

bizwomen

WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

MENTORING MONDAY

Monday,
February 24, 2020



Schedule

8:00-8:30AM | NETWORKING AND BUFFET BREAKFAST

8:30-9:15AM | FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKER

9:15-10:25AM | ONE-ON-ONE MENTORING PROGRAM

10:25-10:30AM | RAFFLE WINNERS ANNOUNCED, CLOSING COMMENTS

#mentoringmonday

A Word from our Sponsor

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA

We're 2.5 million strong—more than 1.7 million girls and 750,000 adults who believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ to change the world.

Our extraordinary journey began more than 100 years ago with the original G.I.R.L., Juliette Gordon “Daisy” Low. On March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia, she organized the very first Girl Scout troop, and every year since, we've honored her vision and legacy, building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

We're the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. And with programs from coast to coast and across the globe, Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success.



Sylvia Acevedo | CEO
GIRLS SCOUTS OF THE USA



Mentors

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Jayne Sandman

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Theresa Sheils

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**Mary Abbajay | PRESIDENT & CEO, CAREERSTONE GROUP LLC**

Mary Abbajay, author of the award-winning, best-selling *Managing Up: How to Move Up, Win at Work, and Succeed with Any Type of Boss* is the president of Careerstone Group, LLC, a full service organizational and leadership development consultancy that delivers leading-edge talent and organizational development solutions to business and government. As a sought-after author, speaker, consultant, and trainer, Mary helps clients develop the strategies, skills and sensibilities needed for success in the 21st century. Her expertise lies in helping clients create dynamic and productive workplaces that foster professional and personal excellence and growth. Mary is a frequent expert contributor for television, radio and print publications where she provides practical leadership and career advice. In addition to her role as a *Forbes.com* contributor, her work and advice have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, *The Financial Times*, *Money Magazine*, *Southwest Airlines Magazine*, *Monster*, and the *BBC*.

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**Sheila Alexander-Reid | DIRECTOR, MAYOR'S OFFICE OF LGBTQ AFFAIRS, D.C. GOVERNMENT**

The Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs plays a vital role in ensuring that LGBTQ residents have access to all government resources. Her office focuses on the priorities identified by Mayor Bowser including housing, employment and public safety. She is an unapologetically out lesbian, that has had an extensive history of leadership in the LGBTQ community and has played a critical part of the LGBT community for well over 20 years now. Her work to shed light on issues affecting the voiceless among us cuts across every line that could divide us; gender, gender identity, race, socio-economic status, education level and sexual orientation. Sheila has fought for social and political justice issues with diverse sectors including LGBTQ leaders, unions, business organizations, non-profits, and with transgender adults and youth.

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**Rosie Allen-Herring | PRESIDENT & CEO, UNITED WAY OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA**

Rosie Allen-Herring is a national expert on public private partnerships, philanthropy and business strategy. She currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of the National Capital Area (United Way NCA). Rosie is recognized as a thought leader who demonstrates the ability to convene public private entities, to leverage talent and resources and create collective impact in communities across the region and beyond. Rosie has more than 25 years of experience in the areas of corporate finance, strategic leadership, public and private partnerships, corporate philanthropy and community investment. Formerly, Rosie was the Managing Director of the Community Investment and Engagement Division at Fannie Mae. Rosie holds key leadership roles with several business and civic organizations including Board of Trade, MedStar Health, Old Line Bank, Washington Area Women's Foundation & Girl Scouts. She earned a B.A. in Economics from Howard University, an M.B.A. from Strayer University and was an International Fellow of the United States-Southern Africa Center for Leadership and Public Values at the University of Cape Town (SA) Graduate School of Business and Duke University Graduate School of Public Policy. She is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Non-profit Management Program.

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**Charissa Benjamin | PARTNER, SAVOR PR**

Charissa Benjamin is a seasoned communications professional with over 15 years of experience in a diverse cross-section of industries, specializing in restaurant, hospitality and lifestyle PR. Savor PR is known for representing some of the best chefs, restaurants and food businesses in the Washington, DC region. Charissa's industry experience includes managing PR and marketing campaigns for notable companies within the restaurant, spirits and wine, airline, automobile, traveling entertainment and publishing sectors. Before launching Savor PR, Charissa was PR Director for Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, Mid-Atlantic region, where she managed communications for restaurants in Washington, DC, Alexandria, Va., Baltimore and Philadelphia. She has managed PR and cause marketing campaigns for Beam Global Spirits & Wine, Feld Entertainment, Harper Collins Publishing, American Airlines, Food & Friends, and YouthAIDS. A cum laude graduate of the Kogod School of Business at American University, Charissa originally hails from the island of Antigua in the Eastern Caribbean. She balances her love for food and wine with a healthy dose of running, which you can often find her doing on the streets of Washington. She lives in Northeast DC with her husband, son and daughter.

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**Amy Bess | SHAREHOLDER, VEDDER PRICE**

Amy Bess is a Shareholder and Chair of Vedder Price's Labor and Employment Practice, as well as a member of the firm's Board of Directors. Ms. Bess has extensive first-chair bench trial, jury trial and arbitration experience. She is skilled in the defense of complex class action litigation, including wage and hour collective actions and pattern or practice litigation brought by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Her employment litigation experience includes the defense of employers against claims of race, sex, disability and age discrimination; sexual harassment; whistleblower retaliation; restrictive-covenant disputes; wrongful termination; and wage and hour violations. She also has experience advising clients regarding their public accommodation obligations under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act and representing clients in litigation involving related claims. Ms. Bess advises employer clients daily on how to ensure compliance with federal, state and local employment laws, and regularly trains managers and employees on ensuring harassment-free workplaces. She is a regular speaker and writer on issues relating to the #MeToo movement.

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**Sage Bolte | CHIEF PHILANTHROPY OFFICER & PRESIDENT, INOVA HEALTH FOUNDATION**

Sage Bolte joined Inova 15 years ago as an oncology counselor and most recently served as Executive Director of Life with Cancer and Patient Experience for the Inova Schar Cancer Institute. She is known nationally for her work in sexual health and cancer and is respected as a leader in the field of oncology social work. As Chief Philanthropy Officer, she works closely with the Board of Trustees, staff, volunteers, and donors to achieve Inova's goals, institutionalize best practices, and establish a culture of philanthropy across the entire organization. She also oversees development strategies, including major and planned gifts, events, and foundation and corporate giving. Sage received her bachelor's degree in both psychology and social work at Hope College, in Holland, Michigan, and later continued her studies at the University of Michigan, where she received her masters degree in social work. She received the American Cancer Society's Doctoral Training Grant in 2008 and obtained her PhD in social work from The National School of Social Services at the Catholic University of America in 2010.

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**Kristina Bouweiri | PRESIDENT & CEO, RESTON LIMOUSINE**

Reston Limousine is Washington DC's premier chauffeured transportation provider, ranked the 10th largest chauffeured fleet in the nation. The main driver behind the company's startup success, Bouweiri grew the company from 5 vehicles in 1990 to more than 250 vehicles today ranging from sedans to coach buses. She is the founder of the monthly networking luncheon Sterling Women and co-founder of the annual Virginia Women's Business Conference - two programs that have helped hundreds of women entrepreneurs and executives achieve their professional goals. She also is an international speaker on topics ranging from business strategy to the use of social media in growing your business.

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**Anna Bran Leis | CHEF & OWNER, DOS MAMIS; TAQUERIA DEL BARRIO; DC EMPANADS**

Anna, a native Guatemalan raised in Maryland, has traveled extensively throughout Europe and Latin America while exploring the complex cuisines and flavors of various cultures. Anna has ten years of culinary experience, and with her husband Shawn, is the owner and chef of DC Empanadas and Taqueria del Barrio. DC Empanadas food truck was one of the first generation of proper DC food trucks and it quickly gained a loyal following which continues to this day. It has even expanded beyond the truck into a physical location in Union Market. Taqueria del Barrio is her first brick and mortar restaurant, which is a culmination of her passion, hard work and love of all things bold and flavorful. On a personal note, Anna is a cancer survivor who discovered Whole 30 during her treatment and credits it with helping in her recovery process. This led her to open an extremely successful Paleo food kitchen as well. With multiple rewarding businesses under her belt, Bran-Leis is looking to expand the Taqueria del Barrio brand. DC better watch out for this Latina, cuz she comin' for ya!

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**Nadine Brown | SOMMELIER**

Nadine Brown was born and raised along the shores of Jamaica and Puerto Rico, where drinks like rum and coffee played an important part in the culture, but ironically for the future sommelier, wine was almost absent. Before she caught the wine bug, Brown's calling took her to the mainland U.S. where she earned a bachelor's degree in social work at Wheelock College in Boston. Nadine moved south to DC to take a break from social work in 1996 and began hostessing at Bistro Bis. Brown found the energy on the floor addictive and never looked back. Nadine has become a veteran in the D.C. food science having worked at Classic D.C. institutions from 701 to Sequoia, Butterfield 9 and Signatures and Vidalia. Nadine opened Charlie Palmer Steak in spring of 2003 and spent the next 14 years leading that wine program to four RAMMY nominations and two wins for her program. Nadine was named a D.C. rising stars and earned the Starchef's Sommelier award. Nadine holds certifications from Court of Master Sommelier's and Wine and Spirit Education trust. She is a mother of two. She and mentors young sommeliers, especially young women in the industry.

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**Mary-Claire Burick | PRESIDENT, ROSSLYN BID**

Mary-Claire Burick is a dynamic and strategic leader whose focus is on building engagement and leading change. As President of the Rosslyn Business Improvement District, she is responsible for leading daily operations and creating programs that define, enhance and continually improve Rosslyn for those who work, live, visit and do business there. Her leadership in the area of business engagement has been recognized within the region, and has focused on building relationships and retaining businesses in Rosslyn, as well as working with the

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real estate community, property owners and Arlington County to welcome new businesses to Rosslyn. Previously, Mary-Claire was President of MC Strategy, a consulting firm helping leaders build healthy and effective organizations. Prior, she was Vice President of Operations for Allbritton Communications, managing ABC-7, NewsChannel 8 and POLITICO. Earlier in her career, she helped launch the Fox NewsChannel, where she served as Operations Manager. She was named Washington Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business and has a certificate in Organizational Consulting and Change Leadership from Georgetown University and a BA in Communications from University of Delaware.

11 **Misti Burmeister | PRESIDENT, YOUR DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS ARE MY BUSINESS**

Misti Burmeister is an award-winning author, speaker, and entrepreneur. Her passion, humor, and direct approach has inspired audiences from coast to coast – from convention halls to C-suites. She makes you laugh, while connecting to the heart of what creates high-performing team members. She helps you see beyond frustrating employees, and teaches you how to get your team to own their results, collaborate effectively, and deliver their best consistently.

12 **Leah Cheston | CO-OWNER, RIGHT PROPER BREWING COMPANY**

Leah Cheston oversees all operations at Right Proper's Shaw Brewpub & Kitchen, including marketing, accounting and human resources. Right Proper Brewing Company, now in its 7th year of operation, has two locations in the District and employs 60 wonderful people. The team has been fortunate to receive local and national recognition such as Best Brewery in DC by Zymurgy magazine, a RAMMY for Regional Food and Beverage Producer of the Year in 2018, and a RAMMY for Beer Program of the Year in 2016. Leah found her way to the beer world through the wine world, as a sommelier and manager for renowned local chefs, Chef Ris Lacoste and Chef Robert Wiedmaier. Leah is President of the Board of Directors for the District of Columbia Brewers' Guild and serves on the Board of Directors for the Brewers Association.

13 **Tamara Christian | PRESIDENT & COO, INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM**

Ms. Christian has led the International Spy Museum for the past eight years. As revelations about espionage, cybersecurity, and surveillance make headlines every day, the Spy Museum draws back the curtain on this secret world. In the Museum's new 140,000-square-foot purpose-built facility, interactive exhibits and the world's largest public display of spy tools and gadgets are augmented by first-person accounts from real spies along with RFID technology that invites visitors to undertake their own spy missions. The non-profit Museum dives into the alluring pop culture world of spies but digs much deeper, exploring and demystifying real intelligence work. Often stranger than fiction. Prior to her role in as Spy-In-Chief, she served as President and CEO of National Trade Productions, a trade show management company. Ms. Christian also spent several years at the private equity firm Blackstreet Capital Management as an Operating Partner where she led turnarounds of three different companies. Ms. Christian has a B.S. in Marketing from the University of Richmond and an MBA from George Washington University. She is on the Board of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and a member of YPO Gold.

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Tisa Clark | PRESIDENT & CEO, J.D. CLARK PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, LLC

J.D. Clark is an Environmentally Conscience and Energy Conservation savvy Construction and Maintenance Firm. JD Clark specializes in Facilities Maintenance, Grounds Management and Renovations. Ms. Clark is a native Washingtonian. For over thirty years, Ms. Clark has built a solid reputation to “fix what is broken.” Ms. Clark is committed to providing quality service. She believes that a reputation as an honest and reliable business is the recipe for success. While others seek to profit by cutting corners or recommending unnecessary services to customers, Ms. Clark believes that a good reputation and consistent service will reap bigger profits in the long run. By being trustworthy, Ms. Clark believes that she will enjoy a long-term profitable business. Ms. Clark has been solving and resolving client’s Business Engineering problems for over thirty years. She is adept in taking programs from conception through delivery while cycling for reengineering. She is a visionary with strategic analytical skills, who is practical, articulate, and creative. She has proven ability to solve difficult business problems and has a history of consistently obtaining high performance in others through leadership and cohesive team building.

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Juliann Clemente | PRESIDENT, CLEMENTE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, INC.

Juliann Jordan Clemente has been involved with and responsible for all aspects of real estate acquisition, planning, use, financing, refinancing, development/redevelopment, management, leasing and sale for almost 30 years. Her experience includes financial accountability for developed and undeveloped properties, as well as turnaround and operating responsibility for commercial/retail operations. In 1991, Ms. Clemente became President and COO of Potomac Landfill, Inc. and Weaver Landfill, Inc., construction and demolition debris/asbestos waste landfills and related trucking companies, located in and operating throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. These privately held landfill entities, with combined annual revenues exceeding \$10 million and over 50 employees, operated in highly competitive and heavily regulated sectors. During her tenure and under her fiscal stewardship, all operations were restructured and repositioned, deploying best practices and strict corporate governance. Subsequently, all business lines experienced historic profitability and growth, all posting independent and combined annual Net Operating Incomes in excess of standard profit goals within these industries. She also founded and served as CEO of Alexandria Waste, Inc., a solid waste transfer facility located in Alexandria, Virginia, to further economize and streamline landfill operations, and to manage growth while maximizing revenue opportunities with underutilized corporate assets.

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Nicole Coomber | ASSOCIATE CLINICAL PROFESSOR, ROBERT H. SMITH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Nicole Coomber is an Associate Clinical Professor in Management & Organization. In addition to teaching management, leadership, and consulting, she is dedicated to helping women manage their complex lives more effectively. Nicole believes the time management, negotiation and communication strategies she teaches in her MBA classrooms at the University of Maryland Smith School of Business can help women navigate both their careers and families. Nicole’s writing has appeared in the Washington Post, Forbes, WAMU, and Insights with Impact and she writes education at blog.umd.edu/teachingwithcoomber. She has a PhD in Education Policy and Leadership from the University of Maryland. She is the mom of 4 lively boys between the ages of three and eight.

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**Torine Creppy | PRESIDENT, SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE**

Torine Brooks Creppy leads Safe Kids Worldwide (SKW) by developing and implementing strategic initiatives to help communities around the world create safer environments for children. With extensive experience in non-profit management and program development, Ms. Creppy oversees a variety of SKW's essential functions — including strategic planning and decision-making, budgeting and program development, implementation and evaluation. Her 19 years at Safe Kids have given her a deep understanding of how to work with funders, legislators and key stakeholders to create meaningful partnerships, change behavior and save lives. Her previous positions at Safe Kids have included Chief Programs Officer, Chief of Staff, Operations Manager and HR Manager. Prior to joining SKW, she held managerial and administrative positions with an association and services company. Ms. Creppy is a member of the American Public Health Association, ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership, NAACP, National Head Start Association, and several other organizations.

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**Flor Dimassi | CEO, GLOBALSPEAK TRANSLATIONS**

Flor's experience as an international language leader is founded in an extensive background spanning communications, conference presentations, translation and interpretation team collaboration. GlobalSpeak's client base spans various markets and industries from Energy to Legal, facilitating conferences, market research, safety, community outreach, and a wider variety of language intensive operations. Ms. Dimassi started her first entrepreneurial venture in 1992 as one of the original founders of the Dimassi Mediterranean Restaurants. Originally from Torreon, Mexico, she is fluent in Spanish, French, and English and studied at the University of St. Thomas before earning her degree in International Studies. She also holds a degree in French Literature from L'Alliance Francaise in Paris, France. Under Flor's leadership, GlobalSpeak has invested deeply in Mexico's historic energy reform initiatives, providing the company with expert level knowledge on the challenges facing US companies looking to do business in Mexico. In addition to her global business ventures and developing opportunities in the energy sector, Flor believes in giving back to the community by partnering with projects and organizations that support the city she has come to love. Working with community oriented organizations such as LifeGift and the Boy Scouts of America, Flor is both an advocate and spokesperson for the continuing betterment of local communities. She also serves as an advisory board member for the Center for International Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas.

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**Lynda Ellis | OWNER, CEO & PRESIDENT, CAPITOL CONCIERGE**

Capitol Concierge is the nation's first provider of commercial, corporate and residential concierge services. As an entrepreneur, she has a track record of growing companies and taking them to the next level by integrating technology to enhance the individual service experience. Recently, Lynda successfully launched three companies, The Rowe Agency, Capitol Concierge England, LTD and Capitol Concierge Ireland, LTD. Additionally, through a partnership with Generali Global Assistance, she expanded Capitol Concierge's business base in the international market. Today, Capitol Concierge serves more than one million people in some of the world's most prestigious properties and companies. While a student at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, Lynda started her first company, a customized gift company that she sold to Neiman Marcus. Prior to purchasing Capitol Concierge, she spent 25 years in the computer-based education and training industry and was co-owner of a successful instructional technology company that was eventually sold to a Viacom company. Her recent accomplishments

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include joining the board of trustees for St. Mary's University and being named chair of the American Red Cross Tiffany Circle National Capital Region Chapter.

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Andrea Evans | INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEY, THE LAW FIRM AT ANDREA HENCE EVANS, LLC

Capitol Concierge is the nation's first provider of commercial, corporate and residential concierge services. As an entrepreneur, she has a track record of growing companies and taking them to the next level by integrating technology to enhance the individual service experience. Recently, Lynda successfully launched three companies, The Rowe Agency, Capitol Concierge England, LTD and Capitol Concierge Ireland, LTD. Additionally, through a partnership with Generali Global Assistance, she expanded Capitol Concierge's business base in the international market. Today, Capitol Concierge serves more than one million people in some of the world's most prestigious properties and companies. While a student at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, Lynda started her first company, a customized gift company that she sold to Neiman Marcus. Prior to purchasing Capitol Concierge, she spent 25 years in the computer-based education and training industry and was co-owner of a successful instructional technology company that was eventually sold to a Viacom company. Her recent accomplishments include joining the board of trustees for St. Mary's University and being named chair of the American Red Cross Tiffany Circle National Capital Region Chapter.

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Courtney Fairchild | PRESIDENT & CEO, GLOBAL SERVICES

Courtney Fairchild is a proud Washington DC business owner and Georgetown University graduate. With more than 20 years in the arena of federal proposals & GSA Schedules, her leadership of Global Services has empowered companies with over 2,500 contract awards in excess of \$20 billion in value. Global Services' tested processes and methodologies help craft and develop a winning proposal for any contract or even train internal proposal staff to be more proposal proficient. Whether a company needs assistance with a GSA Schedule or another federal proposal, Global Services has mastered how to make the proposal process understandable, approachable, and practical for every business. Courtney's vision is to not only cater to federal contractors in the local area, but to also support them all over the country.

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Joan Fletcher | PRESIDENT, WINNING WAYS

Joan Fletcher has a passion to help others realize the life they want to create. Her ability to help leaders identify what makes them thrive in their personal and professional lives is one of her key skills. Using assessments, powerful questions and coaching she helps leaders become more self-aware and more effective in their leadership. Joan is one of the most highly regarded coaches in the Washington DC Metro Area and has over three decades of experience developing high performing leaders and teams. Using 360 assessments and other validated tools, she facilitates senior leadership team's growth and development. She has the rare ability to obtain measurable results through helping leaders learn how to increase their self-awareness and Emotional Intelligence. The five-step model for growth that is the base of the two leadership programs she has designed achieves measurable results among leadership teams. The Leadership Evolution programs focuses on leadership effectiveness and sustainable results to help the leader(s) develop their personal and professional lives. In her free time, Joan enjoys hiking and spending time with her friends & family and her two adult sons.

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Sabret Flocos | PRINCIPAL, PERKINS EASTMAN

Sabret Flocos has over 25 years of experience leading the design, management, and execution of workplace and interiors projects. From concept through execution, Sabret has an innate ability to guide her clients through the complex design and construction process including strategic planning, programming, and space planning. From building repositioning's to multi-office strategy development, Sabret works side-by-side with decision makers to develop a design concept that exceeds expectations. Using research as a foundation to her process, she is adept at translating programmatic requirements into the physical environment, her greatest strength resting in her ability to synthesize ideas and create a space which supports the message and vision of her clients. Sabret is heavily involved in local industry associations and philanthropic activities including being an active member of CREW, IIDA, and NAIOP. She is also a DCBIA Board Member, Board of Trade's DMV Solutions Committee Member, and involved with the Georgetown Lombardi Nina Hyde Center for Breast Cancer Research annual Women & Wine fundraiser. Sabret has received several honors as result of her contributions to industry including being recognized in 2017 by the Washington Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business and as Real Estate Forum Magazine's 2016 Most Influential Women.

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Heather Godsmark | GLOBAL CHIEF BUSINESS OPERATIONS OFFICER, DENTONS

Heather Godsmark has more than 18 years of experience working for global professional service firms. Heather recently joined Dentons, the world's largest law firm as Global Chief Business Operations Officer, a newly-created role, serving as a chief advisor to Dentons' Global CEO, Global Chair, and Global Board. She is a member of the Global Management Committee. Prior to joining Dentons, Heather spent her career at KPMG, where she held several roles of increasing responsibility, including most recently as Chief of Staff for the U.S. Chairman and CEO and Global Chairman of KPMG; prior roles included Chief Operating Officer for the Global Climate Change and Sustainability practice and a Director in the Global Infrastructure practice as well as international assignments in Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK. After graduating magna cum laude from the University of Miami in three years, Heather received a Fulbright grant in Germany under the future head of the German Central Bank. She serves on the Boards of BUILD MetroDC and the Fulbright Association. She is a member of Leadership Greater Washington. She was a WBJ Woman Who Means Business in 2019. Heather and her husband live in Maryland and have two children, 5 and 2.

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Ruth Gresser | CHEF & OWNER, PIZZERIA PARADISO

Ruth Gresser learned her craft at her mother's side, cooking for her large family and her mother's catering company. Gresser cooked her way through college before entering the professional food scene in San Francisco at the early stages of the modern American food movement. In 1991, Gresser turned her attention to pizza, opening Pizzeria Paradiso to critical acclaim, earning praise from local and national critics. Now considered the matriarch of pizza in the District, Gresser has been instrumental in the opening of 7 popular restaurants including five locations of Pizzeria Paradiso, Birreria Paradiso, which she helped build into one of the area's most highly regarded craft beer programs, and Obelisk. Gresser is active in the culinary and arts communities. She is Emeritus President of the Board of Women Chefs and Restaurateurs, on the Board of RAMW, Les Dames d'Escoffier, and supports various arts organizations, most especially Art Works Now and The Theater Lab. WBJ honored Gresser in 2017 as part of their Women Who Mean Business awards and in 2019, she was a semifinalist in the James Beard Awards as Outstanding Restaurateur. She lives in Silver Spring, Md. With her partner of 27 years.

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**Diane Gross | CO-OWNER, CORK WINE BAR & MARKET**

Diane Gross is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara where she received her BA in Law & Society and then received her law degree from New York University Law School. She moved to DC in 1997 to work on Constitutional and Civil Rights in the non-profit sector and served as General Counsel to Senator Barbara Mikulski prior to opening Cork Wine Bar with her husband in 2008. Aside from successfully running day to day operations Cork, Diane has been very active in neighborhood causes and local charities focusing on education and hunger. Diane serves on the board of Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington. She is also chair of the Mid-City Business Improvement District Board working to create a BID in the Mid-City section of DC. In that capacity, she represents the organization before the City, manages the finances, and helps organize the annual Dog Days Event each year. She and her husband Khalid Pitts just completed the rebranding of Cork Wine Bar & Market under one roof at 1805 14th Street. They have been honored as Restaurateurs of the Year by Washingtonian Magazine and have won three RAMMY awards including Best New Restaurant and Best Wine Program.

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**Cary Hatch | CEO/BRAND ADVOCATE, MDB COMMUNICATIONS**

Recognized numerous times as one of the POWER 100, The Washington Business Journal's list of the 100 most influential business leaders. Cary is a native Washingtonian and advocate for brand leaders and the advertising industry at large. Her firm, MDB Communications, is a full-service, data-driven advertising and marketing communications firm. In addition to working for global and regional brands such as Sprint, National Geographic, Fannie Mae, Roy Rogers Restaurants, the DC Lottery and Chevy Chase Trust, MDB has worked on a pro-bono basis for Samaritan Inns for the homeless, and The Partnership for a Drug-Free America, Heroes, Inc. and many, many others. Cary Hatch joined MDB as an account executive. After her promotion into a management position and growing the business for several years, she purchased the company, which was subsequently recognized as an Inc. 500 company. While CEO, Cary prefers the title of Brand Advocate, as she advances her firm, its clients, and notably the Greater Washington region as a whole.

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**Kathy Hollinger | PRESIDENT & CEO, RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AND RAMW EDUCATION FOUNDATION "EDUCATED EATS"**

Since 2012, Kathy's visionary leadership has led RAMW, which represents over a thousand restaurants and the food service industry in one of the nation's largest and most visible regions through its most dramatic period of sustained growth and innovation, with overall operating budget and new revenue growth of 30%. She also raised the profile of the association and industry across the region and nationally, resulting in an epic year of national accolades that included Bon Appetit Magazine's 2016 Restaurant City of the Year and ZAGAT's Hottest Food City of 2016. As RAMW's official voice and advocate, Kathy drove unprecedented growth and development in the industry, while guiding members through a continuously evolving legislative and regulatory landscape; providing marketing and small businesses consulting and resources; and spearheading visionary programming and industry events, including the internationally lauded RAMMY Awards. The RAMMYS honors exceptional ability and accomplishments in the restaurant community and has been named one of the nation's top Food and Restaurant events.

Debbi Jarvis | SVP, CORPORATE RELATIONS, HOWARD UNIVERSITY

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As part of the university's leadership team, Jarvis is charged with developing and implementing a global strategy for corporate partnerships and funding. Jarvis also has oversight of management of Howard's WHUT-TV and WHUR-Radio. Jarvis joined HU after serving 14 years at Pepco Holdings, an Exelon Company where she held key roles including VP, Corporate Communications and VP, Corporate Relations and served on the team that helped complete the merger deal with Exelon. Before Pepco, Jarvis was a news anchor and reporter at NBC4, Washington where she helped provide a voice to the voiceless through her reporting. Jarvis is a community advocate and servant leader and has served on dozens of nonprofit boards including greater Washington Community Foundation, Leadership Greater Washington, Catholic Charities and Washington Area Women's Foundation. Jarvis earned a BA in International Business from Hope College in Holland MI and completed the CSR Executive Education program at Harvard Business School. Jarvis also has taken graduate coursework at American University and Southeastern University.

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**Beth Johnson | FOUNDER & CEO, RP3 AGENCY**

Beth Johnson is Founder and CEO of RP3 Agency, an award-winning, 50-person creative communications agency whose client roster includes Fortune 500 brands like Norfolk Southern, Marriott, Hilton Supply Management, and The Coca-Cola Company, as well as leading regional brands such as Children's National, Giant Food and Long & Foster. Beth started her career in 1994, growing The Dan Rosenthal Co. from a creative boutique into one of the region's largest shops. In 2009, Beth launched RP3 with a new agency model to meet marketer's changing needs amidst a transformative time in the industry. In addition to leading RP3's dramatic growth, Beth is deeply committed to improving the community. She actively serves on the boards of Junior Achievement of Greater Washington, Leadership Greater Washington and Greater Washington Board of Trade. She's Past Chair of Washington Area Women's Foundation and a founding member of that organization's initiative to increase representation of women in leadership and improve opportunities for all women and girls. Beth is an active member of Young President's Organization and the Girl Scouts Women's Advisory Board. She was named one of Washington Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business and is a graduate of Leadership Greater Washington's Class of 2015.

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**Lexy Kessler | PARTNER, ARONSON LLC**

In her role as the partner-in-charge of Aronson's Government Contract Services Group, Alexandra "Lexy" Kessler, CPA, CGMA, connects her clients with the solutions, resources, and contacts that they need to succeed in an ever-changing government landscape. With a reputation for candor and the ability to get to the heart of any issue, her clients rely upon her straightforward answers to complex business issues. Lexy's extensive expertise in assurance, tax, and consulting allows her to help clients balance the challenges and opportunities inherent to the business of being a government contractor. With more than 30 years of experience, she has been instrumental in growing her practice area into one of the most well-known and respected government contracting service providers in the country, and she is always looking for new ways to reinvent and improve upon the way they serve their diverse client base. As a leader in her practice area and a member of Aronson's Board of Directors, she also helps drive Aronson's overall strategic direction and growth objectives.

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**Susan Lacz | CEO, RIDGEWELLS CATERING**

Ms. Lacz joined the Ridgewells Catering in 1986 as a sales representative, purchased it in 1997 with her business partners, and remains instrumental in the continuous growth, expansion and maintenance of the company's corporate, social and major events portfolio. Susan serves on several boards including the Greater Washington Board of Trade, Junior Achievement, Marymount University, and Washington DC Economic Partnership. She chaired Marymount's 2018 Capital Campaign, successfully closing it at \$40 million and currently chairs Junior Achievement's 100th Anniversary Hall of Fame Gala and is a member of the Economic Club of Washington of DC, Young Presidents Organization, and Leading Caterers of America. Susan was a finalist for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Greater Washington Award and named to The Washington Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business and Power 100 lists. In May 2019, Susan was the keynote speaker at the commencement ceremonies for her alma mater, Marymount University, following which she was awarded her Doctor of Humane Letters.

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**Rebecca Linder | FOUNDER & CEO, LINDER GLOBAL EVENTS**

Rebecca is a leader and an innovator. Her focus has always been on the goal of providing unmatched customer service. That, and her commitment to organizational and production excellence, has led Linder Global Events to the top of the event planning business, producing national and international events for many of the world's largest and most prestigious non-profit institutions, corporations, government agencies, and membership associations. Under her leadership, Linder has planned and executed high profile and complex events such as the opening of the Reynolds Center and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the USA Science and Engineering Festival, and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and NASA's Apollo 50 Festival Celebration on the National Mall. Rebecca was honored by the Washington Business Journal as a 2018 Woman Who Means Business award recipient. She also believes strongly in the importance of giving back and building up her community. She serves as Chairman of the board for Generation Hope and is a partner to many non-profits, including LearnServe, the Washington Area Women's Foundation, and the 11th Street Bridge Project. Additionally, Rebecca is a member of Leadership of Greater Washington and Les Dames d'Escoffier.

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**Adrianna Lucca | GENERAL MANAGER, RPM ITALIAN**

As an avid food enthusiast and successful restaurant operator, Adriana has pioneered within the restaurant industry for nearly two decades. She began her career at the young age of seventeen, and now as a mother of two children, she now serves as the General Manager of a multimillion-dollar restaurant here in our Nation's Capital. Adriana has successfully led some of the best restaurant operations teams for some of the most recognized restaurateurs in the District. With a skill set nurtured by a multicultural background, Adriana has been successful in learning what drives people to perform and succeed. Her passion for leadership has been a cornerstone of her career as a General Manager and has been instrumental in the shaping of careers of those who have the opportunity to work with her. When she's not at the restaurant, Adriana enjoys spending the days with her husband Max, her daughter, Sophia, and her son, Marco, exploring all that the DMV area has to offer.

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**Tiffany MacIsaac | PROPRIETOR, BUTTERCREAM BAKESHOP**

Tiffany MacIsaac honed her skills as pastry assistant in the demanding kitchens of Union Square Cafffi© and Ilo Restaurant in the Bryant Park Hotel. When she gained the title of Pastry Chef, it was at a Michelin-starred restaurant, CRU; her next step was to another, Allen & Delancey. In 2009, she and her husband, chef Kyle Bailey, relocated to Washington, DC to open Birch & Barley, a venture of the Neighborhood Restaurant Group that garnered three stars from The Washington Post. In her five years with the group, MacIsaac orchestrated the pastry programs of a remarkable fourteen properties, and in addition to bringing home RAMMY Awards in 2011 and in 2018, she was honored for three consecutive years as a James Beard Award semi-finalist. As proprietor of Buttercream Bakeshop in downtown Washington, MacIsaac devotes herself to the simple ambition of making people happy with her high quality confections. "My goal," she says, "is to make people want more of whatever they're eating, when it's done!" Fueled by flour, sugar, and, of course, plenty of butter, she sets about doing this with her partner and lead decorator, Alex Mudry-Till, and a team of talented bakers and confectioners.

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**Cheryle Mack | VP, COMMERCIAL BANKING RELATIONSHIP MANAGER, BURKE & HERBERT BANK**

Cheryle Mack is a commercial banker with Burke & Herbert Bank delivering consultative financial solutions to commercial businesses and Not-for-Profit organizations. Her leadership and community involvement has provided Cheryle opportunities to serve in former roles such as the Chair of the Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast, member of BB&T's Hampton Roads Senior Leadership team, and Co-Chair of BB&T James River Region's African American Business Agency Group. Currently, Cheryle serves as a member of Communities-In-Schools Virginia State Board and The Women's Advisory Board for the Nations Capital Girl Scout Council. Cheryle is a graduate of The College of William and Mary. She completed her Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources from Regent University and is working on her Certified Diversity Trainer certification. She has served as a panelist for Norfolk Southern WINS event that focused on women leadership; The College of William and Mary's Business School's Commercial Banking panel; the Norfolk State University's Sister Event; and the 2019 Symposium for Racial Equitable Community Development as well as a mentor for the Bizwomen 2018 Washington Business Journal's Mentoring event. Cheryle is also the recipient of the Girl Scout Appreciation Pin for her outstanding volunteer service.

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**Lisa Mallory | CEO, DCBIA**

DCBIA is a trade association of 450 member organizations and thousands of professionals in all aspects of real estate development. Previously, Lisa was the Director of the DC Department of Employment Services (DOES) a state/local workforce development agency where she had responsibility for overhauling one of the most troubled human services agencies netting millions of dollars in savings. At DOES she is credited with implementing innovative programs and policies which resulted in increased customer service, new business partnerships and putting 10,000 unemployed people to work. Formerly, Lisa was Senior Vice President at ICF International, a major multinational consulting firm where clients included US Environmental Protection Agency and the Architect of the Capitol. She was Senior Vice President at the Fannie Mae Foundation and she served the Clinton White House as a member of the Federal Senior Executive Service (SES) as Chief of Staff to Vice President Al Gore's National Performance Review; Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary at the US Department of Health and Human Services; and Counselor at the US Social Security Administration.

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**Abby Matia | EVP & DIVISION EXECUTIVE, WELLS FARGO**

Based in Washington, D.C., Abby leads teams focused on serving the financial needs of business banking and middle market banking customers in Washington, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Before her current role, Abby was the division manager for the Mid-Atlantic region of Wells Fargo Middle Market Banking, serving business customers with annual revenues of more than \$20 million across a broad range of industries. Abby has served as a senior credit officer, helping facilitate credit underwriting and approvals, portfolio administration, and risk management for Regional Commercial Banking Offices located in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Over the years, Abby has held several risk management and line positions, including relationship manager, risk manager, and sales director. Abby earned a B.A. in economics and a B.A. in psychology from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Abby lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with her husband and two sons.

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**Sonia McCormick | SVP, DIRECTOR OF CLIENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS, PNC BANK**

With responsibility for overall marketing, communications and client and community strategies, Sonia develops and manages corporate and philanthropic partnerships, chairs the local PNC Foundation disbursement committee, executes corporate programs at the local level, and oversees internal communication, volunteerism, events, and client entertainment. Sonia joined Riggs Bank, PNC's predecessor, in 2001, where she managed internal and external communication. Prior to working for the bank, Sonia spent 11 years at the American Bankers Association serving as a spokesperson for the banking industry. A native of the Washington area, Sonia holds a Master's degree in Public Communication from American University and a Bachelor's degree in Communication from George Mason University. She is a graduate of Leadership Greater Washington's Class of 2010 and served on its board of directors for seven years. Currently, Sonia serves on the board of Northern Virginia Family Service and is a member of the Women's Advisory Board of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital. In 2018, the Washington Business Journal named her a "Woman Who Means Business."

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**Jennifer McLaughlin | OWNER, CABOOSE BREWING COMPANY**

Jennifer McLaughlin graduated in 1999 with a BS in Industrial Engineering, and while she loved geeking out on spreadsheets, she didn't see a long term career path that interested her. So a few years in, she jumped paths. A Masters degree in Math Education got her into the high school classroom which I absolutely loved. Motherhood brought her home again, and a third degree in nutrition lead her on yet another path to nourishing our young family as well as various clients. Everything Jennifer has learned along these very different roads has helped prepare her for where she is today - owner of a brewery and two restaurants.

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**Marjorie Meek-Bradley | EXECUTIVE CHEF, ST. ANSELM**

Marjorie Meek-Bradley is the Executive Chef at St. Anselm in Washington, D.C. where she brings her fresh creativity and broad experience to both concepts. A California native, Marjorie cooks sustainably, using grass-fed proteins and organic produce from local farms. She has served in many top-rated restaurants and worked for an impressive list of chefs including Thomas Keller, Jose Andres and Marcus Samuelsson. She was a semifinalist for both James Beard Foundation awards for "Rising Star" nominee and Food & Wine awards for Best New Chef in 2013 and 2014. Marjorie is a member of Les Dames d'Escoffier and the Women Chefs & Restaurateurs organizations.

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**Jameece Pinckney | PRESIDENT & CEO, HYQUEST CONSULTING SOLUTIONS, LLC**

Jameece Pinckney founded HyQuest and has served as a senior-level executive in the government contracting industry for more than 16 years. She has expertise in contract management, finance and accounting, project control, procurement, risk management, business ethics, and compliance. She formulates and leads the execution of the company's strategy for delivering leading solutions to customers. She previously served as the Director of Contracts and Procurement for Pragmatics, Inc. and held positions with organizations including HydroGeologic, Inc. and Halliburton/KBR and served as a consultant with Naval District Washington. Pinckney has a Master's Certificate in Government Contracting from George Washington University School of Business; a Juris Doctor from the University of Cincinnati College of Law; and a master's degree in administration and supervision and a bachelor's degree in chemistry, both from Tennessee State University. In 2019, she was accepted into/graduated from the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA's) Emerging Leaders Program. She is a member of the National Contract Management Association (NCMA). Pinckney devotes much of her spare time to The OPHELIA Foundation, a nonprofit organization she founded, and to the Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as chapter president.

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**Rina Rapuano | FREELANCE FOOD & TRAVEL WRITER, THE WASHINGTON POST, WASHINGTONIAN, NPR & THE TRAVEL CHANNEL**

Rina Rapuano is a freelance food and travel writer who has written for The Washington Post, Food Network, Travel Channel, NPR and Livestrong, among many others. She edited and wrote all of Zagat's DC-related editorial content for more than four years and before that served as a food and wine editor at Washingtonian magazine. Rina lives in Washington, DC, with her husband, two children, mother, two dogs and a cat.

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**Nancy Roman | PRESIDENT & CEO, PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHIER AMERICA**

Nancy E. Roman, leads a national NGO dedicated to a better food culture. She has led the organization toward global sustainable nutrition and recognition of the impact of food on health and chronic disease. Prior to joining PHA, she was the President and CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank. Under her leadership, the food bank became a national voice for embedding health and wellness in hunger relief work. Ms. Roman served on the leadership team of the United Nations World Food Programme, overseeing public policy, private partnerships, and communications for the world's largest humanitarian agency feeding 100 million people in 75 countries. Ms. Roman's earlier career included serving as Vice President of the Council on Foreign Relations, President of the G7 Group, a strategic consulting firm, and journalist, covering politics, US Congress, foreign policy and economics. She speaks internationally on women in leadership and the power of food to shape health. Ms. Roman holds a Master degree in International Economics and American Foreign Policy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and French from Baylor University. She is married to Steven Cohen and has two children, Daniel and Taylor.

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Julie Rosenthal | PRESIDENT, JR COMMUNICATIONS

Julie Rosenthal founded JR Communications, a strategic communications firm, to offer clients the quality and level of service she wished she had experienced when she was on the client side. Julie delivers a true partnership and collaboration where communications plays a key role in helping clients achieve their business objectives. Julie launched her 30-year domestic and international career at major PR and ad agencies. A trailblazer, she used her entrepreneurial finesse to organically build communications programs on the client side for Cellular One and Sprint. As lead of her own firm, she creates and manages strategic communications programs for consumer, retail and telecom for-profit entities, public sector organizations, and nonprofits of all types and sizes.



Deborah Rutter | PRESIDENT, JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Ms. Rutter began as President of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in September 2014, and serves as curator of the Kennedy presidential memorial, and artistic and administrative director to the world's busiest performing arts center. The Center presents theater, contemporary dance, ballet, vocal music, chamber music, Hip Hop, comedy, international arts, and jazz, alongside dynamic seasons with the Kennedy Center's world-class affiliates: the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington National Opera. In her first year at the Kennedy Center, Ms. Rutter broke ground on a transformative arts facility, the REACH, which provides flexible indoor and outdoor performance space to nurture new art, community, innovation, arts education, and informal encounters between the artist and the public. Ms. Rutter manages one of the nation's most extensive arts education networks. Prior to her position as the Center's President, Ms. Rutter served as president of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association. She has also served as executive director of the Seattle Symphony, executive director of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and the orchestra manager of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.



Jayne Sandman | CO-FOUNDER & CO-CEO, THE BRAND GUILD

The Brand Guild is a full-service agency of choice for market makers pushing their way to scale and for market leaders breathing new energy into their organizations. The Brand Guild builds brand strategies that leverage a blend of critical skills and expertise that get our clients, including Sweetgreen, SoulCycle, The Wharf and Rent The Runway's measurable results. Our team of experts across Public Relations, Marketing, Events and Creative builds strategies, creates experiences and influences audiences to win for our clients. The Brand Guild, formerly BrandLinkDC, has been profiled in The New York Times as "the architects of the new Washington" and cited by GQ Magazine as one of the "50 Most Powerful People in Washington." Jayne has been a recipient of the Washington Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business and 40 Under 40 awards, and named to its Power 100 List.



Theresa Sheils | PRINCIPAL & MANAGING DIRECTOR, GENSLER

Theresa leads some of the Gensler Southeast Region's most complex architecture projects and has deep expertise in corporate campus design. She excels at managing large project and consultant teams and serves as a strategic advisor to clients with multiple stakeholders involved in the process. Theresa is a proponent of sustainable design and is adept at developing high-performance design solutions that use leading technology to reduce energy use and mitigate negative

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effects on the environment. A registered architect, Theresa's portfolio spans notable domestic and international projects in the areas of hospitality, corporate headquarters and education, among others. She is a member of the American Institute of Architects and the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties. Theresa graduated from The Catholic University of America with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture.

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Lidia Soto-Harmon | CEO, GIRL SCOUTS NATION'S CAPITAL

Lidia is CEO of Girl Scouts Nation's Capital, the largest council in the country and includes the District of Columbia and 25 counties in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, serving over 86,000 members. She directs a \$18 million operating budget with 121 employees, located in six offices. Girl Scouts are dedicated to inspiring girls K - 12 to be Go-Getters, Innovators, Risk Takers and Leaders, (in other words G.I.R.L.). Lidia was named a Woman Who Means Business by Washington Business Journal, received the Regional Mujer (Woman of the Year) Award by the National Hispana Leadership Institute. She was also named one of DC's most influential leaders in Capitol File Magazine. She currently serves as Vice Chair and Trustee of the Migration Policy Institute. Lidia also chairs the Governance Committee of the Meyer Foundation, and is the Co-Chair of Membership Committee for the International Women's Forum. Lidia also serves as a board member for the Greater Washington Board of Trade. She authored an essay for the 2014 Shriver Report, A Woman's Nation Pushes Back. Last year, Drew University, her Alma Mater, featured her as a "Drew Gooder" for inspiring youth. Lidia is passionate about youth development and loves Girl Scout cookies!

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Heather Stouffer | FOUNDER & CEO, MOM MADE FOODS

Eating healthy, well-balanced meals have always been an important part of Heather Stouffer's life. In 2006, as a new parent, she launched Mom Made Foods at a local farmer's market to offer frozen healthy meals for children. She has since expanded the company's frozen food lines and the products are carried in thousands of grocery store freezers nationally. Mom Made Foods works with some of the nation's most celebrated grocery retailers. The products are also sold online. Not only has her dream for making healthy children's foods been realized, but she's been awarded Progressive Grocer's Top Women in Grocery for Senior Executives, Washington Business Journal's Woman Who Means Business, and Washington Business Journal's Top 40 Under 40. Heather has told the Mom Made story on major media outlets such as the Oprah Winfrey Show, the Food Network, "How It's Made" on Discovery Channel, CBS, ABC, FOX, NPR, Rachel Ray Magazine, Good Morning America, etc. She has a B.A. in Psychology from Denison University. Heather enjoys outdoor activities with her family, cooking, running, and yoga. She lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband and two children.

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Victoria Trummer | CO-OWNER, TRUMMER'S ON MAIN

Victoria Trummer is the co-founder and co-owner of Trummer's, a casual American bistro located in Clifton, Virginia. Victoria fell into a career in the hospitality industry when she moved from Northern Virginia to New York for college and quickly discovered she needed a job to support her city lifestyle. With a little advice from her father, she charmed her way into a part-time coat check position at Citarella Restaurant in Rockefeller Center, where she worked her way up to a captain position before leaving to take on a management position at Compass Restaurant. After many years working in the industry, Victoria decided to pursue

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an MBA and later took on a career in marketing. However, she deeply missed being a part of a focused and passionate team. Her desire to create and be a part of such a team led her to move back to her hometown of Clifton, Virginia with her husband Stefan to open Trummer's On Main in 2009. Over 10 years of business, Trummer's became an integral part of the Clifton community and received several RAMMY nominations for its dining, wine, and pastry programs.

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**Jenna Velella | DIRECTOR OF SALES STRATEGY & PROFITABILITY, STARR RESTAURANTS**

In her role as Director of Sales Strategy and Profitability, Jenna Velella works with leadership teams across all markets to develop and implement strategies to increase revenues and maximize profitability for all STARR restaurants. Jenna uses data-driven analysis and a creative, solution-oriented approach to address the fluid challenges of the industry and their impact on businesses. Prior to this role, Jenna was a Director of Restaurants with STARR in the Philadelphia and D.C. markets from 2014 to 2019. She oversaw nearly \$100 million in annual revenue among a portfolio of diverse concepts, and navigated industry and restaurant challenges with proven success. Prior to joining the company in 2014, Velella, a New York native, spent seven years in management at the Washington, D.C.-based Clyde's Restaurant Group. She graduated cum laude from Cornell University with a B.S. in Industrial and Labor Relations in 2004 and earned her MBA from Cornell's S.C. Johnson Graduate School of Management in 2012, specializing in Sustainable Global Enterprise, Hospitality and Entrepreneurship.

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**Liz Wainger | PRESIDENT, WAINGER GROUP LLC**

As an adviser, speaker, and writer, Liz Wainger has spent more than two decades at the side of executives and their leadership teams and staff, demonstrating how to clarify and deliver their messages so that they become more effective leaders who win the business they seek, get the coveted job, command the attention they deserve and persuade others to rally to their cause. A former Washington Post reporter and communications executive, she is celebrating Wainger Group's 20th anniversary in 2020. The firm provides public relations, strategic planning, coaching and training, and retreat facilitation, using a communications lens to achieve business and organizational goals. She is the author of Prism of Value: Connect, Convince, and Influence When It Matters Most. In 2015, The Washington Business Journal named her a "Women Who Means Business" honoree. Active in the community, she serves on the Boards of Jubilee Housing and the School for Ethics and Global Leadership and on the Steering Committee of the Urban Land Institute's Women's Leadership Initiative.

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