

CHARTER 100 DC

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Charter 100 DC Members,

We've had a wonderful beginning to spring, including a March event with author and consultant (and daughter of Charter 100 member Stephanie Karsten) Amanda Hirsch, who talked to us about some of the ways in which we can begin telling and writing our stories--and why it is so vital for us to do so.

We also have several exciting events coming up, including a meeting with retired U.S. Ambassador Robert P. Jackson, whose talk is entitled, "Do We Still Need Embassies in 2021?" Please find more information, as well as a registration link in our announcements section.

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

Stay safe and enjoy the weather!

Arleen Heiss

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**A NOTE FROM THE
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

**2021 CHARTER
SPEAKERS**

**APRIL'S FEATURED
MEMBER INTERVIEW:
PAULA FEENEY**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * Please join us on Tuesday, April 20, from noon to 1:30 p.m. for a presentation by retired United States Ambassador Robert P. Jackson entitled "Do We Still Need Embassies in 2021?" Drawing on his experience as a diplomat from 1982 through 2018, Jackson will offer his thoughts on the relevance of embassies in the Information Age.

Zoom information for this event is as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2272094566?>

pwd=dWIRQ3dwQWdXaUtNbmXWNXFLK3NDdz09Meetin

g ID: 227 209 4566Passcode: 167992Phone in: 1 301 715

8592 US

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

- * 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

WE ARE APPROACHING THE DEADLINE FOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, APRIL 30, 2021. THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN BUSY WITH ZOOM CALLS TO GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBER CANDIDATES A LITTLE BETTER AND ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THEY MIGHT HAVE. IF YOU ARE SPONSORING A CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR, IT'S TIME TO START WRITING THOSE SPONSOR AND CO-SPONSOR LETTERS. PLEASE LET US KNOW SHOULD YOU NEED HELP!

BEVERLY DEAN, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR -
BEVERLYBDEAN@GMAIL.COM





CHARTER 100 DC'S 2021 MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

"LOTS OF ADDRESSES ALONG THE WAY" PAULA FEENEY'S GLOBAL LIFE

How do you travel to 96 countries but spend most of your time on American soil? You do so by working at U.S. embassies around the world. Paula Feeney's entrée into United States diplomacy came somewhat obliquely—by her own design. She left her hometown of South Bend, Indiana, in 1969 to attend Georgetown University's School of Nursing, topping off her undergraduate studies with a master's degree in public health (MPH) at Johns Hopkins University and a research program in the Philippines. It was only after she returned to Washington and served as a consultant with a Pan American Health Organization (during which time she worked in public health in the Cayman Islands and the Dominican Republic) that she felt she had amassed enough experience to apply for a position with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). She went on to long-term assignments, focusing on public health in Nicaragua and the eastern Caribbean from a base in Barbados.

After five years in the Foreign Service, Feeney took a one-year leave of absence to pursue a doctoral degree in public health (DrPH), again at Hopkins. Enabled by a grant from the World Health Organization, she conducted research in 12 Caribbean countries that focused on the public sector procurement and provision of essential drugs. While she did not finish writing her dissertation, Feeney found what might have been an even more appropriate capstone to her research: she returned to USAID and funded the program she'd studied/designed. "I was then back with the purse strings," she says.



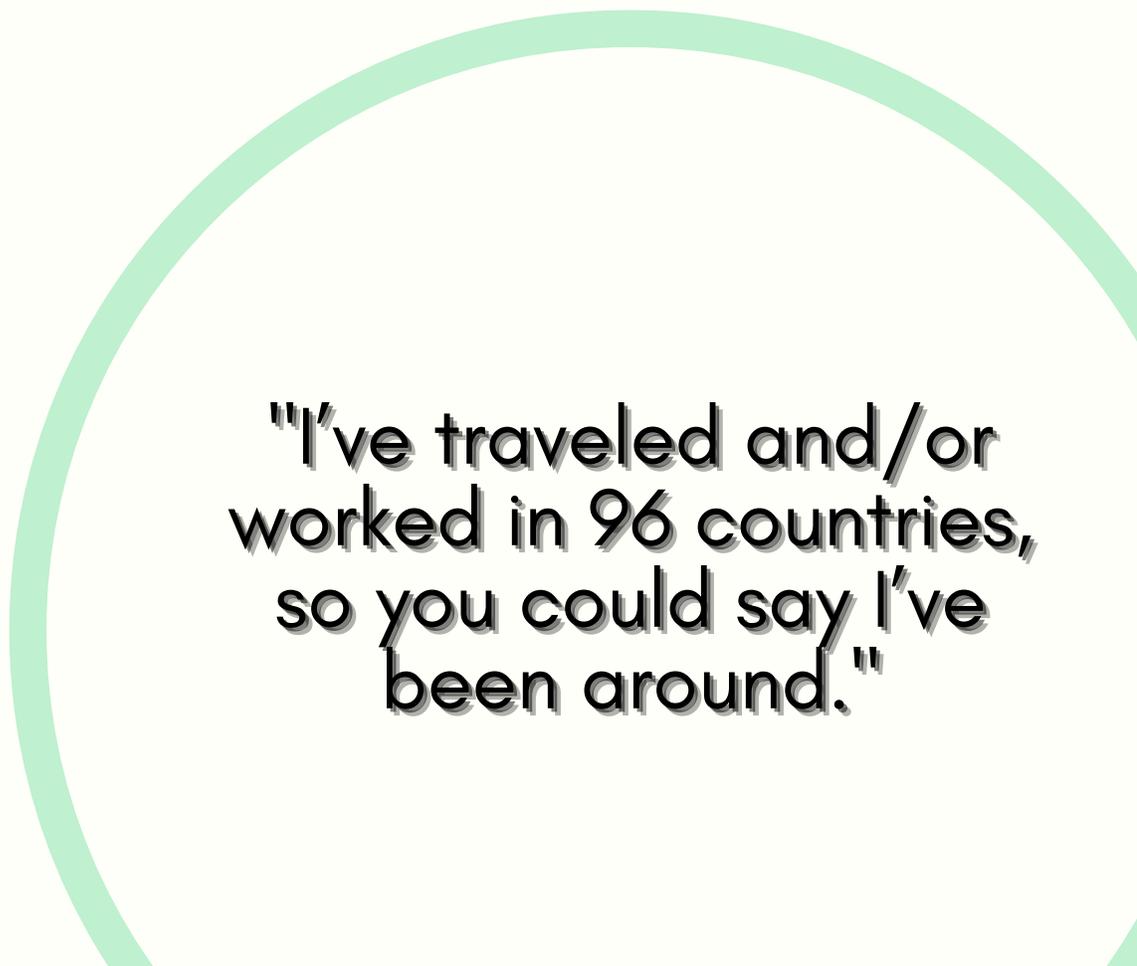
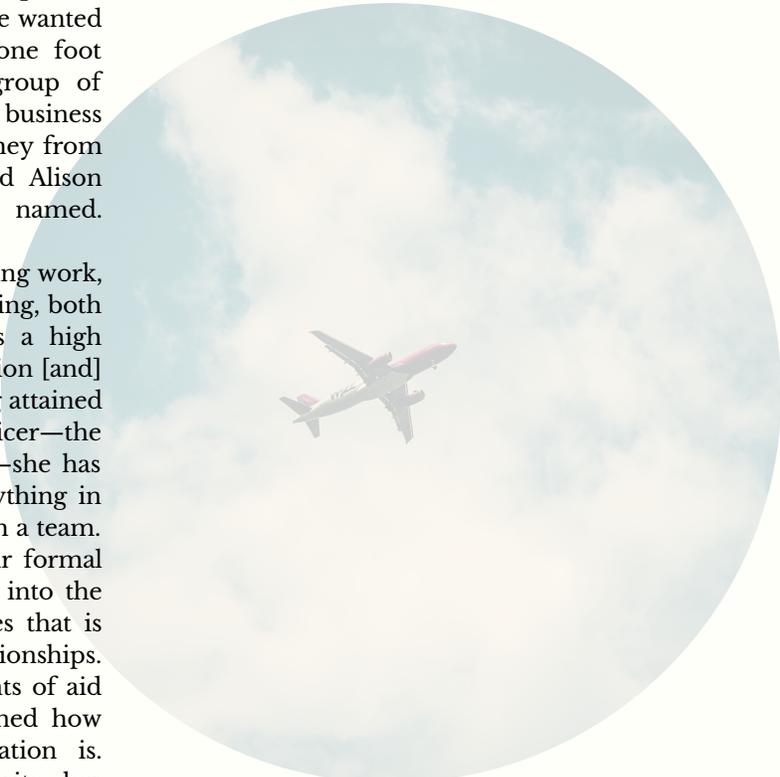
After marrying a fellow Foreign Service Officer, Feeney relocated to Geneva with her husband. The couple was assigned jointly, with Feeney as the USAID representative at the U.S. Mission in Geneva and her husband as U.S. Ambassador for arms control negotiations with the then-Soviet Union on nuclear testing. Feeney sees her career trajectory as proof of the feasibility of working in the Foreign Service as spouses. She and her husband also obtained concurrent assignments in Kazakhstan where Feeney became, in 1992, the first spouse of a U.S. Ambassador assigned as a foreign service officer at the same U.S. embassy, and thereafter in Tbilisi, Georgia.

In 2003, Feeney retired as USAID's director for European country affairs and acting deputy assistant administrator for the Bureau of Europe and Eurasia. She moved into the private sector, working as a senior advisor for business development, first with Deloitte and then Cardno, when the multinational company acquired the former's emerging markets group. In her current consulting work, she finds herself on "just the other side of the table...[I]n other words we're carrying out the international development work."



Before segueing from the public into the private sector, Feeney joined Charter 100 DC. She wanted to have one foot in Washington and one foot overseas, and Charter 100 offered a group of colleagues who were immersed in the business world; she could learn from them, and they from her. Her sponsors were Petra Kahn and Alison Graham, for whom her daughter is named. (Feeney also has a son, Will.)

Today, in addition to her consulting work, Feeney spends much of her time mentoring, both professionally and privately. She places a high emphasis on “looking to the next generation [and] sharing experiences learned.” And, having attained the rank of senior foreign service officer—the Foreign Service equivalent of a general—she has learned a lot. She has learned that everything in government is done—must be done—with a team. She has learned that, in addition to their formal duties, diplomats gain a layer of insight into the perspectives of people in other countries that is necessary to healthy international relationships. She has learned how vital U.S instruments of aid can be around the world. She has learned how important the World Health Organization is. When asked which country is her favorite, her answer was the one in which she lives now, the USA, though she still enjoys international traveling —when it is safe—with her partner of 15 years. She has yet to tire of being on the road. ◆



"I've traveled and/or worked in 96 countries, so you could say I've been around."

Charter 100 DC Executive Committee:

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