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## A Revival of Women: Coming Home

*“For me, becoming involved in The Fund was like coming home.” – Revival Participant*

On a mid-September evening, Advisory Board and Alumnae members of The Community Fund for Women & Girls united to remember the Fund’s victories and look forward to an exciting future. Attendees shared stories of sisterhood, bravery, joy, and even audacity, while reminiscing about the Fund’s nearly 20-year history. Founding Chair Sheilah Rostow told of the early days of local women’s philanthropy and the Fund’s first goal to double the original \$10,000 investment. Founding leaders decided to ask women to make a commitment of \$1,000 over four years. “Why? Because we thought that was audacious at the time,” recalled Rostow. Exceeding their goal 9-fold, early founders knew that women’s philanthropy in Greater New Haven was a force. Current and former fund leaders celebrated this, and other milestones, the Fund’s impact and promise of advancement for women and girls.

## Advisory Board Spotlight: Nancy Yao Maasbach

Nancy Yao Maasbach joined the Advisory Board in 2013. She brings an impressive blend of leadership and research experience to the role. Nancy’s diverse career has spanned nonprofit and private sectors, with leadership roles at Goldman Sachs, Global Markets Institute, CNN, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), and currently the Yale-China Association, where she serves as Executive Director. Nancy’s education includes a degree in Diplomacy and World Affairs with a minor in Chinese language from Occidental College, and an M.B.A. from the Yale School of Management. In addition to her role on the Fund’s Board, Nancy is active in the Association of Asian American Yale Alumni and the Obama administration’s 100,000 Strong Initiative. Earlier this year she organized the program, From Secret Language to Modern Voices: The Changing Role of Women in Modern China.




The Community Fund for  
**WOMEN & GIRLS**

70 Audubon Street New Haven, CT 06510

**Announcing**  
the winner of  
The Susan M. Lewin  
Women’s Leadership Award:  
Nilda Aponete of All Our Kin



**...see inside for details**

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### Advisory Board Members

Carol Ross  
*Chair*

Nancy Yao Maasbach  
*Acting Co-Chair*

Susan Garcia Nofi  
*Acting Co-Chair*

Heather Calabrese  
*Acting Vice Chair*

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Betty Trachtenberg

Janna Wagner

The Community Fund for  
**WOMEN & GIRLS**

 a component fund of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

Winter 2014



## More than Gender: Courtney Martin Inspires with “Feminism’s Frankensteins”

Proudly owning the title “Feminist,” Courtney Martin inspired and uplifted a packed audience at The Fund’s October 28th gathering. Quick to explain the intriguing title of her presentation, “Feminism’s Frankensteins,” Courtney mused that although Halloween was just a few days away the title of her presentation had no relation. Instead, it was a nod to the many monsters surrounding the movement for gender equality. These monsters have surprisingly little to do with gender. They include the competing interests of race, age, and class, along with a backlash movement that makes it difficult for all women to unite. Martin admitted that as a young woman she feels overwhelmed. There is much to do and currently the financial support is not addressing the widespread need.

Martin gave a passionate presentation focused mainly on the positive ways women can raise their voices collectively. She cited numerous instances of successful “21st century consciousness raising” driven by

pop culture and the Internet in particular. She explained, “Pop culture is the gateway drug for feminism,” with tools like blogs, Facebook, and Google readily available for women and girls to educate themselves and others on issues that impact their lives. These tools allow for the interconnection and collaboration that is essential for effective change.

In response to a question on how to transform the challenging systems currently in place, Courtney implored that we “stay impatient; stay outraged,” noting also that sometimes we must trick the system until we can change it. She parted with a bit of homework, suggestions for sites where attendees could learn more, along with a declaration that every one of us has the ability to make a difference by using our own special gifts for engaging with the world to spread the word and support gender justice.

Want more? Head online to [www.fundforwomenandgirls.org](http://www.fundforwomenandgirls.org) for Courtney’s suggested resources.





## Fund Investments: A Foundation of Fitness and Fun

The Boys & Girls Club of New Haven (BGCNH) has been a vital source of youth education for over a century. Your support enabled The Community Fund to award the organization with a \$3200 grant for the Triple Play Leadership Club. The Triple Play Club educated 47 girls ages 10-18 on nutrition, fitness, and character, and encouraged those girls to share that knowledge with others.

At the heart of the program was a desire to help girls become more physically and mentally fit via sports programming that is often only directed at boys. Although based initially on traditional sports such as basketball and soccer, program planners adjusted activities to include a choreographed dance program (Flash Mob), along with Zumba classes at the girls' request.

By adapting the program to the girls' interests, participants were encouraged to complete 45 minutes of physical activity and see fitness as fun.

According to Stephanie Barnes, Executive Director of the BGCNH, "The end result was fantastic. The participants felt self-empowered, full of energy and motivated to teach others what they had learned. We even discovered a talented solo artist who performed at our end of school recognition event."



Another component of the Triple Play Club was educating girls on nutrition. To fulfill this goal, the BGCNH collaborated with Yale New Haven Hospital, Hill Health Center, and the Future Project. Those valuable partnerships led to additional wellness initiatives. At the program's end, all of the girls reported an increase in nutrition knowledge, particularly portion control, which is an essential component of healthy eating.



# 200+

Grants awarded to programs for women and girls.

# >4600

The number of gifts made to the Fund to advance women and girls in the region.

# 20K+

The number of women and girls strengthened as a result of direct service grants.

## Are You Inspired to Help?

You can make a donation to The Community Fund for Women & Girls at any time online at [fundforwomenandgirls.org](http://fundforwomenandgirls.org).

If there is a beloved woman that you would like to honor with an individually named fund, a gift or pledge of \$10,000 or more can create such a fund benefiting women and girls' programs in perpetuity. For more information, call Sharon Cappetta at 203-777-7071.

## Grant Applications Due January 16th

Attention nonprofit partners! The grant application form and criteria to receive funding from The Community Fund for Women & Girls will be online at [fundforwomenandgirls.org](http://fundforwomenandgirls.org) in December 2014. The application is designed to help nonprofits demonstrate how their program specifically advances women and girls. Applications are due on January 16, 2015. For more information, please contact Kara Straun at 203-777-7079.



From left: Connie Royster, Sandy Newlan, Community Fund for Women & Girls Acting Co-Chair Susan Garcia Nofi, Clem Lewin, Nilda Aponte, and Rachel Radin.

## Susan M. Lewin Women's Leadership Award Winner, "We Are All Susans..."

The first annual Susan M. Lewin Women's Leadership Award was announced at The Community Fund's fall gathering. Connie Royster, Advisory Board Alumna, began the award presentation by reminding attendees of Susan's longstanding dedication to The Fund's mission.

"She was a doer," Connie shared. As a true leader, Susan "had a knack for seeing what was needed and guiding it along." The candidates for the inaugural award embody Susan's dedication to advancing women and girls. They are everyday "sheroes."

**Nilda Aponte** was announced as the winner of the 2014 Women's Leadership Award. A member of All Our Kin since 2003, Nilda most recently was charged with the organization's expansion into Bridgeport. In addition, Nilda is Chair of Teach Our Children, a New Haven-based education advocacy group focused on empowering parents and students, and a single mom to four children.

In receiving the award, Nilda implored the room filled with Fund supporters to, "Keep Susan's servant heart alive." For, "we are all Susans... collectively we can make a change."

The following volunteer and staff were also recognized as award finalists for their contributions:

- **Carolyn Augur** – William Raveis Breast Cancer Fund Raiser
- **Mona Gregg** – Women's Health Research at Yale
- **Jocelyn Maminta** – Caroline's Room
- **Donna Stupak Rider** – Girl Scouts of Connecticut

The Susan M. Lewin Women's Leadership Award recognizes a woman in the nonprofit sector with leadership skills and the desire to level the playing field for women.