

BELOVED COMMUNITY NEWS

Gaithersburg Beloved Community Initiative (GBCI) at Asbury Methodist Village (AMV)

Opening the Door to 2024:

We hope everyone had a safe and healthy start to the New Year! GBCI has had a full January planning for programs and events for the Spring semester. We already see how this year is opening doors for all of us to have an impact in the community through intergenerational programs and activities that promote social justice. This month's issue covers several upcoming opportunities to connect with GBCI and make an impact in our community. We look forward to all we can do together in 2024!

Listening to our Neighbors-GBCI Monthly on Asbury Village TV

Did you know that many of the GBCI volunteers are talented TV broadcasters? If you haven't gotten this great "news" (wink, wink), or you simply want to continue enjoying their impressive TV presentations, join us for GBCI stories and updates at the **Listening to our Neighbors-GBCI Monthly** program on Asbury Village TV (AVTV).



If you live at Asbury Methodist Village (AMV) you can watch the GBCI Monthly on AVTV every fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:00am and 10:00pm.

For those that do not live at AMV, the monthly TV program is recorded and can be found here:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10088973>

Each month GBCI invites leaders, volunteers, and community partners to share stories of our work or discuss a topic that is relevant to GBCI and the broader community. Kicking off last October, the GBCI Monthly AVTV program has had programs on the following topics:



- GBCI's annual Community Day event hosted at Asbury in September for children, youth, families, community partners, and the Asbury community.
- GBCI's Food Distribution partnership
- Refugee Resettlement in Montgomery County with the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance. Speakers: Candy Warner, Asbury Resident/GBCI & NNIA Volunteer and Christine King, Chair of NNIA.

The next Listening to our Neighbors-GBCI Monthly on AVTV will be February 28 focusing on GBCI's Mentoring Program. You will hear from GBCI's Program Coordinator, Sarahi Segura, and two mentors Katherine Jay Carroll and Cesar Portocarrero. We hope you can tune in to learn more about GBCI and experience our very own GBCI TV Stars!

For more information:

Rebecca Cole, Director
301.216.4090
rebecca@gaitersburgbelovedcommunity.org

Spence Limbocker, Board Chair
301.216.5780
limbockers@gmail.com

Hal Garman, Founder
301.987.6436
hgarman1@gmail.com

A Fun Day at the Salon at Gaithersburg High School

On December 13, 2023, several Asbury residents visited the Gaithersburg High School Cosmetology Salon to receive hair and nail services from high school students in training.

The GHS Cosmetology program is part of the Career Technology Education (CTE) department that helps guide students aspiring to start a career by increasing access and opportunity. Cosmetology students learn the art and science of cosmetology and necessary aspects of the industry. They are supervised by licensed cosmetology educators and learn current styles and trends while performing salon services for a variety of clients at the in-school salon. Students also train with professionals in local salons and obtain the practical and clinical experience needed to take the Maryland State Board of Cosmetologist License examination.



AMV Residents Barbara Kilby (above), Donna Marino (bottom left) and Kathy Cook (bottom right) at the GHS Salon



Thank you to JCA Heyman Interages Center and the Gaithersburg High School for hosting such a fun **Makeover Madness** event! GBCI will be coordinating another Makeover Madness opportunity this Spring. Look out for an invitation.



Thanks to GBCI Board Member-Carol Tyson!

This month board member Carol Tyson represented GBCI at Grace UMC's January symposium, "Looking Outward," a program where church members share ways they are engaging in service in the community. Lovingly known Ms. Carol by the students in GBCI's mentoring program, Carol Tyson is a long-time GBCI volunteer and current board member, an active member of Grace United Methodist Church, and a woman dedicated to service in the Gaithersburg community. Many thanks to you, Carol!

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Become a GBCI Mentor! *By Kathy Sloan*

Volunteering in GBCI's mentoring program is one of the most rewarding choices I've ever made. By engaging different generations in one-on-one conversations and group activities, the program fosters everyone's sense of belonging, respecting and being respected, and caring about each other. Each session provides opportunities for us to work side by side in achieving mutually beneficial goals, and the process encourages all to hone their skills, learn together, share their thoughts and feelings, and strengthen their self-esteem. Mentors also enjoy supportive camaraderie and often form lasting friendships. If you are interested in devoting some time to enriching young lives, as well as your own, please consider joining us.

GBCI's mentor programs meet once a week after school. We currently have spaces in all three programs:

Tuesday afternoon at Gaithersburg Elementary, Wednesday afternoon at South Lake Elementary, and Thursday afternoon at Gaithersburg Elementary. Please contact GBCI Program Coordinator, Sarahi Segura, if you are interested in learning more: sarahi@gaitersburgbelovedcommunity.org or 301-216-4849. GBCI is planning an orientation for new mentors in mid-February.



GBCI mentor Barbara Heisner working and South Lake Elementary students following the recipe directions of how to make a dirt cup.

Statewide Advocacy Day- February 21, 2024 in Annapolis

GBCI is working with our partner Action in Montgomery (AIM) on Maryland State legislation to support bills on housing, health, and climate equity. AIM is planning a Statewide Advocacy Day to meet with State Senators and Delegates in Annapolis on February 21st between 9 am and 1:30 pm. GBCI will be taking a small delegation to Advocacy Day and if you would like to join us and/or learn more about the legislation call or e-mail Spence Limbocker at 301-216-5780 or limbockers@gmail.com



GBCI Advocates (left) and Adama Moussa Harouna, Safe Places Resident Association Chair at AIM's Spring 2023 Accountability Action with Montgomery County Executive and Council Members.

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301.987.6436
hgarman1@gmail.com

Support our Partners: Harmony for Humanity Benefit Concert this Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 4:00pm

Harmony for Humanity
Benefit Concert for Building Equity and Community Through Homeownership

FEB 4 Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church | **4:00 PM**

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland is proud to host "Harmony for Humanity," an interfaith concert at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church. Special performances by Jeremy Winston Chorale International and Gasher Chorale from Congregation Beth El.

To learn about sponsorship opportunities, [click here](#). For more information, please contact Tim Warner, Director of Faith Relations, at timothy.warner@habitatmetro.org.

Free-will offerings welcome. Net proceeds raised will help support HFHM's Emory Grove project.

CLICK HERE OR SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

On February 4th, join Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland and Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church for the Harmony for Humanity Benefit Concert! Enjoy a riveting performance featuring the world-renowned Jeremy Winston Chorale International and Congregation Beth El's choir. Reflect on empowerment through homeownership and how to enact change in your own community.

The Harmony for Humanity Concert is being organized by GBCI's long-time partner, Rev. Tim Warner, Habitat for Humanity Director of Faith Relations, and Senior Pastor of Emory Grove United Methodist Church.

Net proceeds raised will help support Habitat For Humanity Metro Maryland's Emory Grove affordable housing redevelopment project.

<https://moco360.media/2022/06/27/emory-grove-to-get-redevelopment-project/>

GBCI Monthly Meeting Schedule

Due to the snowstorm in January GBCI postponed the January 19th Monthly Meeting. We will kick off our 2024 Monthly Meetings this February.

The Next GBCI Monthly Meeting will be on **Friday, February 16, 2024 from 9:30am-10:30am: *Efforts to Prevent Gun Violence in Montgomery County.***

GBCI will welcome speakers from the Montgomery County Police Department and the DMV Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Network who will share information about what their teams are doing to decrease violence in the schools and in our communities, and how we can participate in these efforts.

The January 19, 2024 Monthly Meeting on Women's Leadership Development will be rescheduled to Friday, March 15, 2024 at 9:30am in Hefner Auditorium on Asbury's campus.

GBCI MONTHLY MEETING
Friday, February 16, 9:30 am

Location: HEFNER AUDITORIUM
Asbury Methodist Village Campus
(301 Odendhal Ave, enter through gatehouse.
Turn right upon entering and follow signs for Hefner building)

Efforts to Prevent Gun Violence in Montgomery County

SPEAKERS

Gun Violence is a tragic reality in our community and across the nation. Young people, schools, and community spaces are increasingly impacted by violence caused by guns.

Join us to hear speakers from the Mont. County Police Department and the DMV Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Network on how we can engage in solutions to decrease the violence in our communities.

We hope you can join us!

Questions?
Contact 301.216.4090



We offer our sincere gratitude to each of you who contributed GBCI's 2023 End of Year Fundraising Campaign, raising over \$20,000! The funds go to support GBCI and our two partners New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance for Refugee Resettlement and the Safe Places Resident Association at Cider Mill in the critical work we are doing to build Beloved Community. THANK YOU!