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We welcome Spring!

We are looking forward to warmer weather and celebrating Women's History Month as well as launching our Strategic Planning process this month. Here are the highlights for this newsletter.

- [BWGC Strategic Planning - Meetings in March, April, and May](#)
- [Please register: April Education Event April 21st](#)
- [Women's History Month Campaign](#)
- [Welcome to New and Renewing Members!](#)
- [Register for the Shape of the Region Conference](#)
- [Good of the Circle - exciting member news!](#)

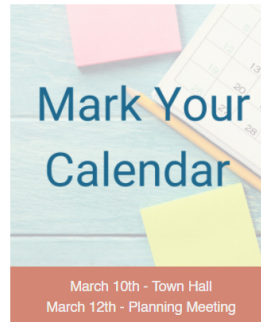
Sincerely,
BWGC Steering Committee

[Member Survey](#)

Multiple Ways to Engage

We have many new members as well as members who have been with us since 2014. Here are a few resources to help prepare you for our strategic planning process. We have monthly check-ins and opportunities to learn more about BWGC and the Northern Virginia community too.

[Learn about the Work to Date](#)



March Strategic Planning Town Hall (Open to all Members)
[March 10th, Wednesday 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm - Register Here](#)

Additional Strategic Planning Committee Meetings
(in case you miss the first one)
[March 12th, Friday 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Register Here](#)



Join us for a virtual brown bag lunch as we hear from experts in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) field and how diverse teams deliver the best results. Today, AI is widely used by leading companies, in healthcare, and by governments. Learn more about who writes the rules, the impact of under-representation in this growing field, and what we can do to impact change.

Our panelists include:

- Moderator - Rockelle Morris, AI-4-All.org
- Panelist - Patty Delafuente, Sr. Director for Data Science at NewWave Foundation and Adjunct Professor for Graduate Data Science at UMBC ([LinkedIn here](#) | [Link to bio Newwave](#))

- Panelist - Dr. Kammy Sanghera, Executive Director, Institute for Digital InnovAtion (IDIA) at George Mason
- Panelist- Raina Davis, National Security Commission on AI. Received her Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School in 2019

Register for this Event

Spotlight - SOHO (current grantee) & GIRL (past grantee)




Celebrating Women's History Month Up to \$3100 matching through March 31st, 2021
Learn more at www.bwgcivova.org & chiva.org

Behind each SOHO girl who believes in herself is a circle of women who believed in her first.

soho LINDA ODELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
A SPACE OF HER OWN

By preparing today's girls to be leaders tomorrow, we are investing in our future history makers and change agents.

GIRL DANIELLE CRABDOCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GIRLS WHO NEED A BEAN TO LEAD, INC.

On Monday, February 1st, GIRL hosted GIRLs in STEM Day, an event where four women in STEM shared inspiring stories with girls about their experiences in the field and paths to where they are today. The speakers had all taken very different paths in STEM, and many of them emphasized the versatility and wide array of possibilities available with a STEM degree. Many of them also admitted that going into STEM wasn't their initial career goal.

- For example, Francisca Alonso is an architect who works in construction and co-founded AV Architects and Builders, where she also is the CEO. She mentioned that she originally wanted to go to law school, but one of her professors in college inspired her to look into architecture school.
- Like Alonso, Lucia Jarrett aspired to become an attorney, but while earning her first degree, she kept seeing all sorts of ads about technology. She told the girls that she decided to go to a boot camp where she discovered her passion for coding, and now she serves as the Managing Director at Accenture Technology and as the lead for the STEM for HER Board of Directors.
- Aisha Bowe explained to the girls how she stumbled upon STEM by accident but ended up finding a love of math and science in community college. This love led her to earn two degrees in Aerospace Engineering, and with these degrees, she was able to work for NASA as a rocket scientist for some time before founding STEMBoard and creating STEMLingo with Danielle Regis.
- Regis studied electrical and computer engineering during her undergraduate years, and though she wasn't exactly sure what she wanted to do, she knew that she had a lot of options with it. Now she is going back to school for business because she wants to "learn more about how the world works" and loves how technology and business can intersect.

Sponsored by STEM for Her, 20 girls including girls from A Space of Her Own, were provided STEM Lingo kits, a coding kit that allows students to program a prototype of a backup sensor for a car.

Register for the Shape of the Region Conference

2021 Shape of the Region Conference

Mar 11, 2021 12:30 PM



Co-Creating a New Northern Virginia:

An Emerging Vision of a More Inclusive, Sustainable, and Equitable Region

Thursday, March 11, 2021

12:30 - 2:00 pm

Virtual Conference

Register for the Shape of the Region on March 11th

Welcome to Current, New, and Renewing Members

Thank you very much to our members, friends and supporters for your contributions to the Business Women's Giving Circle during our 2020 grants cycle. We appreciate your ongoing support for our mission and the direct impact you make on our community. Any gifts between now and September 30th will be applied towards the 2021 grants cycle. If you haven't renewed or are considering joining, more information is below.

2020 BWGC Members | *NEW or **Renewed for 2021 | Founding Member (F)

Consider Renewing Your Membership

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Janice Adamshick | Tanya La Force (F) |
| Nedra Agnew | Cherylyn LeBon |
| Grace Anton | Candice K. Levin |
| Sarah Baker | Natalie Lorenz-Anderson** |
| Faith Boettger (F) | Cherylyn LeBon |
| Jennifer Bonadio | Kim Mason (F) |
| Kathryn Campbell | Patricia McCall |
| Andrea Connolly | Beatriz McNelly |
| Hanni Cordes | Sherifah Munis |
| Cerasela Cristei | Sheila Murphy |
| Jen Dalton** | Christina O'Connell** |
| Emily Daniels (F)** | Barbara O'Reilly** |
| Victoria Dietz** | Becky Parker (F) |
| Leslie Dupree Culman | Elizabeth Bennett-Parker* |
| Susan Dykstra | Judy Redpath |
| Nancy Eberhardt (F)** | Kathy Renzetti |
| Eileen Ellsworth (F) | Catherine F. Schott Murray |
| Debbie Eshelman | Carol Shapiro Morgan (F) |
| Sue Fajer | Julie Simmons |
| Robin Finnell** | Susan Snell |
| Cate Fulkerson | Patricia Sparrell* |
| Jennifer Golden | Elisabeth Stigall |
| Alexis Grason | Ann Summerson |
| Neerja Gursahaney | Jennifer Taylor |
| Luanne Gutermuth (F) | Karen Tovey (F) |
| Vinu Ilakkuvan | Helaine Weissman |
| Diana Katz | Lynn Westine |
| Amy Kay | Tessie Wilson |
| Holly Kortright** | Stefanie Zeldin Sigel** |

Member Resources



For the Good of the Circle



Tanya LaForce - Launched her new website! Check out [Mission Focused Consulting](#) here. Congrats!

Sherifah Munis - Held a sold-out Financial Literacy webinar, *Money Talks*, (over 1,200 attendees), It was picked up by ABC and run this past week as an exclusive!!! You can [watch it here](#).

Robin Finnell - Added a new line at *The Fashion Studio of McLean*. Visit <https://duettenyc.com/> to explore, and use the code ROBINFINNELL should you decide to purchase something.

BWGC Steering Committee

Chair and Chair-Elect: Jen Dalton and Emily Daniels

Immediate Past Chair: Catherine F. Schott Murray


Grants: Susan Dykstra and Vinu Ilakkuvan

Membership: Hanni Cordes

Network and Education: Sue Fajer and Kathy Campbell
Capacity Building and Engagement: Barbara O'Reilly and Kathy Renzetti
Nominating: Judy Redpath and Sheila Murphy
Community Foundation for Northern Virginia: Sari Raskin and Jennifer Cochran

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