



Wind Beneath My Wings

BY JILLY MacDOWELL

As a writer and artist, I owe a debt of gratitude to my early women mentors. In high school, it was Harriet Sadow, a Boston Museum School trained painter and worldly dame. She was in her 50s, a disciplinarian, with no patience for our shenanigans.

It was her unyielding tutelage that inspired me to take every single art class my school offered (what a wonderfully different time in education, the '80s). Mrs. Sadow led me to receive the peer-awarded superlative "Most Artistic," something I'm proud of to this day. And she encouraged me to apply to only the finest art colleges, most of which accepted me.

Building upon that grandmaternal support were two bosses out of college, both editors, both "cool big sister" types. How they tolerated me, a fiery blur of hair, opinions and combat boots, let alone nurtured my writing, is beyond comprehension. They broadened my world view and taught me about professionalism without compromise.

With them I was old enough to know, in the moment, how smart and strategic and sensible and self-assured they were, and I've tried to pay it forward ever since.

In this issue of NC, we give women a spotlight. Women in business, about business and for leadership in business, on Zoom and on the web. Contributor & marketing expert Sarah Shriber explains branding - it's OK if you were pretending to know. And NC columnist Ron Vaimberg advises people of all genders to prepare for the oncoming storm - by staying the course.

I hope you don't mind a little levity from me. I have a varied background and none of it is mortgage. But I'm a good storyteller and I'm here to give you something to read, something to talk about. Tell me what's on your mind. What do you want to read about? Email magazine@namb.org. **NC**

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