

JULY 2021 FCC FILING MY START STORY

7-1-21 Stephanie Scharf Attorney and founder Scharf Banks Marmor LLC

"It was important to me to have a female majority, women-owned law firm," says Stephanie Scharf, founding partner of Scharf Banks Marmor LLC. Scharf grew up in an era in which women didn't have the opportunities they have in the workplace today.

7-2-21 Rachel Feldman- Director/Screenwriter

Director/Screenwriter Rachel Feldman has headed projects for ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX and other major networks. She's also written movies for Lifetime and Freeform. She knows how tough it is to get a start in an industry flooded with talent, especially for women.

7-3-21 Dana Wolfe- Journalist

Dana Wolfe is a journalist, news program producer and is currently on the board of Retro Report, an innovative documentary news organization. Dana began her career as a producer on ABC's Nightline with Ted Koppel. She also served as executive producer of the debate "Men Are Finished," which was nationally broadcast on TV and NPR.

7-4-21 Annette Holt -First Deputy Commissioner Chicago Fire Department.

Annette Holt never knew a female firefighter when she was growing up. Nor had she ever met an African-American firefighter. It's all the more reason, why she had to join the department. She was recently named First Deputy Commissioner of the Chicago Fire Department. She is the first female to hold the number two position in the CFD.

7-5-21 Christie Hefner Former Chairman & CEO, Playboy Enterprises

Christie Hefner spent more than two decades with Playboy Enterprises, working her way up to Chairman of the Board and CEO in 1988. During her tenure, she grew the company's international and electronic division, and expanded the brand to include television and the web, the first for any magazine. In early 2009, she stepped down from her position at Playboy to focus more time on her charitable work and philanthropy. She was named executive chairman of Canyon Ranch Enterprises in 2011, and after leaving four years later, became chairman of Hatch Beauty

7-6-21 Mireya Mayor Primatologist, Conservationist, Explorer, TV Host

Mireya Mayor is a scientist, anthropologist and a wildlife correspondent for National Geographic. The mother of six children is credited with discovering a new species of lemur while on one of her expeditions in Madagascar. She is also the author of Pink Boots and a Machete: My Journey From NFL Cheerleader to National Geographic Explorer.

7-7-21 Alisha Elenz, Executive Chef, mfk.

As the executive chef at mfk., Alisha Elenz leads a team that has earned three of Michelin's prestigious Bib Gourmand awards. A self-taught chef, Elenz worked her way up the ladder – maintaining that when you're thrown into uncharted or uncertain territory, you have to take a leap of faith and dive in headfirst.

7-8-21 Ava Blaser Dancer, Childhood Cancer Advocate

Ava Blaser began to dance at the age of 3, following in her older sister's footsteps, the same age she was first diagnosed with Bilateral Wilms, which is a type of kidney cancer. Following multiple rounds of chemotherapy, she was declared cancer-free in 2012. She returned to dance following her treatment and fell in love with it, saying it makes her "feel free." Six years after initially beating the disease, Blaser experienced a cancer recurrence and endured another harsh protocol of treatment but fought through it using dance as an outlet.

7-9-21 Amy Trask Former CEO, Oakland Raiders

Amy Trask began working for her favorite football team, the Oakland Raiders, as an intern in the legal department in 1983 while attending law school. She later landed a full-time job with the Raiders, working her way up to CEO in 1997, a first for a woman in the NFL. She left the organization in May 2013 after 30 years. Trask is an analyst for CBS Sports and CBS Sports Network, and also currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Big3, a 3-on-3 professional basketball league. Trask has also written a book, *You Negotiate Like a Girl*, on her experience as an executive in the NFL.

7-10-21 Sherry Yard 3X James Beard Winner, Chef, Author

Sherry Yard is the recipient of three James Beard awards and has worked for 20 years alongside Wolfgang Puck. Also an author, Yard has published *Desserts by the Yard*; *From Brooklyn to Beverly Hills*; *Recipes from the Sweetest Life Ever*; and *The Secrets of Baking: Simple Techniques for Sophisticated Desserts*.

7-11-21 Katharine Zaleski Founder, Power To Fly

After the birth of her child Katharine Zaleski realized that it was harder to be taken seriously in the workforce while also juggling her family life. She decided to leave journalism and start her own organization, Power To Fly, in an effort to elevate women's careers through community.

7-12-21 Julie Smolyansky CEO Lifeway Foods

Julie Smolyansky became the youngest CEO of a publicly held company when she took over Lifeway Foods at just 27 years old. She has since grown the company to generate revenues of over \$120 million and expanded distribution all over the world.

7-13-21 Kelly Pope Accountant and Professor

Kelly received her doctorate in accounting from Virginia Tech, where she began her teaching career. Pope is now an associate professor at DePaul University in Chicago and is an expert on fraud and ethics. Her research led to producing and directing the award-winning documentary *All the Queen's Horses*, which explores the biggest municipal fraud case in U.S. history.

7-14-21 Antonia Lofaso- Chef

Antonia Lofaso is a successful restaurateur and chef, cookbook author and TV personality. Lofaso has appeared on *Top Chef: Chicago* and *Top Chef: All Stars*.

7-15-21 Christy Webber- President, Christy Webber Landscape

Christy Webber always planned to be a P.E. teacher but after just one year, she was reevaluating what to do with her life. She started a mowing business in the Chicago area. The modest

company that began with two employees and a lawnmower has now grown into a multi-million dollar corporation employing more than 400 people, with high-profile clients ranging from The United Center, both Midway and O'Hare Airports, Navy Pier and Millennium Park.

7-16-21 Nancy Faust- former organist Chicago White Sox

For 40 years Nancy Faust was the lady behind the organ at all Chicago White Sox games. She retired in 2010. She was credited with creating the "walk-up" song back in 1970, when she began playing each player's home state song as they walked up to the plate.

7-17-21 Kelly Wallace- Journalist

Kelly Wallace began working in news as a producer for CNN in 1990. While at CNN she held a variety of roles; TV correspondent, digital correspondent and editor-at-large for CNN Digital, focusing on women's issues. She previously worked for CBS Evening News and iVillage, and in early 2019, was named managing director of TrailRunner International, a global strategic & communications advisory firm.

7-18-21 Eleni Pappas Assistant Fire Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department

Inspired by real-life events in 1992 watching Los Angeles burn during the civil unrest caused by the Rodney King beating, Eleni Pappas knew right then that she wanted to become a firefighter. Five years later, Pappas was working for the Los Angeles Fire Department. In 2001, she joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department. In August 2018, she made history by becoming the first female promoted to Assistant Fire Chief in her county.

7-19-21 Thea Flaum- Executive Producer, "Sneak Previews"

Thea Flaum began her career as a TV producer and is best known for creating Sneak Previews, the movie review show hosted by the late movie critics Roger Ebert and Gene Siskel. Currently, she is the President of the Hill Foundation, an organization she began with her husband that helps families facing spinal cord injuries.

7-20-21 Antoinette Alcazar- Patrol Officer Chicago Police Department

Antoinette Alcazar is a patrol officer with the Chicago Police Department. She moved to the U.S. when she was 11 years old as a political refugee from Chile. Later in life, Alcazar struggled as a mom in a bad marriage and survived cancer. A self-taught artist, she also enjoys expressing herself through her painting.

7-21-21 Flo Mitchell Brown- Media Entrepreneur

Flo Mitchell-Brown is a media entrepreneur who in 2015 was elected as part of the Board of Directors of the New York Women in Film and Television, where she supports, trains and develops women in leadership positions in the entertainment industry.

7-22-21 Alexa James -Executive Director of National Alliance Mental Illness Chicago

Beginning her career as a social worker, Alexa James soon realized that the public needed to be educated on the country's mental health system and trained on how to deal with crisis intervention. Now, as the Executive Director for the National Alliance on Mental Illness Chicago, she helps people understand mental health issues, the challenges they face and the support that is available to them.

7-23-21 Ibtihaj Muhammad- U.S. Olympic Fencer

New Jersey native Muhammad is the first Muslim woman to represent the United States and bring home a bronze medal in the Olympic Games while wearing a hijab. She's a 5-time Senior World medalist and was the 2014 World Champion in the team event.

7-24-21 Marcia Cleveland- Swimmer, Coach and Author

Marcia Cleveland is a swimmer, coach and author who has been swimming since before she was two years old. Having swum competitively most of her life, she began open water swimming in 1991 to "be one with nature."

7-25-21 Sheila Brown- Executive Director, CineCares Foundation, Cinespace Chicago Film Studios

Sheila Brown is the Executive Director of the CineCares Foundation at Cinespace Chicago Film Studios. The foundation places young adults from underserved Chicago neighborhoods into paid internships at Cinespace, a working film and TV studio on shows like Chicago PD and Chicago Med. Prior to joining CineCares, Brown ran her own production company for 20 years working with top celebrities and brands.

7-26-21 Jackie King Schiller- Chef and Author

Before becoming a chef, Jacqueline King Schiller worked as a fashion model. She started modeling as a teen and by her 20s, she realized improper eating habits were making her feel sick. This revelation and newfound healthy eating habits led her to a new career as a chef, blogger and author.

7-27-21 Carol Brown- Olympic Bronze Medal Winner, Women's Rowing

Carol Brown had never rowed before she joined the first women's crew team at Princeton University in 1971. Three years later, she made the U.S. National Team at the World Championships. At the 1975 World Rowing Championships, Brown won a silver medal with the women's eight. In 1976, Brown was a crew member of the American boat that won an Olympic bronze medal in the eight event, the first time women's rowing was on the Olympic program. She is currently a Vice President, US Olympians and Paralympians Association, the USOC athlete alumni organization.

7-28-21 Diane Ademu-John- Executive Producer, "Empire"

Writing for TV became an accidental dream for Diane Ademu-John by working night jobs as a production assistant. It was through this side work that she got "bit by the bug" that would lead her to become Executive Producer on the hit TV show Empire and a screenwriter and producer for shows like Medium and Body of Proof.

7-29-21 Kendall Coyne- U.S. Women's Olympic Hockey Team

When Kendall Coyne was fifteen she joined Team USA's U-18 team, and went on to win six world championships and two Olympic Medals, including the gold in 2018. In 2019 she became the first woman to participate in the All-Star skills competition, finishing second in the fastest skater event. She then became a television analyst for NBC and the San Jose Sharks, and in November of 2020 the Chicago Blackhawks hired Coyne as player development coach and youth hockey growth specialist, the first woman to serve in that capacity in their organization

7-30-21 Iris Grossman- Talent Agent Echo Lake Entertainment

Iris Grossman is a renowned talent agent currently working with Echo Lake Entertainment as a manager and producer. Before that, she was a college kid who sought to make her career among the stars.

7-31-31 Christine Cikowski- Chef & Owner, Honey Butter Fried Chicken & Sunday Dinner Club

Christine Cikowski began working in restaurants at age 16 but it wasn't until she was 27 that she enrolled in culinary school. While in school she met her soon to be business partner Josh Kulp. After graduating she began working at Blackbird restaurant in Chicago while making plans with Kulp to open Sunday Dinner Club in Chicago in 2005. In 2013 the two opened Honey Butter Fried Chicken, for which they earned a 2015 Star Chefs Rising Star Community Chefs Award.

AUGUST 2021 FCC FILING MY START STORY

8-1-21

Carol Burnett- Comedian & Actress

One of TV history's most award-winning female comedians, Carol Burnett is best known for her variety show The Carol Burnett Show. It originally aired on CBS from 1967-1978. In 2005, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her contributions to the entertainment industry.

8-2-21

Tara Poremba- Police Officer and canine trainer Chicago Police Department

Tara Poremba got her start in the Marine Corps. After her time in the Marines, Poremba combined the two career paths she had always wanted to follow: Being a police officer and working with animals. In 1995, Poremba became the first woman in the history of the Chicago Police Department to become "Top Gun" of her graduating class. She now trains and handles dogs for the Chicago Police department.

8-3-21

Molly O'Brien- Executive Producer of special projects, Fork Films

As a producer, O'Brien makes it a priority to tell stories that other production companies may not even think to give a platform to. Her drive has helped her work her way up through the ranks to have the authority to get these stories out into the world.

8-4-21

Diana Nyad- Long-Distance Swimmer, Author

Diana Nyad became the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without a shark cage in 2013 at the age of 64. She first came to the nation's attention in 1975 when she broke the record for swimming around the island of Manhattan in New York City. In 1979, Nyad set the world distance record when she swam from North Bimini, Bahamas to Juno Beach, Florida. She also had a successful career as a broadcast journalist, spending 30 years as a network sportscaster. Nyad has authored several books, including the 2015 memoir Find a Way.

8-5-21

Dionne Warwick- singer

Dionne Warwick is an award-winning singer best known for her hits "Walk On By," "Alfie," "I Say A Little Prayer" and "Do You Know the Way to San Jose," second only to Aretha Franklin as the most charted female singer of all time.

8-6-21

Kristen Ziman- Chief of Police, Aurora, IL

When Kristen Ziman joined the police force, she told Start TV, "There were no females in rank. There was no one to emulate." She shares how she learned to stop asking "Why me?" when up for promotions and instead asked herself "Why not me?" Now the Chief of Police of the Aurora Police Department, Ziman is the first woman in history to hold that title.

8-7-21

Erin Sarofsky- President, Owner and Creative Director, Sarofsky Corp

Erin Sarofsky is the President, Owner and Creative Director of Sarofsky Corp., where she seeks to be part of the solution when it comes to pay inequality in the entertainment industry. Now she leads a group of artists, producers and technologists who create and develop main titles and visual effects for movies and TV series. In 2006, she was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for her work on the main title sequence of Ghost Whisperer.

8-8-21

Julie Proudfoot- Founding Artistic Director, Artemisia - A Chicago Theatre

Julie Proudfoot is the Founding Artistic Director of Artemisia - A Chicago Theatre, as well as a theatre, film and TV actress. The theatre is centered on the development of new feminist plays. She also feels it's important to support other women in the field, rising up as actors, directors and writers.

8-9-21

Ina Pinkney- The Breakfast Queen/Chef

At 37 years old, she baked her first cake. Not only was she good at it, but it led to a career. In the 1980's she and her husband could never find a good breakfast spot, so she opened up her own fine dining breakfast restaurant in Chicago, which lasted for over 30 years.

8-10-21

Mary Mitchell- Columnist, Chicago Sun-Times

Mary Mitchell's first career was as a legal secretary. Always an avid reader and passionate about writing, she earned a journalism degree in her 40's. Mitchell began at the Chicago Sun-Times newspaper as an intern, and then they hired her as a part-time journalist. By 1991, she advanced to full-time, and in 1995 she was promoted to columnist.

8-11-21

Inga Smith- Film Producer

Inga Smith began her career as VP of Production at Paramount and Simpson & Bruckheimer, overseeing the development and production of films such as the original Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, The Specialist, Sliver, The Brady Bunch Movie and The Crow. In 1993, Smith discovered singer/songwriter Jewel and guided her career.

8-12-21

Treva Silverman- Screenwriter

On The Mary Tyler Moore Show, Treva Silverman's writing stood out. So much so that she became the first woman to ever win an Emmy for comedy writing without the help of a male partner. On the show, she wrote some of the most memorable female-driven storylines, and while TV legends like Mary Tyler Moore and Valerie Harper were the ones making us laugh onscreen, it was really Silverman's pen poking us in our sides.

8-13-21

Emily Rogalski - PhD, Neuroscientist, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

As a child, Emily Rogalski was always fascinated with how the brain worked. As an adult, she pursued a career in neuroscience, specializing in dementia research. She now leads a team of researchers at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago.

8-14-21

Lisa Belkin- Journalist

Belkin is currently a Journalist, Author, and Teacher. She is the former Chief National Correspondent for Yahoo News. Belkin began her career at The New York Times, where she spent thirty years. She later moved to the Huffington Post, where she reported on life, work and family. Belkin authored three books, Life's Work, Confessions of an Unbalanced Mom, First, Do No Harm, and Show Me a Hero, which was made into a Golden Globe winning HBO series.

8-15-21

Lillah McCarthy- Television Executive

When Lillah McCarthy moved to Los Angeles, she had every intention of becoming an actress. It wasn't long into her life in California, however, that she learned she'd rather be on the other side of the camera. McCarthy went on to work for TNT, having a hand in creating some of the most iconic characters. Her first success story was The Closer.

8-16-21

MariaRosa Cartolano- Assistant General Counsel Forbes Media

MariaRosa Cartolano began her career at a small corporate law firm before joining Forbes Media in 1989 as Assistant General Counsel. In 2012, she became the General Counsel of the storied media company, charged with growing the company in a new digital landscape.

8-17-21

Yvonne Russo- CEO & Executive Producer, Yvonne Russo Productions

Yvonne Russo is a film and television producer, writer and director and has worked on projects such as "Woman Walks Ahead" and "Nat Geo's Most Amazing Photos." She is also founder of the Akatubi Film and Music Academy which teaches Native American youth production skills.

8-18-21

Liz Aiello- VP of Talk Programming, Sirius XM Radio

Not wanting to punch a calculator for the rest of her life, Liz Aiello joined the Air Force and became a radio and TV specialist. After serving her country, she began working in commercial television and radio, leading to her current position as VP of Talk Programming at Sirius XM Radio.

8-19-21

Caroline Perzan- Film Set Decorator

Caroline Perzan's career as a set designer began after walking by a film set in Portland, Oregon. She moved to Los Angeles and worked on many award-winning shows and movies like Man of Steel, Breaking Bad and The Horse Whisperer. Perzan moved back home to Chicago, where she has created some of the set designs for Empire and the new movie Widows.

8-20-21

Kerry Brodie- Founder and Executive Director, Emma's Torch

Kerry Brodie put her lifelong love of cooking and desire to help refugees to good use. As an award-winning graduate of the Institute of Culinary Education and with a master's in government, Brodie created Emma's Torch, a program that provides culinary training, skills and

experience for refugees in the food industry – its goal to help these refugees find work in the culinary industry.

8-21-21

Carol Weston- Young Adult Author

Carol Weston knows a thing or two about young girls and teens. She has written 16 books for and about them, and since 1994 has been the "Dear Carol" advice columnist at Girls' Life magazine. Weston's signature book, *Girltalk: All the Stuff Your Sister Never Told You*, is now in its fourth edition and has been translated into over a dozen languages. She is also the author of the Ava Wren series, the Melanie Martin series and her latest book is *Speed of Life*.

8-22-21

Katrina Adams- Immediate Past President & Chairman, US Tennis Association

Katrina Adams played professional tennis for 12 years on the Women's Tennis Association's tour. In 2015, she became Chairman of the Board and President of the United States Tennis Association, making her not only the first former player to rise to the post, but also the first African-American and the youngest person to become president in the organization's 135 year history.

8-23-21

Marcia Biggs- Special Correspondent PBS NewsHour

Marcia Biggs followed her calling to report on humanitarian crises and injustice in the Middle East. She covers the Middle East as a special correspondent for the PBS NewsHour

8-24-21

Elaine Soloway- Writer

Elaine Soloway is a writer and the author of four books that share her life's adventures. She also serves as a social media consultant, writing coach and tech tutor. Amazon Video's award-winning television show *Transparent* was created by her daughter Jill and is based on Elaine's first marriage.

8-25-21

Megan Cunniff Church- Trial Attorney

Megan Cunniff Church is a trial attorney, representing clients in criminal and civil litigation, as well as regulatory matters. She is a former federal prosecutor, working for many years in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Illinois. There, she prosecuted a wide range of federal crimes, ranging from wire and bank fraud to money laundering, cybercrimes and human trafficking.

8-26-21

Jacquie Purcell- Coroner

Jacquie Purcell began her career as a Funeral Director who worked with many coroners, and soon she found herself interested in pursuing that career. In 2004, Purcell was appointed as a Deputy Coroner, and then in 2016, she was elected Coroner of Kendall County, Illinois. She is a certified death investigator and peace officer.

8-27-21

Tracie Thoms- Actress

Tracie Thoms is a trained actor whose roles span sitcoms, musicals, movies. In 2004, Thoms was cast in the Broadway musical Rent. She went on to play Joanne Jefferson in the 2005 film adaptation. Following the success of this movie came her role as Detective Kat Miller on Cold Case.

8-28-21

Alison Graham- Founder/Owner AJGpr

Alison Graham spent years as a professional dancer and actor before moving West to pursue a career in Hollywood. Once in Los Angeles, she found her passion for storytelling translated to public relations. After rising rapidly through the ranks of a leading Los Angeles PR firm, Graham went out on her own with AJGpr

8-29-21

Hedy Ratner- Co-Founder & President Emerita Women's Business Development Center

As the daughter of immigrants, Hedy Ratner has always been committed to social justice. Active in civil rights, human rights and anti-war movements, Ratner became passionate about women's issues. She co-founded the Women's Business Development Center, a place for women and minorities to be empowered through business ownership.

8-30-21

Sarah Spain- ESPN Radio Host, espnW Columnist

The world of sports has always been Sarah Spain's sweet spot. She attended Cornell University, where she was a heptathlete and co-captain of the track & field team. Spain currently hosts the "Spain and Company" show weeknights on ESPN radio. She is also a writer for espnW.com, host of ESPN's "That's What She Said" podcast, a regular panelist on Around The Horn and a SportsCenter reporter.

8-31-21

Karen Conti- Attorney & Radio Host

Karen Conti is an attorney, radio talk show host and legal commentator. She and her husband even represented infamous Chicago killer John Wayne Gacy in his last set of death row appeals.

SEPTEMBER 2021 FCC FILING MY START STORY

Please note that the Start TV network aired an hour long special on Sunday, September 5 Thursday, September 9 and Saturday, September 11 “Remembering 9/11: Reflections From Those Forever Changed”.

Thomas Heidenberger reflects on his mother Michele Heidenberger who was an American Airlines senior flight attendant. She lost her life as Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on the morning of September 11, 2001.

Genelle Guzman- McMillan is the last known survivor to be pulled from the rubble of the World Trade Center after 27 hours. She recalls the events of that day and her recovery.

Brenda Berkman is a retired FDNY Captain who was off duty on September 11th but ran to the nearest fire station to help. Female representation and recognition is something Berkman has fought for since the very beginning of her career. Berkman now volunteers at the 9/11 Memorial.

Alex Bortz tells about her life after losing her father, Victor Wald at the World Trade Center. She shares what he meant to her, and how she honors him to this day

9-1-21

Kina McAfee- Assistant Coordinator, Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Apprentice Program

Kina McAfee hopes to use her story and influence to inspire more young women to join the trades. After studying political science and urban studies at Northwestern University, Kina started volunteering with an organization that was rehabbing apartments. Needless to say, that's where her love of carpentry began.

9-2-21

Carol Weston-Young Adult Author

Carol Weston knows a thing or two about young girls and teens. She has written 16 books for and about them, and since 1994 has been the "Dear Carol" advice columnist at Girls' Life magazine. Weston's signature book, *Girltalk: All the Stuff Your Sister Never Told You*, is now in its fourth edition and has been translated into over a dozen languages. She is also the author of the Ava Wren series, the Melanie Martin series and her latest book is *Speed of Life*.

9-3-21

Theresa Corrao- Visual Effects Producer

Theresa Corrao has always loved movies and that passion led her to a career in motion picture visual effects. She is best known for producing the VFXs for the Harry Potter Chamber of Secrets, Prisoner of Azkaban, Goblet of Fire and the Order of the Phoenix. Other films she has produced the VFX for include Pacific Rim, Jupiter Ascending, Jurassic Park III, October Sky, Contact, Mighty Joe Young and Congo. Theresa is also a screenwriter and co-founded totztoday, a website and daily newsletter offering parenting news and information.

9-4-21

LABOR DAY DOROTHY BOLDEN/Vanessa May- Co-Director, Women & Gender Studies, Seton Hall University

Vanessa May, Ph.D. is Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Women and Gender Studies Program at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. She is the author of *Unprotected Labor: Household Workers, Politics, and Middle Class Reform in New York 1870-1940*. May celebrates the Labor Movement's Dorothy Bolden who worked as a maid and became involved in the civil rights movement.

9-5-21

LABOR DAY FRANCES PERKINS/Lara Vapnek- Professor of history at St. John's University
Lara Vapnek specializes in the 19th and 20th century history of gender and labor in the United States. Vapnek is also the author of *Breadwinners: Working Women and Economic Independence, 1865-1920* (2009) and *Elizabeth Gurley Flynn: Modern American Revolutionary* (2015). Vapnek celebrates the Labor Movement's Frances Perkins who became the first female U.S. cabinet member in 1933 and served as Franklin Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor for his entire term until 1945.

9-6-21

LABOR DAY Dolores Huerta- President, Dolores Huerta Foundation, Co-Founder, United Farm Workers

Dolores Huerta is a feminist, activist, and lobbyist who has spent her life advocating primarily for farmworker's rights, becoming one of the most influential labor leaders in American history.

9-7-21

Rebecca Pallmeyer- Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, Chicago, IL

In 2019 Pallmeyer became the first woman to be chief judge in the 200-year history of the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Prior to her appointment, she worked in private practice, served as an administrative law judge for the Illinois Human Rights Commission, and as a United States Magistrate Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. In 1997 Judge Pallmeyer was nominated by President Bill Clinton to a seat on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

9-8-21

Wendy Freedman- Professor, University of Chicago Dept. of Astronomy & Astrophysics

Wendy began her career as an astronomer at the Carnegie Observatories in Pasadena, California eventually becoming the first female director there as well as Las Campanas, Chile. Wendy co- led an international team of astronomers on the Hubble Space Telescope Key Project. She is best known for her measurement of the Hubble Constant which measures the rate at which the universe is expanding.

9-9-21

Patricia Vassallo- Cardiologist, Northwestern Medicine

Patricia was the only one of eight children in her family who followed their father into the field of cardiology. As a medical doctor, her interests are in clinical research focusing on coronary artery disease, echocardiography, and women's cardiovascular health. With her grandfather

dying of a heart attack in his forties, Patricia says it is her mission to treat patients with acute aortic syndromes so that they can live long productive lives.

9-10-21

Kari Underly- Master Butcher, Author, Businesswoman

Kari began her career as a retail marketer in meat merchandising. Now she's a master butcher and teaches the trade at the Range Academy in Chicago which offers an online certified meat school training meat cutters and meat clerks. Range Academy also offers consulting services to companies in the fresh meat industry.

9-11-21 My Start Story Present 20 Years later- Reflections of 9/11

Alex Bortz- daughter of Victor Wald

Alex Bortz tells about her after losing her father, Victor Wald at the World Trade Center. She shares what he meant to her, and how she honors him to this day.

Brenda Berkman, retired FDNY Captain

Brenda Berkman is a retired FDNY Captain who was off duty on September 11th but ran to the nearest fire station to help. Female representation and recognition is something Berkman has fought for since the very beginning of her career. Berkman now volunteers at the 9/11 Memorial Genelle Guzman- McMillan- WTC survivor

Genelle Guzman- McMillan is the last known survivor to be pulled from the rubble of the World Trade Center after 27 hours. She recalls the events of that day and her recovery.

9-12-21

Kristin Lems- Folk Singer, Songwriter

Kristin grew up in a musical family. After learning to play the guitar, she began writing folk music and performing while an undergraduate at the University of Michigan. She later launched her professional career performing in various venues in and around Champaign Urbana in southern Illinois and at many ERA and women's rights events. Her songs have been included in two Smithsonian/Folkways anthology recordings as well as documentaries on the women's movement. Kristin still performs and is a Professor of ESL/Bilingual Education.

9-13-21

Cania Eubanks- Truck Driver

Cania began her career doing background checks and fingerprinting for the federal government. After about ten years she decided to become a truck driver. She first became an over-the-road cross country driver and then hauled rail yard freight. Cania is currently a truck driver for Cineaspace film studio in Chicago. She also recently launched her own business 'She Clutch' which sells hoodies and t-shirts with positive messages that raises trucker/driver awareness.

9-14-21

Megan Reinertsen Ross- Zoo Director, Lincoln Park Zoo

Megan Reinertsen Ross earned her B.S. in biology and psychology from James Madison University in and went on to earn an M.S. and PhD. in Psychology from the Georgia Institute of Technology. She is now the first female Zoo Director of Chicago's renowned Lincoln Park Zoo,

where she oversees both operations and programs while continuing research related to her interests in animal welfare and applied animal behavior.

9-15-21

Ana Dutra- CEO, Mandala Global Advisors

Ana Dutra started her career at IBM. Dutra later moved to the U.S. to attend Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, from which she received an MBA. She has more than three decades of experience as a global executive, consultant and business leader in industries such as technology, retail, apparel, manufacturing and professional services. She was the CEO of Korn/Ferry Leadership and Talent Consulting before founding her own firm, Mandala Global Advisors

9-16-21

Felicia Davis- President & CEO Chicago Foundation for Women

Felicia Davis knows firsthand how supporting women can change not only the life of that woman but her family's as well. She believes in the power of education and that communities need to invest in girls and women, knock down barriers and give them a voice.

9-17-21

Marsha Serlin- Founder United Scrap Metal

Marsha Serlin was a single mother of two when she started what would become United Scrap Metal in 1978. Today, she runs a multi-million dollar business with major facilities in Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Richmond, Virginia, Charlotte, North Carolina and Indianapolis, IN.

9-18-21

Christine Izuakor- Senior Manager, Global Security Strategy & Awareness

As a child, Christine Izuakor, Ph.D., wanted to become an optometrist. She soon realized it wasn't the path for her and that she could help people in other ways. She became hooked on cybersecurity after taking a class in college and today keeps people safe from cyber attacks. Dr. Izuakor is CEO of Cyber Pop-up, an on demand cybersecurity service platform.

9-19-21

Gabrielle Korn- Journalist and digital media expert

Gabrielle Korn is a journalist and digital media expert. She is currently the editorial and publishing lead on Netflix's The Most. Gabrielle was previously the Director of Fashion and Culture at Refinery29, Inc. and was the editor-in-chief at Nylon until her departure in July 2019. Her book Everybody (Else) Is Perfect: How I Survived Hypocrisy, Beauty, Clicks, and Likes was published in January 2021.

9-20-21

Barbara Barreno Paschall- Senior Staff Attorney, Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights
Barbara Barreno-Paschall is a Senior Staff Attorney at Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights with the Housing Opportunity Project in Chicago. She works to help empower women to higher office in law and politics, offering these words of encouragement, "Don't settle."

9-21-21

Dominique Jordan Turner- President & CEO, Chicago Scholars

Dominique Jordan Turner is the first in her family to graduate not only from college but also from high school. She earned a B.A. in Business Administration from Clark Atlanta University and an MBA from Marquette University. After leaving the corporate world, Turner led numerous nonprofit organizations before becoming CEO of Chicago Scholars, which runs a seven-year program helping students from under-resourced communities enroll in college, graduate from college, and transition into a career.

9-22-21

Becky Wahlstrom- Actress

Actress, writer and director Becky Wahlstrom played Grace Polk on the CBS show Joan of Arcadia. She has also appeared in Grey's Anatomy, Lucky 13, Charmed, Star Trek: Enterprise, Judging Amy, NCIS and Mad Men.

9-23-21

Chaz Ebert- President of the Ebert Company and Ebert Digital

Chaz Ebert is currently the President of the Ebert Company and Ebert Digital, Publisher of RogerEbert.com, President of Ebert Productions, Chairman of the Board of The Roger and Chaz Ebert Foundation, and Co-Founder and Producer of Ebertfest. She began her career as a trial attorney and was married to the iconic film critic Roger Ebert.

9-24-21

Sheila Talton- CEO and President of Gray Matter Analytics

Sheila Talton is a technology leader and serves as CEO and president of Gray Matter Analytics. She also serves on numerous boards including Wintrust Financial Corporation, Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital Foundation, and the Chicago Urban League.

9-25-21

Dale Soules- Actress

Dale Soules is a three-time SAG Award winner for her role as inmate Frieda Berlin on the Netflix hit Orange Is the New Black. She debuted on Broadway in Hair and since then has appeared in many Broadway hits including Hands On A Hard Body, Grey Gardens, The Crucible, and The Magic Show.

9-26-21

Karen Hirsch- Photographer

Karen Hirsch first learned photography while studying in France during college. She later attended a photography workshop in Barcelona, Spain; the photos she took there earned her first place in a Kodak competition in Chicago. She worked as an in-house photographer at Foote, Cone & Belding Advertising before starting her own commercial agency Karen I. Hirsch Photography.

9-27-21

Esther Franklin- EVP, Spark Foundry

Esther Franklin started her trailblazing career in advertising at Burrrell Communications before joining Leo Burnett in 1993. She has been instrumental in advertising campaigns for brands including Marriott International, Macy's, and Southwest Airlines. She currently serves as President, Global Strategy and Cultural Fluency at Spark Foundry.

9-28-21

Constance Jones- CEO, Noble Network of Charter Schools

A graduate of Harvard Business School and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Constance Jones has held management positions at Hyatt Hotels and Johnson & Johnson. Her current role is CEO of Noble Network of Charter Schools.

9-29-21

Gina Cook- Educator and Winner of My Start Story Viewer Submission Contest

Gina De Rosier Cook has embraced education ever since she took her first class at Prairie State Community College outside of Chicago. Gina had to drop out of high school after giving birth to a special needs son at the age of 15. After having another child soon afterwards, Gina was determined to provide for her family and earned her GED so she could get a better paying job. She went on to work in the higher education industry and in 2018 earned her doctorate degree in education. She is now the Manager of Workforce Development and Continuing Education at her alma mater while also serving as the President of the Illinois Council for Continuing Education and Training.

9-30-21

Shari Dyon Perry- Actress

Shari Dyon Perry was born and bred in Phenix City, Alabama, and started performing in regional theater with her actress mother as a child. By 12, she was playing the young Rene Jackson on the popular TV drama Any Day Now. After leaving the show when she was 16, Shari returned home and studied theater at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She went on to perform in theater, commercials and television in cities around the south. Shari also took up teaching her craft to students and local artists.