

WPF Forum News



A publication of the Women's Professional Forum

April 2026

A message from WPF President, Jennifer Mencarini

Spring has sprung! My yard is brimming with daffodils, hyacinths, iris blooms, peony shoots, hosta leaves and azaleas. We even had a nest of baby bunnies for a few weeks! Spring's renewal is a welcome change after what felt like a long and dreary winter.

The Board continues to be hard at work. Pursuant to our current Bylaws (Article V (6)(e)), the President may appoint *ad hoc* Board committees to perform needed organizational work. Considering the Board's focus on increased governance this year, I have made the following committee appointments:

Policies and Procedures Committee: Anne Smith (Chair), Janice Lanier, and me as an *ex officio* member.



Jennifer Mencarini
WPF President

You might be wondering why we need policies and procedures when we also have bylaws. This is a great question! I created this chart to briefly explain the differences:

Bylaws	Policies & Procedures
Broadly define structure, purpose, and governance rules (board structure, voting)	Define rules for specific operational and administrative areas and instructions for tasks
Legally required for incorporation	Internal organizational documents that promote compliance and complicity but do not have the same legal impact
Require a formal vote and can be difficult to change	Generally created, adopted and amended by a nonprofit's board and/or staff

To learn more about why nonprofit boards need both bylaws and policies and procedures, you can read this article from [The Hive Collective](#).

The P&P Committee will work on policies that are recommended as best practice for nonprofits like WPF.

Governance Committee: Dee Blake (Chair), Neena Ballard, and Christine Byrd

In general, governance committees support the board in fulfilling its individual and collective responsibilities. They provide oversight for board compliance with an organization's governing documents (e.g., charter and bylaws), and promote a positive and productive board culture.

Our newly-created Governance Committee has started meeting regularly, and is now preparing a draft Committee charter to include a description of the committee's role and responsibilities, as well as job descriptions for the chairperson and members. I have also asked the Governance Committee to address the continued commitment to diversity of all kinds in Board member selection moving forward. Board diversity is proven to improve decision-making, as varying perspectives lead away from groupthink and toward innovation. If you're interested, you can learn more about this from the [National Council of Nonprofits](#).

50th Anniversary Committee: Erica Gregg Parker (Co-Chair), Amy Meinecke (Co-Chair, replacing Sarah Shoffner) and *ex officio* member Lorri Yaskiewicz

This committee has commenced planning and is focusing on honoring legacy and are contemplating a signature event concept. They have targeted an October 2027 event date.

Technology Update: Christine Byrd, Neena Ballard, and Sherry Barr have done some heavy lifting, which we greatly appreciate, on identifying a new CRM that provides an integrated website for our organization. These upgrades will make it easier to update the website, thereby reducing time spent by our administrative assistant, and provide automations for event registration and membership renewal. We anticipate that this new system will roll out before the end of May.

I look forward to seeing you at the April meeting!

~Jen



**April Meeting
Wednesday, April 8
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 \$35.
Cash, Check, PayPal, or Zelle**

MEETING RSVP

**WPF
2026 Board of Directors**

Jennifer Mencarini
President

Amy Meinecke
President Elect

Christine Byrd
2nd Vice President

Janice Lanier
Secretary

Shirley Lucky
Treasurer

Anne Smith
Membership Chair

Corinne Auman
Programs Chair

Susan Gutterman Foundation President

Neena Ballard
Director at Large

Dee Blake
Director at Large

Lorri Yaskiewicz
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](#)

What's for lunch in April?

- Mediterranean salad with Arugula, olives, feta cheese, artichokes and Lemon Herb Vinaigrette dressing on side
- Baked herb focaccia
- Chicken Francese with sauce Allemande
- Sun dried tomato and pesto orzo
- Steamed broccoli with toasted garlic and olive oil
- Chocolate Dipped Cannoli's



MARCH PROGRAM



Marjorie Bagley

North Carolina native Marjorie Bagley has performed around the world since beginning her career at age nine as a soloist with the Winston-Salem Symphony and at fourteen with the North Carolina Symphony. After two decades elsewhere, she happily returned in 2009 to teach at UNCG and be closer to her family. She plays a violin crafted in 1708 by Milan's Giovanni Grancino.

As a founding member and first violinist of the Arcata String Quartet for a decade, Marjorie performed in Wigmore Hall (London) and Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall (New York). She's indulged her taste for foreign travel and adventure while performing solo recitals and concertos in Korea, Moldova, South Africa, and Namibia and teaching master classes in Argentina and Chile. She enjoys working with living composers to perform and record contemporary music (published by the VOX, Albany, Equilibrium, and Summit labels).

Marjorie studied under Stephen Shipps, Joseph Gingold, and Pinchas Zukerman. She received chamber group coaching from the Tokyo and American Quartets and Isidore Cohen of the Beaux Arts Trio. She has performed with Joseph Silverstein, Ani Kavafian, members of the Emerson and Borromeo Quartets, and harpsichordist Kenneth Cooper.

Currently Professor of Violin at UNCG, Marjorie has held faculty positions at Ohio University and Utah State University. For eleven summers, Marjorie was on the faculty at the Brevard Music Festival in western North Carolina. Since 1997, she has performed with the Berkshire Bach Society in western New England. Other summers have included teaching positions at the Perlman Music Festival, the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, and the International Music Academy in Plzen, Czech Republic.

Marjorie lives in Greensboro with her husband, UNCG Physics Professor, Ian Beatty, and their energetic kids, Eleanor Rose and twins, Lee Edwin and Josephine Ingeborg. When not busy teaching, they enjoy traveling, cooking, and adventuring outdoors, all of which is a bit different now with three little ones!

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 Janice Lanier at janice.lanier88@gmail.com with your 4 min special for a newsletter and we will include it during this year.

50th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee Meeting

We're excited to be planning for our 50th Anniversary Celebration! 🎉

The Planning Committee will meet on
Monday, April 13, 5:30–7:00 PM
Kris Landrum's home
704 Plummer Drive

If you're interested in helping plan this special milestone event, we would love for you to join us. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm as we start making plans to celebrate 50 years in a meaningful and memorable way!

🌱 Calling All Hosts: Spring Small Group Dinners! 🍴

It's time to gather! We have **officially selected** our dinner dates, and we are looking for members to host a small group gathering on their preferred evening between **April 20th and May 9th**. 🌸 Whether you want to open your home, head to a favorite local bistro, or gather at a clubhouse, we need your help to fill the calendar! 🙌

The Details:

- **When:** One dinner per day, April 20 – May 9. 📅
- **Available Dates:** Most days are open! (Note: 4/21, 4/23, 4/29, 5/2, and 5/5 are already reserved for existing group events).
- **Current Status:** Right now, we are **only looking for hosts**. Once the schedule is finalized, we will send out the formal invitation for everyone to sign up to attend! 🙌

Ready to grab a date? Let us know your venue and how many guests you can accommodate at our sign-up link. (Or just email Neena Ballard at ballardmwb@gmail.com or Dee Blake at uhmanoal@gmail.com)

🌟 [Click Here to Sign Up as a Host](#) 🌟

WPF Foundation News

A message from Susan R. Gutterman,
WPF Foundation President

The Grants Committee of the Foundation has completed its thorough review of grant applications from 36 nonprofit organizations. The total amount requested from all applicants was \$338,173. The Foundation Board has approved the recommendations of the Grants Committee to award grants to five remarkable organizations in 2026, each with the goal of empowerment and leadership skills for women and girls. Within the heart of Guilford County, these incredible organizations are a catalyst for life-changing transformations, embodying the very essence of our mission. The five grantee organizations will be announced in our May newsletter and highlighted at our May meeting.

Thanks to your unwavering generosity, we achieved an unprecedented milestone, awarding a record-breaking \$39,636 to support these vital programs! Your contributions have made history and are giving many women and girls opportunities and skills.

We warmly invite you to join the WPF Foundation Board of Directors in contributing to the Foundation. Together, we can empower even more women to embrace a future filled with success. Giving is easy!

- At the WPF membership meeting:
 - WRITE A CHECK and leave it with Sherry.
 - COMPLETE a PLEDGE CARD on your table.
- PAY DIRECT on the WPFF website at <https://wpforum.org/donate/>
- Make an ONLINE donation using the QR Code.



Every act of generosity contributes to a positive change in the lives of women and girls. Consider amplifying your gift through your employer's matching gift program, a powerful way to further support the Foundation's vital work. Many of your fellow WPF members are already leveraging this incredible opportunity!

Finally, please join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to the dedicated members of our Grants Committee, led by Sasha Trosch, whose skill and leadership enhanced the review and selection process. The Committee's insights and tireless efforts were instrumental in selecting our inspiring 2026 grantees.

2026 Grants Committee

Sasha Trosch, Chair
Kellie Burgess
Laura Burton
Marlee Foster
Susan Gutterman
Dawn Kane
Denny Kelly

Brenda Madden
Jen Mencarini
Kate Panzer
Martha Peddrick
Terri Shelton
Jody Susong
Beverly Williams
Jeri Whitfield

WPF FOUNDATION
2026 Board of Directors



Susan Gutterman, *President*
Chandra Hackenbruch, *Past President*
Laura Burton, *Vice President*
Neena Ballard, *Secretary*
Jody Susong, *Treasurer*

Directors at Large

Melissa Burroughs

Christine Byrd
Beth Fischer
Karen Foster
Maria Hanlin
Kim Marriott
Amy Meinecke
Martha Peddrick
Ernestine Taylor
Sasha Trosch

WPF Membership News

Anne Flegal Smith, Membership Chair

Only two more luncheons to bring potential new members for qualification for 2026 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 Anne Smith
at anne@smithpartnerswealth.com or 336-420-9245.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

WINE DIVAS

🍷 Cheers! The Wine Divas are Returning

It's time to dust off your favorite wine glass—the Wine Divas are officially back! We've missed the casual chats and great pours, and we can't wait to get the group together again.

🌟 Coming This April

We're already planning a "Welcome Back" event for later this month. Whether you're a long-time member or new to WPF, it's the perfect excuse to relax and catch up.

Check your inbox in a few days! We'll be sending out a special update with all the specifics, including:

- * The Location & Theme 📍
- * Date and Time 📅
- * RSVP Details 🙌

We're looking forward to an April event filled with good wine and even better company. See you there!

Stay thirsty, Divas!

BOOK CLUB

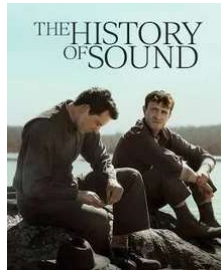
Tuesday, April 7, 7:00-9:00pm

Ronnie Grabon's home

119 Nut Bush Rd, West, Greensboro

Discussion Leader is Anne Morris

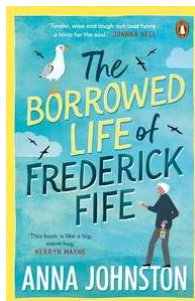
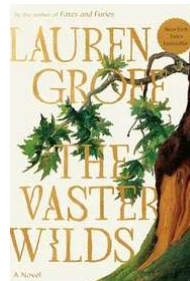
If you would like to bring a nibble or a beverage to share, please do!



April 7, our host is **Ronnie Grabon** at 119 Nut Bush Rd, West. The discussion, "**The History of Sound**," will be led by **Anne Morris**. It's not too late to RSVP to either [Nancy R](#) or [Ronnie G](#). "In twelve luminous stories set across three centuries, *The History of Sound* examines the unexpected ways the past returns to us and how love and loss are entwined and transformed over generations."

[RSVP HERE](#)

June 2, our host is **Ashley Madden** at 3208 Timberoak Ct. **Mary Kelly Wetzel** will lead the discussion, "**The Vaster Wilds**," by **Lauren Groff**. A young servant girl escapes a brutal colonial settlement (like Jamestown) and survives alone in the North American wilderness, blending a raw survival story with a meditation on colonialism, nature, and faith."



August 4, our host is **Amy Baradell** at 2307 Walker Avenue, **Beverley Gass** will lead the discussion, "**The Borrowed Lif of Frederick Fife**" by **Anna Johnston**. "A heartwarming novel about an elderly, broke man who, through a case of mistaken identity, takes the place of a missing nursing home resident, Bernard Greer, finding warmth, meals, and a chance to spread kindness while navigating the complexities of grief, forgiveness, and found family with other residents and Bernard's estranged daughter, Hannah."

We welcome you to discuss some great books with us!

WOW – WOMEN OF WALL STREET

Investment Club

Thursday, April 16, 6pm

Howard Hanna Allen Tate Realtors

717 Green Valley Road, Suite 175

The WOW Investment Club will have the second quarter Business Meeting on Thursday, April 16, at 6 pm at the offices of Howard Hanna Allen Tate Real Estate which is located at 717 Green Valley Road, Suite 175.

We will cover a market update, review of the portfolio, and any necessary changes. Please plan to attend.

See you on April 16th!

BOOKS & ARTS

A Chorus Line

Sunday, April 19, 2pm

Books and Arts will be attending **A Chorus Line** on Sunday afternoon April 19 at 2pm at the Winston-Salem Theater Alliance. We are planning to carpool from Greensboro, leaving around 11:15, then enjoy brunch together in downtown W-S before attending the show. Tickets are \$25 and are extremely limited, so if you'd like to join us, please notify Marcy McHenry ASAP at marcemch@aol.com.

WORKING MOMS

Green Valley Grill

Tuesday, April 21

12-1:30pm

Join us for our 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.



FINANCIAL DIVAS

Estate Planning Tips and

Best Practices

Wednesday, April 22, 9-10 am

Weaver Park Center, 324 W. Wendover Ave, Ste. 140

This month we're leaning into estate planning essentials. Sue Hunt, Senior Partner & Founder of Focus Estate Solutions, will walk us through the estate planning document flow—highlighting where mistakes most often occur, where overlooked opportunities exist, and how to better understand the roles and responsibilities within each document so they can be communicated clearly. You'll leave with a stronger grasp of how to approach your own documents with clarity and confidence through a group discussion with plenty of space for questions, shared

experiences, and practical takeaways. For questions or more information, contact Paula McMillan at 336.337.9507 or pmcmillan@stearnsfinancial.com.

LADIES OF LEISURE Vietri Outlet Store Thursday, April 23

Everyone's invited to join our Ladies of Leisure SIG on a short jaunt to Hillsborough on Thursday, April 23. The first stop is the Vietri Outlet Store for an introduction and optional tour of the women-owned Italian Importer of handcrafted dinnerware, linens and décor. Everything here is on sale for up to 80% off retail. (Vietri.com)

Next stop is lunch at Antonia's in Historic Downtown Hillsborough (Antoniashillsborough.com) followed by your choice of gallery-hopping, strolling the Eno River Walk or checking out Historic Revolutionary War and Civil War era sites. [Click here for more information about Hillsborough](#)

We will leave from Whole Foods parking lot at 10am, arrive at Vietri at 10:45am. Lunch reservations are for 1pm, and we will be back at 4 -4:15. There is no charge except for what you choose to buy for lunch or at the Outlet. Feel free to invite friends. Please address any questions and/or rsvp to Denny Kelly at dpkelly333@gmail.com so she can make reservations and coordinate driving.



Wild Women in the Mountains Blowing Rock, NC April 24-26, 2026

We are SO Excited to be able to take payments on line! Judy Garner can now take your payment (\$150.00) for this wonderful weekend at Venmo - Judy Garner@Judy-Garner-27 or PayPal - jgarner212@ymail.com. Its going to be a great weekend with lots to do or not do(if just relaxing is your jam!). For those who have already sent in checks - Please let Judy know via email at jgarner212@ymail.com. We should have those checks in hand soon! Contact me if you have any questions. - Mebane@mebaneham.com



DINING OUT Wednesday, April 29

6:30pm

ZeeYum Kitchen
4612 W Market St A, Greensboro
Hosts: Dede Potter & Sue Hunt
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Questions: Amy Meinecke at diningout@wpforum.org

SERVICE TO OTHERS
Simple Gestures Food Drive
Thank You, WPF Sisters, for Supporting Simple Gestures!

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who participated in supporting the Simple Gestures food pantry donations. Your generosity and commitment to giving back are what make this work possible.

Because of your support, we were able to continue engaging our community in providing a sustainable supply of food to local pantries across Guilford County. Your donations help ensure that excess perishable food is recovered and shared with local nonprofits, supporting community meals and strengthening important programs like SHARE within Guilford County Schools.



Every bag filled brings us one step closer to our shared vision of ending hunger in Guilford County as a community. Thanks to your willingness to support these food recovery efforts, a van full of food was collected and distributed among local food pantries in our community.

Thank you for being part of this mission. Together, we are making a meaningful difference.

BOOKS & ARTS
Greensboro Symphony Orchestra
Tanger Center
Saturday, May 2, 7:30pm

Please join us for dinner and a concert featuring the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra. The symphony has offered us prime seats for half price, \$43.

Beforehand, we will enjoy private dining at B Christophers at 5:15. The dinner is not included in the \$43.

You may reserve a concert ticket by sending \$43 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. If you already have a ticket for the performance, please let Anne know that you will be joining us for dinner.

NON-FICTION ONLY BOOK CLUB

For our next meeting, we'll be reading:

The Sisterhood:

The Secret History of Women at the CIA by Liza Mundy

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Location: Lindsay Brock's house: 4 Fern Bluff Ct., Greensboro

RSVP via email please.

Lindsay's email: lbrock@stearnsfinancial.com

Time: 6:30 pm hors d'oeuvres and social time

7:00 - 8:00 or 8:15 pm book discussion

Katie Klod will lead the discussion.



If it works for you to bring an appetizer or a dessert, that would be great. No signing up for snacks.

Running out of time to read the book? Please come anyway- we want to see you.

About our book for May:

***The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA* by Liza Mundy.**

Released in October 2023, this heavily researched, 480-page history explores the pivotal roles women have played within the CIA. Note: this is a lengthy book (18 hours on audio).

"A rip-roaring read about spycraft and the CIA's inner workings . . . an inspiring group portrait of extraordinary CIA women whose careers are multisided profiles in courage."—Steve Coll, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Ghost Wars*

"Liza Mundy is a prodigious reporter and a wonderful writer who has uncovered the stories of the female spies and analysts who helped make the CIA what it is today."—Peter Bergen, bestselling author of *The Rise and Fall of Osama bin Laden*

Next Up:

We'll be reading *Girl on Girl: How Pop Culture Turned a Generation of Women Against Themselves* by Sophie Gilbert for our July 7th meeting.

Organizers:

Jen Thomas & Kate Panzer

Jen's Cell 336-254-4325

Kate's Cell 336-420-1421



SIPPIN' SISTERS

Gia

1941 New Garden Rd, Suite 208, Greensboro

Tuesday, May 12, 6pm

Please join us for a cocktail class and snacks!

Private room for up to 18.

RSVP to lesliealderson@yahoo.com and

Venmo to @Leslie-Alderson or checks/cash welcome - \$30

Books and Arts

Blowing Rock Summer Trip

July 16-19, 2026

Spaces still available for our July weekend in Blowing Rock!!

One of our 2026 activities is our annual summer trip to Blowing Rock. Since we have two houses and a condo reserved, we still have openings for the trip, 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), and possibly a wine tasting. Other activities participants frequently enjoy are spa treatments at Chetola, shopping in downtown Blowing Rock, and hiking on nearby trails. Prices for housing for the weekend range from \$200 to \$450 depending upon type of room/bath, sharing, etc., so, something for everyone. Dinner is generally at restaurants on Thursday and Saturday nights, with Friday night picnic at the concert, and breakfast enjoyed 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.

