



CHARTER 100 DC

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back, Ladies!

It's true, leaves are changing once again to that magical elixir of ochres, golden reds, tawny yellows and goldenrods as the sun spills liquid gold into our sunsets.

What a wonderful backdrop to Charter 100 DC's fall season. Committees have worked hard to line up an interesting program and special events calendar for you.

We kick off the season with our first Charter 100 DC Special Event of the year: the Yayoi Kusama's One With Eternity Collection exhibit at the Hirshhorn Museum on Wednesday, September 14th. If you haven't RSVP'd yet, do so; the deadline is September 9th.

Our first in-person meeting will be Tuesday, September 20th, at our Vice President, Sabina Fogel's family home in Potomac, Maryland, where we've hosted the jazz concerts in the past. We're hoping for a lovely autumn day and will meet outside in her garden. Invite to follow soon.

Lastly, I'm pleased to announce that our January speaker is Barbara Fineman Todd, ghostwriter for Hillary Clinton's book "It Takes a Village" and books for Carl Bernstein, Bob Woodward and Ben Bradley. In 2017 she published a book about those experiences as a ghost writer -- "Pretend I'm Not Here," so you may want to get ahold of a copy and read it before January.

I look forward to seeing you all again at Sabina's!

Paula Hantman Tolle

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2022-2023 CHARTER 100 DC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2022



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRIVATE TOUR OF THE HIRSHORN MUSEUM

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 -- 9:45 AM

Private tour of the Hirshhorn Museum's One with Eternity: Yayoi Kusama Collection exhibit, featuring two of her Infinity Mirror Rooms, early painting, sculptures and photographs of the artist.

Nancy Hirshbein, Hirshhorn Museum docent and Charter 100 October speaker last year, arranged this tour and will greet us. Time permitting, she will also give us a brief tour of another new Put it This Way exhibit that features all work by women.

MEMBERS ONLY GARDEN LUNCHEON REUNION

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 -- 12:00-2:00 PM

Come greet old friends and make new ones at our first in-person get together of the year. It will be an outdoor gathering held in Potomac, MD at Sabina Fogel's family estate. It will be moved indoors in the case of inclement weather. Be part of the discussion about what activities could be scheduled during the coming year.

OCTOBER SPEAKER PROGRAM: DR. SANDRA ELVIN

Manager, Overseas Safety and Security, US Institute of Peace

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 - In-Person -- 12:00 - 2:00 PM

Previously, Sandra was Director of Expeditions for the National Geographic Society's climate change impact initiative. In the field, she directed a scientific expedition to Mount Everest and a sea-to-source expedition on the Ganges River from Bangladesh to India. Sandra's earlier work included: industrial development on black bears, collisions between right whales and commercial vessels, and illegal wildlife trade. She was also a professional guide on polar bear and beluga whale trips in Canada, giant panda and Asiatic black bear trips in China and snow leopard expeditions in Mongolia. She will touch on these fascinating topics at our meeting.

USEFUL MEMBER INFORMATION

Charter 100 DC Website: www.charter100dc.org

Website Password for Members Only/Info: 2021charTer100

Questions, Administrative Assistance: charter100dc@gmail.com

Cathy Cohen

"You could join the CIA," suggested Cathy's father, a career Central Intelligence Agency Operations Officer hoping his first-born would follow suit. She had the international background -- she was born in Taipei, Taiwan, and raised in Southeast Asia where her father was posted -- so she gave it serious thought. In college she studied international relations and Mandarin -- because agents need to know more than one language. But this was the 1970s and she realized that opportunities for women at the CIA were limited and none held senior positions.

Cathy decided to head to Capitol Hill and work as a junior lobbyist for the American Academy of Ophthalmology. She explained to her disappointed father she could still use all the skills he had taught her -- infiltrate targets by building relationships, gather intelligence and analyze information to influence policy. After hearing his daughter's approach, his opinion changed. She made him proud.

Cathy loved working on Capitol Hill as a health policy advocate and took night classes at George Washington University for a Master's in Health Services Administration.



Several notable pieces of legislation that she worked on during those years include:

- Supporting passage of the Stark Law, also known as the Physician Self-Referral Law. This law prohibits healthcare providers from making patient referrals for services or supplies that result in the physician's own financial gain.
- Lobbying for the important Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). Women were dying of cervical cancer because of receiving false-negative Pap smear results provided by unqualified test readers. The CLIA improved testing quality done in laboratories throughout the United States which saved women's lives.

Four years later Cathy joined the private sector at the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and headed their Washington DC office.

Later she moved to the Eastman Kodak Company. At that time Eastman Kodak also sold medical devices to the health care community. She helped develop their health care reform position, lobbied on their behalf and in worked her way up to Director of Federal Affairs.

Wanting to shift her influence away from the trade, she returned to the American Academy of Ophthalmology as Director of Health Policy and head of the Washington DC office.

“What a mess,” were her first thoughts when she arrived at the Academy. Applying her signature skills, within a year order returned to the organization and she was promoted to Vice President of Governmental Affairs. During her tenure of more than 30 years, Cathy directed the health policy on behalf of 18,000 domestic ophthalmologists.

Some of her accomplishments include:

- Helping physicians garner the first increase in Medicare payment for cataract surgery in years.
- Instituted the first blindness prevention benefits under Medicare, specifically for glaucoma detection.
- Lead a campaign to pass legislation that made cosmetic contact lenses a medical device so that the FDA could regulate and protect consumers, particularly young people.
- Ensured that veterans were given access to only the highest quality laser eye surgery through ophthalmologists in the Veterans Administration system

As they say, “all good things must come to an end,” and it is with mixed emotions that Cathy announced she will be retiring in November. While she is ready to give up working a six-day work week, she will miss her friends and colleagues.

Before her departure, the American Academy of Ophthalmology is honoring her at their annual meeting with a Distinguished Service Award. She will be missed.

Cathy is looking forward to spending more time with her family and attending her daughter’s wedding this fall. She is also excited about getting acquainted with the wonderful women of Charter 100 DC. In short, she is ready to fully embrace this next chapter in her life.

2022-2023 CHARTER 100 DC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President, Paula Hantman Tolle

Vice President: Sabina Fogel

Secretary: Sally Fowler

Treasurer: Jackie Hunt

Ombudsman: Marian Almeida-Kumar

Programs: Babette "Babs" Jackson

Special Events: Alissa Fox and Margaret Vanamringe

Arrangements: Sharon Cooper

Membership: Myrna Fawcett and Gail Nordheimer



Paula and Jackie working hard on this year's budget.

Come to Sabina's on Sept. 20th and see what exciting things are being planned, and mark your calendar for our next in-person meeting October 18th!

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