

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



Dear EWPBF Members,

I am honored and excited to serve as Chair of the 2027 Women in Leadership Awards (WILA), taking place Thursday, May 6, 2027, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Kravis Center.

WILA has a special place within the Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation (EWPBF). It is our opportunity to recognize and celebrate extraordinary women whose leadership, achievements, and service are making a positive impact throughout Palm Beach County.

But WILA is also about something even bigger.

As EWPBF's largest annual fundraiser, the success of WILA directly impacts our ability to give back through scholarships and grants benefiting Palm Beach County residents and programs.

That is my "why" for chairing WILA: The more we raise, the more we can give back.

I Am Asking You to Join Me...WILA cannot reach its full potential without the involvement of our members. I am personally asking each of you to find one way to be part of WILA 2027.

And getting involved does not have to mean making an eight-month commitment.

We have opportunities for members who want to take a leadership role throughout the planning process, members who prefer to work on a short-term project, and members who can give us just a few hours when we need extra help.

Where Could You Help?

- **Sponsorship & Fundraising**

Help identify potential sponsors, make introductions, strengthen corporate relationships, or assist with sponsorship follow-up.

- **Honorees & Nominations**

Help us identify and encourage nominations of outstanding women leaders throughout Palm Beach County and support our honorees as we approach the event.

- **Marketing & Communications**

Help spread the word about WILA through member communications, social media, publicity, community outreach, and your own professional network.

- **Event Planning & Guest Experience**

Help us create the special touches that make WILA memorable—from the program and décor to registration, hospitality, and the overall guest experience.

- **Short-Term Projects**

Can't commit to a committee? Volunteer for a specific project or task. We will have opportunities throughout the year that may require only a few hours.

- **Event-Day Volunteers**

If May 6th is the day you can give us, we need you! Help welcome guests, assist with registration, support our honorees, and make sure our guests have an exceptional WILA experience.

And remember, you don't have to join a committee to open a door. You may know our next sponsor, nominee, speaker, community partner, or guest. Sometimes the most valuable contribution you can make is simply saying: "I know someone you should talk to."

Imagine what we could accomplish if every EWPBF member volunteered for one task, made one introduction, or opened one door for WILA.

JOIN US — WILA 2027 VIRTUAL KICKOFF

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 | 5:30 p.m.

SIGN UP TO BE PART OF WILA 2027

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE SEPTEMBER 9 VIRTUAL KICKOFF](#)

Can't make the meeting email me at sheril@lakehousefinancialinc.com to volunteer.

Come hear our plans, meet the team, ask questions, and find an opportunity that fits your interests, talents, connections, and available time.

Whether you can give us eight months, eight weeks, eight hours, or one great introduction, we need you.

I am excited about what we can accomplish together.

Because when more of us participate, we can reach more people. When we reach more people, we can raise more. And when we raise more, EWPBF can give more back to our community.

Celebrate more. Raise more. Give more.

I hope you will join me.



Sheril Jalm
2027 WILA
Committee Chair

Click [HERE](#) to
Register for the
Kickoff Meeting!

Upcoming Events

WILA Committee Kickoff

Remote via Zoom
September 9th at 5:30pm
Register [HERE!](#)

Human Trafficking Awareness Event

September 16th at 5:30pm
Jupiter Community Center
Register [HERE!](#)

Scholarship Reception

October 6th at 5:30pm
Delray Beach Public Library

Fall Foundation Luncheon

October 22nd at 11:30am
Marriott West Palm Beach

Holiday Luncheon

December 3rd at 11:30am
PGA National Resort

3rd Annual Trailblazers Event

February 26 at 8:30am
Riviera Beach

43rd Annual Women in Leadership Awards Luncheon

May 6th at 11:30am
Kravis Center, Cohen Pavilion

Reoccurring:

Breakfast Bunch

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

Seat at the Table: Living Well, Leading Well

Members Exclusive
November 12th at 8:30am
Higher Order, WPB

Never Miss an EWPBF Event

Simply scan the QR (or email director@ewpb.org) code to subscribe to our official EWPBF calendar and have upcoming Foundation events automatically added to your personal calendar.

As new events are scheduled, they'll appear on your calendar—making it easier than ever to stay connected and plan ahead.





2026 Board Retreat

EWPBF's Board of Directors recently came together for a dedicated Board Retreat and strategic planning session, taking time to look ahead and discuss priorities for the Foundation's continued growth and success. The half-day session provided an opportunity for Board members to collaborate, exchange ideas, and focus on strengthening EWPBF's programs, membership, community impact, and long-term direction.

We're excited about the season ahead and grateful to our Board members for the time, leadership, and thoughtful planning they continue to invest in EWPBF.

***Thank You
Annual Sponsor:***



SEARCY LAW

SEARCY | DENNEY | SCAROLA | BARNHART | SHIPLEY



EXECUTIVE WOMEN
of the Palm Beaches Foundation
— EST. 1982 —

invites you to

LEADING WITH A PURPOSE

How Leaders can Recognize
and Prevent Human Trafficking



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT
OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

September 16th, 2026 | 5:30-7:30pm

Jupiter Community Center

200 Military Trail, Jupiter

Join business, community, and nonprofit leaders for
an engaging discussion with subject matter experts
on recognizing, preventing, and responding to
human trafficking in Palm Beach County.

Free To Attend | Registration is Required

**Register
Online:**
ewpb.org



Register HERE!



EXECUTIVE WOMEN
of the Palm Beaches Foundation
— EST. 1982 —

Scholarship Reception

October

6

5:30pm

Delray Beach Public Library
100 W. Atlantic Ave. Delray Beach, FL

Join us for an empowering reception
celebrating our donors and scholarship
recipients.

Donors/Students - No charge
EWPBF Members & Guests - \$30

Register at
ewpb.org/programs-events/

Register Here!

Member Spotlight:

JOANNE BERKOW
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT,
THE BENZAITEN CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS



EWPBF Involvement so far:

Was a member previously for over ten years when I served on the Program Committee with Nancy Goldman and Betty Ossoff. I also Co-Chaired a WILA Luncheon. I had to take off a decade to start a new nonprofit and have just rejoined and am looking forward to this new EWPB chapter.

Tell us a little about your professional journey.

I have been a professional, working artist and gallerist for fifty years. I both painted and sculpted. I was casting my sculptures in bronze and had to go to a foundry clear across the state in Sarasota to get them cast. I felt that there were not enough fine art fabrication facilities here on the east coast of Florida and that was the impetus behind starting the Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts. I decided that the only way for the center to thrive monetarily was to operate it as a 501c3. We started with fine art glass in a 15,000 square foot Historic FEC Train Depot building that we rented for a dollar a year. The center, located in the heart of Lake Worth Beach, is now eleven years old. It has grown to include the largest, publicly accessible glassblowing hot shop in the state, as well as fusing, flame-working and welding studios, a gallery and gift shop. Our nonprofit programs include summer camps for underserved children and teens, an extensive art therapy program for veterans, and a program for young adults with disabilities.

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

Originally, I joined to become a part of a sorority of professional women. I knew Cynthia Gracey, and this was her main guiding principle for starting EWPB. I love being around people who accomplish things. Being a member of EWPB has helped hone my networking and speaking skills. I also find many of the programs inspirational, which, in the long run, helps me become a better leader and mentor.

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

Developing a nonprofit out of absolutely nothing except a commitment to make it happen has given me a great sense of accomplishment. Seeing young kids, adults and seniors enjoying themselves by attending classes, narrated glassblowing demonstrations, or our awe-inspiring, visiting artist events gives me a continuous stream of unending joy.

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

Just go for it.

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

That I love studying quantum physics.

SEPTEMBER 2026

2026 Season Opener

