

FORMIDABLE

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LETTER FROM THE





And just like that, Spring is upon us and we are well on our way to a new season amid Covid-19! Cheers to surviving this pandemic, cheers to good health and cheers to all of the essential workers who have helped us to keep a little normalcy to our daily lives. The team and I are uber excited to be ushering in another successful magazine issue! Our aim at Formidable Woman Magazine is to bring you the best, buzziest and most awesome women blazing trails and living healthy, vibrant lives. In this issue we feature formidable women at the top of their game who are making a global impact. From the UK to Nigeria to America, their plights are beyond inspiring. In this global impact issue we are honored to feature a woman who is a true rags to riches story, growing up poor and building a bra empire! Lady Michelle Mone, Serial Entrepreneur, royalty, is our Spring 2020 Global Impact Issue Cover Girl!

Lady Michelle Mone has accomplished much in her life! Voted the UK's Number 1 Female speaker, Lady Michelle Mone is best renowned as one of Britain's most

influential ladies; both an entrepreneur and an advocate for equality for women in business. Baroness Mone grew up in the impoverished East End of Glasgow when, at the age of fifteen, her father fell ill and was subsequently declared paraplegic and wheelchair-bound for life. This forced Michelle to leave school without any qualifications in search of full-time employment, which sparked her instinct for entrepreneurship. This is what makes Lady Mone so inspiring!

FWM is always proud to bring to your living rooms and salons the stories and plights of outliers such as Lady Michelle Mone, and to introduce to you some of the world's boldest leaders, giving you a preview of the lives of some of the most formidable women on the planet!

Remember, it's your mandate to be utterly formidable.

XOXO,

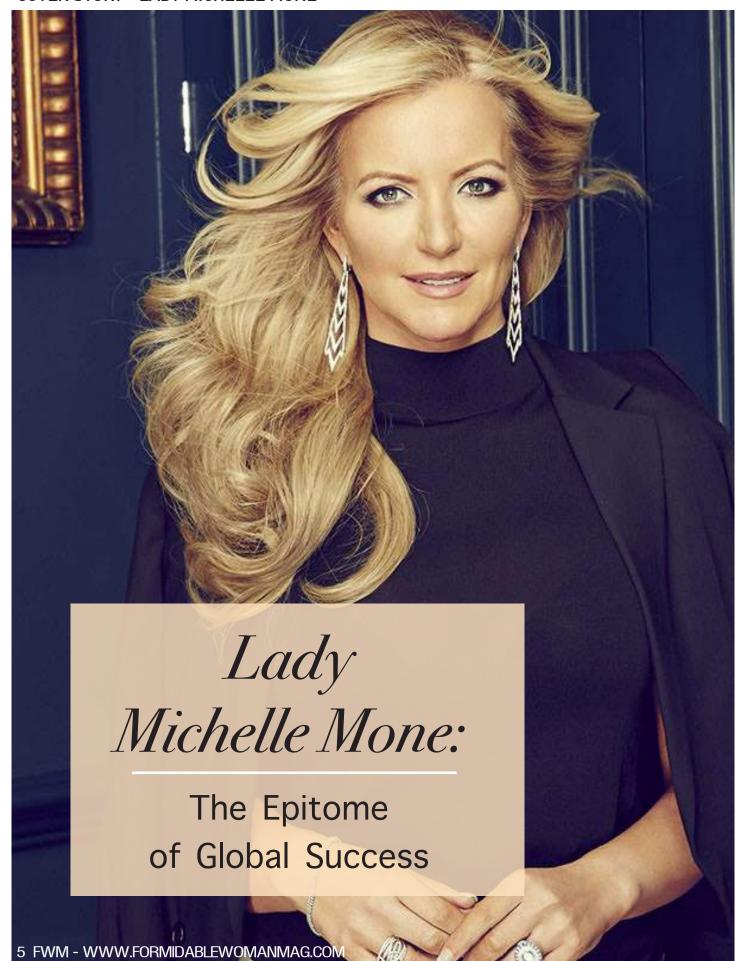
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COVER STORY - LADY MICHELLE MONE

By Jules Lavallee

Lady Michelle Mone, OBE

Voted the UK's Number 1 Female speaker, Lady Michelle Mone is best renowned as one of Britain's most influential ladies; both an entrepreneur and an advocate for equality for women in business. Baroness Mone grew up in the impoverished East End of Glasgow when, at the age of fifteen, her father fell ill and was subsequently declared paraplegic and wheelchair-bound for life. This forced Lady Michelle Mone to leave school without any qualifications in search of full-time employment, which sparked her instinct for entrepreneurship.

FWM: It is an honor, Lady Michelle Mone. You are best known as one of Britain's most influential ladies. You are an Entrepreneur and Advocate for equality for women in business. Who has been the most influential in your life?

LMM: I would say that my Mum and Dad have kept my feet on the ground, they also tell me the truth which is harsh sometimes, but it's helped me all of my career. I would also say for the past three and a half years my husband to be Doug Barrowman has had a huge influence on me.

FWM: Founder of Ultimo Brands International, the UK's former leading lingerie brand for two decades, you set out with a vision of helping women look and feel their very best. What sparked your instinct for Entrepreneurship?

LMM: I am a very determined person. I believe that you can achieve anything you want in life if you work hard for it. It doesn't matter where you are from, what education you have managed to get if you want it then go and get it. I started Ultimo from my bedroom and grew it into one of the biggest intimate apparel brands in the World. I created 17 world wide inventions. I sold Ultimo 5 years ago to the biggest lingerie manufacturers in the World employing 63,000 people. I then went on to write my autobiography "My Fight to The Top".

After the launch of Ultimo, Lady Michelle Mone quickly established herself as one of Scotland's best exports, winning the World Young Business Achiever Award in 2000 at the Epcot Centre in Florida, as well as Business Woman of the Year at the Corporate Elite Awards in London. Her status as one of the UK's leading entrepreneurs was confirmed soon after when Prince Charles invited her to join the board of Directors for The Prince's Trust.

Towards the end of 2014, Lady Michelle Mone, the proud mother of Rebecca, Declan, and Bethany proceeded to sell Ultimo to global lingerie giants MAS Holdings -one of the world's largest manufacturers of intimates, with a \$1.4 billion. Michelle then decided to focus on her speaking and mentoring as well as her love of design.

FWM: What keys open the door to success?

LMM: No matter how tough it gets you can always find a way. Never, ever give up.



5 SOCIAL LEADERS MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT - KIM SMILEY



By Gracia Rich

As the "Queen of Empathy," Kim Smiley wants the world to remember "the human connection". As we are overloaded with technology in all areas of our life, Kim has founded Empathy Empire, to bring us back to the joy of connecting with each other as human beings. As a lifelong social trailblazer, she brings knowledge, talent, confidence and the beauty of being a woman to all aspects of her mission from entrepreneur to jeweler. Meet Kim!

FWM: Kim, it's a privilege to conduct this interview with you. Please introduce yourself to our readers.

KS: I'm a mom, wife, daughter, sister, artist and jewelry designer. In my spare time, I run a nonprofit organization and charitable foundation devoted to starting an empathy revolution.

FWM: Please tell us about The Empathy Effect.

KS: What started as a humble social experiment snowballed into a social movement. In 2015, I sought to test a simple hypothesis: Is empathy infectious? Over the course of 365 days, I posted one true story and black and white photograph every day (save Saturday) about someone transforming the world through stepping into another person's shoes. On Day 5, the experiment went viral, and we've since evolved into a nonprofit organization and charitable foundation. Our goal is to start an empathy revolution in public and private life.

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FWM: You are also a designer. I love jewelry and am COMPLETELY OBSESSED with your line. I also love that you have named your pieces after some of my favorite authors. How did your love for this craft begin?

KS: Hearing this fills me with indescribable gratitude and joy! Thank you. I was a self-taught mixed media artist from an early age. About ten years ago, I began incorporating lace into my paintings. One day I had a big epiphany. Staring at a series of paintings on my wall in my studio on King Street West, I realized: these paintings were too feminine to be on a wall. They belong on a woman's body, that moment culminated in the creation of a simple lace bracelet.

FWM: What keeps you motivated?

KS: Passion, purpose and my connection to the divine. It doesn't feel like work because I feel like I was born to manifest the vision I am bringing to fruition. Some days it's exhilarating, and some days it is daunting and deflating and I lose my steam. There are tons of highs and lows. I would say that I've also strategically surrounded myself with people who motivate me: people with passion, who are driven by a higher purpose. Support from family and friends has kept the wind in my sails on the grey days.

FWM: "Beauty for the public good" is one of your mottoes. Please tell us what this means to you.

KS: We are bombarded with images of beauty. My company, like any fashion brand, celebrates external



By Gracia Rich

Domitila Barros is a Legacy for Change. The CAMM Project serving street children in her home Northeast of Brazil was founded by her parents over 35 years ago. Domitila continues their efforts through her clothing line, She Is From The Jungle, which produces clothing and accessories from plants and natural resources handmade by the women of her region. She believes that if we work together we not only enhance the lives of each other, but of the World.

FWM: Domitila, it is my pleasure to interview you! Please introduce yourself to our readers.

DB: Hi, my name is Domitila Barros, I am a dreamer, an ARTivist, a women of faith, a survivor, a social entrepreneur, a digital Nomad, a daughter of love. I was born in a favela called "shot gun" (linha do tiro), where more than 25,000 people live. There are no schools, no hospitals, no police stations, no playgrounds in this favela.

My parents founded a street children's project there over 35 years ago, in which I grew up. Achieving great success with minimal resources is a quality that I was able to learn in this favela. At the age of 13 my parents

DOMITILA BARROS

sent me to Germany out of fear. "If you are brave, you can stay". I stayed. But not only that, through my story I got attention and used it.

In 2000, I was recognized by UNESCO as a "Millennium Dreamer". Since then I have given countless speeches and motivated people worldwide ... until burnout. I fell down and got up again.

In 2015, I was sent by the Federal Agency for Civic Education in the war zones of the Middle East. Inspired by the local women, I shaped by my own story. With "She is from the jungle" I created the opportunity for women in my home country, Brazil, to be economically independent.

FWM: You have been an UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) ARTivist winner for several years. How is your art making a difference in the world today?

DB: Back then I was teaching kids from the streets, in the streets how to read and write by using acting and music as a method. I didn't know at that time that I was the only girl under 15 years old using art to change the community she was living in. To be recognized for that was life changing and mind blowing. I gained a lot of confidence in the process and started to believe that I could do it bigger but not in the rush ... but in my own way, with confidence, love, creativity and fun. I like to think that I am the rose out of concrete that Tupac described, I like to believe that even in the dirtiness of trash and tragedy the most beautiful flower can be born, and this is how I create. I try to see the beauty in everything and make out of the dark or trash something powerful, impactful and beautiful. I do this as a model, as an actress, as a designer, as a social entrepreneur. Like the plant-based jewelry from "She is from the jungle", it is handmade by the single mother from the slums of Brazil.

5 SOCIAL LEADERS MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT - DOMITILA BARROS

FWM: What keeps you motivated?

DB: My family. The people around me. My faith and the need to explore life.

FWM: Your brand, "She is From the Jungle" is a socially conscious company. Please tell us about your work in women's economic empowerment?

DB: Our products are produced in a fair-trade base and 10% of the profit goes to the street-child project, CAMM. Some of the mothers and young women living here are also involved in the brand. For us it is very important not only to provide sustainable incomes for the producer-communities, but also to build a place to buy ethically sourced products making an economic integration possible. We work with local artisans from Brazil helping the local economy. We provide women empowerment while providing sustainable incomes for the producer- communities and building a place to buy ethically sourced products. What women's economic empowerment means to me is non-exploitive trade relationships & living wages.

FWM: If you could give one piece of advice to all women, what would it be?

DB: You need to trust yourself and your intuition when no one does. You need to be self-confident enough to deal

with rejection in a way that doesn't have an influence in the decisions you make and the path you choose to go. Being resilient was definitely the most important thing for me.

FWM: Do you feel that sisterhood is important?

DB: I always say: sisterhood will save the world. Some people are like "blood is thicker than water, but to be honest, there has been plenty of times blood wasn't there, but water saved my life, you know.

FWM: What is next for Domitila Barros?

DB: I am in Los Angeles right now doing an acting boot camp. It feels like a dream for me. I am having more fun coming back to school to restart learning after a while out of classes. I want to create more this year and feel like growing as an actress would be a great start. So, you may see or hear me more often this year.

FWM: How can our readers connect with you outside of this interview?

DB: I am very active on social media, so you will always find me online on Instagram **@domitilabarros** and **@sheisfromthejungle** and checking my emails. It may take a while until I answer, because I answer all my messages by myself. Don't feel shy to message me:)

5 SOCIAL LEADERS MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT - KIM SMILEY CONT'D

beauty, but we believe it's more inspiring and enduring to honour beauty for the sake of something higher than itself. So, we're harnessing the power of beauty to address social problems like poverty and economic injustice. Our objective is to give local, often marginalized women an opportunity for economic self-sufficiency by creating beautiful, handmade jewelry. We're also committed to giving a portion of our proceeds to charity. As an artist, I want to create wearable works of art that make women feel beautiful. As a social entrepreneur, I believe creativity can be a force to change the world.

FWM: If you could give one piece of advice to all women, what would it be?

KS: As one of my mentors always says, you can have it all, just not at the same time.

FWM: In reading your bio, it states that you can be found with a book of poems in your purse. What is your favorite poem, who is it by and how does it apply to your life?

KS: That's like asking me to choose my favourite child! If I was forced to narrow it down, I would say The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock by T.S. Eliot is my favourite.

It's a poem about inertia, decay and disappointment, but in the spaces between Eliot's words I am transported every time by the untold possibilities of a life lived with purpose and passion.

FWM: Do you feel that sisterhood is important?

KS: It is everything. There is a wellspring of possibilities in lifting each other up. But so often we tear one another down, which completely breaks my heart. But the sisterhood I have in my life is a source of tremendous fortitude and inspiration. The point is that there is a wellspring of magic in women empowering other women. I would argue that it is one of the most transformational forces in the world for stretching our purpose on this planet.

FWM: How can our readers connect with you outside of this interview?

KS: Go to my website **kimsmiley.com**, I will be opening a flagship store in midtown Toronto. By day it will be a jewelry store. After hours, an Empathy Academy, teaching everyone from 3-year olds to Fortune 500 CEOs.

Photos courtesy of Pedro Oliver Bahamas and Zach

5 SOCIAL LEADERS MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT - TIFFANI BROOKE FEST



By Gracia Rich

Tiffani Brooke Fest –Actress, Global Activist, Advocate and Humanitarian uses her life to serve. It is Tiffani's mission is to use all or her talents and grace towards helping other people. As a volunteer in the disaster relief in Nepal after the catastrophic earthquake of 2015, she saw the severest form of devastation. Instead of shrinking back, she joined a powerful group of women who used all the resources at their disposal and carved out a better life for the survivors.

FWM: Tiffani, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule for this interview! Please introduce yourself to our readers.

TBF: My name is Tiffani Brooke Fest and I am an Actress, Buddhist, and "Global Human Activist." I remember vividly the day I was doing my morning chanting, just as the catastrophic earthquake struck Nepal on April 25, 2015. I had been feeling the call to give back globally but had no idea how or where to start. I began googling nonprofits to volunteer with in the disaster relief efforts in Nepal and stumbled upon a small but mighty female owned nonprofit, led by the amazing Kate Ale, who was sending small groups of volunteers into remote villages in the Himalayas where the devastation was most severe.

I spent one month immersed in an entirely different culture, with no electricity, no wifi, and one tap of water for the entire village. I made a commitment to myself on that final morning in front of the Himalayas, to return biannually to volunteer no matter what, and I have never looked back.

FWM: The Phoenix Stone Foundation is near and dear to your heart. Please share with our readers its mission and what can be done to help.

TBF: The Phoenix Stone Foundation is deeply personal, although I can't take any credit for it's amazing work. It's run 100% by my incredible brother Ben Fest and his wife Heather Fest, to honor the life of my nephew, Phoenix Stone, who lost his battle with neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer, just 5 days shy of his 3rd birthday. He was my personal hero, uttering the words "Just Keep Happy," even until his dying breath.

FWM: What inspires you to continue your global efforts? TBF: The women I meet along the way who are doing truly extraordinary things in the world -- they are my divine inspiration always!

FWM: If you could give one piece of advice to all women, what would it be?

TBF: Unite with other women who share your vision for the future, and who inspire you to be your best. This is the greatest gift my life has taught me.

FWM: Do you feel that sisterhood is important?

TBF: A resounding yes! But like I said in my advice to all women, it's important that you find women who share your ideals, your vision for the future -- women whom you look up to and who inspire who you want to be in the world! Then get out there & join them!

FWM: As a global human activist, how important is it for women to take a stand against atrocities happening not only in the US, but abroad?

TBF: I believe women truly are the compassionate force of the universe, period. In fact, I recently read that 73% of all non profit employees are female! Because, quite simply, WE CARE.

FWM: How can our readers connect with you outside of this interview?

TBF: Please do follow me on IG where I post all my global activism & travels! @TiffaniBrookeFest.

To stay up to date with my acting career, please visit me at http://www.imdb.me/tiffanifest

I'm also seeking new representation and am specifically open to female agents or managers who align with my global vision. To take a look at my professional resume & reel clips, please visit me at: http://resumes.actorsaccess.com/tiffanifest

5 SOCIAL LEADERS MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT - KANITA BENSON

By Gracia Rich

Kanita Benson's mission is to save our girls. As the Founder and President of She Saves A Nation, Kanita has turned her passion into a movement. She Saves A Nation is a global nonprofit that transforms the lives of refugee, internally displaced and marginalized girls across Kenya, Uganda and Thailand. Her tools of empowerment will encourage them to thrive and become driving forces for good in their communities and the world. Come, let's meet Kanita.

FWM: Kanita, it is such a great honor to interview you! Please introduce yourself to our readers.

KB: On Mission. Two words that encapsulate the fullest expression or the essence of my life. I'm a woman who is both grateful and intentional about the fulfillment of calling; with an unrelenting commission to serve the margins. Every gift and skillset I've been afforded, is poured out into regions and villages among nations that are filled with forgotten people. My personal and spiritual ethos is to live a life, not just on purpose, but "On Mission". I'm a Christian artist and worship leader, releasing my debut EP, "Surrender", June 2019. I'm the Founder & President of She Saves a Nation.

FWM: Please tell us about She Saves A Nation.

KB: She Saves a Nation is a global nonprofit organization that exists to empower refugee, internally displaced and marginalized girls in Kenya, Uganda and Thailand to become leaders, who will change their nation and the world.

FWM: How was She Saves a Nation birthed?

KB: She Saves a Nation was birthed out of short-term missions' trip, following the displacement of over 200,000 Kenyans, resulting from the eruption of politically fueled tribal clashes that occurred in 2007 and 2008.

I encountered 120 girls who would change me forever. I discovered that each of them, at the age of puberty lacked adequate feminine, hygiene and sanitary supplies to carry them through their monthly menstrual cycles; an epidemic called "period poverty" impacting millions of girls across the globe.

Following this transformational encounter, She Saves a Nation was born. I was able to launch an advocacy initiative to support our girls with feminine supplies quarterly, which included pads, soap and underwear, that in 2019 became an international NGO.

FWM: What keeps you motivated?

KB: Grace and Time. As a disciple of Christ, everything changed when I came to the realization through one of

KANITA BENSON



my favorite Pastor's and Authors, David Platt...that I am God's plan A. There is no plan B.

FWM: If you could give one piece of advice to all women, what would it be?

KB: Live with vision and for legacy. This mindset understands that we live to accomplish something greater than ourselves, that will outlive us and that isn't not about us. powerful thing a woman can do.

FWM: Do you feel that sisterhood is important?

KB: Sisterhood is critical for growth and self-discovery as a women. In a relational context, sisterhood is as vital as a daily nutrient is for our bodies to function properly. We NEED our sisters.

FWM: How can our readers connect with you outside of this interview?

KB: Readers can connect to me here:

Kanita Benson

www.kanitabenson.com

FB, IG, Twitter: @kanitabenson

& She Saves a Nation www.shesavesanation.org

FB, IG, LinkedIN: @shesavesanation

Photos courtesy of Ricky Codio Photography

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By Gracia Rich

Sherrell Valdezloqui's Purpose is her Brand! As the publisher of Today's Purpose Woman Magazine and CEO of Promoting Purpose, LLC, Sherrell uses her talents and experience in media to inspire, empower and propel women to be strong in their faith while achieving their dreams. It is her goal to help women discover who they truly are and how to live their best life on purpose.

FWM: Sherrell, it is such a great pleasure to have a chance to interview you! Please introduce yourself.

SV: I am Sherrell Valdezloqui, wife, mother, evangelist, bestselling author, and the CEO and founder of Promoting Purpose, LLC- a faith-based media company that publishes faith-based content both in print and online. Our brands include Today's Purpose Woman Magazine, TodaysPurposeMan. com, podcasts, and more.

FWM: How long have you been in faith-based publishing?

SV: I have been in faith-based publishing for ten years.

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Sherrell Valdezloqui

FWM: What inspired you to create Today's Purpose Woman Magazine?

SV: It was that sweet, still voice, the one I heard back in 2010 when I started Promoting Purpose. I was working on Promoting Purpose Magazine, and I heard the Lord say to me. 'I want you to start a women's magazine'. I obeyed, and the journey began.

FWM: How is your brand impacting women and your community?

SV: The Today's Purpose Woman brand is an authoritative, empowering, and inspiring voice giving women hope by helping them see that every experience and challenge is an opportunity to grow, discover their purpose, and glorify God. The brand inspires through story-telling and provides strategies on living a purpose-driven life. We also partner with women of faith, providing their ministry or brand with additional exposure so that they can connect with those they are purposed to reach.

FWM: What is your favorite Bible verse?

SV: For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. – Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

FWM: What is next for your business in 2020?

SV: I am excited with what God is doing. This year the Today's Purpose Woman with Sherrell Valdezloqui podcast will be released. We have a few other things we are working on that will be revealed real soon.

FWM: How can our readers connect with you outside of this interview?

SV: instagram @sherrell_valdezloqui;

twitter @sherrellvalde

website: www.todayspurposewoman.com

Photo credit: Jessica Es'Myrae Willis with JazzyJae Creations Photography Studio

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By Jules Lavallee

FWM: You are empowering women globally. How is your company, Phoenix Global LLC., setting the stage for diversity, unity and gender balance?

LM: I have been fortunate to have lived in both Europe and the Middle East, exposed to many different countries, ethnicities, cultures and business ethos'. As a businesswoman, I've been shaped by each of these experiences, drawing on the work ethic and business traditions in each of these cultures. I've learned that absolutely no business strategy is universal, and those who fall into the cattle chute of doing "business as it's always been done", are truly the ones missing valuable opportunities as a result of this short-sighted strategy.

I often find that women are the ones most open to considering alternative points-of-view and embracing unconventional strategies. While I realize that this statement is somewhat of a generalization and doesn't always apply universally, men tend to be more linear

when it comes to business structure and operations, following a more prescribed plan - enhancing and innovating, but doing so based on the order of our standard business practices. Women, on the other hand, tend to be more open to new concepts, approaching business in often unconventional ways. The end goal is generally the same - profitability, growth and sustainability, but the pathway to this end is often very different. For many years – decades really, as women, we attempted to carve a niche for ourselves on the climb up the corporate ladder by 'doing it the way men did it'. We wore black or grey suits, we were tough, hid emotion, and emulated our male counterparts. But now, in this Century of Women, we are embracing our differences, recognizing that men and women fundamentally think differently. We approach problems and formulate solutions differently. We are proud that we are softer, more empathetic and emotional, as that allows us to inject new perspectives and thought processes into corporate problem-solving. And women are more open

DIGITAL COVER STORY - LARISA B. MILLER

to considering new approaches, integrating diversity, innovative concepts, and disruptive thought processes. Each woman has her own unique qualities based on her talents, interests, and education, so there is not a specific recipe that will empower all women. What inspires and drives me, will not be the same catalysts which will inspire you. By respecting one another, honoring our diverse perspectives, and embracing and supporting one another, we will create global empowerment of ALL women.

FWM: You have been recognized by several magazines and organizations as one of the most influential women in the world for business, your impact on Africa, and women's empowerment, receiving significant appointments, honors, and awards. Tell us your "backstory."

LM: I grew up in beautiful Central Pennsylvania in the heart of Amish country but had an insatiable curiosity to see the world from the time I was young. I was an avid reader as a child, discovering people, places, culture and history on the pages of books or in National Geographic, and as an adult, I endeavor to see as much of the off-the-beaten-path destinations in the world as I can.

I started my career in the early 1990s with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture as the assistant to the executive director of the Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission, and later as the assistant to the Deputy Secretary and Secretary of Agriculture. Following my time at the Department of Agriculture, I went on to work for Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, in his office of public policy.

More recently, I worked for a member of the Royal Family in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, responsible for business development, as well as serving as head of their non-profit foundation, focusing on building opportunities for women and youth in refugee camps and rural areas of Africa through education and literacy.

Having lived in Europe and the Middle East and working extensively in Africa, I have experienced business in many different markets. Business is business at the end of the day, but how business is executed differs based on culture, geographical local, and national priority, based on the unique production, import and export needs of these countries. their business culture which could benefit us here, such

FWM: If we want to see more women in Senior Positions, what is most needed?

LM: Women possess strength, tenacity, courage, and

leadership. We are shameless multi-taskers, juggling professional responsibilities with family. At times, women are fierce and fearless, and other times they can be compassionate nurturers. Because we always feel the need to "prove" ourselves professionally, sometimes women have a tendency to sabotage one another rather than support one another, so it is important that we join together, encourage unity of women, building cross-sector support networks, mentoring one another, supporting one another, forming life-long friendships which will allow us to continue to grow as business leaders and individuals. If we recognize the importance of our own uniqueness and originality, we will stop comparing ourselves with other women, as too often we measure our abilities and worth of the abilities and worth of others. Let's focus on building our own talents, strengths, and perspectives. A woman who confidently respects herself embraces her own talents, cares for herself as much as she cares for others and isn't afraid to have a different view or opinion from others – even if that view is unpopular, will be unstoppable. As for how to help women feel greater 'self-worth', that is an internal battle waged individually. Helping women to improve their feelings of self-worth comes from giving them confidence by making them feel valued, respected and important - both in the workplace and at home. Having groups, clubs and working environments which allow women to interact with one another in a positive and encouraging manner will go a long way toward establishing, promoting and furthering a culture of confident, empowered women.

FWM: As a leader in business development, entrepreneurism, and sustainable development, what advice do you have for small businesses today?

LM: I encourage small businesses to build a platform of sustainability right from the start. It is proven that businesses that prioritize sustainability significantly outperform competitors. Eventually, all businesses will be required to adopt strategies of sustainability, demonstrating responsibility and creating value for stakeholders and customers. If small businesses use the UN Sustainable Development Goals as the framework, choosing one or two of the goals for which they can have the most impact, they will impart a measurable contribution to the future of our planet, society, and our profitability. We are all stakeholders of this planet, and in this UN-declared Decade of Action, it is our collective responsibility to not only espouse change but to BE the changemakers.

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Photo Credit: Corporate Headshots Miami

9 GLOBAL GAMECHANGERS YOU NEED TO KNOW - DR. JEWEL HOWARD-TAYLOR OF LIBERIA



Her Excellency Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor of Liberia

By Jules Lavallee

FWM: Madame Vice President, it is a pleasure to meet you — a woman who is not only a highly regarded stateswoman but who is an advocate for so many important causes. Can you share a bit about your background, recognizing that it is our past which drives our future?

JHT: I am a Liberian woman, who had the opportunity to grow up in a closely-knit African family setting and be educated in Liberia...up to the university level. My parents, both of whom were the first generation in their families who had a formal education and had become professionals in their chosen field; had that huge responsibility. I don't remember any time that our large family had less than 20 persons living in our home. In spite of the number, we grew up in a warm and caring environment.

FWM: What makes Liberia a good place for business and investment?

LHT: In spite of our recent history, Liberia remains a favorable destination for doing business and investing-providing a better corporate tax regime, a dual currency. USD/LD regime and business-friendly systems which ease the processes of setting up a business and 100% capital repatriation program. Apart from local incentives, our country is a springboard into the sub-regional Mano River Union market (40 million people) and the regional ECOWAS market (over 335 million people) two vibrant

business environments with potentials that remain relatively untapped.

FWM: You are a persistent advocate for the empowerment of women and girls and for securing their rights at all levels. Why is it important that the world begins to prioritize the full participation of women at all levels and create opportunities for them? LHT: Simply because Women are the engines that make the world work better. Let's take it from my favorite angle –the Biblical creation story of how God made the World. The Bible relates that after everything was made, even God realized that without woman, his creation would have been incomplete. So he had to stop, take the time and create the WORLD's ENGINE; with all the information and processes necessary to make our world work.

FWM: What advice do you have for these young ladies – the leaders of the future?

LHT: The best advice I can give them [in order of priority] is that- one must first have FAITH IN THE ALMIGHTY GOD (the most important ingredient for success); then pray to identify their passion, plan how to achieve it, prepare for it, remain committed to achieving it, work till it becomes a reality, raise your voice, mentor others and support other women achieve their dreams.

I like to remind young women, as they plan their big dreams, that nothing is ever easy. And that indeed the most beautiful diamonds are created under immense pressure and then placed in the hottest heat in order to come out more beautiful.

If your dream is just fame and money, it's easy. But if someone wants to leave lasting legacies that others can follow, they must be prepared to go through high pressure, then go through the hottest furnace, not break and still look beautiful every step of the way. It is these women who are called IRON LADIES. Not that they don't cry or feel exasperated or want to step out of line. They do FEEL SO, but they DON'T QUIT. For QUITTERS DONT WIN AND WINNERS DON'T QUIT.

My prayer for each young woman is - that they not to be afraid of the challenge, for indeed any dream is possible. For here I am, a girl born in a rural community, who rose from humble beginnings to become the First Lady of my Nation, then becoming a Senior Senator of the third-largest constituency in my Nation; and now I sit as the first female Vice President of my nation. INDEED, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

9 GLOBAL GAMECHANGERS YOU NEED TO KNOW - KENDRA VON ESH



By Jules Lavallee

FWM: Tell us about "From the C-Suite to God's Suite!"

KVE: When God found me in 2013. He flipped my entire reality upside down and transformed everything in my life! Shalom World Media Company asked me to produce a short film "Jesus My Savior" about how I left my Executive career to become a Speaker, Radio Host, Author, Vlogger, and Columnist sharing that true peace, joy, and love can only come from God. "From the C-Suite to God's Suite" is the name of this production. It was aired on satellite TV, cable, streaming venues like Roku, Apple TV, and the internet. I want to leverage all forms of media and social media to reach everyone where they are.

FWM: You are a passionate and engaging speaker. What do you enjoy most by speaking to large audiences?

KVE: I love to see the audience relate to me as I share my immoral, illegal, shameful, regretful past and the insecurities and fear that plagued my life. The icing on the cake is when they encounter the hope and joy radiating from my soul as I share how God changed everything in my life.

FWM: Share a few of the frequently requested topics. What do you enjoy most to talk about?

KVE: My testimony helps bring hope to the faithful for their fallen loved ones or anyone in a state of fear, stress, 17 FWM - WWW.FORMIDABLEWOMANMAG.COM

KENDRA VON ESH

Speaker, Radio Show Host, and Author

addiction, depression, shame or regret. I bring light to the lies of the world that money, power, prestige and "if it feels good - do it" makes you happy. God is true peace, joy, and love. My journey is a story of hope and transformation.

FWM: How has your Facebook Community united people globally in faith?

KVE: I believe that social media can be used for good and to bring God's love to the world. Facebook is a platform that reaches people globally. I use social media to share my journey and inspire others in a real and honest way. I have a ministry page on Facebook but I wanted to build a deeper relationship with my tribe. I started an Exclusive FREE "Find Something More Community" on Facebook. We pray for and support each other.

FWM: What inspired you to write your book, "Am I Catholic?"

KVE: A Struggle with Faith, Humility, and Surrendering to God. According to the world's view, I had it all. I was an Executive in Corporate America and had power, prestige, money, a great husband, family, and friends. I should be happy, right? So, why was I never satisfied, insecure, always comparing myself with others, stressed out, full of fear and worried all the time? When God found me EVERYTHING changed. I found the peace, joy and acceptance I had been seeking all my life - in God. That was my inspiration for my book.

FWM: Share your upcoming projects.

KVE: My mission is to help others deepen their relationship with God and the Faith. Everything I do in my ministry ties to that mission. Prayer is so important, as I mentioned, I was called to create a Video Prayer Program for BUSY PEOPLE! I send you 3-minute videos daily - we will walk each day TOGETHER!

Website: www.kendravonesh.com YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/ Facebook: www.facebook.com/FindSomethingMore/ Facebook Private Community: www.facebook.com/ groups/findsomethingmorecommunity/ Instagram:www.instagram.com/kendravonesh Twitter: twitter.com/Kendra Von Esh

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9 GLOBAL GAMECHANGERS YOU NEED TO KNOW - NADINE O'VOGEL



NADINE O'VOGEL

CEO of Springboard Global Enterprises: Springboard Consulting, LLC

By Jules Lavallee

FMW: You are the CEO of Springboard Global Enterprises. What has surprised you most in your leadership role? NO: What has surprised me the most as a leader is the extent to which some employees will go, in their commitment to me, the company and to the work. I am very lucky and as a result, so are Springboard's clients.

FWM: Springboard Consulting is recognized as an expert in mainstreaming disability in the global workforce, workplace, and marketplace. Share your vision for 2020.

NO: My vision for 2020 and beyond is to continue to work with the global corporate best of the best, ever-expanding our services and global footprint. In doing so, creating a world where disability inclusion is not the effect of a particular initiative, but the culmination of our broad-based work, causing businesses to realize increased productivity and profitability.

FWM: What will companies gain by working with you? **NO:** By working with Springboard, companies gain in a variety of ways. For instance, when Springboard works

with a client, we don't just go in to develop and/or execute on initiatives and leave. We build institutional competencies in order for the company to be able to manage these issues more independently in the future. FWM: Please share a few key points from your book, Dive In: Springboard into the Profitability, Productivity,

and Potential of the Special Needs Workforce and how

NO: The book is informed not only by Vogel's vast expertise, but by statistics, and interviews that illuminate the best practices of today's global business leaders. "Dive In provides the information and tools to better understand how to remove the barriers to employing this large, loyal segment of the population," says Cisco's retired CEO, John Chambers. The book has garnered praise from business and civic leaders, who call it "required reading", "a timely reminder" and "a must read for any corporate leader today."

FWM: What is your proudest moment?

it is helping companies.

NO: Over Springboard's 15 years, I've had the opportunity to experience many proud moments related to the company. One of my proudest was when my older daughter Gretchen, who has disabilities, delivered a keynote presentation at one of our annual Disability Matters North America Conference & Awards Galas. Seeing 300 corporate executives respond so genuinely and positively to her sharing her personal journey, was amazing. I was not only proud of her but also of our clients.

FWM: What is coming up for you in 2020?

NO: With the recent Coronavirus, much has changed in the world. What has not changed is the importance of successfully mainstream people with disabilities in the workforce, workplace, and marketplace. In light of needing to socially isolate, the rise of virtual everything from business meetings, attending events, to getting food and other essential items, is forcing businesses to finally consider their website accessibility and usability. The need for Springboard's Digital Accessibility/Usability team has risen from always important to absolutely critical.

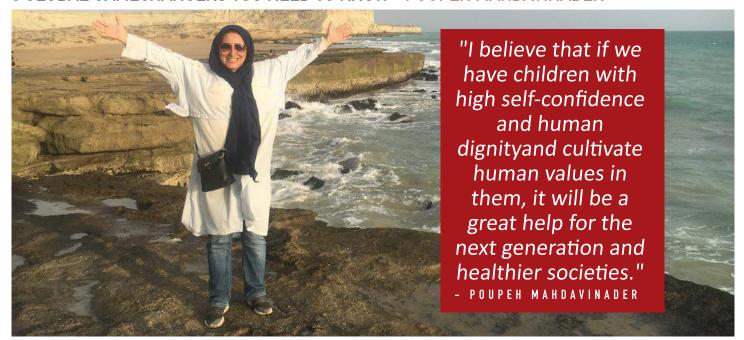
Harvard Business School will be publishing a case about Springboard and me as its leader and I have been invited to teach two MBA classes (albeit virtually) as a result.

I don't fear 2020. I'm excited about the new and expanded opportunities this crisis will be to Springboard, our clients and society. I firmly believe when one door closes, another one opens.

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9 GLOBAL GAMECHANGERS YOU NEED TO KNOW - POUPEH MAHDAVINADER



By Jules Lavallee

Peace Activist and Humanitarian, Poupeh Mahdavinader-Traveling the World on Her Bike for Peace and Unity Poupeh was born in Tehran the Capital City of Iran. She has spent her time as a volunteer social worker at the non-profit Mercy For All, which supports orphans family since she was 17 years old. She has a Master's in Psychology. Most importantly Poupeh is the First Iranian to travel on her bike across the globe to spread peace and unity to others. She built a school in the poorest area, Sistan and Balouchestan Province in Iran and offers psychology workshops that focuses on the role of parents in parenting.

FWM: A few years ago, you set out on a round-theworld bicycle ride to share a message of peace and unity. Tell us about your journey.

PM: I had 2 dreams since I was 9 years old. The first was to be a world traveler, and the second I like to have an apartment where one of the sides is for me and the other for orphans with an orphanage. When I was 17, I met the charity, "Mercy For All" and started working with them. In those years, I started mountaineering very seriously. Whenever I was in the mountains or nature, I wanted to see the world again, but I always gave up because I thought it was more important to be with orphans. Until one day I told my spiritual master, who is also the founder of our charity, that I am impatient to travel and see the world. He (Dr. Shahriar Rouhani) said that you should decide by yourself, but think that maybe this trip is one of the things you will regret later and say why I didn't do it until I was young and had the opportunity. That day I decided to travel around the world as soon as I decided to start my journey on the first day of the

Iranian New Year (the first day of Spring) and I had only \$350 that I had borrowed. I believed that this trip was one of my duties in my and I had to take a step so that God would open the doors for me. I started my journey, The first 6 months were very difficult and I didn't have enough money, I took pictures of myself and my bicycle and sold them, and sometimes people sent me money. I was 16-months and 4 days on the road. I went to many countries. During that trip, a journey around the world with a bike and backpack. 8000 km bikingand 4 countries backpacker. When I arrived at Katmandu-Nepal, I climbed MountKalapatar (5545 m) in the Himalayas, above the Everest base camp.

FWM: What is the significance of riding a bike?

PM: I chose to ride a bike because it is very easy talking to people and in my opinion, people to people diplomacy is the way to peace.

FWM: You are preparing for your next trip around the world, (after the quarantine). What do you want to achieve during this ride?

PM: I want to create a path of peace in the world, passing through the cities that symbolize the peace of each country, but I will start the journey on foot and give my steps to build handicraft workshops and schools for women and kids at poor and needy areas of Iran and the world.

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9 GLOBAL GAMECHANGERS YOU NEED TO KNOW - HER MAJESTY QUEEN ZAYNAB OF NIGERIA



By Jules Lavallee

FWM: You have an unflinching support for the downtrodden, including rural women and orphans. What do you see when you look at them?

QZ: I see potentials, I see promises, I see prospects. I see people who can be as good as their contemporaries all over the world and in all other spheres of human endeavor but are living a life that may be entirely undiscovered and deprived for lack of opportunities.

FWM: Can you please share a story about the women and children that forever changed your life?

QZ: I have interacted with the proprietress of an orphanage, who woke up one morning, swept her compound and went to dump the garbage in the dumpster, only to hear an abandoned baby crying in the refuse bin! He was rescued, it was a handsome boy. This woman went ahead to adopt the baby with no money but was supported by the church. Then she went a step further and set up an orphanage, with nothing but just her faith and love for humanity. Today that orphanage has saved several hundred young people, some of whom are now graduates, doing very well in life.

FWM: What do you want the world to know about Nigeria?

QZ: You cannot form an opinion of Nigeria without interacting with some real Nigerians!

FWM: Tell us about your work with domestic violence victims in Africa. Why is this so important to you?

QZ: I feel the imperative need to break the barrier of fear! We live in a society where our mothers endured

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domestic battery in silence, some of them losing their lives, all in a bid not be stigmatized as being "bad wives", "bringing shame to their families" "Being driven out of their matrimonial homes, leaving their children to be maltreated by callous stepmothers," etc. These are the typical African stories... As a result of these fears, domestic violence persisted among us. That is why I have decided to lend my voice to speaking out against this social malady.

FWM: In 2017, you met with United Arab Emirate's Minister of Economy, His Excellency Sultan Bin Saeed Al Mansoori to formalize the beginning of international relations with the UAE Economic sector to improve economic and cultural relations between the United Arab Emirates and several African nations. Please share developments and progress made.

QZ: We call our project "The Bridge". The official name of the platform is the Arab African Economic Development Initiative, AAEDI. The Organization's objective is to create a synergized system of interactions between the Arab world and Africa that will amplify economic and social benefits for all parties involved. We have individuals from different parts of the world as global advisors to help us navigate and actualize the organization's core objectives. We are still in the stages of consolidation. But already we are affiliated with 22 countries from the two sub regions as participating members. We have several businesses and major organizations partnering with us.

FWM: This is the "Global Unity" issue of Formidable Woman Magazine. What is your vision for "Global Unity" in 2020?

QZ: So as far as I can see, the world is being united by the march of civilization. I only wish that in this 2020, we should learn to appreciate each other more, irrespective of racial or religious affiliation.

FWM: Lastly, what is your advice for women?

QZ: As women, we have a strong responsibility to see that we leave the world better than we met it. As natural mothers, we must be nurturing towards the important values of life, and we must find ways to be self-sufficient and contented. We must support each other as a community and in the quest towards achieving this, we must make happiness our main pursuit because you cannot give what you don't have.

9 GLOBAL GAMECHANGERS YOU NEED TO KNOW - NADEEN QUATAMEEN



By Jules Lavallee

Nadeen Qatameen, Writer and Humanitarian

FWM: You have been a Writer since you were 6-years old. Tell us about your writing and your first book, "The Candle." Where did you draw your inspiration from?

NQ: Since I was very little I was the curious child in the family. I am the middle child between 5 girls! Back then, I was a complete tomboy and I was the closest to my father who also happens to be a writer and author himself. With the constant questions I used to ask my parents, sometimes it was hard for them to keep up and at some point my father suggested I put my thoughts onto paper "Just like I do" he said.

My first book "The candle" was a collection of very short stories and I chose that name based on the first story I wrote.

FWM: What challenges have you faced?

NQ: I recall at 5th grade a girl pointing out how I was placed in this school because I'm "The youngest writer in the country" yet since I was enrolled at this school, I didn't publish anything. I felt the pressure rise as I grew older, but no form of art should be forced, especially writing. The more I tried to force it, the more resistance I found from my pen. Up until tenth grade, I was trying to focus on school because it was an all English speaking school and previously in my public school everything was in Arabic. In tenth grade, after years of hard work and commitment, I took one more challenge and sat for my IGCSE exams, but this wasn't the challenge itself, It was taking English language course/exam as a first language,

Tadeen QATAMEEN

not second. After receiving the highest grade for it amongst those whose mother language was English, I felt like academically, I was able to overcome that challenge and turned my focus back to writing.

FWM: Tell us about, "The world through her eyes."

NQ: The world through her eyes was my second book but my first novel. I published it at 16, meaning It was ten years apart from my first book. Of course, by then, my perspective of the world changed entirely. It went deeper and wider. I wasn't just observing my life and surroundings but I was also observing other people's lives.

FWM: When you were at King's Academy something took place that changed your life. Tell us about it.

NQ: Yes, something that changed my life indeed. We were called to our usual weekly school meetings at the auditorium but this time we had special guests from the UAE. HRH Sheikha Shamma and Larisa Miller presented to us an initiative they were running which is called "Beacon of Hope" and gosh I was blown away by its impact and the lives they have touched through this magnificent initiative. It was then that I asked myself, how can I be like that? How can I use something I like, something I'm good at for the benefit of others? how can I touch people's lives like them? Throughout my last year in high school, I kept that thought in my head and decided to send Larisa an email and the amount of encouragement I received from her made me bring these thoughts into action. And that is how "Read the past, write the future" was born.

FWM: What is your hope for the future with your humanitarian work?

NQ: I will be very honest, my happiness is built on other people's happiness. If I can make at least one other person happy, it would make my day. I really hope that I can pursue humanitarian work and even expand in this world of giving in different aspects and hopefully with a collaboration with Larisa Miller, we can touch the lives of many more children across the globe in the near future!

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9 GLOBAL GAMECHANGERS YOU NEED TO KNOW - HAZEL HERRINGTON



By Jules Lavallee

Hazel Herrington Multi-Award Winner, Humanitarian, and Global Speaker

FWM: You are a leader in business coaching, investing, and personal branding. Share your background.

HH: I am a highly energetic and goal-driven Multi-Award winner, Humanitarian, Business Consultant, Global Speaker, Celebrity Interviewer, and Global Goodwill Ambassador for Australia with years of impassioned and diverse experiences. I was born, in Zimbabwe but currently residing in Australia, I am also a proud mum of three adorable kids Whitney, Warren, and Alyssa. I am very passionate about empowering people to become the leaders they were born to be. My devotion to my work is highly recognized and I have featured on numerous business magazine covers, including Her-Grit, Global Achievers, and Business Booster.

FWM: How are you getting clients the global recognition they deserve?

HH: By helping my clients create a unique, profitable, and memorable niche that helps them stand out in a noisy world.

FWM: Is there synergy between global leadership and humanitarian work? Please share some of your work.

HH: For the past ten years, I have had the privilege of empowering and speaking to more than 50,000 people through my various empowerment programs led by my two charities, Destiny Arise and I Am Bible Distribution. 22 FWM - WWW.FORMIDABLEWOMANMAG.COM

HAZEL HERRINGTON

To date, I have enlightened more than 50 thousand women and youth worldwide to become wholly self-sufficient and assists them in becoming successful leaders by implementing powerful strategies and precise methodologies.

FWM: You are a Celebrity Interviewer. Who have you interviewed?

HH: I had the tremendous opportunity to converse and interview celebrities, such as Charlie Sheen, Mel Gibson, Jason Alexander, and Grammy Nominee Jewel Kilcher. I also had the fantastic opportunity to share the same platform with the co-founder of Apple, Steve Wozniak, Mark Wahlberg, John Travolta, Michael Douglas, Jessica Simpson, Dr. Phil, Brooke Shields, Patrice Motsepe Africa's first billionaire and the advisor to President Donald Trump, George Ross.

FWM: Tell us about "The Millionaire Mindset, How to build a strong global brand." Can you share a piece of advice?

HH: Most entrepreneurs find it difficult starting an online business and how to clearly communicate, who they are, what their business does and how to differentiate themselves from their competition. So I created an online course called the "The Millionaire Mindset – How to Build a Strong Global Brand" to help entrepreneurs build an unstoppable online personal brand that will make them stand out in a noisy world and increase their profits.

How are you making an impact in 2020?

- Daily discipline of doing the things that I don't like that are good for my personal growth. e.g. daily exercise, getting up early.
- · Reading more books to increase my wisdom.
- Praying and studying the word of God. (I'm nothing without Jesus).
- Remaining visible and being consistent online to build brand loyalty.

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9 GLOBAL GAMECHANGERS YOU NEED TO KNOW - COSETTE LEARY



By Jules Lavallee

Cosette "CoCo" Leary Motivational Transformational Speaker and Best-Selling Author

FWM: Share your background.

CL: My background is rooted in the complexity of always trying to fit in. What I am saying here is, due to being born into generational poverty, enduring both physical and emotional abuse from my mother and her husband, while always trying to reconcile with the emotional baggage of the fact that my mother and biological father had divorced each other after suffering a turbulent relationship, I desperately wanted to be loved by anyone, therefore, I was always trying to fit in a trait which I embraced through my teen years and well into my adult life all the while braving a life of continued poverty and heartache. I guess I was always looking for the love which

FWM: You are well-known as a Motivational Speaker. What is it about being in front of an audience that moves your soul?

CL: The energy of it all, the overwhelming connection with my audience just lights my fire and fills up my soul with celebration. There is always an element of heartfelt connection within the room it starts from the humming of mutual curiosity, the wondering on both my audience's part and mine of what is really about to

happen here then builds to a roaring chorus line dripping with the echo of hell yeah we are symbolic cousins and this is our shared story.

FWM: As a Speaker what do you bring to the audience?

CL: As a Speaker I bring my whole self to my audience the good, the raw, the bad, the ugly and the triumphant. Held within that mixed drink of me, is the emotion which is the collective universal language of our deepest outcries, the ever faster pounding of our united hearts and the enflamed truth that we are family because we all have a story to tell and at the end of the day we all are someone's daughter, son, sister, brother, mother, father, aunt, uncle, cousin, best friend, lover, and still our own individual selves again we are family we are the human race and it is that collective vibration that I bring to my audience.

FWM: Tell us about your book, "From Welfare to the White House How I Reclaimed Myself and How you Can Too.

CL: I self-published this book and it was an awakening for me. Poverty had always made me feel invisible, but it also had given me a rage to fight back and grab my life at any cost. I didn't want to die on the inside because, I didn't know how to thrive on the outside. I also knew that my overall story was an echo of so many other impoverished individuals that are finding away to tell what it was like to be poor in America while having hopes and dreams was an absolute necessity hope was desperately needed in the form of relatability I could provide that in the written word this for me was empowering! Becoming an Author has given my heart wings to fly.

FWM: Share what's next for you.

CL: I am working on my autobiography titled, Laugh Out Loud Healing the Woman Within. I have several live women's events planned for both the years 2020 and 2021 one of which is an international collaboration. I am bringing out first-time women speakers who all have triumphant life stories of their own some of these women come from direct financial poverty such as myself. I will continue to mentor low-income women through my intense leadership training program, and I will continue exploring the gems held within lifelong learning gaining broader perspectives and celebrating this gift called life! from welfaretothewhitehouse.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.

php?id=100010233218620

Facebook group: Kicking It With CoCo

Photo Credit: Kate Singh

MARY BUFFET

By Jules Lavallee

MARY BUFFETT, Best-Selling Author, International Speaker, and Entrepreneur

FWM: If we were to do a worldwide exploration of "How COVID-19 has changed humanity." What would we find?

MB: There are two things that come to mind when I think of COVID-19. Like many people, I was surprised just how quickly the pandemic spread from a regional crisis in China to engulf the world in only a few short weeks. I was horrified by how quickly the virus attacked the most vulnerable, especially the aged or those with compromised immune systems. I worry about friends who are healthcare professionals. I worry about friends who have lost their jobs. I worry about many of my older friends who might find themselves in the path of the virus. It makes me think about the fragility of life. You want to reach out and hug those you love dearly but you also worry about contracting or spreading the virus.

FWM: Share your philosophy of women's selfempowerment through financial investment.

MB: It's simple: A man is not a plan. Every woman (and every person) needs to build out a financial plan and stick to it for the long term. Women need to own our financial futures so we can live "happily ever after" because placing all of our hopes in some guy is not the answer. Let's not forget that 50% of all marriages end up in divorce. The good news is that the ingredients for the right investment portfolio are everywhere; however, we have to do the hard work to make it happen for ourselves.

FWM: As an international speaker, what are your favorite topics? How have you impacted the world?

MB: One of my favorite topics to discuss is for those young women who are just starting out. Perhaps they are in their first job or else they have limited financial means, but they want to build a portfolio. I tell these people—most of whom are women—that you must start somewhere. Even Warren Buffett started somewhere. Start with maxing out your contributions to your 401K. Your investment portfolio might seem small at first, but it will grow with your contributions, plus the compounding of interest.

FWM: Tell us about your role in the award-winning documentary Femme. Why was this project so important to you?



MB: I was proud to be involved with that wonderful film because it highlighted what women are doing to heal our fractured world. Everybody who was involved in that film went through their challenges and emerged stronger, more empowered and ready to make our world a better place.

FWM: With the global environment changing, what advice would you give Investors in 2020?

MB: There is a natural reflex to make rash financial decisions during rough times. This is where a solid investment discipline should govern our choices. When I give talks about value investing, it's all about planning for the long term. Since the Great Depression, there have been 13 recessions in the United States and the global downturn as a result of the COVID-19 virus could be the 14th. In each situation, the economy was able to eventually rebalance itself and emerge and build another sustainable period of solid growth. Having a 4-6 month emergency fund in case of a job loss will allow you to keep your financial portfolio free of any unplanned withdrawals. It will also allow you to invest in those underpriced financial bargains that will build wealth once the economy returns to growth.

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