Greetings, FWA community around the globe and I say that with a proud smile because we are reaching far and wide with our virtual programming! I hope this message continues to find each of you safe and healthy! So much has happened and is going on, but I'll keep it brief...

Where we've been, the power of the FWA, and its programming:

September 29th marked my 100th day as FWA President. As I look back at all that the FWA has accomplished since June 21st and what this illustrious organization continues to provide to the community, I’m most appreciative of each of you, our corporate sponsors, the dedicated team of volunteers, and the FWA’s office staff – so thank you! And we're just getting started!

In my last correspondence, I talked about all of the great events held during August and September and provided a sneak peek at some that were being finalized for September and October. Accordingly, I want to bring to your attention certain noteworthy dates and events that have occurred. Remember, this is not an exhaustive list:

- On September 27th, Jim Arno, FWA member and Certified Life/Career /Business Coach, gave us an insider’s view of what it really takes to have a powerful mentoring relationship.
- I promised a sprinkle of in-person events and this one was bang for one's buck as well as a nice way to celebrate National Italian American Heritage month! On October 5th in northern New Jersey, the FWA's NJ committee had a Fall dinner. This event included a scrumptious meal provided by La Pastaria, words of wisdom from Sally Glick, Chief Growth Strategist, SobelCo, regarding how to refresh your professional network, and an in-person networking opportunity.
- On October 6th, the FWA kicked off its Courageous Conversations series with a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. As we strive to create a more inclusive financial community for all and per my I.D.E.A. theme (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access which will continue to be woven into all of the FWA's programming), these Courageous Conversations provide opportunities for the FWA community to come together and learn how to be better allies in supporting underrepresented professionals. We were beyond moved as four amazing Latinx: Yai Vargas, Sandra Tamayo, Brianna Perez, and Maria Giraldo, respectively, educated us and shared stories and accolades filled with pride and
October 10th was World Mental Health Day. This day emphasizes educating people and spreading awareness about the importance of mental health. Given the last 19 months, it is very important that we don't neglect signs of mental health issues. Feel free to watch (or re-watch) the recording of the FWA event entitled “Transform Your Mindset” or join the FWA on October 25th as we discuss Work Life Success: How to Find Time for You While Taking Care of Others and Managing Business Needs featuring Domonique Townsend.

- October 11th was International Day of the Girl. According to the United Nations, this day is to focus attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and promote their empowerment. This year’s theme, “Digital generation: Our generation”, was a call for equal access to the internet for girls as well as digital devices.

- The FWA held an event on September 28th entitled “Women Leaders in Digital Assets” which featured two FWA Past Presidents (Kimberly Quinones (2000-2001) and Kelly Mathieson (2004-2005), Joanna Zeng, a past FWA Wall Street Exchange participant, and Sandra Ro, CEO, Global Blockchain Business Council. While all grown up and very successful, each of these amazing women discussed digital assets industry trends, the inclusion of women in its market share, investing strategies, and careers in digital assets today and forthcoming in the near future.

- October 11th was also Indigenous People's Day. Indigenous People's Day (previously known as Columbus Day) is celebrated on the second Monday of October. This year Indigenous People's Day fell on October 11th, the same day as Canadian Thanksgiving – which made it extra special because while Canada was giving thanks, we got to honor worldwide the rich culture, lives, and history of the Native American people.

- On October 14th, the FWA relaunched its Back2Business™ program virtually with an introductory workshop featuring this year’s four participating firms: BMO Capital Markets, Citizens Bank, MUFG, and New York Life. This unique program offers all genders an opportunity to restart their careers and transition back to professional life in financial services, after taking a break for reasons such as, but not limited to, providing childcare or eldercare, serving in the armed forces, being in transition prior to or due to the pandemic, or home schooling. The online application period is now open, and will end on Friday, October 29th. Tell your friends, family, or apply yourself!

An extra special thank you goes to BMO Capital Markets who has an Equity Through Education initiative that aims to help bright and deserving students achieve their educational ambitions. Every year since its inception, BMO Capital Markets donates 100% of one day's institutional equity trading commissions in North America and Europe to selected charitable organizations in support of post-secondary education. On September 22nd, the FWA was a recipient of a portion of the funds raised which will continue to assist us in our various educational programming and scholarships.

Though Giving Tuesday is November 30th, it is never too early to donate to the FWA #GivingTuesday2021 campaign. Be a part of the change and help the FWA continue to support the future generation. Based on your generosity, over 6,000 individuals have benefited from FWA's scholarships, mentoring, and financial literacy programs. Let's not stop now-together we can continue to bring about positive change in the world.
September closed with the FWA extending best wishes to Ria Davis. Ria had served as the FWA's Executive Director and was an instrumental part of many of the organization's accolades. We wish her well and much success in all of her future endeavors.

Where we are:

October is also National Cybersecurity Awareness month. Join us tomorrow, October 19th, for **Cybersecurity and the Future of Business** featuring the FWA's very own Annette Stewart, President-Elect, as the moderator!

Welcome to Fall! It's also time to get educated about shoes (sneakers, boots, and slippers included) and wellness associated with our feet. So [What About Your Feet?](#) Well find out more when you join us this Thursday, October 21st for this interactive event featuring Min Santandrea, founder and CEO of SantM: functional luxury, comfort and chic, handmade in Italy footwear brand for women and men. It's also another great way to continue to celebrate Italian American Heritage month.

Where we are:

There's so much more to share, but we've got two years together (minus approx. 100 days) so for now see below for some more upcoming events:

October 27th - [Mobilizing Impact Investing in Emerging Markets - Opportunities and Challenges](#)

October 28th – [FWA Virtual Committee Fair](#) (open to members and non-members). Come and learn about the FWA, meet some of the FWA's Leadership Council, and get more involved!

November 3rd – [LinkedIn for Personal Branding; Insights for 2021 – the FWA Way!](#) featuring Sandra Long

November 15th – [Accelerate the Success for All: FWA Courageous Conversations Allyship](#) event

And, Save the Date of November 9th for the FWA's Military event.

Until next month, don't forget to take breaks, practice mindfulness, breathe deeply, smile, be kind to yourself, and most important, be well. I look forward to seeing each of you soon!

*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.**