Senator George Mitchell, Former US Special Envoy for Middle East Peace, “Turmoil in the Middle East & Its Effect on American Policy”

April 25, 2012 (WAF), “Women in Global Conflict”, Dr. Helen Benedict, Professor, Columbia University School of Journalism and author, *The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq* and Major Katie Matthew, Instructor, US Military Academy, 5:45pm

April 30, 2012 (GD) “Energy Geopolitics”, Leslie Palti-Guzman, Analyst, Eurasia Group, 7pm

May 16, 2012 (AR) Indonesia: South Asian Superpower”, Ambassador Dino Patti Djalal, Ambassador of Indonesia to the United States, 6:15pm

June 7, 2012 (Special Event) Annual Meeting and Dinner, featuring Dr. Andrew R. Wilson, Professor of Strategy and Policy, US Naval War College, Editor, World Policy Journal, World Policy Institute, “The Rise of the Chinese Military and the State of the Chinese Economy”, 5:30pm

The Quick Center at Fairfield University offers a wide array of programs this spring, including music, theater, lectures and comedy. See <http://quickcenter.com/> for the full calendar.

For opera lovers, you can view the **National Theatre Live performances** (as well as the Metropolitan Opera) through a live simulcast at the Quick Center and other locations. For information, see <http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/ntlive> .