



Dear Fellow Circle Members -

We hope this message finds you well and enjoying summer pastimes with loved ones and friends. As new co-chairs, we have had fun getting to know each other, sitting in each other's gardens, drinking lots of coffee and, of course, attending many Circle-related meetings. We are two extroverted energetic women and we are ready to go!

The Circle leadership has planned a rich array of activities, programs, and opportunities to learn about the challenges facing Baltimore area women and their families. No matter what you choose to do as a Circle member, whether it means serving on a committee or attending a Circle event, we aim to create a welcoming, stimulating, and rewarding experience.

We have been working with Circle officers and committee co-chairs on a variety of matters including revamping when and how we communicate with you, a more efficient means of managing events, committee sign-ups, and membership renewals. We write to share news about:

Membership Renewal

This year, we have a new, cost-effective and environmentally friendly online renewal process. We hope this new process will be more efficient for both members and volunteers. On or about October 1, you will receive an e-mail with instructions for how to pay your dues for the July 2018 - June 2019 membership period. We appreciate membership renewal payments by October 31, 2018. Thanks to those of you who have already paid.

Joining a Committee

While joining a committee is not required, it has the potential to not only deepen a woman's understanding of the hardships facing Baltimore's women and families, but many women make new friends and connections with fellow committee members. To read more about the various committees and the scope of their work,

[click here](#). Additional information about how to sign-up for a committee will be forthcoming in September.

To our members who choose to support the Circle's mission solely through an annual contribution, your role is critical, and please know that we are ever grateful for your support.

Prospective Member Event

The next prospective member event is September 6, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. If you would like to invite a relative or friend to this meeting, please [email](#) our Membership Committee co-chairs Barty Carr and Jennifer Yeagle. Also, if you are interested in hosting a future prospective member event, please let them know.

Upcoming Full Circle Meetings

September 26, 2018 11:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Chizuk Amuno Congregation
8100 Stevenson Road, Pikesville, Maryland 21208

The Racial Wealth Divide:

How does it influence us as individuals and as an organization?

Speaker: Dedrick Asante-Muhammad
Senior Fellow, Racial Wealth Divide at Prosperity Now

December 12, 2018

March 27, 2019

May 8, 2019

Circle Forum

This is a "field trip" by bus to East Baltimore on October 2, 2018. We'll hear about the efforts underway to renovate the area and visit some of the programs, including [City Seeds](#), a current grantee, and Turnaround Tuesday with lunch at [Open Works](#). Details about the tour are now being finalized and will be included on the website calendar in the near future.

In Case You Missed It

This past June the 461 Circle members made possible grants to 24 grantees totaling \$491,000! Since its founding, the Circle has donated more than \$5,000,000

to Baltimore area non-profits for the benefit of women and their families. You can read about this year's [grantees](#).

It is impossible to catalog here the breadth and depth of the Circle's work this past year, but here is a taste. Giving Circle members:

- studied the wealth gap;
- visited the Goucher Prison Education Partnership program at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women;
- read and discussed Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson;
- made Christmas baskets for the mothers at Baltimore Outreach Services, a 2017 grantee;
- met with Baltimore City Council members; and
- brought grantees together to meet each other.

That was in addition to launching a new website, a herculean task. Having just completed the [calendar](#) for the upcoming year, we can assure you that there is something for everyone. Check it out for information on all Circle events.

Gratitude and Heartfelt Thanks

We don't have the words to express how grateful we are to the many women who have helped us prepare for the next two years. Thank you seems so inadequate.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dawna Susannah". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dawna Cobb and Susannah Bergmann