

WPF *orum* NEWS

A Publication of the Women's Professional Forum • P.O. Box 4221, Greensboro, NC 27404-4221 • www.wpforum.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carol Williams-Gilbert



I finished checking over my seventh grader's MATH homework at 1:30 am this morning. It was late, but I was awake enough to realize I needed a refresher course in Algebra 101 to figure out the area of a circle and keep up with my middle school child's homework (Carter, Kris, Marie—I need help!)

After I hit the snooze button for the third time this morning, I was startled awake by an orange tabby meowing at me for his breakfast perched on top of my chest. The seventh grader was not even stirring, and the junior in high school was yelling something about her hair straightener not heating up fast enough. I stepped on a mouse at the side door when I went out to retrieve the newspaper. I should have let the hungry cat have that for breakfast since he left it for me. I did however notice how the Bradford Pear trees across from my driveway had blossomed over night, and how the jonquils have popped up around the bird bath, and the pansies were showering the back yard in purple and white! It was like SPRING had sprung while I figured Pie R squares-----instantly-overnight!

Today is a beautiful day as we transfer from the March winds and chilly temperatures to the beginning of springtime with Easter only two weeks away. Our WPF ladies will look GOOD this Easter after we raided the Tanner and Casper suit outlets in Blowing Rock the first week-end in March.

March was such a glorious month---we added SIX new outstanding members to WPF, and hosted an orientation session and a terrific social at Aesthetic

April Meeting:

Wednesday, April 11 @ 11:30am

The Painted Plate - 2001 N. Church St, Greensboro

Cost:

Active members are prepaid;
Supporting or Emeritus members and
Guests, \$15.00

Reservations:

Please contact **Carol Matznick** at **605-9108**
or **carol4wpf@aol.com** if:

- You are a Supporting or Emeritus member and would like to make a lunch reservation
- You would like to invite a special guest
- You are an active member and need to cancel your reservation

Cancellation of reservations is a membership requirement

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Next WPF Board Meeting

April 19, 11:30 am- 1:00pm @ Guilford College United Methodist Church

WPF Foundation Board Members

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MAY Newsletter Deadline

April 23, 12:00 noon
Carol Matznick
carol4wfp@aol.com

Images Photography Studio as the month concluded. We had three incredible hostesses to open their homes and hearts for 35 Wild Women to invade Blowing Rock, NC during the beginning of the month (Mebane Ham, Jolaine Lanier, and Madge Megliola), and believe me, it was a WILD week-end! Our speaker was very interesting at our luncheon meeting, and our web site is completed and up and running---go visit it! Polly Sizemore was installed as a District Court Judge, and the YWCA sponsored a woman and girls' sports banquet with the inspirational Kay Yow as speaker and two of our members' coordinating this event for Greensboro.

April seems to be as good or better at WPF. We have a speaker coming to our April meeting to tell us about the 2008 Bi-Centennial Celebration for our city of Greensboro, (which looks like a beautiful garden as spring approaches) and how we the women leaders of this city can be involved. We have a chance to begin our Foundation Grants process to help nurture girls to be tomorrow's leaders, and we already have two new member applications for the September class. Carol Matznick secured a new Post Office box, and your Board voted to purchase our own sound system for our meetings at The Painted Plate restaurant. Plans are being made for a Summer Social, Small Group dinner, and the Holiday Bazaar. We have been kicked out of Blowing Rock for disturbing the peace, so some of the Board members are looking at a Wild Women at the BEACH in the early fall.

You are an amazing group of women, and I feel WPF is blossoming like the springtime days we are enjoying.

I look forward to greeting each of you in April, and remember: make your reservations and quests reservations NO later than Monday before the Wednesday luncheon, and when you get to the Painted Plate, go ahead through the line, and our program will begin at 12:10on the dot. We have run over time at past meetings, and our program committee has secured such incredible speakers that I hope we can benefit from their expertise and counsel in a timely fashion. See YOU on April 11th! If you come to the May meeting with a Tan, we will know how you spent your spring break! My plans include....an algebra course at GTCC!

Looking Ahead to Greensboro's Bicentennial

In 2008 the city of Greensboro will celebrate its 200th anniversary and the Greensboro Bicentennial Commission is busy planning festivities to mark this momentous time.

The Commission was appointed by City Council to commemorate

the founding of Greensboro with historical, educational, and multi-cultural celebrations for the entire community. The celebrations will take place over a period of weeks during the spring of 2008, with activities ranging from an opening torch run through Greensboro neighborhoods to a technological expo of what the future will bring for our city. Neighborhoods and organizations are invited to celebrate with activities they may create to be held at anytime in the 2008.

About Boo -

Elizabeth "Boo" Stauffer, a resident of Greensboro for 18 years, is one of the co-chairs of the Greensboro Bicentennial Commissions. Boo, a graduate of the University of Virginia, was a journalist for the Richmond News Leader and for Women's Wear Daily in New York City. Before moving to Greensboro, Boo was Director of U.S. Marketing for Elizabeth Arden.

Many of you may know Boo through her community activities. She's served as president of the Junior League of Greensboro, and is very active with the PTA's at several schools.. She currently is a member of the boards of the Friends of the Library and the Greensboro Public Library Foundation.

Boo and her husband, Mark Stauffer, senior director of operations at Merz Pharmaceuticals have two sons: Tom, a third-class cadet at VMI (Virginia Military Institute) and Matt, a senior at Grimsley High School.

Please join us in being one of the first civic clubs in the city to hear about the exciting plans for Greensboro's Bicentennial.

MOTHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Thank you to all of you who attended the March lunch and learn with Michelle Bostian, who gave a presentation on childhood bullying, including cyber-bullying. Please mark your calendars for the Wednesday, May 16 lunch meeting, speaker to be announced in the next newsletter. If you have questions or would like to be added to the email list, please contact Laura Burton at 378-5566 or laura.burton@smithmoorelaw.com.

Special Interest Group

Anything Goes -
Madge Megliola - 286-3441

Bennett College Mentoring -
Sandy Doyle Jones
852-1495 (work) 272-9126 (home)

Books and Arts -
Rose Lindsay Pfaff - 274-1426
Rose Pfaff - rosepfaff2000@yahoo.com

Dining Out -
Kris Landrum - 271-5243

Eating In -
Debbie Devine - 393-2056

Golf -
Sherry Thorne - 294-3232

Reverse Parenting -
Pat Boswell
373-2600 (office) 282-6500 (home)

Women of Wallstreet (WOW) -
Peggy Ward - 834-6950

Working Mothers of Young Children -
Laura Burton - 378-5566

4-MINUTE SPECIAL

Carter Leinster, President of Triad Financial Advisors, Inc.



Like many of us who are in our mid-50's, I grew up with a very traditional childhood. I lived in Staunton, Virginia, a small town in the western part of Virginia. All of my family still lives there. My mother was a homemaker, my father worked, and we participated in most of the things you do in small towns; church, scouts, and school-oriented activities. I discovered that I had an interest in foreign languages. This was surprising, since almost no one spoke another language in Staunton. When I was a senior in high school, I persuaded my parents to agree to start a local chapter of the American Field Service and we had a Costa Rican student who spent a year living with us. I have maintained the relationship with her since that time.

After high school, I went to Duke. This seemed unusual at the time since very few people in my high school class went to college, and going to a big university out of state was fairly rare. Duke was a great experience for me and broadened my view of life in many ways. I spent one year at Duke going to school in Spain, and then spent a second year in Spain getting a Master's degree in Spanish at Middlebury College.

Although I did not have any interest in teaching, I needed a job, and was able to get a teaching job fairly easily because of my language fluency, even though I had no teaching credentials. After getting my Master's at Middlebury, I taught high school Spanish at Midlothian High School outside of Richmond, Virginia for three years. I found that I became bored with the teaching after three years, and was very frustrated that I could not be paid adequately for my efforts. I decided to go back to school and went to MBA School at Chapel Hill. In 1974, the MBA school was making a big move of accepting women to make up 10% of the class. I'm sure they had never had a Spanish teacher apply before, and I am certain that I got in as part of their diversity effort, since I had no business background at all at that time.

MBA school was very challenging but it provided a way for me to completely change my life and have more employment opportunities. I also met my husband Bill on the first day of school, we took a weekend off to get married in the fall of the second year.

We began our business careers in Charlotte where we both worked for about two years. I worked as an Assistant to the Treasurer of a large national corporation headquartered in Charlotte. Part of my responsibilities were to meet with bankers from all over the country who called on the firm. In those days, when we had a lunch appointment at the Charlotte City Club, I had to leave the group and enter by a separate entrance for women only, and if I were not having lunch with my boss, the treasurer, who was a man, I had to have lunch with the bankers on the next floor down among the ladies playing bridge. Those were some interesting times, which, thank goodness have changed.

We moved to Greensboro in the summer of 1978 with a change in my husband's job. I joined WPF that fall, and I began my business life in Greensboro as a life insurance agent. I had taken an elective course in business school regarding retirement planning, and thought that that type of work might be a good thing to develop in the future. I knew from my experience in Charlotte that I did not want to work in a large corporation for my entire career. After five years of selling life insurance, I began to work with some other people in my agency to develop a financial planning business. In 1988, I bought the business from the other partners, and in 1990 I moved out of the agency and became a completely independent financial planner.

I have been incredibly fortunate to have had success in developing my business over the years. It has grown from

me and one assistant to an organization of eighteen including staff and other professionals. I am in the process now of developing a group of new and younger financial planners who will eventually be able to continue our business in the future.

Over the years, I have been so grateful to have had a very supportive husband who has sacrificed some career opportunities in order to allow my business to develop. In addition, he has been a completely equal partner in caring for our two daughters and in managing our personal lives. As we all know, the balancing act, personal, professional, and community responsibilities is difficult. Fortunately, I have been a high energy person with a high tolerance for chaos.

We have two wonderful daughters who have emerged from the chaos of juggling so many different things. Whitney and Logan and now 23 and 25. They have finished college (at least for the moment), and are both working in Washington, DC at interesting jobs, and they are SELF-SUPPORTING!!!!

Raising Whitney and Logan was wonderful (most of the time), but it is nice to have weekends now that are not dominated by soccer, swimming, and track meets.

Bill and I have been happy to find we still have a great deal in common and enjoy many things together after that chaotic, busy period. We enjoy traveling, and have been able to take a number of very interesting trips to many places around the world and hope to do more traveling in the future. I am particularly interested in indigenous cultures and enjoy collecting carvings, pottery, and weavings. We especially like the Southwestern part of the US and try to visit several favorite spots once or twice a year.

WPF has been a wonderful part of my life throughout the last twenty some years. Years ago, when there were very few options for good child-care, (and fewer people struggling to find them), the Working Mothers group of WPF was an incredible source of good friends, support and valuable help and information. WFP has continued to be an important part of my life, and I am grateful for the friendship and support from so many of you for so many years.

FOUNDATION BUZZ

April will be a busy month for your Foundation. This is always such an exciting time! The grant request forms went out to a large number of organizations and the hardworking Grants Committee, Chaired by Sue Kennedy, is reviewing the proposals to decide how the funds will be distributed to worthy organizations this year. It's so rewarding for all of us to be Nurturing Girls to be Tomorrow's Leaders. The organizations selected to receive grants will be announced at the May meeting.

Please make plans to bring your Mothers, Mentors & BFF's (Best Friends Forever) to the May meeting. We'll have a special recognition for them!

DINING OUT FOR APRIL

Our Dining Out event for April will be on Wednesday, the 25th, at 6:30 at Muse Restaurant at 3124 Kathleen Avenue (Friendly Shopping Center where Swenson's used to be). Muse is a relatively new restaurant. On its website it states, "We blend global foods from artisanal producers, foragers, and day boat fishermen into works of harmony, balance and beauty that are meant to invigorate the senses and elevate your meal from an ordinary repast into a dining experience." Whew! Quite a claim! Let's see if they can deliver! If you'd like to join us, please email our hostess, Sue Meschan Her email address is smeschan@trvlnk.com to make your reservation.