Dear FWA Members, Sponsors and Friends,

After a late-night walk in the snow, (and since I never got one out last year), I realized it’s now or never if I plan to get out a December newsletter. Walking around the hushed city, the quiet and dark makes the holiday lights shine a little brighter. Candles are central symbols in the major holiday celebrations this month and really most major celebrations – everything from holidays to even the commencement of the Olympic games. Candles/fire are used to commemorate the dead and honor the living. It is their ability to dispel darkness that makes them a sign of visual hope. Given the year we have had, we could use all the candles we can get our hands on!

Each of us are “candles” for others and you can even say the FWA’s mission of advancing women in finance, is a candle for the financial industry. I want to thank the many donors who contributed to the FWA’s Giving Tuesday campaign on December 1st. Your contributions are like candles of hope and opportunity for not only our students and mentees, but also for all our members who have benefited from our virtual programming this year. We are extending our Giving Tuesday campaign through December 31st – so please help support us in our mission and keep the candles burning!

1) The World

The world has seen its own light at the end of the tunnel with the delivery of the first COVID-19 vaccines in the US and abroad. We have a long way to go before enough of the population is vaccinated to return to more normal contact, but like a candle in the winter, this news brings hope to people as well as the markets.

Futures are moderately higher. Expectations for the stimulus bill have grown from around $700 billion to around $900 billion with passage now expected before next week. Also underpinning the futures rally is the drop in the Dollar Index to below 0.90 the first time since 2018. The outcome of stimulus talks will drive the market volatility in the coming days.
Help cannot come fast enough. It was recently reported that about 8 million Americans have fallen into poverty since the summer. Additional COVID protocols resulting from the surge are placing small businesses like restaurants under further pressure. The Fed is responding by announcing it will keep interest rates near zero and keep buying bonds until inflation settles at 2% and the US reaches full employment.

We are not out of the woods yet, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. The vaccine combined with innovations like the FDA authorization of an over the counter at-home coronavirus test will help the economy get back on its feet again much sooner.

2) The FWA

As the days grow even shorter and we settle into a holiday season that is a bit abbreviated from the usual – no live concerts, no festive parties – the FWA will also pause its programming the last two weeks of the year. But only those two weeks! We have a fantastic line up right out of the gate in January.

Two notable ones:

January 5th – join me as I speak with Dr. Laura Fisher in our opening event – Taking Control of Your Health. If one of your New Year’s Resolutions is to focus on your health, this event is going to be great for you!

January 12th – the FWA’s 2021 New Year’s Celebration Benefit! Join us for our annual Benefit. It is a great way to connect – virtually - with FWA friends and meet new ones over a fun, interactive wine and cheese event. Since nearly all our virtual programming has been free for members since the COVID lockdown, fundraising for our Benefit has added importance. Please register and encourage your friends and colleagues to attend! This is perfect if your New Year’s resolutions include strengthening your network.

Other upcoming events include:

January 26th – Supply Chain Management & Trade Financing


3.) You

This 2020 year is roughly 15 days from its end. Look back over this year – no matter your circumstances, you have proven to be resilient in an historic year of disruption and change. Take some time to write down the obstacles you have overcome and the skills you have built. Light a candle, take a deep breath and know that you have endured the unimaginable and have the power to continue to inspire others. May
these days be merry and bright for each of you! Happy Holidays!

Simone G. Vinocour
FWA President 2019-2021

The FWA: Accelerating the Leadership and Success of Women across the financial community in all industries, by advancing careers, fostering alliances and preparing the current and next generation of professionals.

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