



## Shaping Our Futures Through Conversations That Matter

A lot happens at coffee shops and cafes. Friendships are created and maintained. Ideas are manifested. Leaders evolve. Legacies take shape.

Our goal for Coffee Talk is to create a special learning environment where anything can happen. Where we engage in conversations that really matter, ask questions that challenge our thinking, and we walk away rejuvenated with insights and ideas for moving forward. It is designed for aspiring, emerging and seasoned women leaders who desire to expand and enhance their leadership development experiences.

**Thanks for making our first Coffee Talk such an  
inspiring event!**



## What is Coffee Talk?

Coffee Talk is a half-day workshop in an intimate cafe atmosphere. This setting, modeled after the World Cafe format, will create a unique learning environment that is meant to promote conversation, evoke inspiring ideas and give women the knowledge, motivation and practical tools to move forward professionally and personally. A lot of great things can happen at Coffee Talk.

Coffee Talk is an ideal venue for women of all ages and backgrounds who are interested in developing or refreshing their leadership skills and building mentor relationships. Please join us!

### Connect



Sign-up for our newsletter

**Attend  
October 2013  
Genevieve's  
at the Peace Center  
Greenville, SC**

Registration Coming Soon

### Words of Wisdom



**Screenshot of Coffee Talk website**

**www.ourcoffeetalk.com**



# Coffee Talk:

## Sip and learn

**W**ho knows better than a woman how to encourage leadership and motivate growth in other women, and what better opportunity than the newly developed Coffee Talk to sow those seeds of development?

We asked organizers to give us an overview of the concept, and found ourselves ready to sign up for our own mentoring session.

### Organization

Jacqui Bomar and Tan Kirby Davis, founders of Coffee Talk, designed the event — slated for Aug. 24 — to be small; only 72 seats are available for attendees. Throughout the course of a morning, attendees will have café-style conversations with more than 20 female leaders, a format designed to connect aspiring and emerging leaders with mentors.

The day will feature motivational speakers, roundtable discussions and networking opportunities. As a team, Bomar and Davis bring together women living all over South Carolina working in various fields. Bomar, an event planner, and Davis, a consultant and training-organization specialist, credit their own mentors for giving them the confidence and

leadership to be who they are today.

Leaders from Clemson University, Greenville health-care systems, the YWCA, Michelin North America, GE Energy and many other firms join Bomar and Davis for the day to not only teach but learn themselves.

### Partnerships

Ask any successful woman and she will tell you that success only comes with the help that others have provided along the journey. All of the mentors participating are interested in sharing the lessons taught to them along the way.

Sharon Kardon has earned a successful career in the communications field, and as principal of Kardon Communications, she provides marketing strategies and assistance in communication, marketing research and event planning for her clients. She has 30 years of experience in reporting, editing and publishing. Bomar and Kardon have a friendship older than

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Photographed by  
Cindy Hosea

**ABOVE:** Jacqui Bomar and Tan Kirby Davis, founders of Coffee Talk, have experienced firsthand the value of mentoring.

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ABOVE: A mentor can often aid in solving problem before it consumes you.

either of their professional careers and Bomar credits Kardon for guiding, encouraging and supporting her journey. She says she often relies on her friend's honest feedback and support.

Renee Hahn, a human resource executive who is an organization and talent development leader at GE Energy, is experienced in leading the thousands of women with whom she has worked at the company during the last 13 years. Hahn suggests that women take advantage of the relaxed environment presented at the TD Convention Center for Coffee Talk saying "mentor relationships created in an environment like Coffee Talk provides us a safe environment free of friction often felt in the workplace because of the natural competitive nature."

Professionals with long-lasting careers know that success comes through trials and tribulations, but never in giving up. Dr. Sheila Breitweiser had a successful career in education before her current role as vice president and executive director of the Regional Foundation at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. She believes that consistency is just as important in relationships as it is in professional commitment. Having brought together 12 women that she has mentored over the years

for this event, she shows how the gift of mentoring continues far beyond an the common expectation.

"Growth is on both ends of the experience," she says. "The mentor and the mentee benefit in the first encounter and for years to follow."

Education is priceless when it comes to careers, but maybe even more important is the willingness of those who go before us to pass along a little bit of that hard earned knowledge. Maybe we could even say it's those people who give us the boost we need to get out there and make a difference.

It's sort of like that first cup of coffee, wouldn't you say? ☕

**If you go...**

Coffee Talk

Aug. 24

TD Convention Center

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## People Helping People – The Power of Mentoring



The idea is to connect young professionals with some of Greenville's most successful leaders.

**J**aqui Bomar knows the value of having a mentor. For 25 years, she's had the benefit of close ties to someone who has listened and provided advice. Bomar's mentor has been there for her through many years, many cities, and many personal and professional road bumps. Now Bomar wants others to benefit as she has from this type of relationship. So she has organized Coffee Talk, a mentoring experience for women, coming August 24 to the TD Convention Center.

Bomar hasn't created this event alone. The successful

woman behind the Upstate Women's Show had the idea of doing something more serious geared toward leadership and professional development. She found a ready ear for her idea with a new friend, Tan Kirby Davis, and over several coffee dates, the two developed a plan. "As Tan and I met more often, we got more excited about the possibilities and shared stories of mentoring relationships in our lives and how critical they were and still are in our development in business, as well as in our personal lives," Bomar says. Davis is founder and lead consultant for The Kirby

Resource Group (K.R.G.), a consulting and training organization that specializes in organizational development, diversity, inclusion and workforce engagement.

Bomar and Davis decided to assemble a board of accomplished and diverse women to serve as mentors and to use the coffee concept because they felt the informal setting would lend itself to sharing ideas. The set-up will resemble a café, with the beverage of choice provided by Starbucks.

Bomar's own mentor, Sharon Kardon, is one of the 24 women who will serve in that role at the event. Bomar met Kardon when the two worked together in the late eighties for the marketing department of a Massachusetts newspaper. "She was an amazing boss, always patient and encouraging – a positive thing for my creative spirit," Bomar said. "I trust her completely."

Others mentors participating include Edna Morris, CEO of Range Restaurant Group; Debbie Harris, an executive vice president with Michelin; Ping Liu, an operations

manager with GE Energy; and Kimberly Thomason, managing member of the law firm of Truluck Thomason.

The Coffee Talk agenda begins with a presentation by Amy Herman, who developed The Art of Perception, a program originally designed to help medical students improve patient interactions and later adapted for law enforcement professionals and business leaders. Next, mentors and attendees will interact in small group settings. Two mentors will be assigned to each table of six. The mentors will lead and guide discussions, and those who attend will have the opportunity to ask questions they've written on coffee cards. One mentor at each table will also capture what is said so the information can be shared. After a brief break, mentors will rotate to other tables, giving participants exposure to more ideas and discussions.

After lunch, Susan Tardancio will deliver an address on leadership, communication, authenticity and reinvention. Tardancio is founding partner and CEO of the Authentic Leadership Alliance, a leadership and communications consultancy and is also executive-in-residence at the Center for Creative Leadership, a leadership development organization. The day will wind down with mingling.

Mentoring is often thought of as a relationship between two people in the same field, with a more experienced person serving as role model so that a junior professional can take a similar path. That traditional view has changed, however, and today, Bonnar said, mentors come in different forms. They may be older or younger, and they may work in the same field or may be leaders in a different profession.

Just as the concept itself is expanding, opportunities for mentoring in the Upstate are growing, too. PULSE, the Greenville Chamber's young professionals organization, offers PaceSetters,

a group mentoring program. The idea is to connect young professionals with some of Greenville's most successful leaders. A small group format allows the participant to connect with someone who has the benefit of years of experience and to network with peers. Groups of eight to ten members meet monthly with two mentors and also participate in leadership training. A \$100 fee covers the year-long program.

SCORE, a non-profit dedicated to helping small businesses start and grow, offers free mentoring across 62 industries. Events and workshops help the organization match entrepreneurs with local volunteer mentors who can assist in developing business plans, exploring growth opportunities, and projecting cash flow.

The United Way's Young Philanthropists Council, made up of professionals who have benefited from trusted advisors and role models, has developed a way to recognize the impact of mentors in the community. Their Mentor of the Year program highlights the benefits of professional mentoring and promotes the impact this relationship can have on growing careers and people. The group is also exploring avenues for promoting the value of professional mentoring to the business community with possible vehicles including a webinar lecture series and a database to connect potential mentors with young professionals.

Thanks to these initiatives, opportunities for meeting a mentor can move beyond the office or company and into a larger pool of professionals. However the connection is made, advocates like Bonnar see the association as very rewarding. "I know how much this type of relationship can mean," she said. "This is what I want to happen for other women." To register for Coffee Talk, go to [www.UpstateWomensShow.com/CoffeeTalk](http://www.UpstateWomensShow.com/CoffeeTalk). A \$55 fee includes lunch and, of course, plenty of coffee. ■

## WHERE DO BUSINESSES GO AFTER THE WHISTLE BLOWS?

Business Magazine  
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**Tuesday, August 28**



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**Roslyn Weston**

Vice President, Marketing  
Greenville Spartanburg Airport

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## Coffee Talk Workshop Perks up Women

The 1st Annual Coffee Talk, a mentoring experience for women, is a half-day workshop designed to connect with mentors in an intimate café atmosphere. The event has been planned with the assistance of 24 mentors who have been successful in their areas of expertise and will feature expert speakers, round-table discussions and networking opportunities.



Coffee Talk is designed for aspiring, emerging, and seasoned women leaders who desire to expand and enhance their leadership development experiences. "Our goal for Coffee Talk is to create a special learning environment where anything can happen," said Jacqui Bomar, President of JBM & Associates and founder of Coffee Talk. "We feel this will be a great forum for women to engage in conversations that really matter, where questions are asked that really challenge our thinking and participants leave feeling rejuvenated with insights and ideas to help them move forward in their careers and everyday lives." The program includes a coffee lounge sponsored by Starbucks and presentation by Amy Herman, who designed, developed and conducts all sessions of Art of Perception, an analysis of works of art to improve perception and communication skills, and Café Conversations with mentors. Keynote speaker, Susan Tardinico, who is the founding partner and CEO of the Authentic Leadership Alliance will give a talk during lunch, and Mingle with Mentors will follow. In an effort to continue growing mentor relationships, Coffee Talk will conclude with a networking reception. This will enable attendees to reconvene, meet others, and discuss ideas. Coffee Talk is presented by General Electric and sponsored by Greenville Hospital System, Fluor, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Michelin, The Law Offices of Truluck Thompson, City Range, SCBT and Starbucks and is produced by JBM & Associates in conjunction with Kirby Resource Group.

Coffee Talk will be held on August 24 from 8am to 1:30pm at the TD Convention Center. For more information or to register visit [UpstateWomensShow.com/CoffeeTalk](http://UpstateWomensShow.com/CoffeeTalk). See ad, page 46.

## BRIEF

### Coffee Talk offers mentoring program

Coffee Talk, a mentoring experience for women, will be held at TD Convention Center Aug. 24 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Coffee Talk, presented by General Electric, is a half-day workshop designed to connect with mentors. The program will feature expert speakers, round-table discussions and networking opportunities.

The program is designed for women who want to expand and enhance their leadership development experiences.

Highlights include a presentation by Amy Herman, who designed the Art of Perception, using the analysis of works of art to improve perception and communication skills; keynote speaker Susan Tardinico, CEO of the Authentic Leadership Alliance, a consultancy that advises and coaches executives at major corporations; and a networking reception.

Tickets are \$55. For more information, visit [www.UpstateWomensShow.com/CoffeeTalk](http://www.UpstateWomensShow.com/CoffeeTalk).

**Natural Awakenings  
June 2012**

**Greenville News  
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**WYFF News story screenshot August 24, 2012**

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## TESTIMONIALS

"The event, Coffee Talk was the best women's event I have been to in Greenville. The speakers were wonderful. I learned so much from these powerful mentors."

- Betty J. Scheiner, Attendee

"The Coffee Talk was fantastic! From the keynotes to the amazing mentors to the extraordinary decor, it was a raving success. Not only will I be attending in the October gathering, I plan on telling everyone I know what a fantastic group this is. Thank you for putting this together."

- Carol Hamilton, Attendee

"I wanted to get back to you regarding the Coffee Talk workshop I attended in August. I enjoyed it very much and I especially enjoyed the speakers. I felt it was very well organized and professionally presented."

- Mary Ann Sudnick, Attendee



"It was a wonderful event and I was honored to be part of it. Kudos to you for developing a vision and executing it so flawlessly."

- Susan Tardinco, Guest Speaker

Coffee Talk was a great day and stunningly well executed. I hope you are feeling proud of what you accomplished. Congratulations and thanks for the opportunity to take part in such a wonderful experience!"

- Kinneil Coltman, Mentor

"It was truly an inspiring event and the group could have not been more dynamic. I have already received emails from some of the women in the audience who wanted to follow up on what I presented in the session."

It was truly an honor to be part of Coffee Talk and I hope we will have the opportunity to collaborate again."

- Amy E. Herman, Guest Speaker

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## WORDS OF WISDOM

DON'T SIT  
BACK &  
WAIT!

Just know  
yourself. At  
the end of the  
day, do just  
you.

Take the head  
trans trash  
out each day

Manage  
my grace

The sharpest  
steel comes  
through the  
hottest fire -

ASK  
FOR  
IT

With  
Smart & Talented  
people.  
- Advice of a mom  
to her daughter.

Knowledge is  
Power - Step out  
of your own  
Paradigm -

How what  
Okness

When the house  
threw you,  
you have to get  
back up on  
the horse.

Tooing your own  
& networkers are  
part of your job.

No matter y  
or industry, we are all  
struggling with the same  
things:  
- how do I get home on  
time + balance life?  
- how do I determine  
and make my next  
transition?

Say  
YES

No matter  
how you act,  
men know  
you're a woman!

"Article to Read"  
"Why Women Still  
Can't have it  
all"  
- Anne Marie  
Slaughter

"Don't let  
your Dreams  
Die within  
you" (BS)

WATCH Sheryl  
Sandberg's Ted  
Talk video  
"Don't leave before  
you leave"  
It's a must!

You define  
what success  
means.