

WPF Forum News



A publication of the Women's Professional Forum

March 2025

Let's Celebrate National Women's History Month!

March is National Women's History Month, a time to honor the invaluable contributions of women throughout history. For women, this month serves as a reminder of the progress we've made, the barriers we've broken, and the continuous strides we must take in shaping the future.

Throughout history, women have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and vision. Our WPF sisters carry forward this legacy, where our leadership not only drives business success but also fosters inclusive work cultures that pave the way for future generations of women in leadership roles.



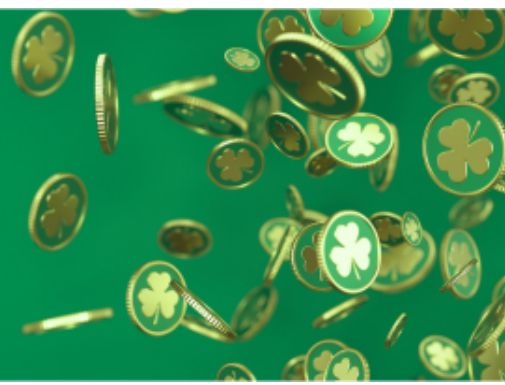
Lorri Yaskiewicz
WPF President

While significant progress has been made, challenges remain. Closing the gender gap in executive positions and ensuring equitable opportunities still requires our attention. This month, as we celebrate the accomplishments of women, let's reflect on how we can further empower women in the workforce—through mentorship, advocating for equal pay, and creating opportunities for career advancement.

Women managers play a crucial role in shaping the work culture and are a testament to the resilience, brilliance, and strength that women have fought for throughout history. Let's continue to support, uplift, and inspire one another this month and beyond. WPF women ROCK!!

Lorri

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



ACTIVE & ACTIVE RETIRED RSVP ONLY
if you can NOT attend

EMERITUS & SUPPORTING MEMBERS, RSVP to attend. Lunch fee \$30.
Cash, check, PayPal, or Zelle

MEETING RSVP

WPF
2025 Board of Directors

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President Elect

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1st Vice President

Ashley Raper
2nd Vice President

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Leigh Ann Klee
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Marcy McHenry
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Mebane Ham
Programs Chair

Chandra Hackenbruch *Foundation President*

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Director at Large

Jeanie Duncan
Director at Large

Erica Parker
Past President & Nominating Chair

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.

Upcoming Events

Special Interest Groups

WPF Member Directory

WPF Facebook Page

What's for lunch in March?

- Citrus Arugula Salad with arugula, orange and grapefruit segments, thinly sliced red onion, and shaved fennel, garnished with toasted almonds and side of light citrus vinaigrette
- Rolls & Whipped Butter
- Creamy Lemon Chicken and Artichoke Pasta with tender chicken and marinated artichoke hearts in a creamy lemon sauce with garlic and white wine, tossed with tagliatelle or pappardelle and garnished with fresh dill
- Lemon Tarts



Brigitte H. Blanton
Director, Greensboro Public Library

March Program

“Adapt and Pivot: How the library remains relevant in digital times.”

“The Greensboro Public Library is adapting to meet the diverse needs of today’s communities, offering digital resources, educational programs, and spaces for collaboration. We’ll take a look at the future of the Library, highlighting upcoming projects that will help shape the role of Libraries going forward.”

Brigitte H. Blanton is Director of the Greensboro Public Library, Brigitte oversees the entire system, which includes the Central Library downtown and seven branches. Her job also incorporates overseeing the Greensboro Historical Museum.

Brigitte holds a Master’s Degree in Library Information Studies from UNC- Greensboro and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration-Political Science from UNC-Chapel Hill. She has been with the Greensboro Public Library for thirty-two years holding positions of Branch Manager, Senior Assistant Director, Information Operations/Administration and Branch Management prior to being selected Director in 2013.

Brigitte is very involved in the community, presently serving on several professional and educational Boards and Taskforce. She is a founding member of the Welfare Reform Liaison Project. She is a member of professional organizations including the American Library Association, Public Library Association, North Carolina Public Library Directors Association, and the National Forum of Black Public Administrators. She served as President of the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association in 2020 and serves as the Board Chair for iAlign Dance Company. She is an active member of the Urban Libraries Council. Brigitte also serves as a member of the State Library Commission of North Carolina.

NEWS & UPDATES

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.

Seeking Spring Small Group Gathering Hosts

It's time for our Spring Small Group Gatherings! We want to create time and space for our WPF sisters to connect during the Spring Small Group Gatherings. To meet different needs and situations, we have expanded the opportunities. As a host, you can choose to host breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, happy hour, etc. The events can be at your home or at a restaurant/venue of your choosing. We hope this allows more people to participate and takes the stress out of hosting. So that we can ensure we have enough spots for all our sisters who would like to participate, you are invited to host a gathering between April 15 and May 15.

To sign up to host, please reach out to Laura Burton (lbarton@foxrothschild.com) or Jeanie Duncan (jduncan@jeanieduncan.com) or click the link below. Thank you for your generosity and hospitality!

[Click Here to Sign Up!](#)

WPF Foundation News

A Note From Chandra Hackenbruch, WPF Foundation President



Greetings Dear Sisters!

March is Women's History Month, a time to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women in U.S. history. In honor of this month, I invite you to reflect on the impact of WPF-granted organizations that support women and girls in Guilford County. To explore the organizations we've supported, please [CLICK HERE](#). You'll find a list of organizations, program descriptions, and grant amounts awarded over the past two years, as well as a comprehensive list of prior grant recipients.

The Grants Committee has completed its thorough review of over 30 grant applications. The board has approved the final grant recipients, and we're excited about the selected programs and award amounts. I extend my sincere gratitude to Grants Committee co-chairs Leslie Lloyd and Sasha Trosch, and to all committee members, for their diligent work. We will announce the final grant recipients at our May 14th meeting, where we will also highlight the impact of our 2024 grantees on women and girls in Guilford County.

Your generous donations made this vital work possible! We are thrilled to announce that last year's contributions reached an all-time record of over \$38,000. This remarkable achievement allowed us to distribute more grant funding than ever before.

You should have received a gift acknowledgment letter for your 2024 contribution. If you did not receive a letter, please contact me at raye74@gmail.com or Sherry at admin@wpforum.org.

Every donation, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference. If you haven't yet contributed this year, please consider doing so. [CLICK HERE](#) to donate.

WPF FOUNDATION

2025 Board of Directors



Chandra Hackenbruch, President

Leslie Loyd, Vice President

Jody Susong, Treasurer

Directors at Large:

Neena Ballard

Andrea Bunn

Laura Burton

Beth Fischer

Keyshia Gray

Susan Gutterman

Maria Hanlin

Kimberly Marriott

Amy Meinecke

Jennifer Mencarini

Martha Peddrick

Ernestine Taylor

Sasha Trosch

WPF Membership News

Marcy McHenry, Membership Chair

Only three more luncheons to bring potential new members for qualification for 2025 Membership! Hoping we'll have another great year of new members for our wonderful organization!

As a reminder, here are the qualifications for Sponsorship and for applicants. More details are available on the WPF website: wpforum.org.

Sponsorship Requirements:

- A WPF member is qualified to be a primary sponsor for a new member after she has been an Active member for at least two FULL years. (The membership year for new members begins August 1st).
- Qualified members may sponsor or co-sponsor NO MORE THAN TWO applicants in a year. The year begins with the application deadline, running from June 1 to May 31.
- Supporting members, members of the Membership Committee, and the WPF President may not serve as primary or secondary sponsors.
- The primary sponsor is responsible for ensuring that an applicant appears to meet the basic membership qualifications set out in the New Member Application and can comply with attendance requirements.
- Questions regarding a potential applicant's suitability for membership should be directed to the Membership Chair before asking the applicant to submit an application.
- Confirm, through the Membership Chair or the Administrative Assistant, that the Occupational Category of your applicant has not reached its quota.
- Email all required documents/files to the Membership Committee Chair by the June 1st deadline.
- Sponsors agree to provide any information about the prospective member as requested by the Membership Committee.
- If an applicant is declined for membership, the primary sponsor and co-sponsors will be notified prior to notifying the applicant.

To qualify for Active membership, applicants must:

- Be employed full-time or be employed in a career where the content and professionalism of the work is the measure of eligibility rather than the number of hours worked.
- Work or reside in Guilford County.
- Be an experienced upper-management executive, licensed or degreed professional active in the profession, business owner, or official elected or appointed to public office.
- Have a minimum of five years of professional experience and a minimum of two years of experience in the same or related field of work in which she is engaged at the time of her application.
- Be cleared by their Primary Sponsor for an available slot in the appropriate Occupational Field Category (please contact Membership Chair).
- Be sponsored by a total of three sponsors. The primary sponsor must be an Active or Active Retired member. Secondary sponsors may be Active, Active Retired or Emeritus members.
- Prospective members must attend a total of three WPF lunch meetings, one with each of her sponsors, within the twelve months prior to application filing.

Please reach out with questions: Membership Chair Marcy McHenry at marcemch@aol.com or 336-509-5660.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Sippin' Sister's James Bond night!

James Bond martini night

Wednesday night, March 12th, 6pm

with Sippin' Sisters!
Enjoy BOND NIGHT trivia, music, and
of course- shaken, not stirred martinis

Hostesses: Kim Trone, Amy Meinecke, Lorri Yaskiewicz, Joy Shavitz

Location: Kim Trone's house

2904 Turner Grove Drive North, Greensboro NC 27455

Cost is \$20

Catering and drinks included!

RSVP today!

336 707-2136 or kimberlyt0011@gmail.com

Learn the secret ingredient to the
James Bond Martini!!!!

LADIES OF LEISURE

Julian Price House

Thursday, March 13, 11 am

The Ladies of Leisure special interest group (and any other interested WPF member) will **visit the Julian Price House**, a beautiful historic home in Greensboro, at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 13.

The subject in 2017 of an episode on A&E's "Hoarders," come see what the Tudor Revival-style mansion at 301 Fisher Park Circle looks like now, all cleaned up by current owners and now being used as a B&B. It is on the market for \$5.25 million.

For those of you attending, please meet at the house by 10:55 a.m. on Thursday, March 13. We should be finished by 2 p.m.

The cost will be \$20 for a tour and visit, plus the cost of a box lunch from Apple Spice.

Please respond to retired@wpforum.org. Once you respond that you will join the group, Beverley Gass will send you the link to Apple Spice's online ordering site for our group. There you make your lunch selection and pay online. Apple Spice will deliver the lunches to Julian Price House. Orders for lunch must be made no later than midnight March 10.

WORKING MOMS

Printworks Bistro

Tuesday, March 18, 12-1:30 pm

Join us for Lunch!

Moms of all ages welcome.

RSVP to Marlee Foster at marlee.foster@conehealth.com.

Working Mom's group is part support group and part resource group. We learn so much from each other and have the chance to share the trials and tribulations of being a working Mom in this day and age. There is always laughter, an empathetic ear, and sometimes a great suggestion to help you when you thought you have exhausted all possible options.



WILD WOMEN IN THE MOUNTAINS

BLOWING ROCK, NC

March 21-23, 2025

And the beat goes on! Hope you can join us for the 2025 Wild Women in the Mountains have been set – March 21-23, 2025, housing has been confirmed (well most of it) and Sarah Shoffner is ready to take your check. And, for the first time in over ten years we are going up on our pricing, a whopping \$10! Cost this year will be \$135. That includes a 2-night stay at one of the best and most entertaining homes in the Rock, appetizers Friday night, breakfast Saturday and Sunday, a most delicious dinner on Saturday, and you will receive a bright green WPF wrist band. Several local retail stores are offering special discounts to WPF members wearing the wrist band. Yet another reason to join us in the Rock!!

Plan to see you in the company of the finest Wild Women in WPF!! Please contact Sarah(sarahshoffner@rtelco.net) as to the best way to get her your check.

No matter what, we can promise you a great time!!

Questions? Contact Mebane at mebane@mebaneham.com or 336.314.5226

FINANCIAL DIVAS

Wednesday, March 26, 9-10 am

Weaver Park Center

324 W. Wendover Ave, Ste. 140

Please join us in the “O” for a discussion entitled **The Gift of End-of-Life Planning**. Identifying our goals and values demystifies end of life planning. Who do you want to surround you? What’s involved with creating your care community? Do you want to receive care at home? What are some often overlooked options for cremation or natural burial, etc.? Whether for you, family or friends (including clients), join us for this opportunity to learn thoughts and insights that can make a meaningful difference during this critical time and healing for loved ones thereafter. Special guest and moderator: Kim Bunce, End-of -Life Specialist (Coach and Death Doula (Espalier). For more information or questions, contact Paula McMillan at 336.337.9507 or pmcmillan@stearnsfinancial.com.

DINING OUT

Wednesday, March 26

6:30 pm

Gyu-Kaku

3920 Cotswold Ave, Greensboro

Host: Dede Potter and Sue Hunt

RSVP to <https://form.jotform.com/250543384372154>.

Questions: Amy Meinecke diningout@wpforum.org



WOW - WOMEN OF WALL STREET Investment Club

Thursday, March 27
6:00 pm
Mt. Pisgah Church
2600 Pisgah Church Road

The Topic Meeting for the Investment Club will be on Thursday, March 27, at 6 pm at Mt. Pisgah Church which is located at 2600 Pisgah Church Road, where Pisgah Church and Battleground Avenue intersect. Please enter from the far left door as you are facing the building.

The topic will be **LONG TERM CARE** and club member, Corinne Auman, and Mike Barber of Lincoln Financial will be presenting. Mike will cover a brief history of long term care and generic solutions while Corinne will speak about navigating that care here locally or regionally.

This meeting is open to all members of WPF. Light refreshments will be served.



Fashion and Flavors!

Join Wine Divas on Thursday,
April 10th from 6-9pm at
bokeh, the new fabulous
fashion boutique at Friendly
Center!

It will be a fusion of taste & style!
Discover pieces to elevate your Spring
wardrobe while enjoying a curated
selection of fashion-forward wines!

Venmo @Susan-Russell-111 \$30 to
reserve your space!

bokeh is located at 3352 W. Friendly
Avenue beside Hand & Stone.

BOOKS & ARTS

Friday, April 11

7:30 pm

Greensboro Symphony Orchestra

Please join us for dinner and a concert featuring the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra. The symphony has offered us prime seats for half price, \$45.

Beforehand, we will enjoy private dining at B Christophers at 5:30. The dinner is not included in the \$45.

Please reserve a ticket by sending \$45 by Venmo to @Anne-Smith-4 and let her know if you will also be joining us for drinks and dinner (annefsmith@gmail.com.)

You are welcome to come solo or bring a partner or friend.

Brubeck's Double Guitar Concerto

Greensboro Symphony Orchestra

Thomas Flippin, guitar

D. J. Sparr, guitar

Robert Moody, Guest Conductor

Montgomery: Strum

Brubeck: Double Guitar Concerto

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5

BOOKS & ARTS

Saturday, April 26

1:30 - 4:00 pm

Reynolda House Museum of American Art

Andrew Wyeth Exhibit

Tickets are \$18 plus any ordering fees. For anyone interested, we can have lunch at Village Tavern in the Reynolda Village. Afternoon ticket is from 1:30-4pm. If the day is nice, we can also stroll the Reynolda House gardens during our visit. - <https://reynolda.org/visit/>

BOOKS & ARTS

Bless My Bloomers ... make your own container flower garden!!

Saturday, May 10, 2024

1-3 pm



Held at the family farm of Altina Layman in Summerfield – 405 Pearson Farm Rd.

Join WPF sisters Mebane Ham & Altina Layman for a beautiful Saturday afternoon to make your own garden planter with pots, plants, soil, and instructions provided. Christina Larson (past owner of Guilford Garden Center) will instruct us on the fine art of container flower gardens. Bring your favorite wine or beverage to share. Cost is \$40 per member, payable through venmo to Mebane or by check. RSVP to Mebane Ham at mebane@mebaneham.com. We promise snacks and a fun afternoon. Don't forget you garden gloves!

Books and Arts

BVI Sailing Trip–January 2026

Last chance! Only one spot left! Please reach out to Kris Landrum ASAP if you are interested in participating.

We are exploring the possibility of a **sailing trip** in the **British Virgin Islands** for **January 23rd thru 31st, 2026**. For those who have not previously participated in one of our sailing trips and don't know what to expect:

We will be chartering one (or two, depending on interest) 58 ft catamarans complete with a captain, cook, and steward. This trip is all inclusive...all meals and alcohol are included. Each day starts with a prepared breakfast served at a table on a covered deck of the boat and concludes with dinner served in the same location.

Days are spent sailing among the islands, stopping to hike, explore the islands, snorkel or enjoy paddle boards or kayaks (boats usually carry two or three of each). Shopping is not generally a priority, although there could be a couple opportunities.

A number of us have done more than one of these trips and never tire of them. However, if there is interest in making this happen for '26, we need to reserve the boat(s) within the next couple weeks. That will require a deposit of 1/2 the cost of the trip.

The price we have been quoted for the boat and crew for 10 passengers is \$37,424 or \$3,742 per person, making the deposit amount \$1,862 per person.

Additional costs include:

- (1) Friday night accommodations (the boats leave the marina on Saturday at noon and return the following Saturday). That cost is approximately \$170 per person for a double occupancy king room.
- (2) Crew tip–15 to 20% or \$600 to \$700
- (3). Airfare–to be determined

If you are interested in participating in this trip or learning more about it, please contact Kris Landrum (klandrum@tuggleduggins.com) or Laura Stroupe Barriér (laurastroupe@yahoo.com).



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

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