

October 2020



From the President



It was 1968 and I was the daughter of a newly-single mother who had never managed her own money nor had a full-time job. I watched my mother navigate the changes in her life and marveled at the grace with which she failed and recovered, time and time again. While we lived with

my grandparents, those initial years were lean. Mom went to school full-time to learn secretarial and bookkeeping skills while working as a telephone operator second shift, returning home long after my grandmother had put me to bed. I would wander out of my bedroom in the middle of those wee-hours to find her sitting at the kitchen table with her books spread in front of her.



October 28 - November 3, 2020
[CREW Charlotte's Online Only Auction - OPEN NOW](#)
[Register Now](#)

October 29, 2020 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
[Thirsty Thursday Virtual After Hours](#)
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November 10, 2020 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
[CREW Charlotte November Virtual Luncheon: Economic Outlook - the New Crystal Ball](#)
[Register Now](#)

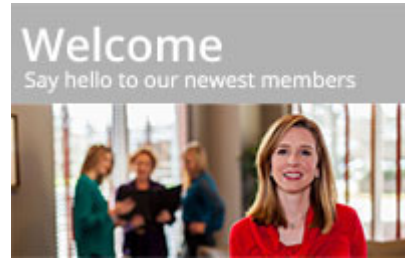
December 8, 2020 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
[Southeast CREW Chapters Virtual Happy Hour \(CREW Members Only\)](#)
[Register Now](#)

She had also never owned an automobile of her own. So, with the money she earned, our first purchase was transportation. What could a telephone operator with a dependent child and the expenses of higher education afford to drive? Not much. Our first car looked like it had been driven off the junkyard. It spit and sputtered, often requiring my grandfather's tinkering and coaxing to get it started in the early morning hours when she left for community college. The seats were worn and ripped, so we covered them with discarded plastic tablecloths from my grandmother's rag closet. Its body showed the battle scars of a life well lived before it reached our possession. The paint job was sun-kissed. Kissed a lot. It was a faded gray. Tires bald.

I was 11 years old and starting to have a middle school social life. We got a lot of long looks from the other parents dropping their kids off at sock hop. Yes, I said sock hop! Some of you may have to Google that one. I don't recall being embarrassed *exactly*, but I will say I was not proud of that car. But proud, I was, of my mother. She was navigating new territory. None of my other friends' mothers worked. Many of them did not own their own vehicles. Or understand how to handle finances. Neither did she, but she had taken it on with all that she was worth, and she was learning. We had to adjust from being dependent upon my father's income entirely to living on our own. I know she must have had many sleepless nights trying to figure all of these things out, but as a child I never saw her resolve waver. She simply had to do it. And make it work.

The skills my mother learned from community college, and moreover, her fortitude and determination, served her well. Over the course of her career she sometimes worked more than one job. During my high school years she worked a full-time office job, kept books for several small businesses, and was a hostess for a local steakhouse three nights a week. Later she found success as she worked managing small businesses and dental offices, finally becoming an executive assistant to the administrator of an North Carolina prison. She was never rich in the sense of assets and cash reserves, but she was proud of her work and was recognized for her willingness to take on any new task offered.

Mom didn't live to experience COVID-19. But if she had, she would have been right in there fighting to survive and to continue to contribute.

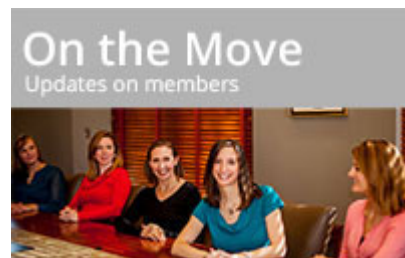


Meredith Cox
JLL

Claiborne Danbridge
Foundry Commercial

Sara Downing
Clancy & Theys Construction

Joya Pavesi
RKW Residential



Scarlet Powell
AVI-SPL

Please contact [Patty Drummond](#) with your career updates.



She was tough. Much tougher than me. When I learned recently that my husband would be without work, as many others have learned during this pandemic, I had a moment of panic. OK, more than a moment. I will be the sole breadwinner of our family, at least for a while. But I have seen my mother's face and heard her words so clearly through this telling me I can do this. She never gave up. She worked at times until I could not understand how she held up physically. Not to mention emotionally. She had to.

Maybe I won't be called upon to drive a junkyard heap. But if I am, she will be in my head reminding me of those early days: the struggles, a little shame perhaps, the living and learning that have prepared me. If you have experienced a loss during this pandemic, I hope you will find encouragement in this story. Things shift and evolve. I am proof of that evolution out of hardship. My mother modeled that for me her whole life. She worked hard to offer me more. But her legacy yielded more than security, necessities, lunch money. She made me strong. Stronger than I think I am.

Strong women wear their pain like they do stilettos. No matter how much it hurts, all you see is the beauty of it.

Harriet Morgan



Natasha Branch
Fidelity National Title Company



Colleen Brannan
Branstorm PR

[Click here to read the member spotlights.](#)

Highlights

Our online auction is now open! This year our auction has a Charlotte theme. In the past, local businesses have donated to our auction. Because of COVID-19's impact on many of those businesses, instead of asking for a donation, our generous members purchased local items to show our support. [Click here to view our auction.](#)



Members Making Deals

Carrie Sharp

Thank you to Sloan Kormelink of Edifice for her referral to a medical office group. Sloan's crew have been wonderful to work with on the jobsite. They really earned everyone's trust quickly. Sloan's team is top notch!

[Click here for more deals.](#)

Place Your Bid. Whether you're looking for something for yourself or searching for a gift for a special someone, you're sure to find something in our [auction](#). Every bid helps support our cause. **Tell Your Friends.** The success of this online auction depends on spreading the word to as many people as possible.

100% of the net proceeds are donated to scholarships for students in fields of CRE.



The **CREW Charlotte Impact Awards** recognize achievements of its members and sponsors who are

considered exceptional in the following categories: **Ground Breaker, Carrie Sharp Power Connector, Member-to-Member Business, Career Advancement for Women, Entrepreneurial Spirit, Circle of Excellence, Men Empowering Women, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.** Nominations will be accepted until November 6, 2020. If you didn't receive the email with the nomination link from Sallie Jarosz, please reach out to [Patty Drummond](#).



NEW THIS YEAR!

15 months of CREW membership for the price of 12! This rate will cover membership from October 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021. For more information or to

Job Opportunities

Assistant Account Manager - Old Republic Exchange Company

[Click here for more job opportunities.](#)

Announcements

[KIMLEY-HORN NAMED ONE OF FORTUNE'S BEST WORKPLACES FOR WOMEN 2020](#)

[Click here for more announcements.](#)

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CREW Charlotte Member [Colleen Brannan](#), owner of [BRANSTORM PR](#), has become a

regular contributor to The Charlotte Ledger. Read her latest piece about Zoom crimes and the one before that, Adventures of a Nextdoor Enthusiast: <https://t.co/WZnK00pHqt> and <https://charlotteledger.substack.com/p/the-adventures-of-a-nextdoor-enthusiast>

Do you have any **news** to share with us about you or your company? Have you won an **award**? Would you like us to **nominate** you for one? If so, please contact [Patty Drummond](#) with your information.

October Virtual Luncheon: Empty Spaces



CREW Charlotte featured “Empty

Spaces” as the topic for the October virtual luncheon. The panel consisted of Cassie McCrain, Managing Director of Real Estate Asset Management at Barings; Paula Saunders, broker at New South Properties of the Carolinas; Jessica Brown, Executive Director at Cushman Wakefield; and moderator Holly Alexander, also a broker at New South Properties.

Gold



[Click here to read a summary of the luncheon.](#)

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