

BELOVED COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Upcoming Monthly Meetings focus on Listening to Our Neighbors

GBCI Monthly Meetings will restart early this year, with a focus on Listening to Our Neighbors to get a better understanding of how the pandemic has affected their lives and the lives of fellow community members. **The first meeting will take place on Friday, August 21, at 3:00 pm**, and will be aired live on AVTV channel 975, followed by phone call-in Q&A. For those off-campus, please tune in using the link provided in the box below.

AUGUST 21, 3:00 pm

FY21 Monthly Meetings will kick off with our first speaker, Adama Moussa Harouna, a Cider Mill resident and leader of Lugares Seguros | Safe Places, the Cider Mill Resident Association. Adama has lived in Cider Mill (a neighborhood just 5 minutes from the Asbury campus) for a number of years and has children who attend South Lake Elementary and Neelsville Middle School. She has served as a leader in her community through Action in Montgomery (AIM) and is now spearheading the effort to organize food distribution at Cider Mill. Working with Rollie Smith and other GBCI members, Adama will also begin organizing conversations with Cider Mill residents to better understand their employment situations with the goal of establishing unemployment relief through job circles, outside support and training.



Adama Moussa Harouna (left) and her food distribution team.

Photo credit: Rollie Smith

GBCI MONTHLY MEETINGS

Livestreamed for off-campus viewing

www.youravtv.com/gbcilive.htm

For on-campus viewing
AVTV channel 975

The September topic will be South Lake Elementary School (SLES), a school with one of the highest minority populations in the County and where more than 85% receive free meals through the FARMS program.



The Story of South Lake

SLES is plagued with overcrowding, collapsing ceilings, overheating and other issues. At this Meeting, we will hear from Tanushree Isaacman, who has been leading the AIM action for SLES reconstruction.

For more information:

Michele Bulatovic, Director
301.216.4090
mbulatovic@asbury.org

Spence Limbocker, Board Chair
301.216.5780
limbockers@gmail.com

Hal Garman, Founder
301.987.6436
hgarman1@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 18, 3:00 pm

Calling on Growth Mindset as Programs go Virtual

THE BRAIN IS LIKE A MUSCLE



IT GETS STRONGER WHEN YOU EMBRACE CHALLENGES!

Montgomery County Public School system has made the decision to provide virtual-only Learning for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year. That means our school-based programs will all be virtual along with other GBCI programs. GBCI has been preparing for this by reimagining how we engage students virtually and intergenerationally all the while being realistic about how much time young kids will be spending online. We have been called upon to think outside the box, to consider, for example, running programs on Saturday, a day when kids won't be engaged in hours of online

courses. We are also offering Zoom training for all of our volunteers so they have a comfort level with the virtual platform before our programs begin. These sessions cover some of the basics of using Zoom and introduce the tools we plan to use in the programs. It's a whole new world for all of us. As we embark on this virtual journey together, we anticipate using that "growth mindset," which was the focus of our Wellness Workshops earlier in summer. Remember these can still be viewed by typing this link into your internet browser: www.youravtv.com/gbci.htm.

Conversations on Race

A joint GBCI-AMV Pastoral Care & Counseling team has been working hard to develop a meaningful conversation series for Asbury residents to discuss race and racism. According to Rev. Malcolm Frazier, Director, AMV Pastoral Care and Counseling, "Seventy residents have signed up, and we are very excited to get started. We are especially grateful to Rev. Giovanni Arroyo, Team Leader for Program Ministries for the General Commission on Religion and Race, the United Methodist Church, who agreed to be our consultant." Residents will be divided into smaller discussion groups that will begin at the end of August/beginning of September. If you signed up, please keep an eye out for details.



Fundraising Efforts:

Pick Up When We Can Meet In-Person

To those of you who so generously contributed to the GBCI staff fund through our wine and cheese events, we thank you profusely. Our fundraising activities were put on hold when the pandemic broke out but will resume when we can meet safely in person. We hope to complete our goal of raising three more years of staff funding. If you have any questions about this, contact Spence Limbocker: 301.216.5780/limbockers@gmail.com.

CALL FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

We anticipate that our virtual programs will run more smoothly with a co-host, a second person (in addition to the facilitator) to assist with managing the technology. We are grateful to Dave Dammen who has volunteered to do this! If you are comfortable using Zoom and willing to help out, please contact Michele at x4090 or mbulatovic@asbury.org. This is a great way to learn more about GBCI and requires no more than 1 hour/wk from the comfort of your home!

For more information:

Michele Bulatovic, Director
301.216.4090
mbulatovic@asbury.org

Spence Limbocker, Board Chair
301.216.5780
limbockers@gmail.com

Hal Garman, Founder
301.987.6436
hgarman1@gmail.com