

POWER INVITATION



A gathering of the Washington 100 at Gentzler's home in Chevy Chase, Maryland. ABOVE, FROM LEFT: Susan Breakfield Fulton, Tori O'Neal-McElrath, and Allison Mitchell. BELOW, FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: Earl Cohen, Liesel Flashenberg, and Breakfield Fulton; MIDDLE ROW: Susan Stewart, Nairi Balian, Tacie Fox, and Phyllis Caldwell; BACK ROW: Ruth Swanson. BOTTOM, FROM LEFT: Shelley Robinson, Barbara Jordan, Katherine Borsechnik, and Shari Miles-Cohen (STANDING). BOTTOM RIGHT: Doreen Gentzler and Barbara Strom Thompson.

Mighty Hearts

Doreen Gentzler celebrates the philanthropic gathering of the Washington 100.

WASHINGTON IS MY HOMETOWN. I've been covering the news here for 18 years, and it's been my honor to work with a lot of worthwhile causes. But one of them—the Washington Area Women's Foundation—is special to me, because we're working together to lift up women and girls across the region.

In the five years that I've been involved with the Women's Foundation, I've seen that it has an inspiring approach, a wonderful plan, and a brilliant vision for the future. That's why I was delighted to become a cochair of Washington 100, the foundation's network of more than 100 leaders who, together, have invested nearly \$4 million to improve the lives of women and girls in the Washington Metropolitan area. I'm proud to be part of this group of leaders who are dedicated to changing our community for the better and who understand that the fastest, most effective way to do this is to invest in women and girls.

It's been a privilege for me to work with my cochair, Barbara Strom Thompson, to help build this network this year. And we even exceeded our goal, celebrating our founding with not just 100, but 118 members!

I can't really take credit for this success. It's the result of the work of the Women's Foundation and the many members of this network who spread the word. The first women who joined told their friends, hosted parties, and even recruited their spouses, who, as couples, became financial contributors donating \$10,000 annually. As Barbara says, "When you see something really good, you want to share it with your girlfriends and family!"

Together, we're making a real difference: We're helping women to get training for better-paying jobs, to learn how to get out of debt, and even to buy their own homes. We're also helping girls to improve their education and learn how to plan for the future.

The Washington 100 has a lot to celebrate—and a lot more work to do! *Washington Area Women's Foundation, 1411 K Street NW, Suite 800, 202-347-7737; thewomensfoundation.org.*

