Dear FWA Members, Sponsors, and Friends,

Mother's Day in America is this Sunday, May 9th. This will be a day of great joy for many who are able to finally reunite with their mothers after over a year of separation. Others, like two of my dear friends, will be marking this day grieving for their recently deceased mothers. I am somewhere in the middle: the loss of my own mother was 8 years ago and still keenly felt, but I am thrilled to be able to see my mother-in-law this year following a long virus-induced separation.

I have heard people say that Mother’s Day does not apply to them because they have no children. I disagree. We tend to overlook the actions and characteristics of motherhood and the profound affect they have on the lives of others. Each of us, regardless of status or gender, can “mother” – to offer support, guidance and a lasting relationship that is unwavering.

In some small measure, the FWA is an organizational collection of mothers: there are mentors of all ages within the organization, on top of the incredible friendships. I know I have called on the expertise and guidance of fellow members more than once. Of course, it is easiest to see these relationships in our formal educational programs: Financial Backpack, mentoring at the High School for Finance and Economics, Baruch College, and Seton Hall University, Pacesetters, and Member2Member mentoring.

So, whether you are remembering, celebrating, or being celebrated this Mother's Day, take a moment to reach out to your “other mothers” and thank them. I thank each of YOU for your dedication in supporting others and encourage those interested in becoming a mentor to reach out and join one of the committees. You can make a world of difference!

Beyond Mother's Day, there are a host of celebrations, including graduations, religious milestones, and holidays. The FWA is also celebrating Excellence, Inspiration, and the Future of Finance at our Annual Awards Ceremony.... more below!

1) The World
We are still in earnings season, which overall has been strong as the US economy continues re-opening. The pace of returning to the office is an ongoing headliner in the news. Hiring slowed last month as the U.S. added only 266,000 jobs – far fewer than the 1 million expected by economists. Unemployment rose to 6.1%

It is estimated that women have lost $800 billion in income last year, according to a report from Oxfam International. That is more than the combined GDP of 98 countries and shows the disproportionate impact that the pandemic has had on women's economic lives.

The FWA has been discussing trends in impact investing for years. It is here to stay, as evidenced by Blackrock's vote on two shareholder proposals that would require Warren Buffet's Berkshire Hathaway to publish disclosures on how it manages climate risk and diversity efforts across its businesses. However, Berkshire's two shareholder-led proposals did not pass as reported by the Wall Street Journal. This is an example of the tension between asset managers calling for greater ESG emphasis and company executives pushing back.

2) The FWA

On May 12th we will gather virtually for our Annual Awards Ceremony. This is one of the FWA's Signature Events – a fundraiser supporting all our educational, mentoring and programming initiatives. The FWA has a long-standing tradition of honoring women industry leaders, our mentees, and Pacesetters. We are holding this amazing event virtually, for the first time ever!

Please join us as we honor:

- **Jo Ann Jenkins** – CEO, AARP: *Public Sector Woman of the Year*
- **Carla Harris** – Vice Chairman, Morgan Stanley: *Private Sector Woman of the Year*
- **Jean-Yves Fillion** – CEO, BNP Paribas USA: *Male Ally of the Year*

It's not too late to register, but please do so by Monday, May 10th, and please think of registering a mentee, friend, or colleague – it is a terrific way to better understand the scope of the FWA's activities and the impact the organization is making have on individuals, our community, and in the finance industry. It is also a great way of supporting the FWA's mission of advancing all women in finance.

Speaking of finance, we have other amazing events focused on several hot topics in the industry. These include:

- **May 12th**: ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY!
- **May 17th**: Send Me an Angel...Investor & Crowdfunding
May 18th: U.S. Economic Roundtable: What to Expect from an Economic Recover
May 20th: Namaste: Tea time with CEO Cindi Bigelow
June 3rd: Work/Life Recalibration: Adapting to the New World of Work (Part 1)

Finally, I want to welcome all the New Members who have joined the FWA in the past months. I encourage you to attend the New Member Onboarding events and look forward to meeting you soon at one of our events or committee meetings.

3.) You

Just as the weather starts to get a little better, many firms are becoming more vocal about their desire to have employees back to work. The two big questions, of course, are: When? and How?

Be sure to take time this month to enjoy the various celebrations, either virtual or in person. Start thinking of your personal “return to work” plan and perhaps reach out to your FWA network to get a sense of “best practices”. In the meantime, look to add one or two performances to your calendar for the coming months, since the arts are coming back!

Have a terrific month - I look forward to “seeing” you at our many events!

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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