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accounting profession. They are all active in the professional community, as well as in their local communities, where many are small business owners and employers.

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Cathy Iconis, CPA – 35

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What is the name of one book that has been a great influence to you?

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my experience in being able to communicate numbers simply and effectively has had one of the most impact on my business as a differentiator from others and also a huge impact for my clients.

In what ways do you participate in the professional community to change/improve the accounting profession?

I have a huge passion for QuickBooks Online and the ecosystem. A few years ago, I wanted to share that passion so I started a weekly tweet chat for QuickBooks Online Users. Each week we have a live chat on twitter sharing new features of QuickBooks Online, new Apps, and tips for how to help Small Businesses.

In what ways do you participate in your local community to help others?

For the past few years, I have been the chair of my daughters' preschool parent volunteer association. I also try to help out my oldest's new elementary school. Whatever I can do to support those that are teaching my children is a great use of my time.

What changes do you foresee in the accounting profession of the near future (3-5 years)?

I see more and more public accounting firms having to better understand the different accounting packages that are available on the market. I think they will become generalists in all the systems and there will be a place for some consultants to specialize in the different products. For public accounting, I'm not sure that it matters what accounting package your client is on, but public accounting professionals are going to have to understand that businesses need to find solutions that help them everyday and be more flexible in helping their clients.

How do you see yourself participating in shaping the future of the accounting

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To never stop learning and always be open to change.

Describe one person who has been an important mentor to you and how that person helped change your life.

Stacy Kildal is a friend and mentor. She started her business a few years before me and has had an incredible path. I'm privileged to be following in her footsteps (while making a few of my own). She has given me great advice on running my business. She is also great at being impartial and being a sounding board when I have various issues going on in my business.

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