

Letter From the Editor



Sherrie Beckstead and her husband, Sid, are helping preserve the National Mall. We tell their story in "Power of Change" inside.



POWER OF CHANGE

She touched me on the elbow, thanked me and walked away. That was my first encounter with Sherrie Beckstead, one of my favorite people in Washington, or, for that matter, on the planet. It was a quiet little reverie I've never forgotten, mainly because it says so much about this woman.

Seven years ago, we were in the middle of a photo shoot for this magazine. Stylists chatted with the subjects about wardrobe preferences. Our photographer and his assistants positioned lights and snapped test shots. Hair-and-makeup pros teased out bangs and touched up lips. Nervous interns tried to stay helpful while texting can-you-believe-what-I'm-doing selfies to friends toiling in cubicles.

Amid all of this artistic chaos, Sherrie, who, along with her husband, Sid Beckstead, are co-owners of Liljenquist & Beckstead jewelers, had set up a table of gorgeous rings, watches and bracelets to be worn by our models. I figured the table held assets that easily eclipsed the value of my house. A setup like the one Sherrie had pulled off required great care, time and expense—and she thanked me. Again, what a woman.

So, I wasn't surprised when Sherrie recently mentioned that she and Sid were busy saving the National Mall. Not only do they serve on the National Advisory Council for the Trust and will serve as co-chairs, along with their daughter, Sara,

for the Ball on the Mall in May, but they've created the Lockkeepers Collection to help raise part of the \$300 million fundraising goal to preserve the Mall and Lockkeepers House on 17th and Constitution.

The Becksteads are two of many people in DC who lead successful companies but still busy themselves with building community through philanthropic deeds. We call it the Power of Change, and we've created a new special section—under the banner of *Capitol File*—you'll see in every issue of this magazine. We'll tell their stories. We'll learn. We'll get even more inspired. Here's to a year of discoveries.

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