

CHARTER 100 DC

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Charter 100 DC Members,

With this March issue of our newsletter, we're springing (pun intended) for a new design. Thanks go to our administrative assistant Alicia for her work on this.

We've had an exciting February, complete with a special Q&A from *New York Times* food columnist and editor Marian Burros, moderated by our own Paula Hantman, as well as a fascinating presentation on mental health crises and interventions by Christine Gebhard, chief executive officer for North Country Community Mental Health (Michigan).

Please join us on Tuesday, March 16, from noon to 1:30 p.m., for a lecture on why it is so important for women to tell their stories, by author and consultant Amanda Hirsch (also the daughter of Charter 100 Member Stephanie Karsten).

This month's newsletter features a profile of member Alma Paty, as well as important information from Membership Chair Beverly Dean.

Stay safe and warm!

Arleen Heiss

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * Please join us on Tuesday, March 16, from noon to 1:30 p.m. for a presentation by writer, story coach and consultant Amanda Hirsch. Amanda will share why she believes women need to learn to reframe self-promotion as a form of personal storytelling, and why telling our stories is key to growing our power. Hirsch's company, Mighty Forces, whose clients include Melinda Gates' Pivotal Ventures and The Malala Fund, helps women and women's organizations clarify and amplify their stories. Hirsch's original TV pilot script, "Yes, Andrea," was selected as a finalist in the 2020 Sundance Episodic Lab.

[To RSVP to this event, click here](#)

Zoom information for this event is as follows:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2272094566?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2272094566?pwd=dWIRQ3dwQWdXaUtNbmxWNXFLK3NDdz09MeetingID:2272094566Passcode:167992Phonein:13017158592US)

[pwd=dWIRQ3dwQWdXaUtNbmxWNXFLK3NDdz09Meeting ID: 227 209 4566Passcode: 167992Phone in: 1 301 715 8592 US](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2272094566?pwd=dWIRQ3dwQWdXaUtNbmxWNXFLK3NDdz09MeetingID:2272094566Passcode:167992Phonein:13017158592US)

- * Our annual meeting will be a virtual one on Saturday, June 5, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

USEFUL MEMBER INFORMATION

Charter 100 DC Website: www.charter100dc.com
Website Password for Members Only/Info: 2021charTer100
Questions, Administrative Assistance: charter100dc@gmail.com



A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Just a reminder regarding membership -- the all-new membership application form and associated instructions are now available on the Charter 100 DC website. The following is a [link](#) to the Members Only section of the site, where the documents are available.

For those of you with new member candidates, watch your inbox, as we will email you everything you will need to navigate your candidates through the membership process.

And remember you can always reach out to me for help.

We have a wonderful new member candidate pool this year, many with international business experience. We look forward to introducing them to all of you.

Beverly Dean
Membership Chair
beverlybdean@gmail.com
303.359.9490 cell :: voice



CHARTER 100 DC'S 2021 MONTHLY MEETINGS

March 16: Amanda Hirsch, founder, Mighty Forces, an organization that helps women and women's organizations clarify and amplify their stories. Presentation topic: "Why All Women Should Tell Their Stories."

April 20: Robert P. Jackson, diplomat, former U.S. Ambassador to Ghana

May 18: Melissa Siegel, Cooking with Edible Flowers

To suggest a speaker or event for Charter 100 DC, please email our Program and Special Events committees' co-chairs:

Mini Campos minicampos509@gmail.com

Juliana Zoto jmz@jmzoto.com

Sabina Fogle sabinapfogle@gmail.com

Paula Hantman Tolle hantmans@gmail.com

As always, if you have additions or updates to the membership directory, please email Alicia at charter100dc@gmail.com



FEATURED MEMBER: ALMA PATY

It was March of 2014, during Lent, and Alma Paty was singing Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Pie Jesu* duet for the service prelude at St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. Following the 9 a.m. service, she was waiting to sing at the 11 a.m. service prelude, when a fellow choir member said, "He's coming."

Alma asked, "What?"

The response: "The president's coming."

A little while later, as she was singing, Paty saw the entirety of the congregation turn their heads as President Obama and his family, along with Secret Service agents, entered through the side door. "At that point, we were chopped liver," she said with a laugh. Paty didn't have a view of the president, but she did see the rest of his family. This wasn't her first choral performance, but it certainly stands out as the most memorable.

Music was always a large part of Paty's life, as she grew up in Rogersville, Tenn. Her mother was a talented singer and directed the children's choir at church. "My first solo was when I was four," she noted.

Later on, at Salem Academy prep school, Paty joined the school's storied glee club. "Our glee club was our school's football team." Salem was also where Paty fell in love with the sciences, especially when she and her biology classmates went on a two-week trip to the Galapagos Islands to study the environment in which Darwin had made many of his discoveries. While Paty and her classmates were in the air on the way to Quito, Ecuador, the country experienced a military coup. The girls were transferred to a hacienda in the mountains, but the trip continued. That, in addition to a hometown eighth-grade science teacher, who became a formative figure in her life, instilled an interest in science. "Mr. Brown really helped me pour fuel on the fire," she said, at a time when not many girls were encouraged to pursue studies and careers in what is today known as STEM. "I will always give him credit."

**"Our glee club was our school's football team."
-Alma Paty**

After graduating from high school, Paty attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville and majored in geology and earth science. She then received a

teaching fellowship and her master's degree at the University of Kentucky. It was there that a professor asked her if she was interested in assisting him with his research in the Bahamas as part of her thesis. Paty thought that if she was going to endure the intensive process of researching, writing, and assembling a thesis in the sciences, she "might as well get a tan at the same time." So she packed her bags, and flew to San Salvador Island.

When Paty graduated from the University of Kentucky, she had scholastic success and decorations, but little work experience. She moved to Washington, D.C. and lived with two of her girlfriends. Six months after beginning her job hunt, she landed a position at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in the division of high-level waste management. Next, Paty was hired to work on Capitol Hill for the House Committee on Natural Resources (then Interior), chaired by Representative Morris Udall. After her government work, Paty moved to lobbying, working for an organization now known as the National Mining Association. Then, after a one-year position at the Gold Institute, Paty decided to go out on her own and work as a consultant, during which time she acquired a contract with the American Geological Institute and other energy associations, including one for a position as executive director of an energy education foundation. Cumulatively, Paty's work has brought her to 41 out of 50 states (and she has played golf in 17 of them!). She currently has her eye on getting back into managing a nonprofit or a foundation, as she's had experience in many aspects of this field, including fundraising, management and membership. When it comes to foundations and nonprofits, she is, in her own words, a Swiss army knife.

Paty and her husband, John, live in Chevy Chase, and Paty enjoys birding and golf at the Chevy Chase Club.

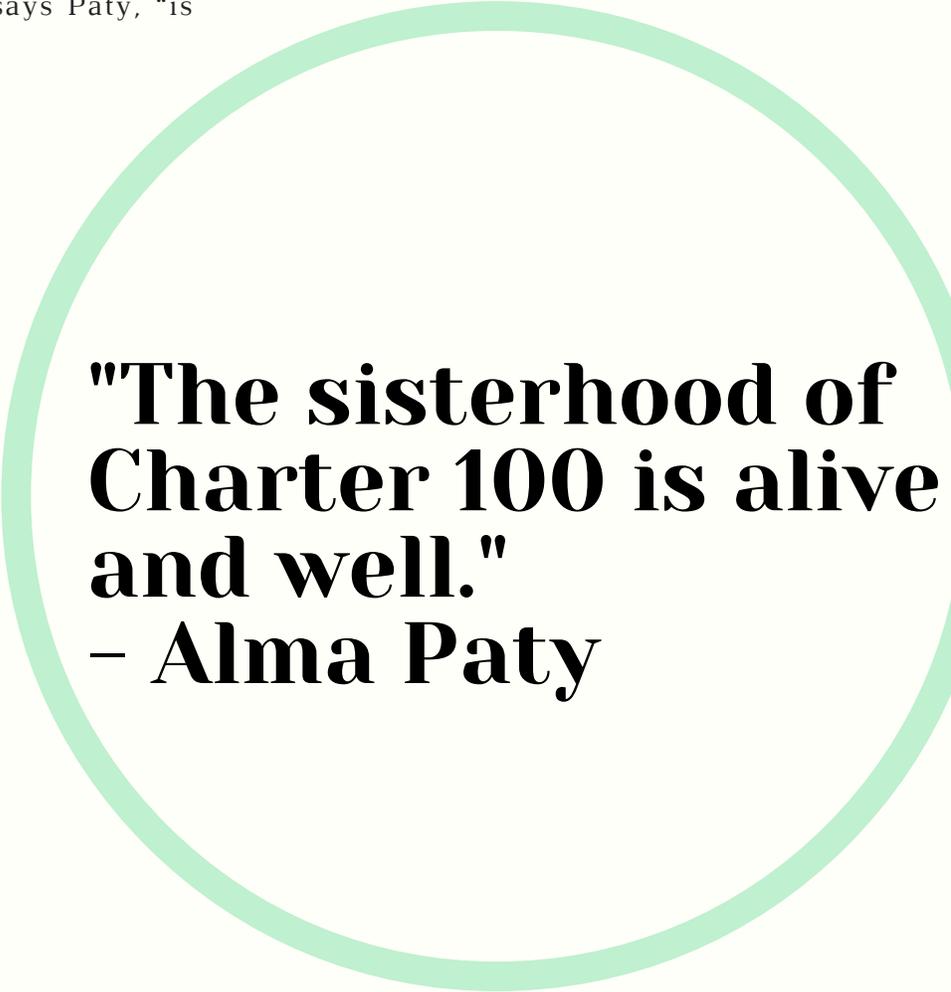


PHOTO BY MARTIN R. SMITH

She has also started working part time at the elementary school their children, Clarke, Ellie, and Wesley attended. There, she has been teaching children to explore gardening, maps and birding, though the pandemic has curtailed this venture until students return to in-school learning. Paty is involved with several groups, including Charter 100 DC, which she joined in 1996. She has enjoyed watching the organization continue to



grow and appreciates its members, who “just brought so much pizzazz and have really broadened our horizons. And the speakers are just fabulous.” Most of all, she feels that the members of Charter 100 truly support one another in both good and challenging times. “The sisterhood of Charter 100,” says Paty, “is alive and well.” 



**"The sisterhood of
Charter 100 is alive
and well."
– Alma Paty**

Charter 100 DC Executive Committee:

Arleen Heiss, President

Carol Whitman, Vice President

Sally Fowler, Secretary

Jackie Hunt, Treasurer

Beverly Dean, Membership Committee Chair

Mini Campos & Juliana Zoto Efessiou, Program Committee Co-Chairs

Sabina Fogle & Paula Hantman Tolle, Special Events Committee Co-Chairs

Gail Nordheimer, Arrangements Committee Chair

Gail Raiman, Ombudsman

Barbara Ciconte, Past President

The Charter 100 of Washington, DC brings
together women of outstanding
accomplishments in diverse fields.