Happy New Year FWA community!

I don't know about you, but I still can't believe it's 2022 – bitter sweet in so many ways that we can all relate to: continued pandemic, lost friends and/or family, and occasional missed opportunities. While 2021 is in the past, let's use all the great times we've had to reflect and build our future - which starts with today!

*I hope you realize that every day is a fresh start for you. That every sunrise is a new chapter in your life waiting to be written.* - Juansen Dizon

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

The FWA started December with its Giving Tuesday campaign. Thanks to many of you, we raised $14,511.45 towards our $15K goal. For those that didn't get the opportunity to do so, please feel free to donate at any time Donation Funds - FWA of New York, Inc. and help the FWA continue providing scholarships and financial literacy classes to deserving high school and undergraduate students; educational programming, inclusive of our highly regarded high school mentoring and college readiness programs; and personal and professional development programming for all.

A day later, we turned to a very important topic, and held the event LIBOR – Going, Going, Gone: 2022 and Beyond. Besides educational, the FWA had the opportunity to partner and co-sponsor this event for the very first time with The National Association of Women Lawyers. CLE credits were also provided.

Given so many competing priorities that the financial community faces each year end (e.g., final deal making and closing the books) and everyone's desire to spend quality time with friends and family (even if virtually given the variants) or just the need to take time to relax, we purposefully kept December’s programming light and ended with Refresh Your Resilience.

Where we are:

*We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.* -
Edith Lovejoy Pierce

It's time to get back into the swing of things and write new chapters in our book of life in 2022! To get us rearing to go, here are two great ways to kickstart your mindset (one personal, one professional):

- **Join us on Thursday, January 13th**, as Marisa Santoro, author of *Own Your Authority*, teaches us to follow our instincts, radiate confidence, and communicate as the leaders we are – all based on trust.
- **Join us also on Monday, January 24th** for a fireside chat with Tom Spouse as he discusses the great work Prospect 33 is doing using data analytics and artificial intelligence.

Where we're going:

The FWA will be its busiest over the next few months not only continuing to provide amazing and impactful programming, but culminating its fiscal year end in June 2022. I don't want to overwhelm you too early in the year so let's focus on the next 30 days.

Save the Date (i.e., block your calendar) from now as you don't want to miss out on our first Signature Event for 2022, the FWA's 2022 New Year Benefit. Explore, Create, and Celebrate with the FWA community on February 3, 2022 as we engage in a fun “Around the World” themed experience inclusive of learning to make and enjoy three delicious cocktails. Yes, a mixologist will guide us, and all the ingredients you'll need will be delivered to your front door! All you'll have to do is register for this Benefit, dress festively by supporting your firm or heritage, and be ready to network! Let's celebrate each other and cheer in 2022 together!

In closing, I'm going to paraphrase a quote that I think is fitting and add a few suggestions of my own.

This year:

- Take a risk
- Try a new food
- Do a good deed
- Learn a new skill
- Visit a new place
- Break a bad habit
- Read a difficult book
- Write and send a letter
- Not a member, join the FWA!
- FWA member, join a committee!
- Haven't contributed to a non-profit, donate to the FWA!
- And lastly, do something good for someone who cannot thank you

Onward and upward, and best wishes to all for a safe, healthy, and prosperous new
year!

Speak again soon!

Nina
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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