



Dear WPF Sisters,

As September arrives, many of us find ourselves transitioning from summer into a season of renewed focus and strategic thinking. I hope everyone had the opportunity to take a nice vacation. Personally, I enjoy autumn. I love the cooler weather, the changing leaves, and of course, building fires and football season!



**Lorri Yaskiewicz**  
**WPF President**

This is also an ideal moment to reflect on the significance of Labor Day, a national acknowledgment of the workforce, and consequently, our commitment, leadership, and contributions. Labor Day isn't just about a day off; it's about honoring the time, energy, and expertise that working professionals bring to the table every day. For women, our contributions often extend far beyond our jobs. They extend to mentoring others, navigating complexity with grace, balancing our careers with personal responsibilities, and leading in bold, resilient ways.

In September, we look forward to our WPF New Member Social on Wednesday, September 17, at the Weir-Jordan House. Please RSVP as soon as possible. Once again, welcome to our 13 new WPF Sisters!

As the leaves begin to turn beautiful colors, we're reminded that change can be a wonderful thing. Whether you're embracing new routines, cozy moments, or fresh goals, may you have a meaningful and peaceful fall season.

**Authentically yours,**



**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**

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**WPF  
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**Upcoming Events**

**Special Interest Groups**

**WPF Member Directory**

**WPF Facebook Page**

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### *What's for lunch in September?*

- Mixed Greens Salad Bar with Assorted Toppings, Ranch & Balsamic Vinaigrette
- Assorted rolls and whipped butter
- Lemon Herb Chicken and Ricotta Pasta with grilled chicken breast tossed with fresh pasta, creamy ricotta, lemon zest, roasted cherry tomatoes, sauteed spinach and garlic, finished with fresh parsley and basil
- Limoncello glazed pound cake



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## **SEPTEMBER PROGRAM**



## Connie Ledoux Book

### President, Elon University

Dr. Connie Ledoux Book is a passionate advocate for the power of higher education to transform students' lives. She spent 16 years as an Elon University faculty member and administrative leader, helping to build the university's reputation for excellence in engaged teaching and learning. In 2015 she accepted a groundbreaking role as the first female provost and chief academic officer at The Citadel in South Carolina. She returned to Elon as president in 2018, bringing a deep appreciation for the university's unique history and its rapid rise to national prominence.

In 2020, President Book led creation of the 10-year [Boldly Elon](#) strategic plan to advance the university's signature programs in experiential education, mentoring and student success. Under Book's leadership, Elon has created innovative new academic programs; expanded its focus on health and wellness; invested in inclusive excellence, faculty and staff, and alumni engagement; built a new Innovation Quad for engineering and sciences; and established a new campus in Charlotte, North Carolina, for Elon University School of Law and other programs.

## 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.

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## FALL SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS!

It's time for WPF Fall Small Group Gatherings! If you're interested in hosting, click on [this link](#) and select a date. Indicate the time, location, and number of guests you can accommodate. You can choose to host a breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, coffee/tea, cocktails...anything goes! 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). Thank you! If you have any questions, contact [Jeanie Duncan](#) or [Laura Burton](#).

Thanks to those members that have already signed up to host!

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## WPF Foundation News

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

Dear Fabulous Sisters!

#### The Season of Change is Here!

As the warmth of summer fades, a new season of excitement and possibility unfolds before us. The air is crisp, the trees are ablaze with vibrant colors, and the promise of holiday celebrations is just on the horizon. I, along with the entire Foundation team, can barely contain our enthusiasm for the thrilling months ahead!





### **A Season of Activity and Opportunity**

As we dive into the fall season, our Foundation is gearing up for a busy and productive few months. We're eager to welcome new board members who will bring fresh perspectives and ideas to the table. If you or someone you know is passionate about making a difference, we invite you to throw your hat into the ring! Nominations are now open, and we encourage you to submit your suggestions by September 12th. Simply email me at [raye74@gmail.com](mailto:raye74@gmail.com) to get started or reach out to any Foundation board member.

### **The Grant Cycle is Coming!**

As a reminder October 1<sup>st</sup> officially marks, when our grant cycle officially kicks off! We'll be sharing a press release and application link soon, but don't wait – spread the word now to organizations that may be interested in applying. Encourage them to get ready to submit their proposals and take advantage of this incredible opportunity to make a meaningful impact in our community.

### **Be a Part of Something Amazing**

As we embark on this exciting season, we invite you to join us on this journey. Whether you're a seasoned supporter or just discovering our Foundation, we welcome you to be a part of our mission to make a difference. Stay tuned for updates, and get ready to be inspired by the incredible work that's happening in our community because of your generous donations. The season of change is here, and we're thrilled to have you along for the ride!

Speaking of incredible work, I hope you take the time to read the following amazing report from the Greensboro History Museum who received a grant of \$4250 from the Women's Professional Forum Foundation in 2024 to support their Project Democracy GSO programming, which aims to empower women and girls. The grant-funded activities that have directly reached 88 women and girls, and have included a lecture and conversation with renowned historian Dr. Martha S. Jones, a National Youth Summit regional hub, and the development of Democracy Traveling Trunks. The programs have focused on voting rights, leadership, and civic engagement, and have had a positive impact on the participants, including inspiring them to make a difference in their community.

The grant award has had a significant impact on the community, including:

- **Empowering women and girls:** The grant-funded activities have directly reached 88 women and girls, providing them with opportunities to learn about voting rights, leadership, and civic engagement.
- **Inspiring civic engagement:** The programs have inspired participants to take action and make a difference in their community, with one participant expressing a desire to "spread awareness on the problems in our government and local government and focus on making changes."
- **Building connections:** The programs have brought together women and girls from different backgrounds and age groups, facilitating conversations and connections that have helped to break down presuppositions and build understanding.
- **Developing leadership skills:** The National Youth Summit regional hub and the Democracy Traveling Trunks have provided opportunities for young women to develop

- leadership skills and learn about future leadership opportunities in college.
- **Preserving history:** The grant-funded activities have helped to preserve the history of women's suffrage and voting rights in Greensboro, and have connected that history to national and local stories.

### **Rock the Night Away Announcement:**

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!

**When:** November 2, 2025

**Time:** 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**Where:** Van Dyke Performance Space

[Tickets are limited, so be sure to purchase yours today!](#)

**The following sponsorships are open: \$5000, one \$2500, and one \$1000!**

Our sponsors offset the costs of hosting our event, allowing all ticket sales to support the WPF grant program. We invite you or your business to join us as a sponsor. Click the link below to learn more.

[See sponsorship opportunities here.](#) You can also contact [Frenesa Hall.](#)

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## **WPF FOUNDATION 2025 Board of Directors**



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Martha Peddrick  
Ernestine Taylor  
Sasha Trosch

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## New Member Social

**Wednesday, September 17**  
**6:00-8:00pm**  
**WEIR-JORDAN HOUSE**  
**223 N. Edgeworth Street**  
**(Downtown Greensboro)**

Please join the WPF membership for a special evening social honoring our new members! Heavy appetizers and wine will be served. We will need to limit our attendees to 70, so please reserve your spot soon!

**RSVP HERE**

If you RSVP Yes, but then your plans change, please email Sherry at [admin@wpforum.org](mailto:admin@wpforum.org),

### **ABOUT THE VENUE:**

A landmark for 175 years, the Weir-Jordan House is a historic home, full of southern charm, located in downtown Greensboro at 223 N. Edgeworth Street. The venue has been women owned and operated (Greensboro Woman's Club) since 1921 and was admitted to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

### **PARKING:**

- There are a few spaces behind the house in our gravel lot which can be accessed from Spring Street (GPS: 220 N. Spring St.)
- After 6 pm guests may use the parking spaces adjacent to the house in the Carruthers & Roth Attorneys lot.
- Guests may park across Edgeworth Street in the Grace United Methodist Church lot, if there is not an event.

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## Building Belonging Update!

Celebrated each year from September 15 through October 15, Hispanic Heritage Month is a celebration of Hispanic and Latino history and culture. During the month, we recognize the many contributions made to the history and culture of the United States by Hispanic and Latino people, including important advocacy work, art, popular and traditional foods, and much more. The timeframe of this month is significant because it aligns with the dates that many Central American countries celebrate their independence days, beginning on September 15 with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Hispanic Heritage Month provides an additional opportunity to explore the incredible impact Latinas and Latinos have had on the United States for generations. The Latino presence in America spans centuries, predating Spain's colonization of what is now part of the United States, and they have been an integral part of shaping our nation since the Revolutionary War.



Today, the [Latino population](#) in the United States today is over 60 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This makes up 18.9% of the total population and is the largest racial or ethnic group. To learn more about Hispanic and Latino Americans, as well as the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, you can visit [the National Museum of the American Latino](#).

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### 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!

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### 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, Discussion 7:30.

To RSVP, text Jennifer Thomas at 336-254-4325 or email [jen@drjenthomas.com](mailto:jen@drjenthomas.com).



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### BOOKS & ARTS NC Folk Festival

Our September Books and Arts activity is both attending and assisting with the NC Folk Festival, **September 12<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>**. Many of our group are volunteering as well as enjoying performances. Be sure to participate in this fun event! Additional volunteers are still needed. Go to [www.ncfolkfestival.com](http://www.ncfolkfestival.com) to join us!



### **WORKING MOMS**

#### **Village Tavern**

Tuesday, September 16, 4–5:00 pm

Join us for Happy Hour!

Moms of all ages welcome.

RSVP to Marlee Foster at [marlee.foster@conehealth.com](mailto: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.

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### **WOW - WOMEN OF WALL STREET**

#### **Investment Club**

September Dinner Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 6:00 pm

Lucky 31 Restaurant

1421 Westover Terrace

An email will be sent to Club members to reply.

Our October 16 Topic Meeting will be on Estate Planning. Amy Kincaid, long time WPF member will be speaking. Amy is a board certified estate attorney and CPA.

This meeting is open to all members of WPF. Please contact Peggy Ward at [peggy.ward8@icloud.com](mailto:peggy.ward8@icloud.com) if you would like to attend. Appetizers will be served.

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### **FINANCIAL DIVAS**

**Wednesday, September 24, 9-10 am**

**Weaver Park Center**

**324 W. Wendover Ave, Ste. 140**

Join us in the "O" for a discussion of "Navigating Healthcare". When you, a family member or friend encounters a health event, who do you turn to in making it through the medical maze to recovery? Some are fortunate enough to have a healthcare navigator, a specialized volunteer role, step in to help generally research, interpret medical issues, better understand drugs, etc. We are fortunate to have such an angel in WPF, Margaret Bertrand, who has helped others in this capacity since retiring as a radiologist. Margaret will lead us in a discussion that is sure to enlighten and encourage us all. 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, September 24**

**6:30 pm**

**Osteria Italian Restaurant**

**1310 Westover Terrace,**

**Host: Kris Landrum**

RSVP at:

<https://form.jotform.com/251174291924155>

Questions: Amy Meinecke at [diningout@wpforum.org](mailto:diningout@wpforum.org)

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**I WANT MY MTV!!!**

What do Madonna, Fuzzy Navels and Amaretto Sours, Michael Jackson, and Miami Vice have in common??

**ITS SIPPIN' SISTERS 80's NIGHT!!!!**



Please join us for our 80's decade party !

**Tuesday, September 30, 6 pm**

Enjoy our Amaretto Sour and 80's cocktails while grooving to the music of Madonna and friends.

A Fun party/trivia night with your Sippin' Sisters!

\$25 cover charge

RSVP to Pat Price, (336) 707-1071

and Venmo @Patricia-Price-112

Hosted by:

**Pat Price**

5319 Tower Rd

Greensboro 27410

**Neena Ballard**

**Kim Trone**

**Pat Vedder**

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**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 still have space for a few more participants**, so 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)



### **BOOK CLUB**

**Tuesday, October 7**

**Book: Peril at the Exposition  
by Nev March**

7:00 pm hors d'oeuvres and social time

7:30 pm discussion

**Host: Jen Thomas**

**3004 Steepleton Colony Court  
(1 mile past Bur Mil Park)**

## BOOKS & ARTS

Saturday, October 18, 2025

7:30 pm

### North Carolina Dance Festival

Please join Anne Morris and Michele Smith for the North Carolina Dance Festival on Saturday, October 18, 2025, in the Van Dyke Performance Space located on the first floor of the Cultural Arts Center in downtown Greensboro. The North Carolina Dance Festival is a production of the Dance Project and showcases artists in the field of modern dance from across the state. This year's Festival features six dances by North Carolina choreographers and features highly accomplished artists Alyah Baker, Chania Wilson, Eric Mullis, Jiwon Ha, Gavin Stewart, Vanessa Owen and Tara Mullins. The work presented by Gavin Stewart and Vanessa Owen was originally commissioned by and presented at the American Dance Festival in 2024.

The program, begins at 7:30 p.m. Anne has arranged for us to purchase tickets at the group rate of \$20.00 per person.

You're also invited to attend a Pre-Show Cocktail Hour, which will include a short spoken program, immediately prior to the performance. The Pre-Show Cocktail Hour will begin about 6:00 p.m. If anyone has an interest in gathering for a light dinner beforehand, we can meet at Café Europa about 4:30 pm or 5pm. We'll make plans for dinner based on interest.

Please reserve a ticket to the Dance Festival by sending \$20.00 by Venmo to Michele Smith (@Michele-Smith-369) and let her know if you would also like to attend the Pre-Show Cocktail Hour and whether you have an interest in getting together for dinner.

If you have questions, contact Anne Morris at [anne@danceproject.org](mailto:anne@danceproject.org) or Michele Smith at [msmith@hillellevans.com](mailto:msmith@hillellevans.com). Additional information regarding the North Carolina Dance Festival is available at <https://danceproject.org/ncdf>. A promotional video is available for viewing at <https://youtu.be/un2f8jpQz88>

You're welcome to bring as many guests as you like.

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## Wine Divas

**Who is ready for a Spooky Good Time?**

Join us for a **HALLO-WINE**

Wine Divas Event at Maria Hanlin's House as we pair the perfect wines  
with Halloween candy!

(...And of course we will have other yummy goodies as well!)

Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 6pm

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





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## 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.



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