

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of the Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation



**NOMINATIONS
NOW OPEN!**



42nd Annual
Cynthia Allen Gracey
**WOMEN IN
LEADERSHIP AWARDS
2026**

Save the Date

THURSDAY, APRIL 16th
KRAVIS CENTER COHEN PAVILION
11:30am Doors Open / 12:00pm Program Starts

ewpb.org

Nominations, More Information,
Purchase Tickets & Sponsorships



Celebrating Leadership, Honoring Legacy, and Building What's Next

Dear Executive Women,

As we step into another powerful year of connection and impact, Executive Women of the Palm Beaches is proud to share two signature events that celebrate leadership, legacy, and our collective commitment to empowering women across Palm Beach County.

First, nominations are officially open for our 42nd Annual Women in Leadership Awards (WILA) Luncheon, taking place on April 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Kravis Center. This prestigious celebration honors women of excellence whose leadership, integrity, and collaboration exemplify the mission and values of EWPBF. Awards will be presented in the Nonprofit, Private, Public, and Emerging Leader categories. **Nominations close February 12.**

We hope you will use the nomination form to recognize an outstanding woman who has made a meaningful impact in Palm Beach County.

The success of WILA is made possible through the generosity of our sponsors. All levels from Inspiration to Signature provide meaningful visibility while directly supporting EWPBF's mission to advance women leaders. Your partnership by helping us connect with sponsor prospects ensures this event continues to uplift, inspire, and invest in the next generation of leadership. Please reach out to our amazing WILA chair, Christine Raymond, to help!

We are also thrilled to announce our 2nd Annual Black Heritage Breakfast, "Trailblazers: Celebrating the Achievements of Black Women" on February 26 from 8 to 10 a.m. This is a collaborative event with the Urban League of Palm Beach County and Hubbard Radio. This inspiring morning will feature an extraordinary panel of women whose leadership has shaped our community. Tickets are \$50, with tables available for \$500. Thank you to Elizabeth Hamma for all her hard work in putting together this community celebration

We look forward to celebrating with you—through nominations, sponsorship, and your presence—at these remarkable events.

Kae Jonsons
Board President

It is not too late to honor an outstanding leader today!

Nominations for the 2026 Women in Leadership Awards are open through February 12th

Nominate a woman of excellence in the Private, Public and Nonprofit sectors in Palm Beach County. WILA Awards recognize women who personify EWPBF values of leadership, integrity, and collaboration while carrying out the mission of empowering women to succeed and lead. Honorees are women with outstanding credentials and accomplishments that display generosity of spirit, a commitment to integrity and diversity, and a genuine connectedness with others.

Awards are presented in each of the following categories:

- 1. Nonprofit Sector:** A woman in a leadership role who works for a nonprofit organization and has more than six years of experience and demonstrated excellence in her career or profession.
- 2. Private Sector:** A woman in a leadership role who works for a for-profit business, has more than six years of experience and has demonstrated excellence in her career or profession.
- 3. Public Sector:** A woman in a leadership role who works for a municipal, county, state or federal government agency, has more than six years of experience and has demonstrated excellence in her career or profession.
- 4. Emerging Leader:** A woman in a leadership role who has up to six years of experience in their profession and has demonstrated leadership potential.

Criteria Candidates Must Meet for Consideration:

- Nominee must have lived or worked in Palm Beach County for five consecutive years.
- Nominee must exemplify the mission and values of EWPBF.
- Nominee must demonstrate excellence in the sector in which she is nominated and have inspired other women in advance of their profession or volunteer service.
- Nominee must have made an impact in PBC through professional or volunteer service.
- Nominee must show a history of leadership in their profession.
- Nominee must be available to attend the WILA Award Luncheon on April 16 2026.

NOTE: Please note the Nominee cannot be a current officer or board member of Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation. In addition, nominees who were submitted for consideration last year are ineligible to be considered this year.

Please complete the nomination form below no later than February 12, 2026. The nomination form is available on the website at <https://ewpb.org/2026-women-in-leadership-awards-nomination-form/>

Please note incomplete applications will not be accepted.



Trailblazers

Celebrating the Achievements of Black Women in Palm Beach County

2nd Annual Black Heritage Breakfast: Celebrating the Achievements of Black Women

Join us for an enlightening and empowering conversation co-hosted by Executive Women of the Palm Beaches and The Urban League of PBC.

Thursday, February 26, 2026
Riviera Beach Marina
8:00 am - 10:00 am

\$50.00
(includes breakfast buffet)

More information and
Purchase tickets:

www.ewpb.org



Moderator



Tania Rogers
WPTV News
Channel 5

Panelists



Rosalyn "Sia" Baker-Barnes
Shareholder at Searcy Denney
Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A.,
and the Chairperson of the firm's
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Committee



Alexcia Cox
Palm Beach County
State Attorney



Tykellia Brownlee
Firefighter/Paramedic
West Palm Beach Fire Department



Nicole Daggs
Executive VP
NextEra Energy



Annetta Jenkins
Director of Neighborhood Services,
Riviera Beach CRA



Kalinthia Dillard, Esq.
General Counsel and
Deputy Inspector General
for Palm Beach County



France Makabu
Successful Realtor and
Former ULPBC Young
Professionals President



Executive Women Foundation, Inc. Is A Not-For-Profit 501(C)(3) Organization. A Copy Of The Official Registration (Registration Number Ch12117)
And Financial Information May Be Obtained From The Division Of Consumer Services By Calling Toll-Free (800-435-7352) Within The State.
Registration Does Not Imply Endorsement, Approval, Or Recommendation By The State.

Register HERE

Upcoming Events

**2nd Annual Trailblazers Panel:
Celebrating the Achievements of Black
Women in Palm Beach County**
February 26th at 8:00am
Riviera Beach Marina

WILA Nominee Reception
March 12th at 5:30pm
Manatee Lagoon

Women in Leadership Awards Luncheon
April 16th
Kravis Center
Sponsorship and Signature Sponsorships
available online [HERE!](#)

**Reoccurring:
Breakfast Bunch**
First Friday of the Month, 8:00am
Lili's Cafe, Palm Beach Gardens

Event details & registration at www.ewpb.org

WILA Committee Meeting

The WILA Committee needs YOU!

We invite members to get involved with the WILA Committee, which plays a key role in planning the Women In Leadership Awards. It's a great way to contribute your ideas, connect with fellow members, and help celebrate outstanding women in our community.

The WILA Committee meets via Zoom on February 11th at 5:30pm.
Find the Zoom link [HERE!](#)

Member Spotlight:

MARTINE PIERRE-PAUL BANKING EXECUTIVE | CO- FOUNDER, MODERN ETIQUETTE AND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



EWPBF Involvement so far: I am truly enjoying being welcomed into a community of dynamic and accomplished women and have made some wonderful connections at the Holiday Luncheon. I am currently working on scheduling a couple of coffee connections and look forward to joining the event planning committee as I continue to evaluate additional opportunities for engagement within the organization.

Tell us a little about your professional journey.

My professional journey has been shaped by a deep respect for leadership, service, and continuous evolution. Alongside my work in financial services, I am the co-founder of the Modern Etiquette and Leadership Academy, a family business rooted in the belief that leadership is learned and that it begins on the playground long before it reaches the boardroom. My academic path reflects a global and forward-thinking mindset. I completed my undergraduate studies at Queens College in New York and at the University of Paris, Nanterre, where I studied Legal Communications and International Relations. I see challenges as opportunities. As a traditional banker, I have embraced the disruption and opportunity that technology presents by pursuing a Master of Science degree in Financial Technology (FinTech) at Keiser University. My goal has always been to serve as a bridge, helping individuals and institutions navigate a rapidly evolving digital-first financial landscape with confidence and integrity.

What inspired you to join Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation?

The Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation represents everything I value: collaboration, leadership, mentorship, and impact. I was inspired to join because of its commitment to empowering women leaders, while fostering meaningful connections. Being a member has reinforced the importance of lifting as we climb. Professionally, it has expanded my perspective and network. Personally, it has strengthened my belief that women thrive when we support one another, share knowledge, and lead boldly.

What's one accomplishment you're most proud of?

Giving back has always been paramount to me; one of my proudest accomplishments is my volunteer work as a daily radio financial contributor. During the pandemic, I was approached to volunteer my expertise to serve underbanked and underserved communities. What began as a response to crisis evolved into a daily, live 10-minute segment (delivered in English, French and Creole) focused on economic updates and how financial shifts directly impact everyday lives. To date, I have delivered over 1,000 live episodes, helping demystify financial topics and empowering listeners with practical knowledge. It's a reminder that leadership is not just about titles; it's about access, education, and service.

What advice would you give to other women leaders in Palm Beach County?

You belong in every room and at every table if such a “table” even truly exists. The key is to lead from a place of competence, integrity, and empathy. When you ground your leadership in those values, confidence follows naturally, and your presence becomes undeniable.

What's something fun or surprising about you that most people don't know?

Most people see a fierce leader or a poised and confident public speaker. The truth? I'm neither an extrovert nor an introvert, I am perhaps an ambivert. I thrive in both worlds, which allows me to connect deeply while also leading with clarity and intention.

Outside of work, I'm a proud mom of two and have been fully immersed in life as a dance and golf mom. I also have a lifelong love for etiquette and Savoir-Faire which inspired our launch of the Modern Etiquette and Leadership Academy in 2019, a modern consultancy coaching children, young adults and professionals on business etiquette, leadership presence, and social graces in a modern world.

2025 EWPBF

Holiday Luncheon

EWPBF members and guests came together for a festive and memorable Holiday Luncheon filled with connection, celebration, and holiday cheer. From lively conversations and a beautiful musical performance to a fun 360° photo booth and an exciting silent auction, the afternoon was a wonderful way to close out the year.

**Thank you to our Holiday Luncheon Sponsors
who make these events possible:**



Musical Performance
Sponsored By:



Photo Booth
Sponsor:



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