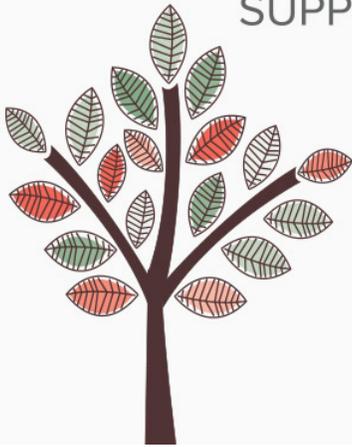


The JVS Women's Leadership Network

SUPPORTING JVS PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN IN NEED



WLN Newsletter - Fall 2018

Dear WLN Members and Friends,

With the end of summer comes a chance to reflect on our year so far. We are honored to work with so many dedicated members of the WLN community who share our passion for empowering women through mentoring, job training, coaching and compassionate support as they lift themselves over barriers and out of poverty.

We are proud to have helped support hundreds of women as they participated in the JVSWorks® Career Training, Veterans First and WoMentoring programs this year. As you read on, you will find moving success stories from some of them, which is just a glimpse of the impact we are having together. Since our last update, we have also given out six WLN Impact Grants to deserving women, removing financial obstacles and enabling them to pursue their goals of professional and personal success.

On November 15th, at the 6th Annual Woman to Woman Conference we will be inspired by three highly influential speakers who embody the spirit of resilience and we will award our second WLN Empowerment Award. We couldn't be more excited - see below for all the details!

Thank you for your continued support as we head into the fall season. We have many exciting networking opportunities coming up and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Debbie Powell, Judy Flesh Rosenberg and Eileen Coskey Fracchia
Co-Founders and Conference Event Chairs



6th Annual Woman to Woman Conference
Thursday, November 15, 2018
Resilience: The Strength of Women

This year's event will address the resilience demonstrated by our three outstanding speakers in their journeys to achieve career success and make meaningful advances, particularly in the area of gender equality. We are so happy to welcome back award-winning actress, singer and dancer Nikki Crawford, to host the conference for the third year.



Justine Siegel made the decision at the age of 13 to prove her coach wrong: not only can girls play baseball - they can coach. In 2015, she became the first woman to coach for a Major League Baseball team, working with the Oakland A's. She founded the national nonprofit, Baseball for All, to help build a better future for girls and empower them to change the face of the sport. Named an Everyday Hero by espnW and an IOC Woman of the Year, Justine is truly an example of someone who has persevered in the face of longstanding tradition and significant resistance.



Michaela Mendelsohn is a groundbreaking entrepreneur and businesswoman, transgender activist and public speaker who is paving the way for the LGBT community nationwide with her inspirational leadership and passion for achieving workplace equality. Michaela is the founder of TransCanWork, serves as Vice Chair of the Trevor Project and was appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti to the L.A. City Workforce Development Board. She will share her professional journey to live an authentic life and create social change.



Culinary trailblazer **Susan Feniger** has broken down barriers in the kitchen and the board room through her Border Grill empire, solo venture Blue Window, best-selling cookbooks and TV appearances. She is also a leader in her community, serving on the Board of the Scleroderma Research Foundation and the LA LGBT Center. Come learn from this renowned business leader who has made history in the male-dominated restaurant industry.

We will also have special guest remarks from **Dr. Maurice Garcia**, Director of the Transgender Surgery Program at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, who will join us to discuss his work and its cultural impact.



This year's WLN Empowerment Award recipient is **Roz Zukerman**, who enrolled in law school after raising her family and was voted president of her class at the age of 50. She went on to build a successful firm of women attorneys dedicated to family law, bringing her unique philosophy to the work. Not only has her firm enhanced the lives of her clients over the past 35 years, but Roz is also a dedicated philanthropist and mentor and has remained a champion of women's rights throughout her career.



LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES!

Exclusive Pre-Release Screening of Universal Pictures' FIRST MAN at CAA

Thursday, October 4, 2018: 7pm–10pm

The advertisement features a background image from the movie 'First Man' showing Ryan Reynolds as Neil Armstrong in a flight suit, looking out over a group of men in a control room. The text is overlaid in white on a dark green background at the bottom.

The WLN Leadership Council invites you and a guest to join us on Thursday, October 4th in the Roy Kurtzman Theatre at CAA for an exclusive pre-release screening of Universal Pictures' FIRST MAN, starring Ryan Gosling and Claire Foy.

On the heels of their Academy Award®-winning film La La Land, director Damien Chazelle and Ryan Gosling have reteamed to tell the riveting story behind the first manned mission to the moon. This epic drama is a deeply personal story of strength and resilience, starring Gosling as Neil Armstrong and Claire Foy (The Crown) as his wife Janet. The film is written by Academy Award winner Josh Singer (Spotlight, The Post) and executive produced by Steven Spielberg, Adam Merims and Josh Singer.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and mingle with WLN members, supporters and friends and to introduce new people to our mission – empowering women through the life-changing programs of JVS SoCal.

The screening will be preceded by a Wine and Cheese Reception.

Please RSVP by Friday, September 28 to Lindsay Thomas at lthomas@jvs-socal.org or (323) 306-4127. Complimentary Parking is being provided courtesy of CAA and you will receive detailed instructions when you RSVP.

Our appreciation to WLN Co-Founder Eileen Coskey Fracchia for deciding to organize a screening and seeing it through! And very special thanks to Rick Kurtzman and his team at CAA for making this event possible.

JVS Programs That Benefit From Your Support:



JVS' award winning career-training programs, **BankWorks®** and **HealthWorks®** provide participants with the critical skills they need as well as access to top employers to secure entry level jobs with a path to promising, sustainable careers. 60% of the participants – most of whom face multiple barriers - are women and WLN is proud to partner with JVS to change the lives of these women and their families.



Jennifer immigrated to the U.S. with her father from El Salvador, a country suffering high levels of domestic unrest and violence. As she struggled to adjust to an unfamiliar culture and language, Jennifer's father became abusive and forced her to start working at the age of seven. In her words, "there is nothing quite like having those who are supposed to love, protect, and take care of you, hurt you. It makes for a lonely, difficult and unstable childhood." Recently, after the death of her father and an escape from another abusive relationship, Jennifer was in despair until she heard about JVS SoCal through a HealthWorks® alumna.

Jennifer attended class while working two jobs at Costco and Ulta Beauty to make ends meet. During the training, she struggled with sleep deprivation, food insecurity and homelessness. Rising above these obstacles, she excelled, not only becoming a Certified Nurse Assistant but also earning her Restorative Nursing Assistant, Basic Life Support and Fire Safety certifications.

After her graduation in April, Jennifer secured multiple job offers, choosing United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles and becoming a Direct Care Staff member. Jennifer has been working full-time for over four months and is building a new life for herself.

Please attend an upcoming HealthWorks® or BankWorks® graduation ceremony as our guest and see for yourself. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lindsay Thomas at lthomas@jvs-socal.org.

JVS HealthWorks® on Friday, October 5th at 9:00am at the Jewish Home in Reseda. JVS BankWorks® on Wednesday, October 17th at 9:00am – venue TBD.

WLN's Sustaining Partnership with WoMentoring



The WLN is proud to support JVS SoCal's WoMentoring program, a unique 6-month mentorship track that pairs participants with women who have established careers or relevant expertise. Each mentees' goals and challenges are thoroughly assessed. They are then matched with mentors who identify concrete steps that will help them reach their goals. Fifty percent of all funds raised through WLN memberships and the Woman to Woman Conference are allocated to support WoMentoring.

Mother of Three Advances Career with Help from WoMentoring



Trisha (mentor) with Tameka (mentee)

Two years ago, **Tameka** moved her family from Chicago to California to start a new life. As a single mother with a daughter and two sons approaching college age, she needed help to advance her career and make enough money to support her family. She landed a job as a training specialist for a nonprofit, and wanted to earn a promotion and higher salary, but was uncertain of how to make the case to her managers.

Tameka learned about WoMentoring through a former mentee. She was matched with two skilled mentors – Trisha, a Learning and Leadership

Development professional and Marcy, an Executive Coach. Together, they worked on improving Tameka's communication and interview skills and helped her publish articles on LinkedIn. With her mentors' guidance, she developed a branded learning strategy for onboarding new hires and training employees at her organization.

Tameka applied for an Impact Grant through WLN to help solidify and enhance her new skills. She received funding

to join a professional organization called Association for Talent Development (ATD). The membership includes access to events, networking opportunities and professional development coursework. She has become an active member of ATD and has received positive feedback from her employer. With increased confidence and many new accomplishments, Tameka is now on the road to a management position and further success.

Impact Grants: Emergency Funding for Immediate Results

The WLN expanded its reach in 2016, founding the Impact Grant Program to help women overcome barriers, large or small, that were impeding or preventing their ability to pursue their career goals. Women participating in JVS SoCal programs supported by the WLN have the opportunity to apply for emergency funds. So far in 2018, the WLN has approved 10 grants totaling over \$18,000. We are pleased to share that since the program launched, the WLN has helped 26 women through these emergency grants and given out over \$35,000! Each one of these grants has had an immediate and direct impact in a woman's life.

An Impact Grant Success Story: From Human Resources to Private Practice



Sarah (mentor) with Marilyn (mentee)

After a series of devastating family losses, **Marilyn** was inspired to transition from her career in Talent Acquisition and earn her master's degree in Counseling Psychology. She graduated in 2011 and began the supervised training hours required to sit for the licensing exam. Receiving her license was critical if she was to open her own practice. After failing the exam the first time, Marilyn decided she needed help to prepare. She joined WoMentoring and was paired with Sarah.

Sarah was a seasoned mentor, having previously helped others launch their counseling practices. They met over the course of 6 months to accomplish Marilyn's goals by defining her ideal clients, developing a marketing and business plan, improving her interviewing skills and determining a location to start her practice.

Marilyn applied for a WLN Impact Grant that enabled her to cover the cost of a review course and the exam entry fee, working diligently to prepare. She passed the exam this past spring and is now a licensed psychotherapist! With support and guidance from JVS' WoMentoring program and WLN's Impact Grant, Marilyn has turned her dream into a reality and is helping her community through her new counseling practice.

Member News



We are pleased to welcome **Lauren Kurzweil**, our newest WLN Leadership Council Member.

About Lauren

After a successful New York advertising career, Lauren and her family moved to Los Angeles in 1993, where she became a stay-at-home mom to her two sons. Lauren became active in her community, devoting time to volunteer at her children's schools when they were younger. She currently volunteers once a week in the Emergency Room at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and serves on both the Executive Committee and Cabinet of the hospital's Board of Governors. She is also on the Board of the Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of LA, chairing the strategic planning committee. Lauren has been a Big Sister for 10 years and was honored as California's 2018 Big Sister of the Year.

Interesting side note: WLN Leadership Council member Barbara Leanse has directed the Cedars-Sinai Volunteer Program where Lauren participates for 30 years. Please join us in congratulating Barbara on her recent retirement!



The WLN Empowerment Fund



JVS SoCal and the WLN recently launched the **WLN Empowerment Fund**, which is dedicated to expanding career guidance, mentoring and job training services to 500 additional women through the JVSWorks® WoMentoring and Veterans First programs. Thanks to support from Wells Fargo, Northrup Grumman, OneWest Bank, the Green Foundation, the William C. Bannerman Foundation, Sunny and Alvin Grossblatt and an Anonymous donor, we have raised almost \$200,000 this year towards our goal of one million dollars to help lift women out of poverty and into sustainable careers. Through the WLN Empowerment Fund, we are promoting a diverse and inclusive work environment, bringing attention to critical social and economic issues and serving marginalized women in our community. Please consider making a gift to the WLN Empowerment Fund, to allow us to increase our impact!

For more information, please contact Lindsay Thomas at lthomas@jvs-socal.org (323) 306-4127.



Providing Hope and Economic Opportunity For All