

Women in Leadership Highlights May 21, 2010



"The Right Mix for a Whole Life: Lead, Care, Give" - featuring Ann Stallard, CEO of Graphic Communications, one of metro Atlanta's top printing and imaging companies. A highly successful businesswoman for 30+ years, Ann is recognized locally and nationally as an entrepreneurial leader, e.g., Women-in-Business Advocate of the Year, White House Task Force on Women's Business Ownership, C of C Task Force on Small Business, former president of NAWBO, and recipient of numerous awards. Combining a business life with a passionate purpose for community services, Ann was the first businesswoman elected national president of YWCA, chaired the World YWCA nominating committee, co-founded UW's Women's Legacy, and in 2009, was elected Chairman of the Board of United Way of America. Entertaining and totally inspirational, she's a sought-after speaker and writer, and one of ATL's 100 Most Influential Citizens.

Highlights:

- Ann Stallard was introduced as a woman of competence, charisma, commitment, compassion, credibility, and character.
- She began by recommending a book she recently read by Dr. Jane Taylor – *Inside of My Stroke* – written by a doctor who wrote about her own experience recovering from a stroke
- (Ann) Likes to share her story and her perspective, "what brings me peace and wholeness"
- She also likes / respects former Sec. of State Madeleine Albright who recently spoke at Agnes Scott's commencement. She talks about the "Power to Choose: You have the power to change what you have the power to choose..."
- Women often give away our power...but we can learn to use it! Power is really influence and women can and do influence many decisions etc.

- Ann is an optimist: "We need an army of optimists working for the common good!"
- "We need to put our heads and our hearts together...our reason and our emotion, or passion..."
- Ann talked about how the United Way organizations around the country that have a Women's Council actually do better in fundraising than those UW's that do NOT have a women's council.
- "Women with vision and strategy are a powerful force – women who go beyond the common expectations; women who are grounded in the moment, yet look to and are excited about the future..."

NOTE: Ann Stallard is known for her forthrightness, her sage advice and her contagious sense of humor. The following are a few remarks Susan Hitchcock recorded in a previous interview and calls – "Annisms."

- An excellent example of an "Annism" is what she says her own legacy might be: "Having some good sense she had a good time." Or, "She tried, she really did." Or "She was positively positive."
- Other "Annisms" come under the heading of "advice for leaders-in-the making:"
"It's important to take the world seriously but not yourself. It's hard to deal with an imperial personality as a leader and it usually creates disaster. You don't want to be humble pie, but also not completely egotistical. Living life large doesn't mean you have to overtake someone else's."
- "I believe in the historical NOW - doing things in an intense way, being intentional, taking commitments seriously, but not being puffed up in the process."
- "People need to find their true north, have guiding principles, a moral compass...have a role model. And remember, somebody's always watching you, even in the grocery store - do you squeeze a tomato and leave it for someone else to pick up?"
- "I believe that a very good way to determine if you are a leader is to turn around. Is anybody following you?"
- "I believe that we cannot 'teach' our children morals or values. We must LIVE these elements so that our children do not miss the living examples we provide day in and day out. Soon, they behave in

ways that make us proud even when times are tough and life is not going well."

- "Operate out of peace of mind, not fear. Don't try to be somebody you're not. Be real butter, not margarine. Be who you are and be consistently who you are. This leads to a more giving and forgiving life. If I am always my true self I never have to worry what I said or did in tough circumstances. I was just me, plain and simple Ann."
- "None of us are a solo act. I never met a truly 'self-made' person that I admire.
Unfortunately, some self-made people worship at the altar of their own creation."
- "In business, you must have patience and develop long-term relationships. People, both customers and employees, want to know that you really care about them."
- "Personally I've changed my view about retirement and I now think I'll be engaged in business and in civic affairs 'til the day I croak. I like to FOCUS FORWARD."