

CHARTER 100 DC

President's Letter

Happy Holidays, Ladies!

What challenging days we live in. With the world in such disarray, it will be a great escape to get together again and reconnect with members we haven't seen for a while, share some holiday cheer and toast to the New Year. I am delighted that we have such a wonderful group of new members in our ranks!

Like everyone who attended our last Holiday Tea at the Sulgrave Club, look forward to celebrating in that elegant venue again with rooms decorated in the classical tradition. Take out those pearls, ladies – and don't forget to warm them ahead of time as Southern bells used to do!

Our special event, The Titanic Exhibition, at the National Harbor, was excellent and exceeded everyone's expectations. It even included recordings of passengers who miraculously survived. Thank you, once again, Special Events Committee Co-Chairs and your members for identifying this event and arranging it for our members. Stay tuned as they have many other great events in the works for next year!

I hope your Thanksgiving was filled with the warmth of family and friends and a bountiful table – we have so very much to be thankful for, especially this year.

Don't forget to feed the birds this winter... native plants with berries.

God bless you all ~

Paula Hantman

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**MEET DONNA SEEKER
FROM THE
SCRAPBOOK**

**CHARTER 100 DC
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Quilts & Advocacy:
How Art Educates, Energizes, and Engages with Communities
Barbara Garlock - January 16
SAVE THE DATE!**



Barbara Garlock

JOIN US JANUARY 16 TO HEAR ABOUT QUILTING AND ADVOCACY - IN THIS CASE, FOR DC STATEHOOD - WITH BARBARA GARLOCK.

*****THE VENUE FOR THE EVENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON*****

Barbara, a Wellesley graduate who earned her MBA at the Wharton School, spent 25 years as a nonprofit executive and consultant. Now retired, she serves on the Boards for the League of Women Voters -

DC (LWV-DC) and the Alliance for New Music Theater in DC.

An avid quilter for years, she co-founded Quilts4DC in 2020 shortly after H.R. 51 which called for the establishment of the Douglas Commonwealth.

LWV-DC was a natural sponsor for Quilts4DC. After all, “quilts have long been a way that women in particular have used their power,” as Barbara told ABC-7 last year. “For most of American history, women didn’t have a voice other than their needle and thread. Quilters stitch their feelings and beliefs into fabric.”

LWV - DC and local quilters reached out to other chapters and quilting groups around the country asking for support for statehood. They discovered a supportive community that extended to other arts and media.

Barbara will share the lessons learned about engaging and energizing communities. She’ll share practical how-to tips and review how other artisan groups use their work to support a variety of efforts to advocate for and lift their communities.



Say Hello to Donna Seeker

These days, Donna Seeker is enjoying the part-time life and working from home for the successful real estate inspection business she joined and helped grow several years ago.

“I’m enjoying time for myself,” she grins, “especially happy hours, visiting museums (she was part of the group that saw the Titanic Exhibit in November), and going to the gym!”

Donna had been working in real estate for several years when a client’s girlfriend insisted on using a particular inspection company run by Ed Donofrio, now her long-term partner.

“I’d been ‘eh’ on real estate to be honest,” she says, and Ed’s commercial and home inspection business was rapidly expanding. Ed hired her to oversee sales, where her real estate expertise proved to be extremely valuable. “I did presentations in client offices,” she says, which helped the business really take off.

Ed’s adult sons have since joined the business, allowing Donna to reduce her hours and expand her social life with groups like Charter100 DC. She volunteered with a domestic violence prevention project, where she met Stephanie Karsten, her Charter100 sponsor and current Board secretary.

Donna and Ed live in Ashburn, near most of their children (six between the two of them) and 10 collective grandchildren. They take advantage of their proximity to DC to visit museums as often as they can, taking a handful or so of the grands at a time. Donna recently took four of them, ages four through 12, to visit Planet Word, where the interactive multilingual exhibits and karaoke provide entirely different methods to learn other languages.

Other favorite museums include the National Portrait Gallery, the Museum of the Bible, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA). A fan of Frieda Kahlo, Donna was moved by an exhibit of Kahlo artifacts at the NMWA.

Donna Seeker, Continued

Donna and Ed dote on their rescue dog Happy (yes, he is Happy Seeker). A DNA test showed that Happy is quite a mix - Husky, Sharpei, German Shepherd, and American Staffordshire Terrier. "He's quite protective of us," Donna observes.

"Charter 100 will open my eyes to new learning experiences and I am grateful for those opportunities, Donna says. "I love meeting new people and hearing their stories. Charter is a great place for this!"



Happy Seeker on the job!

FROM THE SCRAPBOOK: TITANIC: THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION



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**Charter 100 DC brings together
women of outstanding accomplishments
in diverse fields.**

2023-2024 CHARTER 100 DC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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