

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

IN 2018, THE WOMEN AT BARNES & THORNBURG ARE REDEFINING

PURPOSE



"To live intentionally in a way that portrays your values."

Each year, I set goals for myself, but I find it difficult to work on personal growth each day if they're only on a large scale. To keep me motivated, I keep a calendar on my refrigerator and set goals for the month that help build me up to my yearly goals. I check off each day or write something in the calendar box to motivate myself. I also find that when something is challenging me, if I choose to not dwell on it and instead spend some time doing something creative or using a different skill of mine, it helps me look at the situation differently and overcome those challenges. These small tasks keep me moving forward.

Lauren Nottoli, South Bend



"To use my God-given talents to nurture confidence, independence, and relationships."

Honestly, many days it is all about survival. However, taking care of my family, watching as things "click" for others, learning something new and accomplishing long-term goals give me great energy. Ultimately, I strive to make a difference in someone's life - maybe my children's or someone whose path I crossed only once. I try to remember that my ultimate purpose is far greater than what I can see today.

Stacie Gayheart, Indianapolis



"The alignment of your talents and capabilities with your values, interests and desires of the heart."

With family, work, community and board obligations, it is hard to find time for personal care and growth; however, this year I set a goal of reading at least 5 novels. If you break-up your long-term goals into mini-goals, they seem more obtainable. Finding the time to read 5 novels with two kids under 3 seems impossible, but when I splice up the goal and simply commit to reading 10 pages of a book a night—the goal becomes achievable. Focus on what makes you feel the most fulfilled in life. For me, spending time with my family and children and giving back to my community give me the greatest sense of purpose.

Mandy Price, Dallas

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RISK



"Discomfort is the price of admission to a meaningful life."

As a young woman, I decided in the span of two weeks to leave my home in Zimbabwe, Africa, and fly to London. I was there for the next decade working all over - cosmetics, waitressing, sales - to make a life for myself - since I was on my own with no family. Risks I've taken such as that one are done to address the constant quest I have to do more with my life - personally and professionally. For me, risks are like that item at the mall you really, really want. If you can't stop thinking about it, you should do it.

Melanie Mawema, Los Angeles



"Failure is a stepping stone to success and the ability to accept it is indicative of strength, not weakness."

Risk acts as a catalyst for growth and, in turn, achievement. I made the decision a few years ago to ignore societal constraints and simply operate in the professional world as a professional, as opposed to a female professional. I speak with conviction, I do not back down, and I match whomever I am up against at every turn. I made a commitment to never let anyone else define my professional presence or dictate the growth of my career. Risky, yes, but I've found that I am much more successful in situations where I have defined myself and my capabilities, as opposed to letting someone else define them for me.

Laura Luisi, Chicago



"Taking the plunge even when you are scared."

As a young, classical ballet dancer, I went to Europe for a month to audition for ballet companies. It was a wonderful trip, but I didn't get a job. The experience taught me I needed to do my homework and know my audience better. That lesson paid off when I applied for and got my dream job as a Foreign Service officer and had the life-changing experience of resettling refugees in Hong Kong for my first tour. If something makes you excited, you've always wanted it, and it's even vaguely feasible, go for it. All change is scary, but the opportunity may never come again.

Gigi Murphy, Delaware

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IDENTITY



"The child inside is who we are, but the adult we have become is who others know us as."

For so much of life my identity was defined by the men around me – being John's daughter, Woody's sister, Bill's wife, Alex's mother. I was insecure, shy, thoughtful, bookish. It took a degree from a women's college and a long time practicing as a lawyer to overcome my habit of self-doubt. Remaining authentic to yourself can be a lonely journey, but there is power in being truthful about your views and your life – telling the truth helps others see you as you are.

Holly Heer, Columbus



"A combination of your character, how you treat others and how you view yourself."

I am a God-fearing woman who is humble enough to know that I'm not better than anyone, but wise enough to know that I'm different from the rest. I was fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God. I try my best not to conform to the ways of the world and to treat others the way I want to be treated. You are not defined by the opinions of others, by your successes, by your failures or by your circumstances. Let your light shine and stand firm in who you are and what you believe in and all will fall into place for the greater good.

Christina Huerta, Minneapolis



"Knowing who you are and what you stand for no matter the circumstances."

I am Native American, but growing up was never a part of our Tribe's community. Three years ago, I attended a National Congress of American Indians conference. I was surrounded by Indian people, hearing their stories, feeling their deep connection to their people and the values that they stand for. Even though I never realized that there was something missing before, I felt whole at that conference. Now my vantage point reminds me that I am part of something so much bigger than myself and that the things I do and say and who I interact with are bigger than just myself. That feeling is what continues to drive me to want to work to make all communities a better place for those that follow us.

Erika Weiss, Grand Rapids

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TEAM!



“Both the group and the individual grow stronger through teamwork.”

I grew up as a competitive, long-distance swimmer. As an individual sport, my success did not rely directly on the success of someone else. However, few things in life are so singular. Those worth doing require cooperation, communication and commitment; that commitment is what transforms a group of individuals into a team. Seeing my children play team sports, I've realized I missed

out on an opportunity to learn that it takes great courage and determination to course correct when a team is not functioning as a unit. You may be challenged individually, but only through commitment to teamwork can you still triumph. Practicing that skill enables team members to meet their potential, find new skill sets, and do their best, both for themselves, and for the team. Now all of my teams share a common goal: improve the individuals through the work of the team.

Christine McCarthy, Washington, D.C.



“We rise and fall together.”

I am fortunate to have been on a number of great teams. My marriage being the best. Every day I know I have Elbert with me to get through any challenges that arise. In any team dynamic, it is essential to be a team member who not only completes the task, but does more than what is expected to lighten the load of others. There will come a time when others will return that favor and you will be most grateful. The ability to see the long-term vision is crucial for securing personal sacrifice for the bigger picture.

Lisa Starks, Fort Wayne



“A group of extremely talented individuals can't hold a candle to a highly functioning team.”

In 1983, I was captain of my high school cheerleading squad, which may not come as a surprise to those who know me. Today, I continue to belong to many teams: my marriage, my family, my tribe of mom friends, the South Bend/Elkhart office team, the marketing department and the firm administration team. In each of these groups, I do my best to understand where I can contribute value, as well as being honest about my weaknesses. I've learned that the secret sauce to any team is diverse talent and a good dose of mutual respect – allowing every member to shine.

Susan Haag, South Bend

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"Bumps and bruises, a few tears, moments of rainbows and unicorns and sheer bliss – magic in the making."

At 16, I left home in search of peace and self-sufficiency. At 24, I was widowed with two small children and attending college at night while supporting my family. Those were tough years. Now, my journey has brought me to the point where I have great pride in being an example to my children of the promise of hard work, perseverance, and doing right by others. Looking forward, I am focused on personal re-grounding – ensuring that every day I am comfortable with the imprint I'm leaving on others and society, appreciating my family and friends, and being respectful and cognizant of my family's sacrifices, legacy and future generations.

Tabitha Meier, Indianapolis



"A journey is planning for a certain outcome, but embracing all of the unexpected adventures and friendships along the way."

My life has been a series of unexpected offerings that taught me to accept opportunity and embrace the journey. While attending a traditionally white college, I was told the degree I was seeking was not one usually sought by black females. I began to doubt my choice, but I felt that by giving up I would only verify other's assumptions. Pushing forward, without an academic advisor, I secured course approval from the business school dean and graduated. Self-doubt and opportunity reared their heads during other times of my life – when making a career change, while serving on the board of education, as a new paralegal working for an unrelenting attorney, and when switching firms. I have not overcome the obstacle of self-doubt, but I've learned to balance my doubt and faith in my abilities. Now, when those feelings return, I remind myself that obstacles may occur, but they can be overcome.

Bernadette Seals, Atlanta



"Sometimes the journey is the destination."

Growing up as an African-American female in Appalachian Kentucky, I personified diversity. I was also blessed to have a community and family who instilled in me that I was destined for excellence. Although I never knew what "greatness" looked like or how to get there, I was taught that education was the key. So, I charted my own course, becoming the first in my family to graduate from college, to earn an advanced degree, and to have a career as a professional biologist. Now, I appreciate that my formative years taught me to always demonstrate excellence and leadership, which built my confidence to later take a seat at the table and use my voice in my scientific and legal careers, where all too often I have remained "the only one" or one of very few. Notwithstanding, I have enjoyed my journey, including the challenges and disappointments, right along with the amazing experiences, touching moments, and deep personal relationships that I have garnered. In fact, it is the culmination of these experiences that have worked to blaze a trail for which the destination remains unknown to me, but the trail illuminates nonetheless for others to follow.

Angela B. Freeman, Indianapolis

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