

THE INTRODUCER

Int'l Facilitated Business Networking

Issue 6: March/April 2018

10 TO KNOW Game Changers Women's Empowerment

*-Social Impact
-Innovation
-Solution Enterprise*

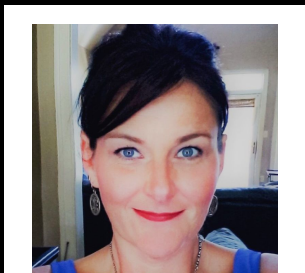
*Includes
networking
opportunities*



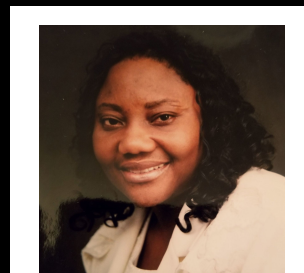
Vithika Yadav



Phaedra Boinodiris



Robin Smith



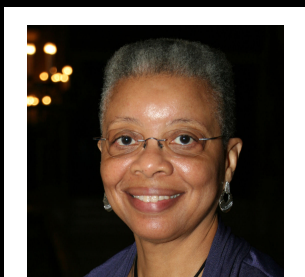
Aniema Udofa



Aneesa Muthana



Bridget Edwards



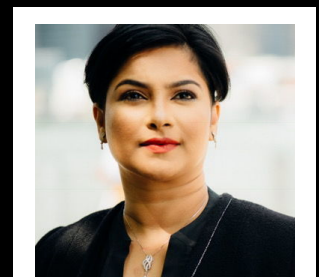
Monique Wells



Njideka Harry



Wendy Steele



Vandana Arcot



Founder & Editor
Mary Kurek

"Since the month of March is a celebration of women, we are devoting this issue to women's empowerment with women who inspire us with their work.

We are also officially announcing The Frontrunners League in this issue - a truly unique opportunity to advance your reach and impact.

We are all about making it easier to for you to connect - so get busy."

Mary Kurek

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Mary Kurek

Editor's Note

The Introducer is connecting for big impact. Here's a bit of what's been happening:

- Introductions made = **26**

- LinkedIn post views for game

changers and still growing = 22,241 - roughly 325% over the figure in the last issue

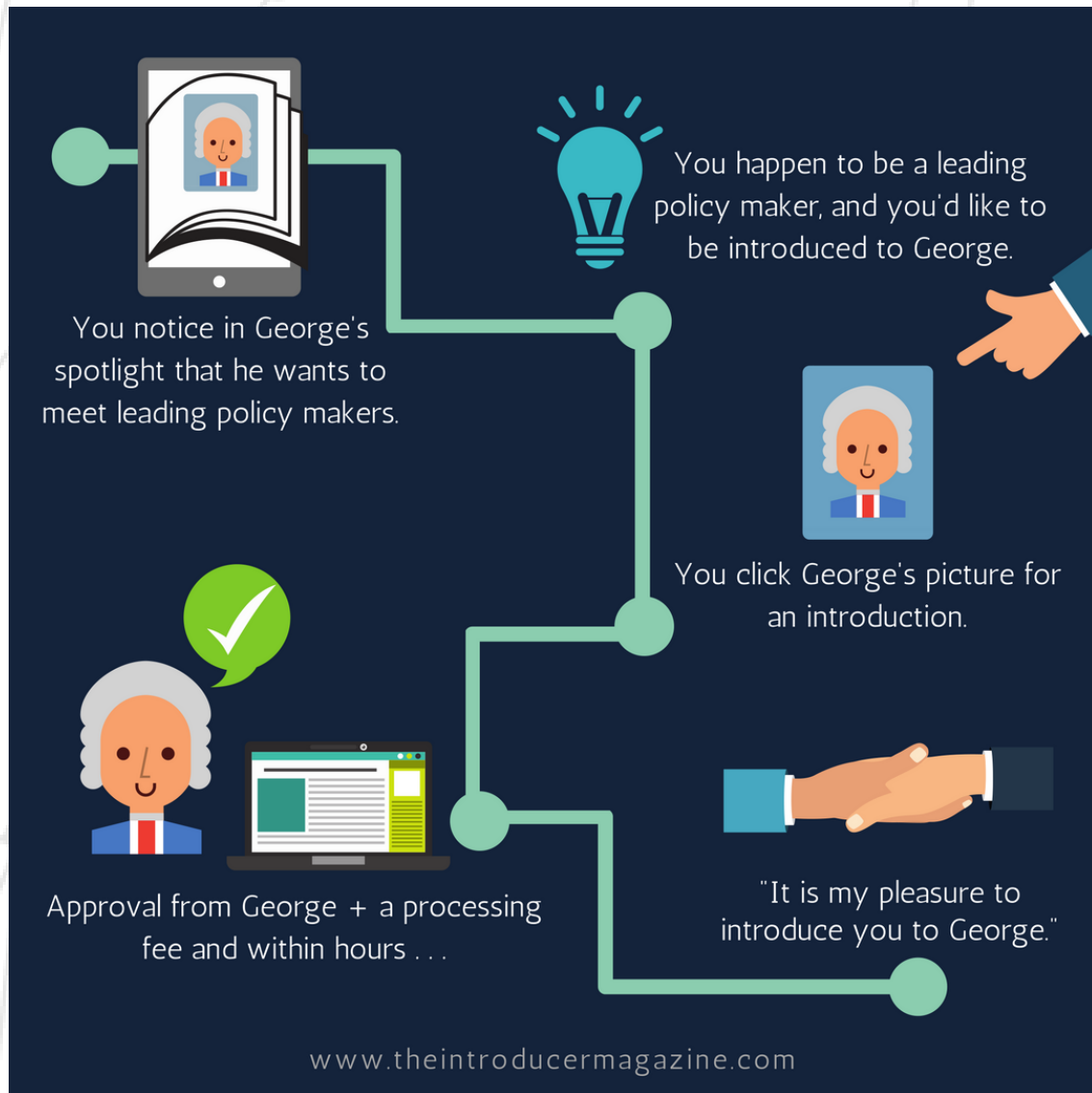
- Viewers of Introducer content are from **136** countries, increased from 122 reported in last issue.

Most interesting connection to happen recently for game changers is:

Simon T. Bailey (Issue #5) and Quinton Scholes (Issue # 4) met in person at one of Simon's speaking engagements in N.C. in February.

HOW TO USE THIS PUBLICATION

Read BEFORE Pressing "Introduce Me" Button



IMPORTANT TO KNOW: No introductions will be made for people seeking jobs, investment funds, or pitching a product/service (unless the spotlighted person has specifically stated that interest.) Such activity, even outside of the professional introduction process, will result in subscription removal. Also, no guarantees are made that business will result from introductions professionally processed.

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VITHIKA YADAV

(India)

Country Head, Love Matters India, RNW Media
Consultant, Free The Slaves

Vithika is helping to solve a problem in India, and by doing so, she will be solving some of the same problems elsewhere in the world. She is educating young people on the connection between sex and love. Vithika is a voice and advocate for sexual and gender rights; an anti-slavery activist. She is on a mission to help girls recover from human trafficking. She's all those things and a social entrepreneur who delivers life-changing support to those dealing with issues few want to even discuss.

Vithika has been a problem-solver for a number of years, but, after her first child was born in 2010, her interests turned to something new when she discovered a disconnect in the flow of educational information around sex. Vithika conducted research, and, with co-founders in The Netherlands and support from the **Dutch Ministry**, created a website designed to respond to this very sensitive need. **Love Matters** launched on mobile in 2011 and is the first website in India to give complete, honest, and unbiased information on love, sex, and relationships in India in both Hindi and English languages. It targets 18-30 year olds, providing easy-access information and news on sexuality and sexual health for teenagers and young adults around the world. The site receives more than two million visits a month. **Love Matters** is the winner of the Award for Excellence & Innovation in Sexuality Education for 2013 from the **World Association for Sexual Health**. Today, **Love Matters**, with support from grant providers, like the **Ford and Packard Foundations**, along with institutional donors, is allowing the site to grow beyond India into other parts of the world.

The vehicle for moving **Love Matters** is **RNW Media**, a company that uses media to promote social change. It's their goal to make information available on sensitive topics in parts of the world where freedom of speech cannot be taken for granted. Through storytelling and innovative uses of media and training, they enable young people to make informed choices and drive change.

From working with the **U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime** to creating a standard operating procedure for rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse, Vithika has established her path of impact. In 2016, she was named one of the Top 120 under 40 New Generation of Family Planning Leaders in the World. In 2007, she was awarded the Atlas Corps Fellowship, and in 2012 she was named one of the Top 99 under 33 Young Foreign Policy Leaders in the World by **Diplomatic Courier** and **Young Professionals in Foreign Policy in USA**. This young game changer is creating space for a new kind of learning that gets humans back to being human.

VITHIKA'S NETWORKING INTERESTS:

- Philanthropists & family foundations invested in supporting young people and their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, rights, and women empowerment.
- Key international bodies, like the UN Headquarters and specific UN bodies for advocacy and presenting the perspective of young people in digital spaces.
- Google and Facebook contacts to advocate for policies at their end to make it easier and safer for people to access rights-based, science-based, fact-based, and pleasure-based information on sexual and reproductive health/rights, and how to differentiate from pornography in the online spaces.



PHAEDRA BOINODIRIS

(United States)

Blockchain Strategist, IBM

Phaedra was a self-professed serial entrepreneur before landing her first job at **IBM** as an intern working on serious games in 2007. Serious games can mean simulations, education and military trainings, and games that use AI and VR to solve social and economic problems and drive innovation in fields like healthcare. This is big stuff.

Phaedra's talent in all things tech moved her around **IBM** like a spinning wheel...from development and analysis to management and fundraising, under a multitude of positions that continually made use of her creativity and leadership. Between 2007 and 2010, she conceived of and worked on deploying *CityOne*, **IBM's** first *Smarter Planet Game*. The project garnered over fifty press articles internationally, including **AdWeek**, **Fast Company**, **InformationWeek**, **eWeek** and **Popular Science**. In 2014, she served **IBM** in the consulting role of Global Lead for Serious Games, and as such, raised funding, designed and launched **IBM's** first corporate-wide alternate reality game for half a million employees across fifty-five countries.

Understanding that games as a form of education and solution development was only going to grow as innovation pushed technology, Phaedra created a game development ecosystem at **IBM** populated by cognitive cloud services and APIs for developers of both serious games and entertainment games. This enabled developers to use all cognitive services in their applications. The market focus was patient engagement, advanced wargames and city sim games, apps for employee engagement, customer retention, strategic resiliency, and cultural transformation. By this time, Phaedra already had the reputation as a well-respected leader in serious games. But, it's just starting to get good.

In 2017, as the Senior Strategy Lead in EdTech for **IBM**, Phaedra led a medical *Minecraft* project that helped to incubate a new academy and internship program for a disadvantaged high school in Texas. She worked with the teacher David Conover, who was recognized by the Obama-led White House, to start scaling the project to a global STEAM program in collaboration with the U.N.. This program works as a Blockchain-based student ledger that creates an intellectual currency out of knowledge acquired through validated coursework. Not surprisingly, today, Phaedra is **IBM's** Blockchain Strategist focusing on Blockchain-for-Good use cases, incentive structures, and governance. It's like she thinks it and becomes it, with **IBM** simply trying to keep up.

In an article published by the **UNC Kenan Flagler School of Business** following a talk by Phaedra, they said this: "women have the power to effect industry-wide change – and Phaedra Boinodiris is proof." What's really empowering is that she's doing all of this without breaking down doors. It's her own enthusiasm to create tech for good that's making the doors open.

PHAEDRA'S NETWORKING INTERESTS:

- Teachers that can help me scale global positive impact in Tech-for-Good efforts--sponsors, coaches and mentors that can help amplify Tech-for-Good efforts at scale.
- Consortiums wishing to be founders for Blockchain networks in education ready to pilot in K through 12.
- People who galvanize positive social, environmental, economic change in their region.



ROBIN SMITH

(United States)

Founder/CEO, NextPhase Foundation

Robin Smith grew up on farms, but, she wasn't the usual "farmer's daughter." Early on, this 1970s girl from the heartland of America astounded teachers and family when she announced her interest in becoming an astronaut someday. Robin knew she was destined for unknown territory; what she didn't know then is that she'd eventually use her experience in farming and love of science to create a program to help feed young minds halfway around the globe.

Robin founded **NextPhase Foundation** on the principle of increasing STEAM educational opportunities for at-risk and underrepresented youth. Says Robin, "the opportunity to source agricultural trades in rural and at-risk communities presented itself only last year." Seeing the regional parallels between rural agricultural communities and communities in need of stronger STEAM education exposure opened the space to create a legacy, and for Robin and her team to facilitate that process.

NextPhase Foundation matches rural African and Indian farmers' organizations with buyers/buyer representatives around the world. Representing neither sellers nor buyers in any deal, **NextPhase Foundation** provides the parity and clarity of the trade for both parties, from early negotiation and contract to delivery. Rather than profit from this structure, **NextPhase Foundation** strikes agreements with the farmers' organizations to reinvest net proceeds from **NextPhase's** earnings right back to the communities these organizations represent through funds-matching initiatives targeting educational programs for farmers and their children.

Trade-based initiatives are an interesting solution in the impact space. They not only sustain an economic component to the community and create new opportunities, but, in the case of **NextPhase**, the initiative involves a multitude of diverse factions. It includes governmental and nongovernmental entities, native agricultural products, stakeholders in local educational programs, children as beneficiaries, Robin's Foundation team of facilitators, and buyers from other countries. It feels like an ecosystem to me. Robin is not only a game changer, she's an empowered woman far removed from her dream of flying in space, but, very close to making a huge difference right here on earth.

ROBIN'S NETWORKING INTERESTS:

- Philanthropists with an interest in unique methods to find and nurture the Marie Curies, Jane Goodalls, Eli Whitneys, and Elon Musks of tomorrow
- Triple bottom-line investors who appreciate both the challenges and rewards of interdisciplinary, community-based approaches to the effective empowerment of developing nations, such as Africa
- Alternative energy educators and innovators across solar, hydrogen, and biofuels power
- Educators and innovators in STEM/STEAM and agricultural science



ANIEMA “ANNIE” UDOFA

(United States)

Founder & President, Women United for Economic Empowerment (Nigeria)

Annie grew up in Akwa Ibom State in Southeastern Nigeria. At 19, her parents who valued education, sent her to the United States to attend college where she earned a Masters in Accounting and eventually became a Certified Public Accountant. Annie settled with her husband in the D.C. area and began raising a family. As she made trips back to her homeland, Annie noticed that her village was struggling economically. Women with minimal education had nowhere to

turn for training for employment or entrepreneurship and girls weren't getting basic education. Annie returned to the U.S. determined to break the chain, taking \$20,000 out of her pension to provide scholarships for girls to attend school and make grants for women to start small businesses. After six months, the positive difference was noticeable. All in all, 131 women of the Ediene Attai community and 122 women of the Minya Ntak community were given grants. This was the starting point for **Women United for Economic Empowerment (WUEE)**, which became incorporated on December 6, 2002.

Annie began traveling to her hometown a couple of times a year, each time gathering support from entities like churches, as the women (many of them beneficiaries of early grants) held meetings to keep themselves accountable. With growing confidence, the women decided that, rather than the “free” money, they wanted loans and committed to pay them back. They worked to secure corporate partnerships and launched a scholarship program providing opportunities to three girls from each community who hadn't attended elementary school but could pass an aptitude test. The first year, they sent seventeen girls to school; all but one graduated.

As the **WUEE** started developing a board of directors, advisors, and trustees, they were also securing grants from the **World Bank**, **Action Aid Nigeria**, **Global Fund for Women**, and others, to work on problems like the lack of HIV education. They developed training in three languages, taking the content to television and radio. They went to rural areas to train traditional birth attendants (midwives) who needed to learn universal handling of blood and proper birthing methods to avoid the spread of HIV and other diseases. They worked with hospital staff and pushed policy to require HIV testing of every person coming to a hospital so that staff would know their status for providing safe and proper care. At the time, people infected with HIV represented 12% in Akwa Ibom state. **WUEE's** effort helped to cut that figure in half.

WUEE worked on water quality with the help of the **U.S. Embassy** in Nigeria, built a hospital and school with the help of **Action Aid Nigeria** and they continue to send girls to high school and college. Sixteen years of impact by **WUEE** hasn't gone unnoticed. The Governor of Annie's state located her during a trip to D.C. in 2003 wanting to meet this amazing lady who somehow knew that empowering women would change the economy of an entire community...and, just maybe, his entire state. Keep it going, Annie!

ANNIE'S NETWORKING INTERESTS:

- International and Domestic public and private sector leaders of organizations that genuinely want to make improvements in women's economic well-being.
- Philanthropists who have a vested interest in alleviating poverty.
- People who have a history of implementing successful skills acquisition strategies in underdeveloped areas.
- Technology savvy corporations with proven efforts in narrowing the digital divide.



ANEESA MUTHANA

(United States)

President/Owner, Pioneer Service, Inc.

Aneesa is helping to change the face of the U.S. manufacturing industry, not only because she is a woman, but, because she is a Yemeni Muslim American woman providing leadership in her field.

Aneesa didn't just aspire to own her own machining company; she was raised in manufacturing. Her father came to the U.S. fifty years ago, hungering for prosperity. When her mother arrived in the U.S., she found work in factories, and, after ten years, she and Aneesa's father opened a machine shop. Aneesa shared that her mother came to the U.S. without knowing a word of English and without education, eventually becoming the co-owner of a fifteen-million-dollar company. This must be where Aneesa gets her fortitude.

Aneesa worked in her father's company until she was 23, then left to join her uncle, who had started **Pioneer Service, Inc.**, located in Addison, Illinois. **Pioneer** runs CNC Swiss lathes, CNC turning centers, **Brown & Sharps**, and center-less grinding machines. Twenty-five years later, Aneesa's still at **Pioneer**, winning awards and shaping an industry by developing the kind of culture that nurtures employees professionally and personally. In 2012, when the business was on a downturn, Aneesa cut her own salary first and secured certification as a woman-owned-business. She holds self-development meetings with the staff and takes a hands-on approach to problem solving. This ethic has garnered her a "Mover & Shaker" title in 2016 by *Modern Metals Magazine* and the 2017 Women in Manufacturing STEP Ahead Award presented by the **Manufacturing Institute** that honors excellence in leadership.

Aneesa's ethics also extend to volunteerism. She takes trips with organizations and on her own to places like, Pakistan, Niger, and Yemen to help rebuild homes, wells, and work in food banks after natural disasters. She works domestically on aid programs, assisting during the water crisis in Flint, Michigan in 2016, working tornado relief in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 2013, and, in 2012, heading to Florida and on through Mississippi to volunteer for Hurricane Isaac relief.

The roles Aneesa fills collectively results in benefit to many, but, not the least would be women around the world who need to believe they can succeed and break barriers in places where stereotyping has taken seat. It's this, as much as running her company, that is Aneesa's business. She knows that doing a good job of representing diversity in her industry is some of her most important work.

ANEESA'S NETWORKING INTERESTS:

- Makers--men and women passionate about manufacturing and giving back to the industry
- Workforce development leaders with proven practices in outreach, promoting manufacturing, and developing leaders
- Destroyers of stereotypes who, under the most difficult circumstances, find ways to succeed

SPECIAL OFFERING FROM A GAME CHANGER

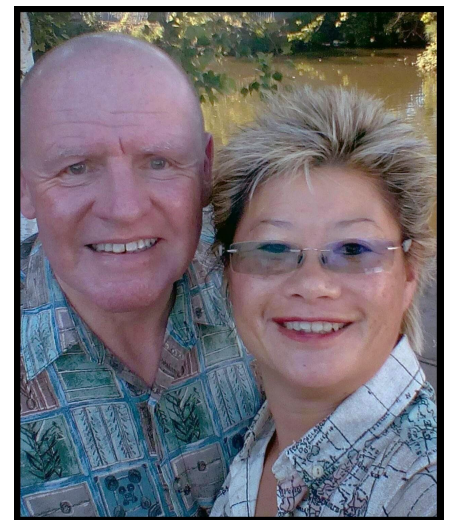
*"Phil Johnson of JJ Associates, International, was spotlighted in the October issue of **The Introducer**. He and wife/business partner, Yin, are among the most respected investigators worldwide, distinguished by their extreme skill and talent in developing social media markets to serve their investigative needs. They became so good at using their social influence that they decided to offer social media services to professionals who need the reach. After a recent posting on Facebook, Phil sent me a screenshot that showed over 9k views. His promotion of **The Introducer** not only secured new readers, but, followers in our social media accounts, as well."*

Mary Kurek, Editor, The Introducer Magazine.

SOCIAL MEDIA DONE FOR YOU BY ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST-KNOWN INVESTIGATORS

New approach to your Social Media across all platforms available. Take your "reach" to a wider audience (global) with the #PhilandYinEffect. Boutique service, individual to client needs, and far reaching. All of this from a team of respected business intelligence and security specialists.

Take advantage of this special offer and service at \$750 per month to share all your promotional links on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn at least once a day on Phil and Yin's separate and business platforms.



Email for details jjassociatesinternational@gmail.com

Links can be found at www.about.me/jjassociatesinternational

5 Reasons Why Professional Introductions Make the Difference

The premise of this magazine sits on the solid foundation that professional introductions far outweigh cold conversations. This is where the line is drawn between the do-it-yourselfers and those who appreciate the professionalism and status of being agented.

Here are five reasons why you should engage **The Introducer** facilitators to connect you to game changers in the magazine...and in our networks.

- 1) **FAMILIARITY WITH GAME CHANGERS: We know them.**
- 2) **QUICKER/EASIER CONTACT: We have their contact info.**
- 3) **RESPONSE MONITORING: We track/follow up if contact goes stale.**
- 4) **CONVERSATION ADVICE: We can advise on conversation points.**
- 5) **YOUR INTERESTS ARE NOW OURS: You have the opportunity to purchase a FACILITATED INTRODUCTION package that extends beyond game changers in the magazine. So, you'll get more connections based on your own networking interests.**

**YOUR OWN TARGETED NETWORKING CAMPAIGN
FOR THE TYPES OF BUSINESS OR PROJECT-RELATED
CONTACTS YOU NEED TO GROW**

(Limited availability. Turnaround in about a week)

**\$175 PACKAGE w/ Game Changer Introduction From This Magazine
\$150 w/o Game Changer Introduction
(Average number introductions-5)**

Contact: editor@theintroducermagazine.com

From Those Who Know: Testimonials

Need more convincing? How about some testimonials from people who have experienced facilitated networking with Mary, Editor of The Introducer & CEO/Founder of Mary Kurek Professional Networking Agency?



“Mary has a unique ability to read between the lines, expanding possibilities by introducing like-minded professionals. My first experience with Mary was a specific networking target, which she managed quickly and easily, creating a comfortable path to new opportunities..”

**Megan Gaiser, CEO & Co-Founder, Spiral Media, Ltd.,
United States**

“Consulting with Mary, we analyzed my strengths, built and executed an itinerary for a major 5-month-long international networking trip that encompassed 12 countries in Europe and 12 states in the North Americas.”

**Krister Gustafsson, Industrial Designer, Interactive
Educational Spaces, Australia**



“For the past 10 years I have continued to hire Mary Kurek to identify, research, and make key strategic introductions for the businesses I have started. Every engagement has paid for itself and has resulted in invaluable opportunities for my businesses.

Mary is unlike any other.”

**Mike Jalonen, Founder & CEO, Trio Rewards Inc.,
United States**



BRIDGET EDWARDS

(South Africa)

Stress Consultant, Author, Speaker

Bridget was introduced to me by another “10-To-Know Game Changer” from Africa. I was immediately fascinated by her approach to helping people live with less stress, and how she’s using her expertise to help a group of women from an impoverished community deal with their challenges. Her passion to do so comes from her own story.

Bridget was classified as dyslexic during her childhood and never challenged herself to write. During a critical illness years later, when she could not work due to the illness, she found that writing was her solace...and, that it also was her gift. Today, she has authored several blogs and three books, with a fourth in the works. All of them were written to help people deal with issues like anger management, depression, stress, anxiety, fears, phobias, grief, and trauma. And, all of them are written from Bridget’s alternative healing mindset; something acquired during her own illness with many of the issues listed above.

Bridget’s preferred therapy is EFT (Emotional Freedom Techniques), generally called tapping. This modality dates to ancient times in Chinese medicine and is in the family of therapies that include acupuncture but has been refined over the years. Tapping involves focusing on a stressful situation/memory, rating one’s feelings associated with that stress and then tapping certain points on the body while repeating a statement that de-escalates the negative feeling. As simplistic as it sounds, it seems to work well and quickly; often benefits are realized in one two-hour session. Bridget uses EFT and a variety of techniques with business women and entrepreneurs to help them better manage their work and lives.

Stress Gone! is the name of one of Bridget’s books from which she draws upon to help an organized group of crèche (daycare) owners, called **Sihlangene ECD Forum**, in the economically depressed area of Johannesburg, South Africa. These women are challenged by many stresses that range from financial to emotional, dealing with the problems of the children and their families. After her book, *Stress Gone!*, was published, Bridget donated copies to Sihlangene and has been conducting *Stress Gone!* workshops with the women. Bridget is a patron of the organization, but, her work also extends to other women in need. In one case, she taught the mother of an addict *Stress Gone!* techniques that the mother then used with her son who is now reported to be addiction-free.

In 2016, Bridget was featured in an article published in **Forbes Woman Africa** entitled “Don’t Worry - You’re Not the Only One Stressed.” I’m just guessing here, but I don’t imagine there are a lot of EFT therapists in South Africa helping to destress women in these disadvantaged areas. Bridget is a social entrepreneur and a volunteer who is giving relief and emotional support to women who desperately need some means of coping...and coping inspires confidence.

BRIDGET’S NETWORKING INTERESTS:

- **Business Women/Entrepreneurs** who are in need of online stress relief support
- **Philanthropists** who can provide donations for the needs of Sihlangene ECD’s +300 crèches/+21,000 children
- **Media** who can showcase Bridget’s work together with the needs of Sihlangene ECD



MONIQUE WELLS

(France)

Founder & CEO, Wells International Foundation

Monique has been enthralled with France almost her whole life. Exposed to the French language early, she adapted to it quickly, studying it throughout her educational career. This fueled her desire to live where she could speak it regularly, and that opportunity came in 1992 when she took a position at a pharmaceutical company in Paris to work on the preclinical part of drug development. Monique holds a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine and a Master's in Veterinary Pathobiology. An additional position came her way before she launched a preclinical consulting business in 2002.

Monique also partnered with her husband on a travel business and began writing. While exploring African-American gravesites in/around Paris, she discovered the story of artist **Beauford Delaney**, and it was this event that changed her life.

Feeling emotionally connected to Delaney and his work, Monique started a French nonprofit to place a stone on his grave. She researched his art and eventually organized a one-man exhibition in Paris entitled ***Beauford Delaney: Resonance of Form and Vibration of Color***, which included forty+ pieces of his work. To seek grants to fund the show, she founded the U.S. nonprofit, **Wells International Foundation (WIF)** in 2015, with its headquarters in Houston, Texas. The exhibition was a success, and it included projects that encompassed three of WIF's six key areas that support women's empowerment, travel and study abroad, the arts, STEAM education, literacy, and preclinical safety training. One of these projects involved a study abroad/STEAM education trip to Paris for **University of Arizona** students, several of whom had never traveled out of the United States before.

A program that has emerged from the *Beauford Delaney: Resonance of Form and Vibration of Color* exhibition is a collaboration called **Classes Duo Paris/Knoxville**. Along with the **City of Paris' CASPE** administrative service, WIF is connecting two schools - **Jean Zay Elementary School** in Paris and **Nature's Way Montessori School** in Delaney's hometown of Knoxville, TN. Students meet through videoconferencing and work on art projects.

WIF is active in women's empowerment through its **L³ Alliance**, a group created for women leaders who seek a safe environment in which to address the challenges of integrating professional success into a "whole" life. WIF is planning an event in conjunction with next year's *International Women's Day* addressing lifestyle, legacy, and leading by example.

WIF has started a literacy program in Texas, partnering with the **Houston Public Library**. Monique's theory is that if you can't afford to travel, you can experience new people and places virtually, through reading...a personal passion for her. The little girl who read *Dr. Dolittle* and was inspired to become a veterinarian knows that sources of inspiration are critical. She and WIF are delivering that with programs that create lasting impact.

MONIQUE'S NETWORKING INTERESTS:

- Life sciences professionals (doctoral level and above) - physicians, veterinarians, dentists, researchers, and nurses - interested in mentoring potential life scientists
- Travel professionals who support educational/cultural travel programs for youth
- Established, successful entrepreneurs interested in training/mentoring women entrepreneurs



NJIDEKA HARRY

(Global)

President & CEO, Youth for Technology Foundation

Njideka was born in Nigeria to an American mother and a Nigerian father who were both educators. She moved to the U.S. to attend the **University of Massachusetts**, falling in love with the new technology she was experiencing. She continued her education taking a post-graduate Fellowship at **Stanford**, then attended the **Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University** to achieve her MBA, focusing on strategy and social enterprise. After graduation, she began her first job at **General Electric**, working

across several **GE** businesses, time zones, and functions, including Finance/M&A, Six Sigma Quality, Marketing, and Audit. She began a career with **Microsoft** just after leaving **GE**. Feeling blessed with the opportunity to work for the #1 software company in the world as a Product Manager in Corporate Strategy, Financial Planning, and Analysis, she started thinking how she could make a difference in her birth home. This began the **Youth for Technology Foundation (YTF)** journey.

YTF pioneered the *Digital Village Movement* in Sub-Saharan Africa at a time when many were asking “why technology?” and “why youth?.” **YTF** knew it was critical to provide technology training and inspiration to youth and women in low-income and developing world communities. In partnership with community-based organizations, private sector, and government, **YTF** now works in Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Colombia, and the U.S.

To note, Njideka graduated from college in 1997, got the job with **Microsoft** in 1999, and founded **YTF** in 2000. Njideka has already become a change agent, partnering with organizations like the **World Bank**, **Ford Foundation**, **National Endowment for Democracy**, **UN Women**, **Intel**, **MasterCard**, **Google**, **Visa**, **Microsoft**, **Autodesk**, **3D Systems**, and **HP**. **YTF** has inspired the creation/expansion of over 14,000 women-owned small-medium enterprises, provided technology, entrepreneurship, and life-skills training to over 1.85 million youth and women, and increased economic capacity in 3,519 communities in Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, and Colombia.

“By 2020,” says Njideka, “over 60% of new jobs will require skills that less than 20% of the workforce possesses. Since we really don’t know all the skills that will be relevant, it’s important that we teach youth how to learn and how their skills are adaptable in this new future.” To that end, **YTF** launched a 3D Printing Academy for Girls to inspire middle-school girls toward STEM careers by exposing them to emerging technologies like 3D printing, IOT, artificial intelligence, and robotics. The program is currently running in Louisville with a goal to expand to other U.S. cities.

The impact Njideka has already created has gained her audience with U.S. presidents and leaders far older than she, but, this undaunted game changer is totally focused on using technology to empower others... especially girls and women.

NJIDEKA’S NETWORKING INTERESTS:

- People in edtech for-profit or social enterprise and startups that have successfully been able to connect with businesses/institutions around the world to accelerate growth and job creation, develop meaningful partnerships, and deliver global impact
- People interested in the impact of 3D Printing, IoT, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, and Virtual Reality on their business and innovative ways to prepare the next generation for the future of work
- People serving on the board of Fortune 500 companies



WENDY STEELE

(United States)

Founder & President, Generosity Matters

Founder & CEO, Impact 100 Global Advisory Council

In 2014, Wendy was presented the *Jefferson Award for Public Service*. She earned the award for creating opportunities for something incredibly simple in concept, but quite challenging to develop on a scale...generosity.

Wendy is on a mission to empower women to be able to give and be a part of something bigger than themselves. How she got to this mission involved a move, specifically a move from the east coast to Cincinnati, Ohio. As a means of getting to know her new community, she began volunteering, and as she started talking to others about doing the same, the excuses poured forth. Astounded at the variety of excuses from wonderful big-hearted people, she decided to write them down along with how to try to overcome them. The exercise produced the idea for a solution.

Impact 100 was founded in Cincinnati in 2001 to pool contributions by members to invest in sustainable solutions for the community in five general areas: Health & Wellness, Education, Arts & Culture, Family and Environment, Preservation & Recreation. From just March to May of their first year, 123 women donated \$1,000 each and by that October, **Impact 100** had given away their first grant of \$123,000. **Impact 100** has given over \$4,000,000 to the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky community since its founding.

Wendy had discovered an answer to the objections she heard from women over the years, and her simple solution was becoming a movement. The model for **Impact 100** is being replicated with over fifty chapters formed in the U.S. and abroad. Impact for 2017 exceeded \$10,000,000 – more than \$55,000,000 has been given away overall since **Impact 100** began.

Several authors writing on philanthropy have included Wendy's work in their books. Sondra Shaw-Hardy in her book entitled, *The Transformative Power of Women's Philanthropy*, Margaret May Damen's 2009 book, *Women, Wealth, and Giving*, and Julia Rhodes' book entitled, *The Right Sisters – Modern Women Inventors* praised Wendy and **Impact 100**.

Wendy formed the **Impact 100 Global Advisory Council** to support chapters with best practice information and development assistance. In 2013, she founded **Generosity Matters**, a consultancy working with families, businesses, and nonprofits to increase their significance by creating a “generous” culture to transform teams.

Impact 100 has been called a “nonprofit women's giving circle.” I like that, but, what I like more is that it's also a “receiving” circle. We are lifted when we lift others. Thank you, Wendy, for making it easier for us to make a big difference.

WENDY'S NETWORKING INTERESTS:

- People and organizations who wish to support the **Impact 100** movement nationally or globally through financial investment.
- Successful companies who seek significance through pro-bono contribution specializing in marketing, videography, CRM or donor management software systems, process improvement or capacity building.
- Women looking to join or develop an **Impact 100** organization to empower women and transform their local community.



VANDANA ARCOT

(United States)

Founder & CEO, OOUNGAA

Vandana explains to me that **OOUNGAA** interprets the emotion of a baby crying to its need of comfort. That's important to know because everything Vandana does relates to this.

Vandana started her career as a physician in Bangalore, India. In 2004, she had an opportunity to work on the *Bangalore Healthy Urbanization Project* with the **World Health Organization** that promoted health equity in an urban setting by strengthening health resources, access to education, clean water, and setting a foundation

for good governance. The project aimed at minimizing disparities in socio determinants of health and promoting an environmentally conscious lifestyle in an urban environment. The project improved education and economic opportunities, especially for women and children, and boosted the local economy in a way that has been sustained to this day.

Since that project, Vandana shifted her focus from practicing medicine in a clinical setting to pursuing a career in public health. Having completed an MBA in international organizations, she successfully helped bridge the gap between translating basic healthcare, access to good nutrition, and elements of WASH (lack of access to water, sanitation, and hygiene) to economic empowerment. Her first foray as a public health consultant allowed her to work closely with Dr. Suniti Solomon in setting up **YRG CARE**. With this program, she worked with women isolated and shunned by their HIV status to get access to healthcare and pursue vocations of seamstresses, lunch providers, and caregivers. The **Pi Project**, in partnership with **Johns Hopkins University**, helped train fifty women who were in sex work and establish work for them in the production of reusable, eco-friendly **bags**.

Vandana's goals of helping women and children to have better healthcare, access to better nutrition, WASH, and economic opportunities impacts entire communities. Her work with **I HUG** (I Help Uganda Grow), an NGO focused on providing healthcare to children orphaned following the civil war in Uganda, partnered with **UNAIDS**. She also worked with the weaving community of Nepal on a project that partnered with the **World Bank** to provide women a way to sell their organic products to a worldwide market.

After starting and raising her own young family in New York City, Vandana discovered a need for parents to have access to good childcare on the go. Having been an advocate for working women and healthy children, she created an app to help parents and caregivers access available childcare resources. "**Ooungaa**" is believed to be the sound of the first cry of a baby as it seeks milk and comfort. This emotion is clearly congruent with Vandana's work, whose purpose is to make it comfortable for babies and their parents to explore the world around them together. The app (due out Fall 2018) helps parents and caregivers locate the closest diaper-changing station, cafes/restaurants that support feeding a child in public, the closest outdoor kid friendly park, and indoor play area. Vandana knows that a working parent empowers the community financially, emotionally, and allows for better healthcare decision making when their children flourish.

VANDANA'S NETWORKING INTERESTS:

- Parents/caregivers, especially working mothers, who travel with their children.
- Organizers of parent group meetings within their community. Bloggers/social media-savvy parents who engage with an online parent network.
- V C's looking to invest in the next big trend in tech apps.
- Entrepreneurs invested in making a difference to the childcare environment and who actively engage with online/local community to improve childcare options for parents/caregivers.

Coming Up Next Issue: GLOBAL HEALTH

TOPICS FOR NETWORKING

Innovative Treatments

Mental Health Issues

Healthcare Policy

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN GAME CHANGERS IN THIS & PREVIOUS ISSUES

Here are a few we see in this issue. We'll post more in the blog later.

Njideka Harry and Annie Udofa share the same birth country as well as similar missions to help women in Nigeria obtain education and employment, thus boosting local economies. They should discuss their funding paths, partnerships, and possibly consider how they might collaborate or support one another's efforts.

Vandana Arcot and Vithika Yadav have a mutual interest in HIV/AIDS prevention and programs for victims in India. Vithika may be able to connect with Vandana's contacts with whom she worked in India for potential collaboration.

I've already connected Annie Udofa and Monique Wells who share an avid interest in travel/culture education, and are both working on travel programs for youth.

Networking and creating introductions between those creating impact for the purpose of expanding that impact is what we're all about. If you create your own connection with a game changer, please let us know to help us track our own impact. [Email here.](#)

NETWORKING TIPS & RESOURCES

Game changer in this issue, **Bridget Edwards**, has made available a free downloadable excerpt from her book, *Stress Gone!* You can access it here.

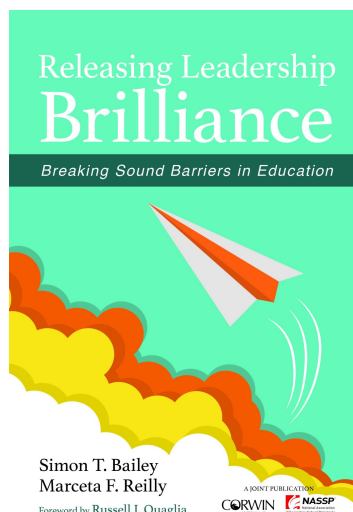
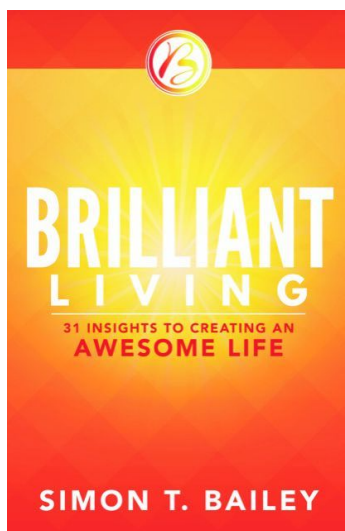
ANNOUNCING *THE FRONTRUNNERS LEAGUE...*



Introductions to the types of contacts you want/need to meet to increase your impact, along with professional visibility enhancement for your work, and insights on leveraging your connections from Simon T. Bailey (Success Magazine Top 25 Most Inspiring Speakers). The most unique League of it's kind, and we're only inviting up to 10 per group in specific areas of impact every 6 weeks. Consider it and let us hear from you. First League starts in May.

VISIT THE FRONTRUNNERS LEAGUE PAGE HERE.

Some Game Changer-authored books to check out...



1. ROBIN SMITH (*United States*)
Founder & CEO, NextPhase Foundation

Networking Interests: Philanthropists with an interest in unique methods to find and nurture the Marie Curies, Jane Goodalls, Eli Whitneys and Elon Musks of tomorrow. Triple bottom-line investors who appreciate both the challenges and rewards of interdisciplinary, community-based approaches to the effective empowerment of developing nations such as Africa. Alternative Energy Educators and Innovators across solar, hydrogen, and biofuels power. Educators and Innovators in STEM/STEAM and Agricultural Science

2. ANEESA MUTHANA (*United States*)
President & Owner, Pioneer Services, Inc.

Networking Interests: Humanitarians who find pleasure in helping others across the world. Makers, men and women who are passionate about manufacturing and give back to the industry. Workforce Development leaders with proven practices in outreach, promoting manufacturing, and developing leaders. Destroyers of stereotypes who under the most difficult circumstances find ways to succeed.

3. ANIEMA UDOFA (*United States*)
Founder & President, Women United for Economic Empowerment (Nigeria)

Networking Interests: International and Domestic public and private sector leaders and organization that genuinely want to make improvements in women's economic well-being. Philanthropists who have a vested interest in alleviating poverty. Advocates who understand and are committed to women and girls' educational achievement. People who have a history of implementing successful skills acquisition strategies in underdeveloped areas. Technology savvy corporations with proven efforts in narrowing the digital divide.

Mar-April 2018 
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4. PHAEDRA BOINODIRIS (*United States*)
Blockchain Strategist, IBM

Networking Interests: Teachers that can scale global positive impact in Tech for Good efforts. Sponsors, coaches, and mentors that can help amplify Tech for Good efforts at scale. Consortiums wishing to be founders for Blockchain networks in education ready to pilot in K through 12.

5. VITHIKA YADAV (*India*)
Country Head, Love Matters

Networking Interests: Philanthropists / family foundations who are invested in supporting young people and their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health and rights and women empowerment. Key international bodies like the UN Headquarters and specific UN bodies for advocacy and presenting the perspective of young people in digital spaces. Key businesses critical to the work I do - Google and Facebook to advocate for policies at their end to make it easier and safer for people to access rights based, science based, fact based and pleasure-based information on SRHR and how to differentiate from pornography in the online spaces

6. WENDY STEELE (*United States*)

Founder & Chief Executive of Impact 100 Global Advisory Council & Founder/President, Generosity Matters

Networking Interests: Organizers of groups of professional women in Stockholm. Women founders of NGOs that focus on educational travel programs. Well-established, known, women bloggers who write about motherhood, family, and children.

7. NJIDEKA HARRY (*United States*)

President & CEO, Youth for Technology Foundation

Networking Interests: People in edtech (education technology) for profit or social enterprise startups who have successfully been able to connect with businesses and institutions around the world to accelerate growth and job creation, develop meaningful partnerships and deliver global impact. People interested in the impact of fourth industrial technologies (3D Printing, IoT, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Virtual Reality) on their business and innovative ways to prepare the next generation for the future of work. People on board of Fortune 500 companies.

8. MONIQUE WELLS (*France*)

Founder & CEO, Wells International Foundation

Networking Interests: Life sciences professionals (doctoral level and above) - examples include physicians, veterinarians, dentists, researchers, and nurses - interested in mentoring potential life scientists. Travel professionals who support educational / cultural travel programs for youth. Established, successful entrepreneurs who are interested in training / mentoring women entrepreneurs with start-up businesses.

hangers Roster

9. VANDANA ARCOT (*United States*)

Founder & CEO, OOUNGAA

Networking Interests: Parents/caregivers, especially working mothers, those who choose to travel with their children, organizers of parent group meetings within their community, fellow bloggers, and social media savvy parents who engage with an online community of parents. V C's looking to invest in the next big trend in tech apps. Entrepreneurs invested in making a difference to the childcare environment and who actively engage with their online and local community to improve childcare options for parents & caregivers. Eg: kidpass, sawyer, New York kids club, Gymboree etc.

10. BRIDGET EDWARDS (*Africa*)

Stress Consultant, Author, Speaker

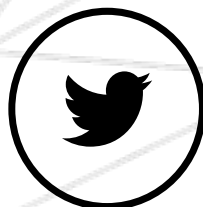
Networking Interests: Business Women / Entrepreneurs who are in need of online Stress Relief support. Philanthropists who can provide donations for the needs of Sihlangene ECD's +300 crèches / +21,000 children. Media who can showcase Bridget's work together with the needs of Sihlangene ECD

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BACK : BONE

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