



Mission Statement: AAUW advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

**Value Promise:** By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

**APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch**

[www.aauwbridgeport.org](http://www.aauwbridgeport.org)

### **President's Message**

As we celebrate spring, our minds turn to planting flowers, visiting gardens and graduations. This year we can give thanks for a mild winter.

Our plans for the rest of the year focus on the fundraiser at the Stratford Square One Playhouse, Mary Jane Foster's presentation on "Women's Roles as Innovators: University of Bridgeport's Networking program for Bridgeport Area Business Entrepreneurs" at the Discovery Museum culminating with the annual meeting in May at the Blue Goose in Stratford.

When Lisa Maatz, our Policy Advisor in Washington publicly spoke out against the attack on women by Rush Limbaugh, I was extremely proud to be an AAUW member. If we don't raise our voices in support of women's rights, it could be perceived as concurrence with the war on women.

Actually, when I think of why I'm a member, all I have to do is go to a meeting or a book group or Great Decisions and have a discussion with our members and I'm reminded of the thoughtful respect that is the hallmark of our relationships. In an AAUW Great Decisions group here in Florida, we were discussing the polarization of our national discourse. The consensus of the group was that even though AAUW members don't always view issues from the same perspective, we listen and appreciate the other's right to an opinion.

From March 26<sup>th</sup> to April 9<sup>th</sup> Gayatri Amatya from University of Bridgeport and Nidal Ali from Housatonic Community College attended the 56<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations as our guests with members Mary Misevich and Gretchen Goethner. We are looking forward to hearing about their experience at the annual meeting. Gayatri shared her experience with members of the HCC Women's Center on International Women's Day.

We ask that you consider taking a leadership role in our organization. There are many ways you can use your talents from financial matters to acting as a hostess at a general meeting.

In March, in line with our focus on partnering, we co-sponsored Women's History Month with the Discovery Museum. We were privileged to have our AAUW/CT President, Alice Reitz, join in the celebration.

Also, Patricia Russo, President of the Campaign School at Yale, discussed the status of women's role in politics. In this important political year, where the discussion has focused on challenging women's rights, it's important for Congressional women representatives to be involved in making public policy.

Judi Polizzotti Co-President AAUW Bridgeport, (203) 258-9552, <judypoli@hotmail.com>

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Ruby Johnson, a civic leader in Newtown, died February 16, 2012 of lung cancer. She was active in Contemporary Global Issues and the Morning Book Group until hearing loss caused her to concentrate on her main project, the civic use of the Fairfield Hills property, which the State of Connecticut sold to Newtown. She made the original suggestion for the town to buy the property and make it the center of community life.

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**Bridgeport Branch AAUW  
spring brings showers . . .**

**Please donate a new umbrella  
to a woman of the Mercy Learning Center**

Assist, and surprise in a meaningful way, another woman  
who is making an effort  
to improve her personal, family, and work skills  
**bring the umbrella to a spring event for donation**

*“Most of the women at the center take public transportation or walk in all kinds of weather”.*  
*Ellen Kuroghlian*

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Women's History Month was celebrated at the Discovery Museum on, March 10, 2012. The event was spearheaded by Laurel Anderson of the Museum with Gloria Francesconi and Carole Fanslow representing the sponsoring organizations: the AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch and the League of Women Voters of the Bridgeport Area. More than 500 people attended the event; thank you to AAUW member who attended – hopefully, this program will be repeated in 2013!

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## SAVE THE DATE...PLAN TO ATTEND

### Branch Programs

#### Note:

*It takes a great deal of effort to offer quality programming, please R.S.V.P. your intentions to attend and bring a friend, or two, on the following dates!*

April 25, 2012, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Branch General Meeting    Discovery Museum, 4450 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606

We are honored to have as our presenter for the evening, Vice President of Outreach at the University of Bridgeport, Mary-Jane Foster: administrator; politician; business owner; attorney; volunteer. Ms. Foster will present, “Women’s Roles as Innovators: University of Bridgeport’s networking program for Bridgeport Area Business Entrepreneurs.”

Citing as her accomplishments, she is the co-founder of the Bluefish baseball team; has worked in New York theatre and television commercials; while most recently, volunteered with the YMCA and the Center for Women and Families; and run for Mayor of Bridgeport against incumbent Bill Finch.

April 28, 2012, Saturday, 9:30 a.m., AAUW/CT Convention

“AAUW – Past, Present, and Future”

Madison Winter Club, 251 Boston Post Road, Madison CT

*Program details and registration attached. (\$25 registration fee due April 18<sup>th</sup>)*

May 10, 2012, Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Annual Scholarship Fundraiser

Square One Theater, 2422 Main Street, Stratford

Neil Simon’s, “The Good Doctor” – ‘a delightful collection of comic vignettes based on enchanting short stories by Anton Chekhov. This rarely produced comedy, by one of the most popular playwrights of all time, is a warm and wise evening of entertainment that appeals to the head, heart and funny bone’.

***No tickets will be issued at the door.*** Send your request for tickets to: Carole Fanslow, 31 Bridgeview Place, Stratford, CT 06614. Make check payable to AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch. Tickets \$20.00 per person; reception to follow. The League of Women Voters of the Bridgeport Area and Discovery Museum will be joining us. To volunteer to provide finger food or to ask a question, call Carole Fanslow at 203.375.1284.

May 31, 2012, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Annual Meeting

Augustyn’s Blue Goose Restaurant, 326 Ferry Blvd. Stratford, CT

Cost is \$35 pp; see attached flyer.

Gretchen Goethner, VP Program, (203) 254-8481, ggoethner@aol.com

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Bridgeport Branch Calendar, 2011 – 2012

- April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Evening Book Group – home of Claire Shumofsky, 7:30 p.m., RSVP 203-372-1700
  - April 10<sup>th</sup> - Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview 9:30 a.m.
  - April 17<sup>th</sup> –Board Meeting - Unity Church of Christ, 364 White Plains Rd. Trum. 9:30 a.m.
  - April 24<sup>th</sup> - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.
  - April 25<sup>th</sup> – Branch Program, Discovery Museum, 7:00 p.m.
  - April 28<sup>th</sup> -- AAUW/CT Convention
  - May 1<sup>st</sup> - Evening Book Group – home of Judi Polizzotti, 7:30 p.m., RSVP 203-258-9552
  - May 2<sup>nd</sup> - Finance Committee – 16 Plymouth Ave. Trumbull, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
  - May 8<sup>th</sup> - Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview 9:30 a.m.
  - May 10<sup>th</sup> – Annual Fundraiser – Square One Theater, Stratford, 7:00 p.m.
  - May 22<sup>th</sup> - Morning Book Group – Watermark, 9:30 a.m.
  - May 31 – Annual Meeting- Augustyn’s Blue Goose Restaurant, 326 Ferry Blvd. Strfd, 6:30 p.m.
  - June 5<sup>th</sup> - Evening Book Group – planning meeting, location TBA, Louise, RSVP 203-259-0625
  - June 12<sup>th</sup> - Contemporary Global Issues, Bayview 9:30 a.m.
- Christine Bonosky, Newsletter Co-Editor, (203) 261-1241, cbonosky@gmail.com

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Bylaws . . . AAUW has issued mandatory changes to state and branch bylaws necessitated by changes in the AAUW Bylaws. The changes relate to DC laws applicable to all nonprofit organizations incorporated in Washington, DC. They required AAUW to make changes to our 2011 Bylaws, some of which therefore require our branches and states to make changes as well. (Remember, these changes do not require a vote.)

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NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders)  
Again this year, we are sending two students from our college partners HCC and UB to NCCWSL in May at the University of Maryland. AAUW/CT matches our contribution

for one student's fees. We will invite the students to a general meeting in the fall to share their experience.

New /returning member:

Louise D'Amico 203-372-2846  
38 Louvain Street vdamico6766@sbcglobal.net  
Fairfield, CT 06825

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International

UN CSW (Commission on the Status of Women): Empowering Rural Women

The following are thoughts, impressions written by VP Program, Gretchen Goethner and member Mary Misevich who attended the Consultation Day program held to prepare members for the UN 56 CSW conference. We also sponsored Gayatri Amyana from University of Bridgeport and Nidal Ali from Housatonic Community College to attend the conference.

“It was a wonderful representation of women from across the world. (A woman from Papua New Guinea sat next to me in the p.m.)”

“Panelists almost universally spoke about the needs of rural women for empowerment through education, health services including family planning, economic support. Emphasis was on the fact that women produce 60-80 % of the food in the world but lack control over land and agricultural resources due to patriarchal practices and traditions. Several speakers said we don't need more studies and programs and policies designed top-down. Women know the problems and the solutions needed to advance their status and for the betterment of society.”

“Women must be involved at all levels of decision-making including agenda setting, program design and implementation as expert stake-holders.”

“We were impressed with the young women who came from Housatonic Community College and the University of Bridgeport both in their interest and their passion for improving the status of women.”

We also, would like to thank Carolyn Donovan AAUW Representative to the UN for her assistance.

Judi Polizzotti Co-President AAUW Bridgeport, (203) 258-9552, judypoli@hotmail.com

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Networking is a group of new and not so new members who get together to network ideas and opportunities for working in the community. It is an opportunity for new members to learn about the organization and meet some of our more experienced members.

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**AAUW/CT 2012 Convention**  
**AAUW – Past, Present, and Future**

Saturday April 28, 2012

- 9:30-10:00           Registration and Networking  
Chantal De Armitt, Co-president, AAUW/CT
- 10:00-10:30           Welcome and Remarks  
Alice Reitz, Co-president, AAUW/CT  
NCCWSL Branch Grants and College University Partners  
Lin Rising, College/University Liaison, AAUW/CT
- 11:00-11:30           Annual Business Meeting
- 11:30-11:45           Break
- 11:45-12:45           AAUW – Past, Present and Future  
Peggy Williams, National Board Member, AAUW
- 12:45-2:30           Luncheon  
  
Recognition of AAUW Branch and  
College/University Partner Achievements  
  
Girls, Women and the Future  
Jennifer Smith Turner, CEO, Girl Scouts of Connecticut



**AAUW/CT 2012 Convention**  
**AAUW – Past, Present, and Future**

Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

Madison Winter Club  
251 Boston Post Rd.  
Madison, CT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(as you wish it to appear on your name tag)

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Leadership Position \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Daytime \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \$25 Please make check payable to AAUW/CT

Meal selection:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken      \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon      \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian

Send this form and payment by April 18<sup>th</sup> to:      Laurel Anderson  
5241 Main Street  
Trumbull, CT 06611

For additional information contact Alice Reitz (203)245-9208    [alice.reitz@gmail.com](mailto:alice.reitz@gmail.com)

# ***AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch*** **Branch Meeting**

***Wednesday, April 25, 2012***

***7:00—9:00 PM***

***Discovery Museum, 4450 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT***



**AAUW**

***Breaking through Barriers***

## **Women's Roles as Innovators:** **UB's Networking Program for Bridgeport Area** **Business Entrepreneurs**

***Special Guest Speaker***

**Mary-Jane Foster**

***University of Bridgeport Vice President of University Relations***



The Innovators" is a new series of networking events being hosted at the University of Bridgeport to bring entrepreneurs and idea people together.

***Free of Charge and Open to the Public***

Contact Judi Polizzotti at [judypoli@hotmail.com](mailto:judypoli@hotmail.com)  
for more information





**AAUW Bridgeport Area Branch  
Invites You to a**

**Theatre Party & Fundraiser  
To Support the Branch Scholarship Fund**

**Thursday, May 10, 2012 7 P.M.  
Square One Theatre,  
2422 Main Street, Stratford  
\$20 per person**



*Meet the cast at a post-  
performance reception*

**“Neil Simon’s *The Good Doctor*, a delightful collection of comic vignettes based on enchanting short stories by Anton Chekhov. This rarely produced comedy by one of the most popular playwrights of all time, is a warm and wise evening of entertainment that appeals to the head, heart and funny-bone.**

**Reserve your seat today!**

Send your check, payable to AAUW Bridgeport.  
c/o Carole Fanslow, 31 Bridgeview Place, Stratford, CT 06614

Number of seats at \$20/person \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

No tickets are issued, please check in at the theatre front desk the night of the performance



AAUW Bridgeport

Invites you to our

2012 Annual Meeting

Thursday May 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 at 6:30 PM

Augustyn's Blue Goose

26 Ferry Blvd.  
Stratford CT  
\$35 for dinner

Please RSVP by May 24, 2012, to AAUW Bridgeport.

c/o Carole Fanslow, 31 Bridgeview Place, Stratford, CT 06614

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address or address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of:

- Prime Rib
- Baked Stuffed Jumbo Shrimp
- Chicken and Shrimp Marsala
- Fresh Atlantic Salmon

Amount enclosed for Annual Branch Meeting \_\_\_\_\_