



**Philanthropic Round Table  
Engaging and Educating Girls and Women to be Strategic Philanthropists  
Monday, February 26, 2018  
Club 101**

**Panelist Biographies**



**Jennifer Agmi**

Jennifer Agmi is a Director of Programs at The New York Women's Foundation. The New York Women's Foundation funds women leaders building solutions in their communities and invest in organizations that strive for justice, economic security, safety, and health for women and families. Jen leads The Foundation's IGNITE! with Girls, Gender-Fluid and Young Women of Color, a seven-year initiative, which unites the power of community, government, philanthropy and – most importantly – girls, gender-fluid, and young women of color themselves to radically change the way that society views and supports the strengths of this vital population. Jen also leads Girls IGNITE! Grantmaking (GIG), a unique fellowship designed to empower the next generation through philanthropic education and giving. Through GIG, fellows explore social justice issues, leadership, advocacy, peer group dynamics, consensus building, community engagement and financial decision making.

Jen has worked in the nonprofit sector for over 15 years in the areas of policy, advocacy, mental health and social services with a particular focus on immigrant women and their families. Jen holds a BA in Psychology and Women and Gender Studies from Brandeis University and an MPA in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at New York University.



**Alison Basdekis**

Ms. Basdekis is the Director of Horizons at Miss Hall's School in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Horizons is the School's experiential service-learning and internship program that provides students with opportunities to

volunteer and intern at local social service and cultural organizations, businesses, and professional offices. The program also allows students to explore areas of college majors and career interests, while pitching in to make their community a better place.

As director of this hallmark program, Ms. Basdekis draws from her extensive experience teaching and mentoring adolescents, her vast knowledge of the local community, and her deep desire to develop school-community partnerships. She interacts program-wide with more than seventy-five sites that support the experiences of Miss Hall's School students.

Ms. Basdekis also advises the on-campus student group MAPS (Mira's Alliance for Philanthropic Sustainability). MAPS educates and fundraises in the Miss Hall's School community and around the world for sustainable philanthropy through micro loans, micro grants, and contributions to similar organizations. Ms. Basdekis's on campus advising also extends to two student-run clubs: Z-Club and HEAT (Hall's Environmental Action Team). Z-Club is a high school affiliate of Zonta International, which is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Off-campus, Ms. Basdekis owns and co-operates a small, diverse farm located between New York's Hudson Valley and the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts. She serves on the board of Alchemy Initiative, a Berkshire-based nonprofit whose mission is "Using food as the foundation for creative community building." Ms. Basdekis is also an active volunteer and grant reader for the Berkshire United Way. She is a graduate of the University of Vermont.



### **Kathleen McQuiggan**

Kathleen McQuiggan is a passionate investor in women advocate and wealth advisor at Artemis Financial Advisors. She has worked in Financial Services industry for over two and a half decades advising investors and helping clients. As a woman on Wall Street, Kathleen witnessed first-hand the inequality and unconscious bias that permeates the industry. In 2009, Kathleen left Goldman Sachs, where she had spent 13 years, and set off on her own path to make a difference, founding Catalina Leadership, a consulting firm focused on investing in women.

She went on to serve as the SVP of Global Women's Strategies at PAX World Management, a leader in sustainable investing, and was named to the InvestmentNews' inaugural Women to Watch list in 2015. Kathleen currently serves on the CFP® Board Women's Advisory Council and is an active member of SheGives, Ellevest Network, Forte Foundation, Plum Alley Investments, Women Working for Oceans and Dartmouth Natural Resource Trust.



**Vanessa Stair**

*Miss Hall's School Class of 2006*

Ms. Stair is a Corporate Relations Officer for Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the international humanitarian organization that provides impartial medical relief to the victims of war, disease, and natural or man-made disaster, without regard to race, religion, or political affiliation. In her role, Ms. Stair works with corporate donors to encourage them to support MSF's efforts. Ms. Stair also writes a blog—[chocoLACTmilk.com](http://chocoLACTmilk.com)—giving “space, dialogue, community, and resources to mothers of color with an emphasis on inclusivity, compassion, and social good.” The blog has about 7,000 subscribers.

Prior to joining MSF in 2016, Ms. Stair was a Campaign Associate with Girl Up, the United Nations Foundation's adolescent girl campaign that supports the empowerment of girls by promoting their health, safety, education, and leadership in developing countries. Ms. Stair also previously served as Manager of Corporate and Foundation Partnerships with The Doe Fund Inc., a New York City-based nonprofit that works to develop and implement cost-effective, holistic programs that meet the needs of a diverse population working to break the cycles of homelessness, addiction, and criminal recidivism.

Vanessa was born and raised in the North Bronx section of New York City, where her parents settled after immigrating from Jamaica. Vanessa graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a BA in Sociology. She is heavily involved in women's and girls' issues supporting organizations such as Girls on the Run and Planned Parenthood. Vanessa currently lives in Brooklyn with her 6 year old daughter and partner.



**Elizabeth S. Zeigler**

Elizabeth S. Zeigler is President and CEO of Graham-Pelton Consulting and is one of the first women to head a top firm in the multibillion-dollar fundraising consulting industry. She serves a full spectrum of industry clients in both the United States and Europe.

Elizabeth's efforts have enabled Graham-Pelton to play a groundbreaking role in elevating the level and understanding of philanthropy worldwide and she has become a leading voice globally in helping fundraisers tap the enormous giving power of women.

Elizabeth has provided executive management and counsel to select clients, including The Madeira School in McLean, Virginia; Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights, Ohio; and Marymount School of New York in New York City.