



**Lorri Yaskiewicz**  
WPF President

Dear WPF Sisters,

It's hard to believe August is already here, marking the winding down of summer. While August may not bring major holidays, it does offer some fun days that resonate with WPF.

**August 4th is National Friendship Day**—a perfect opportunity to celebrate the powerful, authentic relationships that enrich both our professional and personal lives. In work and in life, strong networks and genuine friendships provide encouragement, accountability, and perspective. We are incredibly fortunate to have such meaningful connections within our group.

As we approach **August 9th—Book Lover's Day**, we may find ourselves reflecting on the authors who have inspired us. It also calls to mind the beautiful link between reading and relationships, like our Book Club and Books & Arts Special Interest Groups. We love to get together and discuss different perspectives on books!

One author who exemplifies that correlation is Maya Angelou. Her words remind us of the enduring power of friendship:

*"The most beautiful discovery true friends make is that they can grow separately without growing apart."*

*"Some people make you laugh a little louder, your smile a little brighter, and your life a little better. Good friends are like stars—you don't always see them, but you know they're always there."*

In August, we will welcome 13 enthusiastic new members; they are eager to get involved and contribute. Please reach out and welcome them. We had a wonderful New Member Orientation at the end of July (thank you to Marcy McHenry and Laura Burton) where we were excited to learn more about our new sisters. And you will have an opportunity to hear about each new member at our August meeting.

A special shout out and thank you to Joy Shavitz, Laura Burton and Jeanie Duncan for the amazing Summer Social on July 15 at Joy Shavitz's home. We had a great attendance, and everyone had a fabulous time!

As we savor the last days of summer, let's continue to lean into the strength of our community, celebrate our friendships, and support one another.

Authentically yours,

~Lorri



**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**

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.

**Upcoming Events**

**Special Interest Groups**

**WPF Member Directory**

**WPF Facebook Page**



## **Membership News**

**NEW MEMBER SOCIAL**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Weir-Jordan House

Downtown Greensboro  
Wednesday, September 17  
6:00 pm

Details forthcoming and invitation will be sent in early September.

---

**The 2025 WPF New Member Orientation was held on June 29.**

Nine of the 13 new members were able to attend, along with President Lorri, the membership committee, and many SIG chairs. Many thanks to Laura Burton for hosting us at her lovely home.

Profiles of all the new members follow. Please join us at the August luncheon meeting when they will be officially introduced.



## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

### **Leslie Alderson**

I am a Human Resources leader with experience in managing HR teams in various industries. I am currently leading the HR team at AIB International, a remote food safety solutions company. Previously, I was an HR Leader for other Greensboro companies including Ecolab and Brady Trane. I have been married for 24 years, and I have two sons who are 21 and 15 years old.





When I'm not working, I enjoy group aerobics classes, attending my son's sports tournaments, and trips to the beach.

---



## Cindy Weber Belenky

I moved to Greensboro a year ago from Michigan. I have two children and four grandchildren who currently live in Michigan and Florida. My 50 year career in K-12 education has involved a number of administrative positions, including being an Assistant Superintendent in New York State and Superintendent of Schools in Michigan. Currently, I am an independent consultant for two companies providing training, workshops, and mentoring for educational administrators and teachers.

I am thoroughly enjoying the North Carolina weather and the lush terrain. Golf is my passion along with gardening, travel, art, and exploring new areas.

---

## Lindsay Brock

Lindsay is a Wealth Management Advisor with Stearns Financial Group. She is based in Greensboro, helping clients uncover their needs and achieve their financial goals, working closely with individuals and families to simplify the complexities of significant wealth by developing strategies in investment management, estate, and financial planning. Lindsay's role at SFG focuses on financial planning where she creates multiple scenarios taking into consideration changing market conditions, personal circumstances, and significant life events. This approach allows clients to determine the way they can achieve balance between living for today and saving for tomorrow.



Lindsay's background includes more than a decade of experience as a fiduciary, including client service, financial planning and investment consulting. Prior to joining SFG, Lindsay was with Fiduciary Investment Advisors (FIA) in Connecticut, and before that, in New York City at Bernstein Global Wealth Management, a unit of AllianceBernstein.

Lindsay holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Minor in Pre-Law from the State University of New York at Potsdam. She is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ (CFP®) practitioner. Lindsay is an active member of the Junior League of Greensboro.

Lindsay and her husband, Tom, moved to North Carolina in 2018 and have since added to their family two children, Eliza, and Nate, and a “pocket pit” rescue dog, Zoe. They love to spend time with family both in the Triangle and Charlotte areas, help in the community, and appreciate the Greensboro foodie scene, breweries, parks, and the Tanger Performing Arts Center. Something that you may not know is that she was a classically trained vocalist – although now only performs at karaoke nights!



## Erickia Elbert

Erickia Elbert is a results-oriented Human Resources executive with over 30 years of progressive leadership experience spanning higher education and global corporate environments. As the Chief Human Resources Officer at Guilford College, she serves as a strategic advisor to the President and a core member of the institution's executive leadership team. Erickia is widely recognized for leading enterprise-wide transformations, aligning talent strategies with organizational goals, and implementing people-centered solutions that enhance performance and culture.

A visionary in HR operations, Erickia has successfully led several multi-million-dollar technology initiatives, including a major HRIS transformation across 120 manufacturing sites. Her extensive expertise includes workforce planning, executive coaching, employee relations,

regulatory compliance, compensation strategy, and talent acquisition. She brings a sharp focus to data-driven decision-making, change management, and process optimization.

Erickia is known for fostering inclusive, high-performing work environments and guiding organizations through complex transitions. Prior to joining Guilford College, she held senior HR roles including Vice Chancellor for Human Resources at North Carolina A&T State University and Regional HR Manager at PPG Industries. She also led HR operations at Doosan Infracore, where she supported global talent development and organizational effectiveness.

In addition, Erickia is the founder of Goode HR Consulting Firm, LLC, where she delivers strategic HR solutions to a diverse client base. Her consulting work focuses on executive coaching, HR best practices, and strengthening operational infrastructure to achieve long-term organizational success.

Erickia holds an M.S. in Human Resources Counseling and a B.S. in Psychology from North Carolina A&T State University. She is Six Sigma Green Belt Certified, a Workday HCM expert, and a Zenger Miller Certified Training Instructor. Deeply committed to professional growth and community service, Erickia serves on the boards of CUPA-HR North Carolina and the Women's Resource Center of Greensboro. She is also an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

## Lindsay James

Lindsay is one of Greensboro's "boomerangs" in more ways than one. She was born and raised here, and left upon graduating high school, living in the Triangle, Dallas, and Chicago before returning to her hometown nearly 30 years later. Her father started his commercial real estate company in 1980, and Lindsay grew up immersed in the family business-visiting project sites, maintaining



landscaping, and even presenting a Trade Area Analysis for her 8th grade Science Fair project. In 2022, she returned to Greensboro to join the business she grew up with. Now working as an adult in her family's real estate business, Lindsay's immersion includes all aspects of commercial real estate development and investment, from acquisitions and site work to leasing and finance.

She spent her decades away working in corporate sustainability, including her tenure on the executive management team for Interface, the global sustainability leader and the world's largest manufacturer of commercial carpet tile (NASDAQ: TILE). As Vice President of Restorative Enterprise, she served as the leader for the sustainability department in Interface's Americas business. While the fast-paced executive world was fulfilling in many ways, the weekly plane trips forced a tradeoff that she was no longer willing to make, so Lindsay left the corporate world and dedicated herself fully to biomimicry. In addition to serving on the faculty for Biomimicry Master's students at Arizona State University, she led Chrysalis Strategies, a consultancy focusing on the commercialization of biomimetic innovations. Her favorite gig was working as a startup coach for The Biomimicry Institute's accelerator programs.

Lindsay earned her MS in Biomimicry from Arizona State University. She graduated from the University of North Carolina, with an MBA and a BA in both Economics and Biology. She describes herself as "one lucky mama" with two kiddos and two doggos. She enjoys boxing (only heavy bags, no sparring!) at Club Fitness, spending time in nature, and world travel.



## Shelley Johnson

I'm originally from Wichita, Kansas. Youngest of 5 siblings. Being the risk taker of the family at 28, I sold my house and all my belongings, quit my job at Boeing Aircraft and moved to New York City. I lived at 128th Street and Broadway for 3 years, worked in a management position and explored the city. Once that felt complete, I decided to move south. My background and experience were in Purchasing and Supply Chain Management. I finished that career at GTCC as the Director of Purchasing and Facilities Management with

approximately 40 indirect employees under my supervision. While working at GTCC I completed a massage therapy program and met my husband. We started Kneaded Energy together in 1999 and are now celebrating 25 years in service to Greensboro and Guilford County. I'm reserved and slow to open up. Even though I talk in front of people and teach classes all the time, it still makes me nervous. I walk daily and love to swim. I have 3 grandchildren. Hot flashes and a little alcohol turn me bright red.

---

## Rebecca Kaye

Rebecca Kaye leads policy development and strategic communications for Guilford County (NC) Schools. Prior to GCS, she was a catalyst for change in Oklahoma City Public Schools and Atlanta Public Schools. She began her career teaching middle school, and she has worked at the state, regional, and federal levels at the Southern Regional Education Board, the Georgia Department of Education, and the Presidential Management Fellows program in the US Department of Education.



Dr. Kaye holds a B.A. from the University of Virginia, an M.P.A. from Georgia State University, an Ed.S. from the University of West Georgia, and an Ed.D. from Vanderbilt University. She and her spouse live in Greensboro's College Hill neighborhood with their two teens who love their Guilford County public schools.



## Martha Kesler

Martha Kesler, MSOD is the Founder and Principal Consultant at Congruism. She specializes in leadership development, team dynamics, and executive coaching. With over 30 years of experience, she has worked across federal, private and nonprofit sectors helping leaders and organizations align their strengths, values and actions for meaningful impact. An ICF-certified coach and expert in Facet5, she brings a data-driven yet deeply human approach to growth and transformation. Outside of work, Martha enjoys cooking, kayaking, live music, theatre, and pickleball, as well as spending time with her husband, Jon, and their chocolate lab, Rooster.

## Lauren Norris

Lauren Norris is a Founder and Managing Partner at Vincita Investment Partners. Prior to starting the firm, she worked as a Vice President and Wealth Management Advisor with KM & Associates at Merrill for ten years. Lauren works closely with individuals, families, and businesses, providing them with the support, advice, and attention to manage their wealth more effectively. A natural

coach, mentor, and guide, she derives great satisfaction from helping people take measurable steps toward the future they envision, providing them with the structure and analysis to



make informed decisions. A connector of people, ideas, and opportunities, Lauren engages deeply with each client's priorities, embracing them as her own. She grounds her work in empathy and action, doing all that she can to help clients streamline their finances, resolve nagging issues, anticipate key crossroads, and advance their long-term aspirations.

---



## Ursula Strong

I'm a Certified Financial Planner with Edward Jones with 29 years of experience in financial services. Over my career, I've also held positions in leadership, relationship management and institutional sales. I specialize in helping high-income earning professional women, retirees and business owners reach their financial goals. I lived in Charlotte for 26 years, but moved back to my hometown of Greensboro in 2022 to rejoin Edward Jones. I've been married to my college sweetheart William for 29 years and we have two daughters Blake and Jordyn. I enjoy listening to podcasts, walking and attending group exercise classes at the YMCA with my friends and giving back to the community through volunteerism.

---

## Grace Thompson

I'm a nonprofit leader passionate about youth development and community impact. I began my career as a teacher and spent 13 years with the Greensboro Boys & Girls Club, where I grew through several leadership roles and served as Executive Director during the pandemic. That experience deepened my commitment to resilience, equity, and opportunity for young people. Since 2023, I've



led Junior Achievement of the Triad, where I oversee programs that reach over 18,000 students annually, with a focus on financial literacy and workforce readiness. I was honored as a 2025 Triad Business Journal 40 Under 40 and currently serve on the board of the Greensboro Jaycees. I'm driven by the belief that investing in youth is one of the most powerful ways to strengthen a community.

---



## Theodora Vaporis

I grew up in Boston and attended Hellenic College followed by law school at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. I have been practicing law in Greensboro since 2003 after practicing in California for several years. I focus on estate planning, estate administration, guardianships and estate disputes. I also dedicate 80 hours a year to legal pro bono work for which I am recognized each year in the North Carolina Pro Bono Society and Greensboro's Herb Falk Society. In 2024 I was the recipient of the Greensboro Bar Association's Pro Bono Award. As a Navy spouse (retired) and a Navy mom, I strive to help veterans whenever I can. I love the practice of law and doing what I do each day.

---

## Kim Wilson

I'm a full-time residential real estate agent with Berkshire-Hathaway, who has performed at the highest level in gross commissions earned and number of units sold for 14 years. I was chair of the Advisory Team for 6 six years where I led a team of 13 agents to work with management about bettering the work environment, planning office sales meetings, office parties, and community service work with organizations such as Second Harvest Food Bank and Greensboro Urban Ministry. I now lead a team of my own agents within the BHHS Yost and Little office on the Kim Wilson Homes team.



At the heart of my success has been my family and friends who have supported my career helping me to achieve the highest level of professionalism. Dedication to excellence has enhanced a diverse set of skills that allow me to better guide my customers. Strong negotiation skills backed by years of experience leading teams supports my goal for providing extraordinary experiences for each of my clients.

## 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](mailto:Marleegfoster@gmail.com) with your 4 min special for a newsletter and we will include it during this year.

---

## **FALL SMALL GROUP GATHERING!**

Summer is coming to an end and that means the Fall Small Group Gatherings are right around the corner! This fall's dinners will be scheduled between October 1 and October 30.



(We're skipping Halloween so that everyone can trick or treat!). As a host, you can choose to host breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, etc. The events can be at your home or at a restaurant/venue of your choosing (bear in mind that there will be Forum and Foundation questions for discussion). 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 October 1 and 30.

To sign up to host, please reach out to Laura Burton ([lbarton@foxrothschild.com](mailto:lbarton@foxrothschild.com)) or Jeanie Duncan ([jduncan@jeanieduncan.com](mailto:jduncan@jeanieduncan.com)) with one or more dates in October that you are available. Thank you for your hospitality.

---

## Building Belonging Update!

One of the ways that we build community in WPF is to create a sense of belonging for our members. Belonging is the belief that we are connected, supported, and respected. It's a necessary component of creating cultures that enable everyone to feel included. In the workplace, belonging creates opportunity for greater individual and organizational performance, creativity, job satisfaction, and resilience.

When we think about belonging in the context of WPF, here are some questions we might ask ourselves:

- Can I connect with my **fellow members** professionally? Socially?
- Do I feel like my unique perspective and experiences are valued?
- Am I able to share my authentic self?
- Am I **concerned** about fitting in?



How can we be more intentional about creating a sense of belonging in WPF? How can you as leaders do this in your respective workplaces? Here are some tips from the Center for Creative Leadership:

- Create intentional opportunities for connection. We do this in part through our monthly lunch meetings, SIGs, and other activities. Think about how we can intentionally foster greater opportunities for connection and share your ideas with the Board or your SIG chairs.
- Shift our perspective about uncertainty and mistakes, and turn them into opportunities for growth. All of us question ourselves, our abilities and achievements. When we share our uncertainties and mistakes with each other, or make ourselves vulnerable, we make them seem normal and understandable.
- Demonstrate humility: Don't assume anything about others' lived experiences, whether personal or professional. Another way to think about this is not to assume that we know everything and have all the answers. Start with listening to understand rather than respond, remaining present in the moment, reserving judgment and keeping an open mind, and talking less to allow others to speak more than they might otherwise.

Thank you for all the ways you help to build belonging in WPF!

## WPF Foundation News

### A Note From Chandra Hackenbruch, WPF Foundation President

As the summer season begins to fade, a new season of greatness is unfolding before us. Our sabbatical may be over, but the excitement is just beginning. August marks the beginning of exciting activities for the Foundation, and we're eager to get back to work.



#### **Are you the one?**

As we look to the future, we ask: what's your vision for a community where women and girls have more opportunities to thrive and become empowered? Are you ready to join the Foundation made up of dedicated women driven to enable non-profit organizations in Guilford County to create impactful programs reflecting our mission? We're on a mission to find dynamic and dedicated sisters to join our board of directors, and we want you to be a part of it. Your talents, expertise, and unique perspective are the keys to unlocking a brighter future for women and girls in our community. Please contact Chandra Hackenbruch for more information.

#### **Grant season is upon us**

We are getting ready for the grant application cycle which starts on October 1st! As a reminder, the grants cycle start date changed to allow more time for application reviews but we will end the cycle on January 31st which is our normal end date. Be on the look out for our press release in September!

#### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

Rock the Night Away and support the WPF Foundation

Enjoy a night of music by the Ladies Auxiliary Band and delightful drinks crafted by 1618 On Location, while raising funds to support women and girls in Guilford County. Every ticket supports the Women's Professional Forum Foundation grant fund, which provided \$30,500 in grant funding to Guilford County nonprofits this year!

## 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

## **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

### **WORKING MOMS**

We take the month of August off. End of summer and back to school.

Mama always needs a break! We'll be back in September!

---

### **LADIES OF LEISURE**

**Ladies of Leisure (LOL)** is looking for a new co-chair to work with Dawn Kane for 2026. Beverley Gass is stepping away from that job, but will happily teach someone all she knows about LOL!

Please let Beverley (336-255-3173) or Dawn (336-340-4807) know!

---



### **BOOK CLUB**

**Tuesday, August 5**

**Book: Color of Water**

**by James McBride**

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

**7:30 pm discussion**

**Host: Marjorie Streck**

**Discussion Leader: Pat Vedder**

**RSVP**

**Email: [mbstreck@yahoo.com](mailto:mbstreck@yahoo.com)**

**Text: 336-312-6528**

---

### **WINE DIVAS**

#### **FINS UP, PARROTT HEADS!**

**Join Us In "Wine-aritaville" for a  
Jimmy Buffett-themed Wine Divas Night!**

**August 13<sup>th</sup> – 6-8pm**

**MM Interior Design Group**

**609 State Street, Greensboro**

**To RSVP, Venmo \$30 to Susan Russell (@Susan-Russell-111)**



---

**WOW - WOMEN OF WALL STREET  
Investment Club**



Third Quarter Business Meeting  
Thursday, August 21, 6:00 pm  
Mt. Pisgah Church  
2600 Pisgah Church Road

We will review the portfolio and discuss the companies we own. Please plan to attend.

---

**LADIES OF LEISURE**

Jewelry Workshop at Martin's Mercantile  
4118 Oak Ridge Rd, Summerfield, NC  
Thursday, August 21

**What:** A creative jewelry making workshop led by North Carolina jewelry artist, Jesse Lynn of Blue Heron. Jesse uses found objects and trinkets to design and create one of a kind pieces such as earrings, pendants and bracelets. All supplies will be provided but feel free to bring old treasures you would like to repurpose. Leave with several pieces of new art jewelry.

**Where:** Martin's Mercantile, Summerfield's newest boutique located in the restored Martin House. Owned by Lauren and Daryl Cox this unique shop specializes in unique household items, clothing and accessories.

**Time:** 10 am to 2pm, meeting at Martin's Mercantile or earlier meetup to carpool from Whole Foods on Friendly at 9:30.

**Cost:** \$50 (drinks and snacks provided and a nice lunch can be preordered through Martin's Mercantile at an additional cost).



To sign up for the workshop (10 spaces for the actual workshop) go to this link:  
<https://martinsmercantilenc.com/workshops-1/ols/products/private-jewelry-class-wpf-lol>

Click on private jewelry class "buy now". You will also see lunch menu options.

Please note, if you would like lunch please email [lcx7406@gmail.com](mailto:lcx7406@gmail.com) with your COMPLETE order with side options if that is included. Soft drinks and water will be provided. Payment options for lunch are Venmo or check and can be discussed when you email.

If the workshop is full or you just want to have the camaraderie social/shopping/lunch part only (and not the workshop) let Lauren know when you contact her with your lunch order. A Martin's Mercantile visit is an adventure in itself!

For questions or more information please contact Margaret Bertrand:  
[margaretbertrand49@gmail.com](mailto:margaretbertrand49@gmail.com) or text 336-420-1822.

---

## BOOKS & ARTS

The Phoebes and Nu-Blu at MUSEP

Sunday, August 24, 2022 6:00 PM to 7:45 PM

Keeley Park, 4100 Keeley Road, McLeansville

You're invited to join your WPF sisters for Sunday Evening in the Park on August 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM to enjoy rock/blues by The Phoebes (6PM) and bluegrass by award-winning band Nu-Blu (7PM).



Born of the pandemic, The Phoebes are a young, energetic NC-based band that connects past and present. Winner of the WRAL 2024 Voters Choice Award for Best Local Band of the Triangle and the Bands and Clubs of the Triangle 2024 for Best Local Band of the Year Award, The Phoebes first official single, "The Other Side," is available on Apple Music, Spotify and other streaming platforms. Check them out!

Nu-Blu, founded by husband and wife duo Carolyn and Daniel Routh, is a bluegrass and Americana band with its roots in Siler City. They have been creating music that speaks from the heart together for over 20 years and have released 5 Top Ten Billboard albums. Carolyn and Daniel are the permanent hosts of the nationally-syndicated TV show "Bluegrass Ridge," which airs in 120 million homes worldwide.



Bring a chair or a blanket, your beverage of choice, and snacks to eat and/or share. In addition, concessions will be available from Knightly Rose and Mostly Melt. RSVP to Michele Smith by e-mail at [msmith@hillevans.com](mailto:msmith@hillevans.com) to let us know you'll be there so we can try to hold a space for you. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged.

---

## FINANCIAL DIVAS

Wednesday, August 27, 9-10 am

Weaver Park Center

324 W. Wendover Ave, Ste. 140

Join us in the "O" for a discussion of "Money Vigilance". Those who are vigilant with money believe that being intentional and saving is important. Let's talk about the [best savings accounts](#) for an emergency fund, having [the right credit card](#), being in investment options to match your

spending and more. Come prepared to share and learn. For more information or questions, contact Paula McMillan at 336.337.9507 or [pmcmillan@stearnsfinancial.com](mailto:pmcmillan@stearnsfinancial.com).

## **DINING OUT**

**Wednesday, August 27  
6:30 pm  
The Marisol  
5834 West Gate City Blvd, 27407**

**Host: Neena Ballard  
and Jody Susong**

**RSVP to:**  
Amy Meinecke  
at <https://form.jotform.com/251174291924155>

---

## **NEW!!! Nonfiction BOOK CLUB meeting on a trial basis for the Fall of 2025 Tuesday Sept. 2 and Tuesday Nov. 4**

Join the WPF Nonfiction Book Club for the first meeting as we discuss **We Can Do Hard Things: Answers to Life's 20 Questions** by Glennon Doyle, Abby Wambach, Amanda Doyle.

We'll be meeting at Kate Panzer's house on Sept 2nd -  
604 Waycross Dr, Greensboro. Social time at 7:00; book group discussion 7:30.  
To RSVP, text Jennifer Thomas at 336-254-4325 or email [jen@drjenthomas.com](mailto:jen@drjenthomas.com).

## **BOOKS & ARTS NC Folk Festival**

In September, Books and Arts will not have a formal activity other than a meeting of the Book Club for nonfiction books. However, we hope that members will both enjoy concerts and volunteer to work at the NC Folk Festival which runs from September 12<sup>th</sup> to September 14<sup>th</sup> in downtown Greensboro. A number of us have already signed up for volunteer shifts. To do so, go to [ncfolkfestival.com](http://ncfolkfestival.com) and click on volunteer options. When it asks for a group affiliation, put WPF. Whether you volunteer or just enjoy concerts, it's a fun weekend and a great place to share a musical experience with WPF friends. Reach out to others, get a group together, and have fun!

---

## **BOOKS & ARTS and LADIES OF LEISURE**

**Time to Plan for October  
National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee  
October 3-5, 2025**

Books and Arts and Ladies of Leisure are teaming up for a trip to the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee the weekend of October 3-5. We will drive to Jonesborough on Friday when the storytelling begins and return home on Sunday. Jonesborough, the oldest town in Tennessee, is a 3+ hour drive from Greensboro. Tents are set up around this picturesque town to provide a fun place to hear tales you will laugh and weep over. We will stay in nearby, Greeneville, Tennessee and have dinner together on Friday and Saturday. It is a down-to-earth, entertaining weekend.

Here is a link to the festival: <https://www.storytellingcenter.net/festival/main/> Adult tickets are \$190 for 3 days and senior tickets, \$175. We suggest waiting to purchase tickets.

You may even decide to purchase them on site.

We have reserved 6 rooms at the Hampton Inn in Greeneville about a 30 minute drive from Jonesborough. Each room has 2 queen beds and costs \$461.72 for 2 nights.

We hope you will decide to join us for a beautiful fall weekend in gorgeous East Tennessee. Or, it could rain. But that's lovely, too.

Please think about this! We hope you decide soon to join us, but we have until mid-September to finalize the number of rooms needed. It's a wonderful fall outing. Let us hear.



Beverley Gass  
(336) 255-3173  
[beverleygass@gmail.com](mailto:beverleygass@gmail.com)

Jane Hewitt  
(336) 312-0200  
[jhewitt51@gmail.com](mailto:jhewitt51@gmail.com)

---

### **BOOKS & ARTS**

#### **January 2026 New York City Trip!**

Michele Smith, Laura Stroupe Barrier, and Kris Landrum, who were the leads in planning and implementing the NYC trip in '25, are participating in the '26 sailing trip in the British Virgin Islands during the last week of January, '26. Therefore, because of the closeness in timing of the two trips and the responsibilities of the BVI trip, we will not be planning a NYC trip for January, '26. However, we would be happy to provide (1) contacts at West House for obtaining a group contract and related discounts, as we enjoyed this year, (2) contacts for the Food Tour, (3) tips on booking of Broadway plays for the group, and (4) worksheet samples for keeping up with everyone's travel plans, plays, roommates, dining out, etc., to anyone who wants to take on this planning for '26. Booking rooms at West House under a group discount needs to take place in the next month or so, as West House fills quickly, and it is not unusual for them to have large groups like ours. If there are no takers for '26 for the MLK weekend, we're all willing to handle planning for such a trip in '27.

---

### **BOOKS & ARTS**

#### **British Virgin Islands Sailing Trip-January 23<sup>rd</sup> thru 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

Per person cost for 58 ft sailing catamaran, captain, cook, and steward and all food and beverages-\$3,742/person, plus crew tip of \$600 to \$700, plus airfare  
There is only one space left for this trip,

Contact Kris Landrum ([klandrum@tuggleduggins.com](mailto:klandrum@tuggleduggins.com)) if you want additional information about this trip.

---





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

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)