

WPF *orum* NEWS

A Publication of the Women's Professional Forum • P.O. Box 38594, Greensboro, NC 27438 • www.wpfoundation.org



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE BY THE WPF FOUNDATION

Maureen Hartigan, WPF Foundation President



It's spring! The world is waking up again. With spring comes the WPF Foundation's annual chance to tell you about what we do. In planning for our May meeting, our Foundation Board spent time reminiscing about our history and how far we've come. We are proud to note that this is our 25th anniversary year.

So let's think back...to 1984. Geraldine Ferraro was the first woman from a major political party to run for vice president, AIDS was just being discovered, and for the first time since 1914, the United States owed more money to foreigners than it was owed, Stamps were \$.20, bread was \$.71, and gas was \$1.27 a gallon. Apple Computer released the Macintosh personal computer. Do you remember?

I was living in Cleveland and was manager of corporate advertising for TRW. I don't think I even knew where Greensboro, North Carolina was! Two years later, I moved here to be director of communications for Volvo White Truck – turned out the position was designed to help merge Volvo and GM's heavy truck operations and a monumentally busy job. I traveled all the time and occasionally I'd hear about or be asked to come to a WPF meeting. It was almost eight years later when I got my first opportunity to experience this dynamic group. I was thrilled to be asked to join.

During all the years I have been associated with WPF, I have been continually awed by what my peers here accomplish. It's inspiring to think that way back in 1984 when I was oblivious in Cleveland, women of the "young" Women's Professional Forum here in Greensboro were deciding to form a Foundation. They believed that they should create a legacy for the women who came after them to help ease their way into leadership. Imagine those early days – and now look at the results of their foresight. Some of our current active members, including Gloria Thompson and Peggy Ward, were among those who started it. Gloria tells me that when they set their first goal of \$50,000 it seemed unreachable.

Our foundation is now 25 years young and going strong. Those early promoters should be so proud. Their work continues today. Our Foundation Board and committee members continually work hard planning our grant program and raising and managing our funds. Many of our board members have been part of the Foundation board for a long time, dedicated to furthering the cause of women as leaders in the Greensboro area. We owe them our heartfelt thanks!

Over the years, we have used many different fundraising techniques that add to the generous donations that come from our members. Some were selling gift-wrap, holding raffles, and our honor cards. This year Nancy Radtke, Anne Willson, Denny Kelly and others did yeo-woman work in putting ARTISTA together and were supported in their efforts by many other WPF members. ARTISTA made its debut into a terrible economy. This women's art show and sale to benefit girls netted us over \$4,000 – at the same time we poured more than \$11,000 into our ailing economy to artists, caterers, and others who provided services for the event. Thanks to all of you who bought tickets and brought your friends for a very fun evening and a very great cause! At our May meeting, we'll tell you more about our progress, our history, and the incredible work that has been accomplished in these 25 years. It's always a great meeting to attend – don't forget to bring your Mothers, Mentors and BFFs so they can see what you have done – while we share

May Meeting

Wed., May 12 @ 11:30am

The Painted Plate

2001 N. Church St,
Greensboro, NC

Cost

Active members are prepaid.
Supporting or Emeritus
members and Guests - \$15.00

Reservation

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.

Next WPF Board Meeting

May 20, 11:30am - 1:00pm @ Mid Carolina Bank Conference Room

2009 WPF Board Members

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JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

MAY 22, 12:00 noon
Carol Matznick
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with all of you how your contributions have changed the lives of girls and young women. Several of them will be with us to share their stories. Over the many years we have been giving grants, we have reached and helped hundreds of women and girls in their quest to grow and lead.

This year we are reaching a turning point – moving the Foundation into the \$200,000 range. We're not there yet but are very close and count on your continued contributions to help us get there. Your generosity has put us close even through this economic slowdown, which has hit our Foundation coffers just as it has every other bank account. We are optimistic, though. The stock market will come back and we'll hit and exceed the mark, if not this year, shortly afterward. What a testimony about what a small group of people in one city can accomplish when they choose to move together toward an important goal.

In these 25 years, we have developed a strong and stable Foundation, one that we hope will continue for another 25 years and beyond to provide opportunities and give voice to girls and women. I'm so proud and hope that you are too – you are the ones who made this happen. I'm reminded of a quote by Madame Curie: "One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done." Seeing what remains to be done propels us forward to accomplish even more. But, please, take a moment to reflect on the achievements of our first 25 years.

Congratulations to us! Happy anniversary to you, WPF Foundation!

May is for Mothers and Best Friends Forever

Denny Kelly, Foundation

Now is the time to book May 13 on your Mother, Mentor or Best Friend's calendar so she will plan to join you at the May meeting. It is a time-honored WPF tradition to recognize the women in our lives who have supported, encouraged and inspired us to be our best selves. The Foundation has a small gift for them. Be sure to call Carol with your extra reservations too.

2009 WPF Foundation Board of Directors

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DINING OUT IN *by Kris Landrum*

In our continuing effort to support local restaurants, our Dining Out event for May will be at 1618 West Seafood Grill, 1618 W. Friendly Avenue, on Wednesday, May 27th, at 6:30. 1618 West Seafood Grill is one of our favorite restaurants, always getting rave reviews from most of our group.

While this restaurant can be a little pricey, it offers an early bird special until 7:00, so there are relatively inexpensive options for any of us trying to budget these days! Our hostess for the month is Vicki Honeycutt. If you'd like to join us on the 27th, please email Vicki at vickyhoneycutt@remax.net on or before the 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 25th.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Anything Goes

Madge Megliola
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Books & Arts

Rose Pfaff
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Dining Out

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