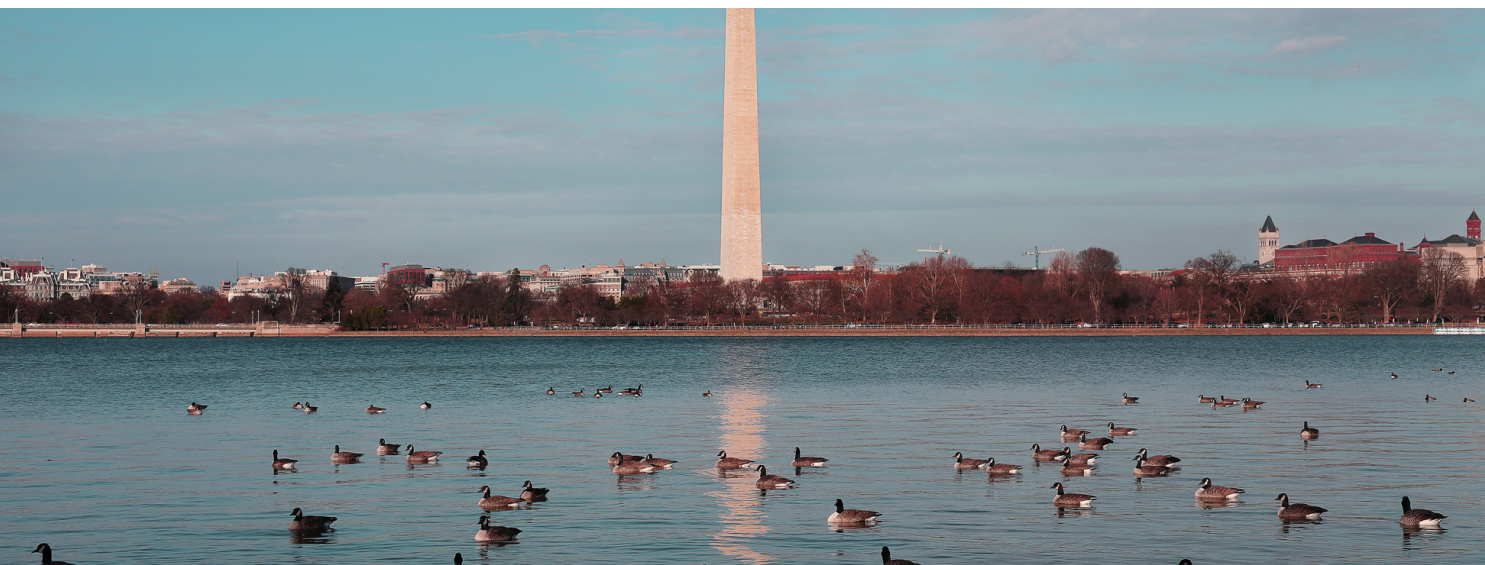


# CHARTER 100 DC

*JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER*



Dear Charter 100 DC Members,

As summer picnics, trips to the beach, family reunions, and vacations roll out, Charter 100 DC's Programs, Special Events, and Arrangements Committees are fast at work preparing a 2021-2022 calendar chock-a-block with fascinating speakers, things to do, and events to attend! New venues are being researched and vetted by our pros. We're very excited with the plans underway!

At the end of this month, July 28, 2021, from 6:00-8:00 PM, we will welcome our nine new impressive members into Charter 100: Sharon Cooper, Alissa Fox, Babs Jackson, Kathy Gest, Clara Montanez, Kerri Norris, Melanie Anne Taylor, Margaret VanAmringe, and Anne Wengrovitz at a private cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception in their honor at Columbia Country Club, thanks to member Barbara Ciconte. Circle your calendar, take out those sundresses, and RSVP promptly! I've already submitted a request for perfect weather!

As part of our planning process to identify the mix of virtual versus in-person meetings, the Programs Committee will be sending members a questionnaire about their preferences for in-person, Zoom, or hybrid meetings. Results will be used to assess our future technical expertise requirements. Regarding speakers this year, Programs Committee Co-Chairs, Mini Campos and Catherine Harper, have designed a new speaker nomination form that will be released shortly should you have a speaker to recommend this year for consideration.

Final reviews of the Member Handbook and Member Directory are underway and will be re-issued digitally to all members soon.

I look forward to seeing everyone in their summer finery Wednesday, July 28th, at 6:00 PM at Columbia Country Club. It will be a wonderful event for our "new" and "old" members alike!

*Paula Hantman Tolle*

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### 2021-2022 CHARTER 100 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \* **July 28, 2021: New Member Reception**

Please join us on Wednesday, July 28, from 6-8 PM at Columbia Country Club for a private cocktail reception to welcome our new 2021-2022 Charter 100 DC members.

The event will take place at:  
Columbia Country Club  
7900 Connecticut Avenue  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.  
Free valet, as well as lot parking, will be available.

Kindly RSVP by Monday, July 19, at the following link:  
<https://www.charter100dc.org/event-details/new-members-reception/form>

## USEFUL MEMBER INFORMATION

Charter 100 DC Website: [www.charter100dc.com](http://www.charter100dc.com)  
Website Password for Members Only/Info: 2021charTer100  
Questions, Administrative Assistance: [charter100dc@gmail.com](mailto:charter100dc@gmail.com)



**CHARTER 100 DC IS THRILLED TO WELCOME  
OUR NEW MEMBERS:**

**Sharon Cooper, Ph.D**

**Alissa Fox**

**Babette (Babs) Jackson**

**Kathy Gest**

**Clara Montanez**

**Kerri Norris**

**Melanie Anne Taylor, Ph.D., PCC**

**Margaret VanAmringe**

**Anne Wengrovitz**

**WELCOME**

## About the New Members of 2021-2022

**Sharon Cooper, Ph.D.** is a leading behavioral psychologist at John Hopkins Sibley Memorial Hospital Center for Weight Loss Surgery (2006 – present). With more than 30 years of expertise as a licensed psychologist in private practice, she also served at such organizations as Arlington Psychiatric Group, Institute for Human Resources and Center for Family Research. Sharon has developed a successful individual practice helping many people toward better mental health. As a coach, Sharon helps people determine and fulfill their goals.

**Alissa Fox** is currently a health policy adviser for Limber Health, a digital health startup. Prior to that, she was the senior vice president and head of the D.C. government relations office for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. In that role, she worked with other key provider and consumer groups and high-level government officials to enact the Affordable Care Act (ACA). She was included in *Washingtonian Magazine's* "100 Most Powerful Women in Washington" for several years. Alissa is married and a mother of two adult sons and one daughter-in-law who live in the D.C. area. She is also actively caring for her 91-year-old mother living close by.

**Babette (Babs) Jackson** worked as a speech and language pathologist 18 years in Montgomery County and Fairfax County Public Schools. She continued her professional career after marriage to her husband, Rob, as a private speech and language pathologist in Portugal, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Morocco, while she and Rob served together in a 30-year Foreign Service career. At overseas postings, Babs joined and actively participated in international diplomatic groups. Since returning to the United States, she has served as an election officer and assistant chief for her precinct in Fairfax County. Most recently, Babs has rejoined her photography group from the Association of Spouses of Heads of Mission (ASOHOM) in Ghana.

**Kathy Gest** is a senior communications and advocacy specialist, trainer, editor and writer with particular experience in international affairs. Prior to her consulting practice, Kathy was director of public affairs (2007-2015) for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) where she managed external communications for NDI's offices in 60 countries and created and executed training programs on strategic communications, messaging, media training, congressional procedures and other topics for foreign political parties, election observation groups, and visiting international delegations. She has observed 23 elections in 12 countries. Kathy has been a member of the National Press Foundation since 2002 and served as 2018-2020 chairman.

**Clara Montanez** is a senior director of investments at the D.C. branch of Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. A graduate of the American University with a BA/BS in business administration, Clara also studied at the London School of Economics where she received a post-graduate Diploma in International and Comparative Politics. She holds the General Securities Representative License (Series 7), the Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination (Series 63) and the Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination (Series 65). Clara currently represents Rotary International to the World Bank Group and is a director of the board of Coaniquem Burned Children's Foundation (Santiago, Chile). She was born in Colombia and is fluent in Spanish and French. She has two daughters and enjoys traveling, skiing, dancing, singing, cooking and gardening.

**Kerri Norris** is a global professional specializing in international strategy development, strategic alliance building and communications. Fluent in French and Spanish, she has worked with Fortune 500 companies, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organizations. During her tenure at Staples, Inc., she represented the company at the U.S. Department of Commerce, United Nations, World Bank, Fortune 500 customers, embassies, and the Women's Business Enterprise National Council. Locally, Kerri participates in the community with D.C. Cultural Tourism as a corporate advisory member; she is on the Washington Performing Arts Society Women's Committee; and a member of the National Women's History Museum Youth Focus Planning Group.

**Melanie Anne Taylor, Ph.D., PCC**, has served as president of the Center for Executive Development and has provided coaching to several hundreds of executives including senior level executives of Fortune 100 corporations, government agencies and educational and community organizations. Melanie has also served on the faculty of the Center for Creative Leadership, the National Leadership Institute, the Hartford Graduate Center, and the University of Colorado. Born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, W.I., Melanie emigrated to the United States and received a B.A. in psychology from Williams College, and master and doctorate degrees in psychology from the University of Virginia. She is a member of the American Psychological Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Women's Research & Education Institute. Melanie is active with the Caribbean Association of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund Staff and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

**Margaret VanAmringe** is the executive vice president for public policy and government relations at The Joint Commission, a U.S.-based nonprofit organization that accredits more than 22,000 U.S. health care organizations and programs. Prior to taking a position with the Joint Commission, Margaret was director of the Center for Research Dissemination and Liaison at the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (now the Agency for Health Research and Quality) in the U.S. Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). There she established the agency's first health information dissemination program to bring practical information gleaned from health services research into the hands of consumers and their families. Margaret holds a master of health sciences degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

**Anne Wengrovitz** is a public health professional with more than 25 years of experience developing and implementing strategic policy and program solutions. She is currently a director at Humanitas, where she manages consulting projects for federal agencies, private companies and nonprofit organizations. From 1992-2004, she served as director of health policy and then deputy director for the Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning. She co-authored two manuscripts published in the Center for Disease Control weekly scientific publication. Anne held several leadership positions with the Arlington Philharmonic, including board president, and founded the Arlington Youth Orchestral Program, overseeing its merger with the Arlington Philharmonic.

# Treasuring the Process: Jackie Hunt's Corporate and Personal Adventures



Born in Bedford, Pennsylvania, Jackie Hunt has called the DC metro area home for most of her life. At the age of 10, she relocated here with her family when her father applied for and received a position with the Government Printing Office. Prior to that, he, as well as his family, had worked in coal mining. His father was a Welsh immigrant that began working in the Pennsylvania coal mines at the age of eight. Jackie's father decided that he needed to change his vocation to offer greater opportunities for his family, hence his decision to move to the DC area. It was a good decision as Jackie became the first on her father's side of the family to earn a college degree.

For Jackie, a college education was not just the next point in a series of expected consecutive benchmarks; it was a gamechanger. Hunt had married her high school boyfriend and was raising two young sons by the time she went back to college. "I went back to college while my kids were little; it took a long time but I got my bachelor of science degree from University of Maryland (UMD)." Though she was simultaneously earning her degree, caring for two children, and entering the work force, Hunt continued to advance at the aerospace company for which she worked as a system analyst.

After graduating from UMD, Hunt continued her work at the aerospace company, eventually moving to the corporate offices to work directly for the vice president. Later, Martin Marietta, one of largest aerospace and technology companies

at the time, offered her a job, where she was responsible for pursuing large technology programs with the federal government. Next came a tug of war: Hunt was recruited to work with a research and development company as a vice president of business development. After several successful years, she was recruited back to Martin Marietta by her former boss, as director of business development in the information systems division. While in this position, her responsibilities increased as Martin Marietta merged to become Lockheed Martin. She again found more opportunity when Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) offered Hunt a vice president position at the corporate level. While there, she was promoted to corporate vice president working across all the SAIC business entities. During that time, SAIC grew to be an 11-billion-dollar research and development company.

During this tug of war, Hunt's personal life changed as well. Her kids grew up, she and her husband divorced and, in 1995, Hunt met her second husband, Robert Slahetka and they married in 1997. "He's the kindest,

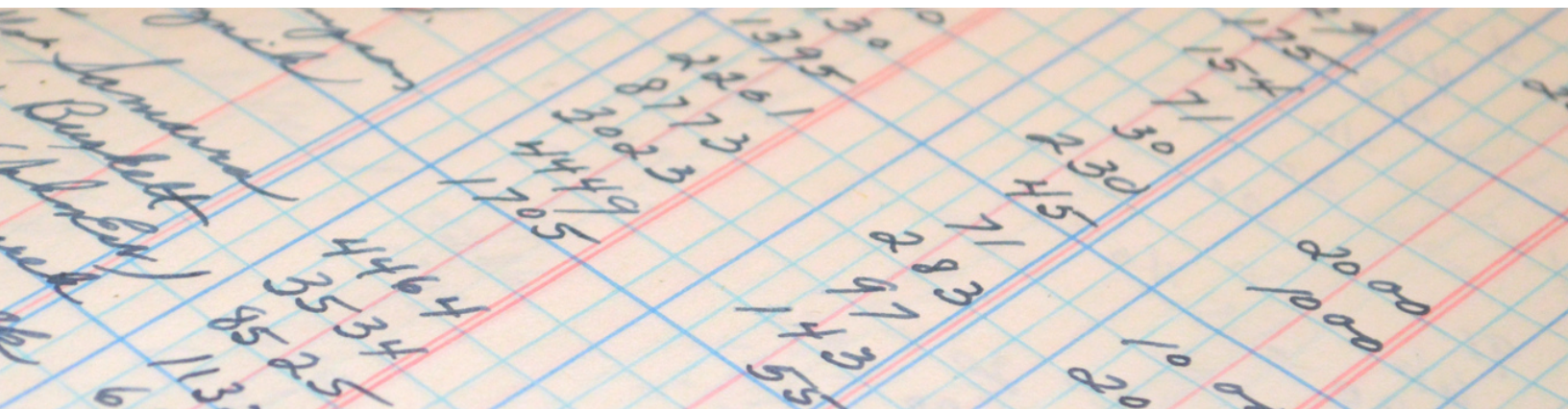


most sincere, caring person I have ever met in my life." It was Robert to whom she turned when her granddaughter was born, lamenting over how she worried she would miss out due to the obligations that came with her work. "He said, 'Well, quit!'" She said, "I can't do that!" Hunt found a third option. She became a consulting employee. Two days a week, she watched her granddaughter. The remainder of her career focused predominantly on strategic planning, determining bidding budgets and developing customer relationships. She and her husband subsequently invested in a CPA firm where they both worked to help the company grow providing financial management services to the federal government. A few years ago, they divested their ownership and retired.

Today, she once again finds herself involved in financial management, as treasurer of Charter 100 DC, a post she has held for four years. "One of my dear friends, and former industry associates, Kay Myers belonged to Charter 100, and she said, 'You know this is a great group of women, and we have a great time.'" She agreed. "I enjoy the fellowship with other women who have had very interesting careers." In addition to her work with Charter 100, Hunt volunteers her expertise to a variety of charities, including, most recently signing up to volunteer at the Shepherd Center that provides various services to the elderly. She is also as devoted a grandmother as ever, only now to four grandchildren.



**"I enjoy the fellowship with other women who have had very interesting careers."  
-Jackie Hunt**





# From the scrapbook...



*Jazz Event, May 2, 2021  
Potomac*

## 2021-2022 Charter 100 DC Executive Committee

Paula Hantman Tolle, President

Carol Whitman, Vice President

Sally Fowler, Secretary

Jackie Hunt, Treasurer

Beverly Dean & Sandie Preiss, Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Mini Campos & Catherine Harper, Program Committee Co-Chairs

Lucília Harrington & Rosemary Kimball, Special Events Committee Co-Chairs

Gail Nordheimer, Arrangements Committee Chair

Gail Raiman, Ombudsman

Arleen Heiss, Past President

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