



August Meeting
Wednesday, August 14
12:30pm - 1:30pm
Starmount Country Club

IMPORTANT DATES
8/22 Board Meeting
8/25 August News Deadline

MEETING RSVP



A message from WPF President, Erica Parker

Bonjour! The Summer Olympics 2024 have commenced. Beyond mere athletic contests, they represent a celebration of human resilience, unity, and inspiration. From the lives and experiences of these renowned athletes, I've garnered five valuable lessons:



1. **Overcoming Adversity:** Olympic athletes demonstrate remarkable resilience in the face of challenges. From prioritizing mental health to the determination of refugee athletes, we are witnessing the triumph of the human spirit. As women, we face our own obstacles—whether in the workplace, at home, or in our communities. Let the Olympics remind us that resilience and perseverance can lead to greatness. These stories inspire us to persevere through our own obstacles.
2. **Empowering Others:** The Olympic motto, “Faster, Higher, Stronger,” extends beyond the track and field. It reminds us to lift each other up. Just as successful athletes have coaches, teammates, and supporters, we, too, can empower one another. Let's continue to mentor, advocate, and create opportunities for women to excel in all fields by creating opportunities for growth.
3. **Inclusion and Diversity:** The Olympics showcase athletes from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and nations. They remind us that strength lies in our differences. As a women's organization, let's celebrate our diversity and ensure that every voice is heard. Together, we can create a more inclusive world.
4. **Setting Personal Records:** Whether it's breaking a world record or achieving a personal best, the pursuit of excellence drives Olympic athletes. Let's apply this mindset to our own lives. Set ambitious goals, support each other, and celebrate our victories—no matter how small.
5. **Passing the Torch:** The Olympic flame is passed from one generation to the next. As women leaders, we have a responsibility to mentor and guide the next wave of trailblazers. Let's ignite the passion for progress and inspire future generations to dream big.



In the spirit of the Olympics, let us continue to strive for greatness, support one another, and create positive change.

May the Olympic spirit continue to inspire us all!

Shine Bright!!

Erica

Special Interest Groups

Upcoming Events

WPF Member Directory

WPF Facebook Page

ACTIVE & ACTIVE RETIRED RSVP ONLY
if you can NOT attend

EMERITUS & SUPPORTING MEMBERS
RSVP to attend

BRINGING A GUEST
RSVP with your guest's name & employer

Guest fee \$30, cash or check at the door

RSVP by Noon
Friday, August 9

August Meeting

August 14, 2024 12:30 – 1:30PM

Starmount Forest Country Club

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please join the Membership Committee in welcoming our new members! We are excited to present to you 14 new members for our 2024 class of WPF Sisters. The new members will be introduced at our August membership meeting. Please make every effort to meet them and to invite them to events and SIGs as we move through the year.

Watch your email for details of the New Member Social, to be held in September. Remember, if you are planning to sponsor or co-sponsor a new member for the 2025 class, applicants must attend three meetings (one with each sponsor) between June 1, 2024 and June 1, 2025.

Angela Austin

Angela started professionally working in the design field right after graduating from UNCG's Interior Architecture program in 2009. Working first in retail design for Natuzzi and then Bassett Furniture, she gained experience designing new and renovated stores while overseeing their construction and traveling around the country. Angela put roots down in Greensboro soon after with MM Interior Design Group (best decision ever!). As a partner at the firm now, she feels very lucky to be working with some of the most talented individuals in a minority women owned business. Angela is a wife, proud beagle mom and always open to trying new things, meeting new people and hopefully learning something new along the way.



Mavourneen (Neena) Ballard

Neena has 20+ years' experience in Information Security, Cybersecurity Risk, Governance and GRC platform oversight in the finance, life sciences and technology spaces. She also is the program coordinator for Women in Security at Salesforce and in that role is proud to have established a partnership between Salesforce and Girl Scouts of WN WA, providing training for the girls to receive their cyber badges. Neena has lived in Greensboro since 2017 and is originally from Denver, Colorado. She enjoys travel, reading, entertaining, cooking and spending time with her tenacious daughter and soon to be son-in-law.

Kate Brower

Kate is the Chief Operating Officer at Trewstar Corporate Board Services— a firm that focuses on placing highly qualified and outstanding executives on corporate boards. She works across all industries and location throughout the U.S. While most clients are Fortune 500 companies, she also partners with small- and mid-cap private and public companies and pre-IPO companies. Trewstar also offers board services related to board assessments, advisory boards, succession planning, and board refreshment. She



also serves as Chief Marketing Officer, managing digital marketing efforts to current, past, and prospective clients. Kate has extensive experience in marketing, management, and consulting roles, gained over her 30+ year career. Prior to working with Trewstar, she worked primarily in the business and marketing operations of general and educational publishers. Kate is an executive particularly known for her ability to gather and manage data, to provide information for strategic thinking and business decisions, and to create plans and monitor their execution. Kate is a business professional with a proven track record in increasing revenues, reducing expenses and driving sustainable growth in print and digital consumer products industries. Kate lives in Greensboro and is the mother of four grown sons.



Ashley Coe

Ashley has been in the design industry for almost 15 years, spending time in furniture, commercial, hospitality & residential design. She worked hard to obtain her NCIDQ Certification, which is the highest certification that can be obtained in the Interior Design

Industry. She found her "forever home" at MM Interior Design Group (formerly Marta Mitchell Interior Design) about 3 years ago, and is now a partner in the firm, excited to help it grow. As a UNCG Alumni of the Interior Architecture Department, Ashley loves to give back to the design community helping with student mentoring, project critiques etc. Additionally, she is involved with the Greensboro Builders Association, Professional Women in Building, and Habitat for Humanity Greensboro. Ashley is a wife, a mother to a beautiful 4 year old daughter and two energetic boy pups! She is always looking to explore, meet new people and gain new experiences!

Amy Lawson

As a divorced baby boomer, Amy, an independent investment advisor since 2001, formally expanded her services in 2016 to help older women navigate the daunting financial minefield of divorce after meeting numerous smart, well-educated, divorced women who lacked the funds to secure their financial futures. She understands that for older women facing divorce, achieving an equitable divorce settlement is the first step. Amy also understands that an essential element in successfully navigating the divorce process is one's mindset. Any negative beliefs one has about oneself and/or about money, in general, tend to cloud one's judgment, negatively impacting one's decision-making abilities. Depression, anxiety, self-doubt, and even self-



loathing are feelings often experienced during the divorce process. Amy helps her clients navigate the divorce process by not only providing financial advocacy and financial education, but by also identifying, addressing, and correcting any negative beliefs that may impact their decision-making abilities. Amy is the author of "The Gray Girlfriend's Guide to Divorce: Leave Without Losing Your Money, Your Mind, or Your Magic".



Shirley Lucky

Shirley Lucky currently serves as the Director of Finance and Operations for the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro. Before joining the Foundation, Shirley worked as an Accounting Manager at the Housing Authority of the City of High Point. Her previous work experience includes being a VP of Finance and Controller. She was the first African American VP of Finance for the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro. She has more than 30 years of experience working in the Accounting/Finance area and her experience also includes teaching online Finance, classes at the University of Phoenix. Shirley earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) from North Carolina Central University in Durham, and her Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Finance from Rutgers University In Newark, New Jersey. She is a 40-year member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service organization, and held the office of Chapter President while in college. She is currently an active member of the Greensboro Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. where she currently serves as Co-Chair of the Social Action Committee. Her volunteer work includes serving as PTA Treasurer for 4 years, organizing can food drives and feeding, distributing socks, blankets, and coats to the homeless in Greensboro. Shirley loves reading, traveling, going to the movies and comedy shows, and spending time with her family and friends. She is a New Jersey native and has lived in Greensboro for over 25 years. She is married to Miller Lucky Jr., and they have three children.

Ginny Maurer

Ginny's family moved to Greensboro almost 14 years ago after moving 28 times while her husband was a Navy pilot and worked in the aviation industry. Her son lives in Greensboro and her daughter lives in Nashville. Ginny and her husband love calling Greensboro home. She has a true passion for helping people discover the world and build memories rather than simply building belongings. Nine years ago, Ginny opened her travel business and now helps thousands of people do exactly that. Seeing the smiles on their faces and the joy in their hearts makes the long days



and nights worth every minute of her energy and time. Ginny's agency has grown to one of the most successful agencies on the east coast and top franchises within Cruise Planners. The team consists of Ginny and six other advisors each with strong specialties. While she oversees all reservations throughout the company, she personally works with experienced travelers wanting that unique experience and high level of customer service. Ginny has always loved to travel and now tends to be on the go all the time. In addition to many amazing personal travel experiences, Ginny feels honored to be invited to attend many grand openings, inaugurations, and award trips. It is with true excitement that she look forwards to becoming a member of this amazing organization and making great friends.



Anne Morris

Anne Morris is originally from Decatur, Georgia. She holds an undergraduate degree from Smith College, an MFA in Dance from UNG-Greensboro, and a certificate in Nonprofit Management from Duke University. A life-long dancer and dance educator, Anne danced professionally with Brazz Dance Theater in Massachusetts and Miami before moving to Greensboro in 2008 for graduate school. She met Dance Project's founder Jan Van Dyke at UNG-Greensboro, and joined the Dance Project staff as an administrator and dance teacher in 2011. Anne took on the Co-Executive Director role

in 2015, and continues to direct Dance Project's annual NC Dance Festival. She is an active participant in the Greensboro arts and nonprofit communities, and loves to introduce people of all ages and experience levels to the joy and fun of dance.

Jennifer Salerno

Jennifer is an environmental consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton, a publicly traded management consulting firm based in Virginia with 31,000+ employees. She has worked at Booz Allen for 25+ years and leads their NEPA practice (National Environmental Policy Act). She leads multi-million dollar projects focusing on environmental compliance and manages a team of 16. She often travels around the U.S. assessing the environmental impact of various government initiatives. In addition to NEPA, she specializes in environmental compliance and specialized legal consultations, including climate change and sustainability,



and has extensive strategic project management, change management, communications and outreach, and policy development experience. Jennifer loves to work in her garden and traveling with her husband, David. She has a freshman daughter at Virginia Tech and a junior son at Grimsley High School.



Alison Santiago

Alison has called Greensboro home since 2006 and can't imagine living anywhere else. Although she is originally from Charleston, South Carolina, she spent 25 years growing up in Miami, Florida, where she began practicing accounting. After a sabbatical to raise her three children, Alison reinstated her CPA license, and is now fortunate to be practicing accounting as a Senior Financial Analyst for Guilford County. She is able to represent Guilford County as the lead accountant for the Convention Visitors Bureau. Alison also serves as the Guilford County finance department's primary liaison for Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. As well, she oversees financial reporting and analysis of capital outlay funds and lottery funding for Guilford County Schools and Guilford Technical Community College among many other duties and responsibilities.

Gayle Stancil

Gayle is the proud mother of two beautiful souls, Rosa 22 and Victoria 20. She is a proud Rotarian who loves to serve. For 39 years Gayle has enjoyed her career in the beauty industry. Working with the most talented designers and engaging in continuous education has led to many opportunities in her field. Training with Goldwell, a German hair color company to become an educator in the Southeast region was an amazing experience. Traveling to share knowledge and inspire other designers gave her great joy. Certifications in various hair care areas allow her to provide quality work. Through thorough image consulting, Gayle and her clients can come up with a plan to create the most flattering look that they can enjoy. The relationships built over the years are the most rewarding benefit of her work.



Originally from New York City, Gayle has trained under some amazing talent and continues to enjoy staying educated and current.



Sasha Trosch

Sasha Trosch is Associate Vice President for Philanthropic Partnerships at BellXcel, a national education nonprofit, where she leads the team that fosters relationships with corporations and foundations in support of BellXcel's strategic initiatives. Sasha joined BellXcel in 2015 as Director of Development for the Carolinas and later served as Senior Director of Philanthropic Partnerships before being promoted to her current role in 2022. Previously, she held leadership roles in communications and community affairs at Queens College of Charlotte, UNC Charlotte, and York Technical College. Sasha earned an MBA from Queens and a BA from Wittenberg University. Outside of work, Sasha is an artist and art instructor specializing in marbling and

decorative paper. She and her husband Carl have two young-adult children and live in Pleasant Garden, NC.

Mary Kelly Wetzel

Working in public accounting has exposed her to many areas of finance & accounting from the ground up. Eventually, Mary Kelly found her home in tax work and has enjoyed 24 years assisting clients in tax planning and compliance, now as a shareholder with Apple, Koceja & Associates. She is a Greensboro native and graduate of UNC Chapel Hill and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants. Mary Kelly enjoys spending time with her husband, daughters, and their families. Reading and gardening are two of her favorite activities.





Erika Rain Wilhite

One of Erika's earliest memories is watching Star Trek with her dad. It gave her an inclusive, optimistic model of a future where women were leaders and diverse groups of people were collaborating and compromising to make a better society for everyone. Erika can't say what came first, those dreams of a Star Trek future or her deep passion for history. Always driven to understand what happened in the past that led to things being "the way they are," she earned a master's degree

in public history from the University of West Florida. Working in historic preservation and museum interpretation career, Erika discovered a talent for fund development after securing funding to restore the Pensacola Lighthouse. Today she has 10 years of experience in nonprofit fund development, communications and leadership. Erika is employed as interim executive director of NCCJ (North Carolina for Community and Justice), after having served as development and communications director for almost eight years. She and her husband live in Greensboro.

WPF 2024 Board of Directors

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Sherry Barr
Administrative Assistant

WPF is committed to supporting and endorsing equal opportunities for all people without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability or genetics.

Greeters and 4 minute Specials

Please consider being a greeter or sharing a 4 min special for an upcoming membership meeting this year.

Greeters: Arrive to the monthly meeting of your choice around 11:50am. Sherry will provide you the purple greeter sash. Grab your nametag, stand near one of the entry doors and welcome your fellow WPF sisters. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

4 Min Special: If you have never done one please consider signing up for one of the dates available. This is a chance for you to tell us about you, not just your work but what makes you-you! This year 4 min specials will be given after the program and we ask that you try to keep them to a few short min. Not comfortable speaking to the group? No problem, write a 4 min special to go in a newsletter.

Email Marleegfoster@gmail.com with your 4 min special for a newsletter and we will include it during this year.

What's for lunch in August?

- Tossed mixed greens salad with assorted dressings
- Blackened chicken breast with creole tomato sauce
- Crisp roasted okra with tomatoes, corn and onions
- Creole rice pilaf
- Corn bread
- Fresh cut fruit display
- Praline coffee cake

NEWS & UPDATES

BAZAAR NEWS

From Jasmine Beard, Bazaar Committee Chair

The Bazaar vendor application will be coming out soon for early bird registration. Be on the lookout for a separate email that members can share to their network.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jasmine at jasmine.b@ajoy2consult.com.

Thank you so much!
Jasmine

LADIES OF LEISURE

Co-Chairs for 2025

The Ladies of Leisure (LOL) SIG is still looking for one additional co-chair to serve starting in January 2025. Two leaders are ideal for ensuring LOL continues to offer fun and educational monthly outings for members. Volunteering is a wonderful way to meet others in WPF and it only takes a couple of hours a month. If you're interested and/or have questions, please contact Maria Davis Hanlin mariadavishanlin@gmail.com or Christie Soper christiesoper@gmail.com. Thank you!



FOUNDATION NEWS

From Chandra Hackenbruch

WPF Foundation President

Greetings Dear Sisters

August is typically the month where summer fun activities are winding down as we all start getting back “into the swing of things.” It’s the same for the Foundation as we get back into action this month since our sabbatical ended in July.

Next order of business is seeking potential members for upcoming board openings. If you are interested in serving on the Foundation board and did not choose this on your preference sheet, please reach out to me and I will add you to the list to be considered. The work that the Foundation does is so rewarding and we would love to have your passion, inspiration and talent to continue carrying out the mission. The other item of business is preparing for the next grant cycle as we continue to improve the application process for easier data collection and review.

WPF FOUNDATION

2024 Board of Directors

Chandra Hackenbruch, President

Leslie Loyd, Vice President

Frenesa Hall, Secretary

Jody Susong, Treasurer

Directors at Large:

Andrea Bunn

Laura Burton

Beth Fisher

Keyshia Gray

Susan Guttermann

Maria Hanlin

Kimberly Marriott
Amy Meinecke
Jennifer Mencarini
Martha Peddrick
Ernestine Taylor

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, August 6

7:00pm

Host : Ronnie Grabon

119 Nut Bush Road W

Discussion Leader: **Amy Meinecke**

Book:

Good Night, Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea

Taking as inspiration his mother's own Red Cross service, Luis Alberto Urrea has delivered an overlooked story of women's heroism in World War II. With its affecting and uplifting portrait of friendship and valor in harrowing circumstances, **Good Night, Irene** powerfully demonstrates yet again that Urrea's "gifts as a storyteller are prodigious".

If you have not yet sent an RSVP, please email or text Polly -336.202.6188;

pollydsizemore@gmail.com or

Ronnie at rsg Grabon@gmail.com or 336.706.1621.

SERVICE TO OTHERS

Thursday, August 15th, 9:00-10:30 AM

HORSEPOWER

Therapeutic Learning Center

4537 Walpole Road, High Point

Our Service to Others event in August will be with HorsePower Therapeutic Learning Center. HorsePower's mission is to promote and enhance the welfare of individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or emotional disabilities through a program of therapeutic, educational and recreational activities using horses.

We will be helping them to prepare for their Fun on the Farm event coming up on that Saturday. The fun event will be an opportunity for the community to come out and see what they do with vendors and activities for the public. RSVP to Jody Susong at jsusong@triad.rr.com.

BOOKS AND ARTS

Saturday, August 10, 10:00 am

Award-winning Hillsborough printmaker, Katie Hayes, is opening her studio to our group for a private demonstration, print-making opportunity, and shopping. Lisa Pennington met Katie

last fall, and found her story and her methods fascinating. In addition to hand carved block prints, Katie designs wall paper and stationary. In fact, we will get a sneak peek at new designs she will be introducing this fall. Her designs are intricate patterns featuring native species and local places. You can see/purchase her wallpaper through Spoonflower. There is a link to her website, New South Pattern House, at the end of the email.

If you are interested, you will have an opportunity to create a matted block print for \$25. You will choose between the two designs below (cicada or mushroom) in the color of your choice.

Following the demonstration, we will have lunch in Hillsborough. Recommended restaurants are: Antonio's, Hillsborough BBQ Company, the Colonial Inn or the Wooden Nickel. All have websites so you can take a look at menu options. Following lunch, those interested can enjoy shopping in quaint downtown boutiques.

If you would like to participate, please email Lisa at 704lisa@gmail.com by the end of the day on Monday, July 29. Also, let Lisa know if you think you will want to create a print to take home. No advance payment is required for the print, and the studio tour is free. She just needs to provide a headcount so Katie can prepare her spaces. If you have a preference for lunch, let Lisa know. She will make a group reservation(s) for those interested.

Although Lisa is coordinating the event, she will not be coming through Greensboro on her way, so needs a volunteer to coordinate the car-pooling. Please reach out to her if you're willing to handle that task.





Let's Fla-Mingle!

Come and enjoy Wine Divas

End of The Summer Event

around the pool

at Maria Hanlin's house!

Thursday, August 15

6:00pm

5609 Tower Road, Greensboro

We will highlight white and rose' wines (although there will likely be a red or two as well!). Wear pink like a flamingo and enjoy the "fla-mingle"! Venmo \$15 to Susan Russell (@Susan-Russell-111) to reserve your space. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share in the summer fun!

WOW - WOMEN OF WALL STREET Investment Club

Thursday, August 22, 6:00 PM

Mt. Pisgah Church

2600 Pisgah Church Road

This will be our 3rd quarter Business Meeting. We will review the companies in the portfolio and make any necessary changes. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

September 19 is a Dinner Meeting!

October 17 is a Topic Meeting which is open to all members of WPF.

Peggy Ward

DINING OUT

Wednesday, August 28, 6:30pm

Reel Seafood Grill

2002 New Garden Rd, #208, Greensboro, NC 27410

Host: Amy Baradell

Register:

<https://forms.gle/kia4JD1j52dhfHiU9>

Questions:

Amy Meinecke at diningout@wpforum.org

WORKING MOMS

We take the month of August off, since Mama always needs a break!
But we'll be back for Happy Hour at Village Tavern in September!

FINANCIAL DIVAS

Wednesday, August 28, 9-10 am

Weaver Park Center Bldg,
324 W. Wendover Ave, Suite 140

Join us in the “O” to share and learn about “Countdown to Success: Strategic Year-End Planning for Tax Optimization”. Anyone sharing is encouraged to please consider bringing a handout/summary takeaway for group attendees.

For questions, contact Paula McMillan 336.337.9507.

LADIES OF LEISURE

Friday, September 20

Wine Tasting and Lunch at

Rayson Winery, Mocksville, NC

Join us for a Wine Tasting and Lunch at Rayson Winery in Mocksville, NC, a 45-minute drive from Greensboro. You will be amazed at this hidden gem so close to us!

We will meet in the Whole Foods parking lot at Friendly Center at 10:45 am to carpool and depart by 11am.

The cost for wine tasting is \$30 for 7 pours including 1 rose, 2 whites, 3 reds and a dessert wine. Then we will have lunch at the Winery’s Bistro Europa Restaurant.

If you have any questions, please contact Maria Hanlin at mariadavishanlin@gmail.com.

To reserve your spot, RSVP to retired@wpforum.org.

Cheers!

BOOKS AND ARTS

Portugal (Spain?) Travel Update

Oct 6-13 or 20th, 2024

Several of our group have responded that they want to be included in the Portugal trip scheduled for the fall (and possibly to go on to a Spain adventure). If you have not yet responded, but are interested in the trip, please let Christie Soper know (christiesoper@gmail.com) asap and reach out to her with any questions you have regarding the info below.

G Adventures offers a guided tour of Portugal (Lisbon to Porto) in partnership with National Geographic Sunday – Sunday, Oct 6-13, 2024. Then they have another tour for southern Spain with Nat Geo Sunday – Sunday, Oct 13-20. Each tour is \$2449 per person, so if someone chooses to do both tours back-to-back, the total cost for tours would be \$4,898 per person, and dates of travel would be Oct 5 (depart the day before for the overnight travel) – Oct 20. Note: the tours don’t include all the meals; so add another \$350-500 per person per week for meals, and then add international flights and tour guide gratuity.

Below are the links to both tours. These are a good value and can work with different levels of activity within a group. A note on the guides – they are more generalists, like a cruise director, than experts on specific topics, so if folks wanted an expert art guide in the Prado museum as an example, that would be extra cost, but easily arranged and reasonably priced depending on the number of travelers.

GUESTS

WPF members signing up for the tour are welcome to invite a female guest to join the the trip. The maximum capacity for the public tour is 16, and it's first come, first served.

FLIGHTS

We estimate the flights for coach on Delta departing from GSO to be approximately \$1400.

Note: price is likely to fluctuate until actually purchased.

Portugal: <https://www.gadventures.com/trips/ngj-portugal/EPENG/>

Southern Spain: <https://www.gadventures.com/trips/discover-moorish-spain/ESMNG/>

Women's Professional Forum, PO Box 38594, Greensboro, NC 27438

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