

WPF Forum News

A publication of the Women's Professional Forum

December 2025



Lorri Yaskiewicz
WPF President

A message from WPF President, Lorri Yaskiewicz

Dear WPF Sisters,

Happy Holidays! It is hard to believe that we are wrapping up 2025, and this is my last newsletter as your President. First, I want to express what an honor it has been to serve as your President this year. Since I joined in 2020, I have always respected the amazing women in WPF, and the true sisterhood that we have! I knew when I joined, I wanted to be as involved as much as possible, but I never imagined that this journey would lead me to the role of President. It was such a rewarding experience!

As the incoming President in January, one of my goals was to encourage us to form deeper connections with one another. As I reflect on this year, I am grateful for how many opportunities I have had to do exactly that. And I hope you have as well. I had the chance to get to know many of you in new ways, whether we were spending time together in the mountains, listening to great live music, gathering in one another's homes, spending time on the golf course, or sharing thoughtful (and fun!) moments within our wonderful Special Interest Groups. Each experience reminded me of the strength and warmth that makes WPF so special.

As I stated at the beginning of the year, I authentically love everything about the Women's Professional Forum—our history, the relationships we've built, and the future we are both celebrating and actively creating together. What was created in 1977 and has continued to grow is remarkable; a network of women who uplift, challenge, support, and inspire one another in countless ways. It's hard to believe we are approaching our 50th anniversary in a few years. This milestone is not only a testament to the vision of our founders but also to the contributions of every member and the hard work of the WPF Board and WPF Board members throughout the years. Once again, my heartfelt appreciation to the 2025 Board of Directors for their dedication and support. I think we had a great year! 😊

I hope each one of you has a wonderful holiday season, filled with lovely surprises and special times with your family and friends.

Authentically yours,

~Lorri



**December Business Meeting
Wednesday, December 10
12:30pm - 1:30pm
Starmount Country Club**

**ACTIVE & ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERS 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**

Lorri Yaskiewicz
President

Jennifer Mencarini
President Elect

Amy Meinecke
1st Vice President

Ashley Raper
2nd Vice President

Marlee Foster
Secretary

Leigh Ann Klee
Treasurer

Marcy McHenry
Membership Chair

Mebane Ham
Programs Chair

Chandra Hackenbruch Foundation President

Laura Burton
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.

Newsletter Archives

Upcoming Events

Special Interest Groups

WPF Member Directory

WPF Facebook Page



DECEMBER PROGRAM

UNCSA School of Dance and School of Film will co-present with student dancers and a short film. More details will be shared with you as they become available. This should be VERY entertaining!



Endalyn Outlaw
Dean of Dance



Deborah LaVine
Dean of Filmmaking

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.

WPF Foundation News

A Note From Chandra Hackenbruch, WPF Foundation President

Dear Sisters,

🎸 **Rocking the Night Away: A Historic Success!** ☀️

We didn't just meet our goal—we shattered it!

We are absolutely thrilled to announce the jaw-dropping results of the **Rock the Night Away Fundraiser!** Our community's incredible generosity helped us raise an astonishing **\$12,692.11!** This achievement doesn't just surpass last year's total of \$11,600—it allows us to exceed our crucial goal of matching the potential proceeds from the Foundation's Bazaar and make an even greater impact.



To the **74 attendees**—WPF members and non-members alike—who brought the energy, your passion fueled this victory! Thank you for showing up and rocking out for the Foundation!

🙌 **Thank You: The Architects of Our Success**

This event's spectacular triumph was a masterpiece of collaboration. A massive, heartfelt thank you to:

- **The Auxiliary Band:** For electrifying the night with an unforgettable performance!
- **Van Dyke Center:** For graciously providing the perfect space and their invaluable support.
- **Kibi's Crazy Casseroles:** For the delicious food and their generous donation of sale proceeds.
- **1618:** For crafting the delightful, WPF-inspired cocktails that kept the spirits high.
- **Our Sponsors:** We look forward to recognizing you formally! But as a small token of thanks we recognize you for your impact!

silver sponsors



gold sponsors



music sponsor



food sponsor



bronze sponsors



- **The Foundation Fundraising Committee:** To our powerhouse team—**Frenesa Hall, Amy Meinecke, Valda Ford, Christine Byrd, Maria Hanlin, and Gayle Stancil**—your tireless work and dedication made this triumph possible! (Please forgive me if I miss a name.)

We are already counting down to an even bigger and bolder event next year!

Celebrating a Magnificent Foundation Year!

As the year comes to a close, we celebrate the monumental success of the 2025 Foundation Board. Their **magnificent leadership, time, efforts, and talent** have made this a truly transformative year for our mission.

Bidding a Grateful Farewell: Board Members Rolling Off

We extend our deepest gratitude to three exceptional leaders who are rolling off the board at year's end. Their service has left an indelible mark:

- **Jennifer Mencarini:** After three years as Chair of the Grants Committee, and developing key policies, we celebrate her transition as she steps into the role of **WPF President in 2026!**
 - **Leslie Llyod:** We thank her for her service as Vice President, Co-Chair of the Grants Committee, and her pivotal work in bringing us into the digital age by helping set up **Salesforce** for our donation and grant management.
 - **Andrea (Andy) Bunn:** For her three years of expert service as **Treasurer** and Chair of the Finance Committee, ensuring our foundation remains financially sound.
-

Your Support, Our Impact: Transforming Lives

To all our generous donors this year: **Your support is the engine of our mission!** Because of you, we are proud to award the following grants, directly investing in the future of women and girls in our community:

Organization	Grant Amount	Program Impact
Women's Resource Center of Greensboro	\$10,000	Sustaining the Women to Work program —providing hands-on job readiness, financial literacy, and career coaching to empower single mothers toward economic stability and confidence.
Congolese Community of the Triad	\$6,500	Expanding the Culturally Sensitive Computer Literacy (CSCL) Program —bridging the technology gap for immigrant women through multi-lingual classes and providing graduates with a free laptop, ensuring workforce readiness.
The Sister Circle International	\$5,500	Funding the G.L.O.W. Club (Girls Leading Our World) —a six-month mentorship program instilling confidence, leadership skills, and career aspirations in underserved girls across Guilford County.
Marva's Outreach Mission	\$5,000	Supporting the training of Peer Support Specialists —empowering women who have overcome domestic violence to become trusted advocates, providing emotional support and career training for survivors.
AAUW North Carolina	\$3,500	Modernizing the Teen Near Peer Mentor Program —creating a mentorship pipeline that inspires high school girls to pursue and break barriers in STEM fields through hands-on robotics and science experiences.

Every dollar raised by the **Rock the Night Away Fundraiser** is now actively creating pathways to empowerment, safety, and economic independence. **Thank you for being a part of this profound change!**

WPF FOUNDATION
2025 Board of Directors



Chandra Hackenbruch, President

Leslie Loyd, Vice President

Jody Susong, Treasurer

Neena Ballard, Secretary

Directors at Large:

Andrea Bunn

Laura Burton

Beth Fischer

Susan Gutterman

Maria Hanlin

Kimberly Marriott

Amy Meinecke

Jennifer Mencarini

Martha Peddrick

Ernestine Taylor

Sasha Trosch

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

DINING OUT

WPF Holiday Brunch

Sunday, December 7

11:00 am

Print Works Bistro

Hosts:

Laura Burton and Jody Susong

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Questions: Amy Meinecke at diningout@wpforum.org

FINANCIAL DIVAS

No December meeting because of holiday week. Looking forward to gathering again in January. Happy Holidays! Paula McMillan



Books and Arts Announcements

Join Books and Arts and get in the holiday spirit when we attend the Currier & Ives themed concert performed by Bel Canto on Monday, December 8th, at Christ United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$30 or \$25 for seniors and are available online at the [BelCanto site](#). Concert is a 7:30 but doors open at 7. Since it's generally a popular concert, getting there early is a good idea. Those interested will gather early for dinner at Green Valley Grill. Buy your ticket and contact Kris Landrum (klandrum@tuggleduggins.com) so we can arrange to sit together and also indicate whether you'd like to do dinner beforehand.

BOOKS & ARTS 2025 RUNNING OF THE BALLS PARTY...AND YOU'RE INVITED! Sunset Hills Saturday, December 13

The 2025 Running of the Balls, billed as the "Greatest 5k(ish) in the History of the World," will be held on Saturday, December 13th. This incredibly fun and beautiful walk/run/saunter/ogle event held annually in Greensboro's Sunset Hills neighborhood benefits Second Harvest and is attended by and supported by numerous WPF'ers each year.

If you plan to participate this year and haven't signed up already, you can register at www.runningoftheballs.com. Registration is \$55 for adults. Runners start at 6 pm and walkers start at 6:45.

WPF Sister Beverley Gass invites you to a Running of the Balls Party at her Sunset Hills home located at 2104 Rolling Road. Beverley's Co-Hosts/Elves/Party Committee for this super fun evening are Neena Ballard, Laura Burton, Jane Hewitt, Kris Landrum, Polly Sizemore, Michele Smith and Pat Vedder. Please join us to watch the fun or to celebrate with friends at the end of your walk/run. The party starts about 5:30pm. There will be wine, beer, pizza, sweet treats and a fun time with friends, old and new. Outlandish Christmas attire and blinking lights are optional!

If you'd like to join us, and we hope you will, please RSVP to Beverley at beverleygass@gmail.com, to Jane Hewitt at JHewitt51@gmail.com and to Michele at msmith@hillevans.com by 5pm on Thursday, December 11th.

Participants and non-participants should park in designated parking areas off Friendly Avenue and walk into the neighborhood, which will be closed to traffic.

WORKING MOMS Undercurrent Tuesday, December 16 12-1:30pm

Join us for our Holiday Lunch
and Napkin Exchange !
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.



*Please join us for a joint Holiday Party as we Rock Around the Christmas
Tree with the
Wine Divas and Sippin' Sisters!*

Wednesday, December 17th at 6pm
Maria Hanlin's House
5609 Tower Road, Greensboro

*Bring a gift to participate in a lively game of Dirty Santa while we enjoy Cocktails, Wines, and
Great Hors d'oeuvres!*

To RSVP Venmo Susan Russell (@Susan-Russell-111) \$35

Non-Fiction (Only) Book Club Book Announcement

In keeping with the health & wellness tradition of "Dry January," we'll be reading:

Drunk-ish, a memoir by Stefanie Wilder-Taylor

for our meeting on Tuesday, Jan 6th at 7 PM.

Leslie Alderson will lead the discussion.

Location: Sandra Boren's house, 3625 Camden Falls Circle

Sandra's Cell 336-402-0051 RSVP to her via text, please.

Time: 7:00 pm hors d'oeuvres and social time



- For our dry January theme, we're going to have some delicious mocktails instead of alcoholic drinks this month.
- If it works for you to bring an appetizer or a dessert, that would be great. No signing up for snacks.
- Run out of time to read the book? Please come anyway- we want to see you.

About The Book Drunk-ish

From the author of Sippy Cups Are Not for Chardonnay, a hilariously candid and refreshingly honest account of Stefanie Wilder-Taylor's journey to breaking up with alcohol for good. As the years go by, Stefanie wonders if her relationship with alcohol is different from other people's. Is everyone else struggling this hard to moderate? Is it even legal to watch The Bachelor without a glass of white wine?



WOW - WOMEN OF WALL STREET Investment Club

The WOW Investment Club will not meet in December since everyone is quite busy with the holidays.

Our holiday party will be January 22, 2026, at 6 pm at the home of Cathy Nosek.

If you are interested in joining the Club, which opens once a year to new members, please contact Peggy Ward at peggy.ward8@icloud.com with any questions. The primary purpose of the Club is to learn about the financial markets and strategies.

Please note that we are planning our annual trek to New York City April 9-13, 2026. If you are interested in going, please contact Judy Garner at jgarner212@ymail.com.

Wishing everyone the happiest of Holidays!

BOOK CLUB
WPF Book Club Reading List for
2026 is Ready!

The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston

The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

The History of Sound: Stories by Ben Shattuck

The Vaster Wilds by Lauren Groff

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

Theo of Golden: A Novel by Allen Levi



2026 dates are February 3, April 7, June 2, August 4, October 6, December 1. We will post the reading order by the end of December.

If you would like to host or lead a discussion, please contact Nancy at nancy.radtke@allentate.com

We had an awesome list of choices suggested for 2026 and voted for the top six selections – since we will meet six times. All the suggestions got votes and well worth reading– thank you to all who made recommendations.

Books and Arts Announcements

Another popular event that many Books and Arts members enjoy annually is the [Amore event hosted by Bel Canto](#) at the Colonnade at Revolution Mill. The event this year is on February 14th at 6 pm. Though that seems far away, this event sells out early and it's fun to get a table together. The event includes appetizers served while enjoying a silent auction and raffle, a plated dinner and a cabaret concert. Tickets are \$130. Contact Kris Landrum (klandrum@tuggleduggins.com) if you're interested in participating.

Summer in Blowing Rock. We still have openings for our summer weekend in Blowing Rock, scheduled for July 16th through 19th. Activity options will include the Chetola Symphony by the Lake on Friday night, the 17th (tickets around \$85), tubing on Saturday morning (\$35), possibly a wine tasting. Other activities participants frequently enjoy are spa treatments at Chetola, shopping in downtown Blowing Rock, and hiking on nearby trails. We have three housing options, which include two houses in the Misty Mountain neighborhood and a four bedroom condo in Chetola, and prices for housing for the weekend range from \$200 to \$450 depending upon type of room/bath, sharing, etc., so, something for everyone. We generally do dinner out somewhere on Thursday and Saturday nights, picnic at the concert, and enjoy breakfast in our lodgings. Thanks to participants, there is never a shortage of food in the lodgings! If you want to join the 17 of us who have already signed up for this weekend, contact Kris Landrum (klandrum@tuggleduggins.com) for other details. A deposit of \$150 is required to secure your spot.



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

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