"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." – C.S. Lewis

Greetings, my fellow FWA community! I hope this message finds each of you safe and healthy. I don't know about you, but it felt as if the last two months flew by!

Where we've been:

In my July letter, I reminded everyone of the beginning of my 2-year FWA presidency and our future together. I also briefly mentioned a few FWA events that covered healthcare, professional development, and networking. For those that joined me for one or all of them, and to our distinguished speakers – thank you!

In August, the FWA's leadership team was busy strategically programming events and the various FWA educational initiatives. We said "congratulations and best of luck" to our graduating cohorts and "welcome" to our incoming mentors and mentees. I would be remiss if I didn't highlight two memorable dates:

- At the stroke of midnight on Tuesday, August 24th, Kathy Hochul became the first female governor of New York. The FWA is happy for Kathy and enjoyed having her at two FWA events:
  
  (i) During Karen Elinski's presidential year, Ms. Hochul was honored as the Public Sector Woman on the Year at the FWA's 2019 Awards Ceremony
  
  (ii) Via an in-person fireside chat in 2020 entitled "Economy, Elections, and Equality: A Conversation with N.Y. Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul"

- August 26th - Women's Equality Day. This day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. Voting is a hot topic right now, and people sacrificed their lives for us to have the right to vote. Thus, know that your vote counts and matters! Please consider registering to vote or confirm where and how you will vote later this year (as applicable).

Where we are, the power of the FWA, and it's programming:

Here we are post storms and hurricanes, trying to enjoy the last days of the summer.
Due to the pandemic and its variants, we need to be mindful of anxiety and overwhelm as we navigate the "new normal 2.5" (as I choose to call it – boy I’m so glad we had the Transforming Your Mindset event on August 10th)! Hopefully, you took some time off or are celebrating every day – even if just for a few minutes. Some have started working full-time in person, are navigating a hybrid workweek, or continue to work from home. At the same time, schools, colleges, and universities are offering in-person learning for those fully vaccinated. If you are not vaccinated yet, please consider speaking with your physician to protect you and your family, and to help the world inch closer to herd immunity! Regardless, please wear a mask, and know that the FWA is here every step of the way with you. Remember, tomorrow’s a new day!

During September, the FWA will continue administering its various educational programs for this academic school year. For example, I will have the privilege of attending the kickoff event of the FWA and Seton Hall’s Stillman School of Business scholarship and mentoring program, now in its 5th year!

Speaking of kicking off, the application period associated with the 2021-2022 FWA Member2Member program is open until September 10th. If you are an FWA member with at least five years of professional work experience and are interested in participating in this program as a mentee, click here to complete a short application and provide your resume. FWA mentors are always wanted and welcomed!

Thank you to our corporate sponsors, mentors, and mentees, respectively, who assist with these initiatives. It takes a village, and together, we are changing the world – one person at a time while bringing about a more equitable and diverse workplace across the financial community. I'll share more next month.

**Where we're going:**

In closing, September is typically a busy month. See below for a few notable reasons why:

**September 6th-8th** – Rosh Hashanah – the Jewish New Year;

**September 8th** – International Literacy Day – observed annually to make people aware of the importance of literacy, which is undoubtedly a matter of dignity and human rights and a component of the United Nation's Sustainable Developmental Goals. The FWA has a Financial Literacy/Backpack program, now in its 20th year! Click here to learn more and find ways to give back.

**September 15th** – International Day of Democracy – observed to remind people that democracy is about people. This day provides an opportunity for people to understand the importance of democracy and realize human rights.

**September 15th-16th** – Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement and the holiest day of the year in Judaism. Its central themes are atonement and repentance.

**September 20th-27th** – Sukkot – a biblical Jewish holiday and a seven-night festival.

**September 21st** – International Day of Peace (UN) – the International Day for non-violence and cease-fire. I genuinely hope this will be celebrated and observed this year.
September 27th-29th – Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah – a Jewish holiday devoted to the spiritual aspects of the festival of Sukkot. Though separate yet connected, it is the eighth holy day.

Lastly, join us for the following upcoming FWA events:

- **September 27th** – What It Really Takes to Have a Powerful Mentoring Relationship...The Insider's Take
- **September 28th** – Women In Digital Assets
- **October 5th** – FWA NJ Fall Dinner: Refreshing Your Professional Network
- **October 6th** – Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month: FWA Courageous Conversations – Latinx

All the best and Happy holidays!

Hermina "Nina" Batson
FWA President 2021-2023

**FWA** connects a vibrant community of dynamic financial professionals and proactive institutions focused on development and empowerment to **advance leadership growth and accelerate the success of all women in finance.**

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