

Highlights of the Jack and Jill, Washington, D.C. Chapter

On March 16, 1940, Elinor McGuire, Lillian B. Perry, Lillian C. Bailey, and others, formed the Washington, D.C. Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, the third Jack and Jill Chapter after Philadelphia and New York City. They established this chapter based upon Jack and Jill Founder Marion Stubbs Thomas' philosophy: "Our purpose was to bring together children of our friends, giving them the opportunity not only to form friendship, but to play together, to learn together through cultural activities and to grow and develop into good citizens." The chapter is indebted to Elinor McGuire and all the founding members for providing a firm foundation by which we enrich the lives of not only our children but all children in our community.

Today, our chapter represents more than 140 moms and 200 children. The chapter is rich in tradition, history, pride and diversity, and remains focus on the children when planning civic, social, cultural, education, and recreational activities. We are challenged and inspired by the mothers who came before us concerned about the impact of segregation and opportunities not afforded their children. They came together as friends who literally worked together, lived together and played together. Even though societal challenges are different today because more opportunities are available to our children; Jack and Jill remains an important part of our lives and this community because the Jack and Jill philosophy is universal and timeless: *Jack and Jill is about the children.*

Administration Highlights

**Anita Josey-Herring, President
2010-2012**

Initiatives:

Focus on Community Service, Chapter Infrastructure, and Programing:

- Established a two year Chapter-wide focus on Community Service and engaged every age group in community service activities.
- Appointed a Community Service Chair.
- Established a partnership with DC CASA, a local affiliate of the national CASA a child advocacy organization and TD Banks. Through the partnership, piggy banks handcrafted by children in every Jack and Jill age group were given to children in the District of Columbia foster care system. The piggy banks were also placed in TD Banks across the metropolitan area to collect donations to establish saving accounts for the children in care.
- Continued to support disadvantaged children participating in the Horton's Kids Program by providing them with brown bag lunches for their weekend excursions. Provided Horton's Kids with Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner items.
- Provided books to children of deployed military families and stocked a library in New Orleans to assist children affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- Provided winter pajamas to children in foster care and socks to the elderly for Christmas.
- Served Families at Martha's Table for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

- Upgraded the efficiency and effectiveness of Memberclicks.
- Revamped the Chapter website.
- Timely delivery of the 2010 and 20211 Per Capita Reports, the End of the Year Report for 2011, the 2011 Audit Report, increased spending categories within budget to accommodate chapter activities, increased foundation giving and effectively implemented the new Financial Handbook procedures in managing the budget and ended 2011 with a significant budget surplus.
- Implemented a MOM's List on the chapter website to provide information to mothers about highly rated references for activities, programming and support for their children.
- Implemented the AIM for Healthy Living goal of the national president, Tara Labrie, by appointing a Healthy Living Coordinator. The coordinator hosted a weekly jogging and walking outings which promoted healthy living and fitness.
- Provided social opportunities for mothers through continued Jill's Chills activities.
- Provided children with educational, cultural social opportunities through chapter-wide activities through age group administrator, coordinators and the Program Chair.
- Developed a stellar Program Book through the Program Chair.
- Revamped and updated the Chapter's local history on the website through the Historian.

**Malva Daniel Reid, Ph.D., President
2008-2010**

Initiatives:

Focus on Chapter Operations, Community Service, and Programing:

- Developed a chapter operations manual for all officers outlining the duties and responsibilities for the two-year period including timelines of national, regional and local processes and events.
- Had the highest number of members and teens attend the 2008 and 2009 clusters in the past 10 years.
- Celebrated the inauguration of the 44th President, Barack H. Obama with a semi-formal family event. Families were able to take pictures with a life size model of the president. We had guests from chapters across the country join us in the celebration.
- Celebrated the 70th anniversary of the chapter with a family black tie event with silent auction and picture taking at the Ritz Carlton hotel. Everyone including the toddlers had a wonderful time.
- Instituted a "Time to Shine" at the business meeting that encouraged mothers to share with the chapter members great things that were happening to them and their families.
- Moved the discussion of children's activities to the top of the meeting agenda and provided the equipment for mothers to share their groups' activities through slide shows.
- Instituted a meeting for members to learn more about the leadership opportunities at the national, regional and local levels. This was held a few months before the election of new officers. A number of the mothers who attended volunteered and were elected to serve as officers in the next chapter administration.

- Reactivated the Associates group and got them engaged in the activities of the chapter.
- Separated the September business meeting and the family day activity to allow mothers and families to have more time to enjoy each other.
- As a community service activity with the Boys and Girls Town organization, we donated books and funds to help them establish an onsite library for the children. A visit to the facility highlighted that the children had no books available to them except for their schoolbooks.

**Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, President
2006-2008**

Initiatives:

Focus on Chapter Fellowship and Community Philanthropy

- Increased participation in chapter-wide and age group activities by early development of chapter programming calendar and age group activities calendar by first Mother's meeting through summer planning and early identification of age group administrators and committee chairs.
- Published First Chapter Directory with photos of mothers and listing career, educational and personal interests of mothers to facilitate networking and fellowshiping.
- Published Chapter Newsletter.
- Re-instituted chapter fundraiser and social activity: "Spring Fling in the Caribbean 2007" and "Hawaiian Luau 2008" and raised over \$40,000 for the 2006-2008 program years for local child centered charities and the National Jack and Jill Foundation; both fundraisers provided an important opportunity for chapter families to fellowship and have fun while contributing to local charities.
- Sponsored chapter book drive to donate books to Howard University Hospital Pediatrics Unit.
- Streamlined the Mother's meetings to allow time for fellowship and networking.
- Moved Mother's meetings to new elegant venue at Post Hall on the Mount Vernon Campus of George Washington University.
- Re-activated the Jack and Jill Dad's group. Established the first Father's Day Family Golf Outing and Picnic and established "Jacks Chill" for the fathers in our chapter to network and fellowship.
- Provided first all-in-one comprehensive chapter program and chapter history book, which has served as a template for future chapter program books.
- Our chapter was a major supporter of "Free to Sing: the first African-American Opera Company" at the Strathmore Center. It was a family activity and for many of our children, this was the first exposure to opera.
- Elected Mother-of-the-Year 2008.

**Anita Cooke Wells, President
2004-2006**

Initiatives:

Focus on increasing chapter visibility at the Regional and National levels

- Oversaw the organizing of the 24th Biennial Regional Conference held at the Capitol Hilton in downtown Washington, D. C.
- Obtained grant money for Hands-On Science project.
- Chapter received the National Black Child Development Institute Award.
- Chapter donated a substantial sum to the Jack and Jill Foundation.

**F. Denise Gibson Bailey, President
2002-2004**

Initiatives:

Focus on Our Children and families, ensuring that the Jack and Jill experience was engaging and memorable as our founders intended.

- Launched monthly themes, aligned with the National foci, to focus the Chapter work and activities.
- Expanded the communications vehicles established under the Speight administration to include electronic newsletters, weekly emails and group voicemails highlighting the monthly themes, activity notifications and emphasizing the achievements of our children
- Established the annual Martin Luther King Day of Service as a day for chapterwide family centered service to our community.
- Enhanced family activities to include Sunday dinner, sports events and social outings with special focus on engaging the moms, dads and children in recognition Jack and Jill Day.
- Increased children's participation at all age group levels including teen participation in the oratorical competitions at the Cluster level.

**Grace E Speights, President
2000-2002**

Initiatives:

Focus on technology, administrative support, increased chapter visibility at the Regional, National, Foundation levels, and continued engagement of chapter members after graduating from the Chapter

- Established Chapter's first technology committee and the first internet website.
- Began to communicate with chapter members through the use of email and other electronic media to encourage more efficient communications.
- Engaged administrative support to assist us with record keeping and record organization.
- Encouraged our Mothers to become more active at the Regional, National, and Foundation level.
- Served on the Board of, and then became President of, the National Foundation.
- Reactivated Chapter's Associate Group.

Chapter Presidents

Elinor H. McGuire, Founder	1940-1941
Elinor R. Waller	1941-1942
Bernice C. Resson	1942-1944
Hortense Fitzgerald	1944-1946
Elise D. Martin	1948-1950
Thelma H. Fitzhugh	1950-1952
Marian H. Bluit	1952-1954
Burma A. Whitted	1954-1956
Gwendolyn Robinson	1956-1958
Carolyn French	1958-1960
Jacqueline Robinson	1960-1962
Margaret L. Murray	1962-1964
Evelyn G. Wallace	1964-1966
Yetta W. Galiber	1966-1968
Elaine C. Hancock	1968-1970
Pearly Watson Boschulte	1970-1972
Patricia W. Morris	1972-1974
Opal B. Hyde	1974-1976
Johnnie R. Brown	1976-1978
Lorethea F. Davis	1978-1980
Alma A. Brown	1980-1984
Dianne Mance	1984-1986
Lynn C. French	1986-1988
Carolyn Williams	1988-1990
Lilia Abron	1990-1992
Shirley Robinson Hall	1992-1994
Stacey Hall Reddick	1994-1996
Dayle Walden Hall	1996-1998
Lynnette H. Haynes	1998- 2000
Grace Speights	2000- 2002
F. Denise Gibson-Bailey	2002- 2004
Anita Cooke Wells	2004- 2006
Anna Blackburne-Rigsby	2006- 2008
Malva Daniel Reid	2008 - 2010
Anita Josey-Herring	2010 - 2012