

WINTER 2015

WOMEN *and* WOMEN

MAGAZINE

'Pessimism'
is the Key

♡ to a Healthy Heart ———

Helping Hands

LOCAL AGENCIES HELPING
WOMEN OVERCOME TRAGEDY

VEGAN
RECIPES
INSIDE!

READING RECREATION COMMISSION
GIRLS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM—

Leading Ladies

MORE Women2Know

Q&A:

More Women2Know looks behind the scenes at outstanding women who have successfully contributed to an organization's successes, inspire and motivate others to achieve, and personify the mission and objectives of **Women2Women**.



Daphne Klahr, CPSI

Executive Director
Reading Recreation Commission

Q: Why is your position unique to women in our community?

A: In my position as Executive Director for the Reading Recreation Commission (a partnership of the City of Reading and the Reading School District to provide recreation services and programs to the residents of Reading), I am able to improve the quality of life for city residents and help our youth develop the skillsets needed to be successful. Working for the Commission has positioned me both in the community and on a state-level to make a real, quantifiable and positive difference in the city.

Q: What has led you to your current career path?

A: My career path has been rather varied having grown up in a family-owned produce company and then working in the hospitality industry for most of my 20's. I worked for 10 years in West Reading running their recreation department before I was hired in 2012 as a state circuit-rider for the Reading Recreation Commission. A person I caught up with recently at a national conference wrote me a note saying "The excitement in your voice about Reading should be bottled and sold." I truly feel that I am in the position that I was always meant to be in.

Q: Would you wish to acknowledge a mentor or friend who helped you aspire to this point in your life's journey, and why?

A: Professionally, Diane Kripas, Division Chief for Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Sue Landes, Executive Director for the Lancaster Recreation Commission, have both

been valuable mentors. They have been extremely supportive with their advice and time, and I know that I can always turn to either when I need a sounding board or an honest opinion. Personally, my parents have always been wonderful role models for me. They have encouraged me to take chances, pursue educational opportunities, and work hard. My dad was always a considerate and fair boss to his staff, and developed lifelong loyalty from them as a result. I have always tried to follow his lead on how to treat staff and co-workers.

Q: What words of wisdom would you offer to other women?

A: Be honest with yourself about your strengths, your weaknesses, and constantly work on improving both.

Q: What is the most valuable way women can support each other?

A: Be a cheerleader for each other! It's amazing what an encouraging word or a compliment can do to make someone's day a little more special.

Q: Is there an "aha" moment or experience that defines who you are?

A: Honestly, there have been many "aha" moments in my life that define who I am. But most recently, having our Girls Leadership program participants "Leading Ladies" opt to perform a community service project in lieu of having a party for themselves really clarified my reasons for doing what I do. Making a difference in a young person's life is truly life-altering in a most positive way.

Q: What is your favorite mantra, favorite saying or words that keep you grounded?

A: Mother Teresa wrote the following words which I keep taped to my computer monitor:

"People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway. If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."

Q: What's your mission?

A: To empower youth with the skills needed to be successful, contributing members of our community.

Q: What do you consider women's main asset?

A: I think that women are natural-born leaders who have innate problem-solving abilities.

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Daphne Klahr continued...

Q: What do you consider women's main threat?

A: Being too hard on themselves. I love the saying "There are 3 billion woman who don't look like supermodels and only 8 who do." I think that all of the women in my life are fabulous, and every woman should think of themselves in terms of being "a total package."

Q: What 3 things do you recommend to assure success?

A: Be passionate about your cause, stay focused on the issues that you have control over, and be a good listener.

Q: How do you want to be perceived/remembered?

A: I hope that I'll be remembered as a women who made a difference in the community by helping others to be successful, who gave of her time to those in need, and who was kind.

Q: What is the best advice you have received?

A: Take time for yourself and have at least one thing in your life that gives you pleasure and makes your life easier. ■



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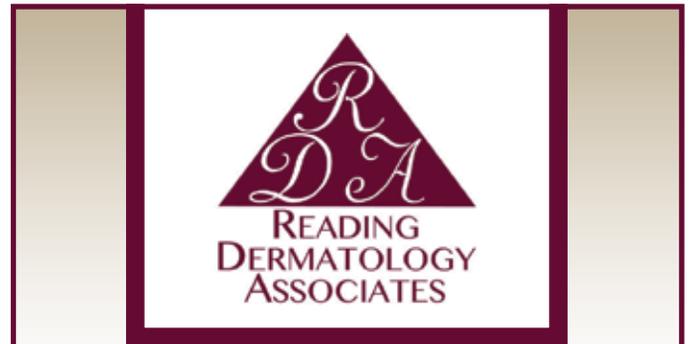


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