



## Face to Face for the First Time Since 2019!

About 100 Circle members gathered on May 17 at Chizuk Amuno Congregation for the first in-person Full Circle since December 2019. An additional 67 members were there via Zoom.

Members were introduced to the incoming Circle leadership, and the grantees for 2022-23 were announced.

In another return to pre-COVID ways, the Circle collected donations for 2021-22 grantee GEDCO CARES' Women's and Children's Eviction Prevention Fund.

[View the meeting here.](#)



Photos continued on page 4

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## Letters from the Co-Chairs

### OUTGOING



There is always so much going on in the Circle that it's hard to choose what to emphasize, but this time, we knew what we wanted everyone to know.

A Gift Planning Visioning Committee comprised of experts in financial and estate planning met to make recommendations for responding to inquiries about gifts to the Circle, specifically bearing in mind our history and culture. The Steering Committee has approved the creation of two new funds. One is a special gifts fund for unrestricted gifts over \$10,000. An oversight committee exists to guarantee how, when, and for what purpose these gifts will be used. The second is an endowment fund to ensure that work on issues important to you and the Circle will carry on for years to come.

Following long-standing tradition, the Circle will not actively solicit gifts or use any portion of membership donations for these funds. You can find out more about making a current cash, lifetime, or estate gift on our website, [www.thebwgc.org](http://www.thebwgc.org).

It's hard to believe that this is our last newsletter contribution. We can't thank you enough for letting us be your Co-Chairs over the past two years. We've watched the Circle grow and change, and we are grateful to you, the membership, for the many ways you support the Circle's mission. And we are proud of the grantees for their support of the Baltimore area community.

We congratulate and thank Ann Daniels and Salli Ward for being the new Co-Chairs. We are sure they will be exemplary and energetic leaders. Every member wishes them the best.

Happy summer to all and farewell,

*Martha & Susan*

### INCOMING



Greetings, Circle members,

We are so honored to be the incoming chairs of the BWGC for 2022-2024. Your confidence in us means so much. We are grateful to the past Co-Chairs, especially Martha and Susan, for the tremendous job they have done stewarding the hopes and visions of 52 women some 21 years ago; we have big shoes to fill.

We will strive to be attentive to both the needs of our individual members and the needs of the organization as a whole. As the Circle enters its third decade, our members can look back and be proud of what has been accomplished and look forward with excitement to what lies ahead.

Thank you to all our members; whether you are a donor, a volunteer, a leader or a cheerleader. We would not be leading this 460+ strong group without your commitment to the Baltimore area and the BWGC.

Best,

*Ann & Salli*

## Meet the Incoming BWGC Leadership

### CIRCLE CO-CHAIRS:

Ann Daniels and Salli Ward

### ARCHIVIST:

Jane Meyer (one-year term; then  
one-year term as Secretary)

### SECRETARY:

Leslie Glickman (one-year term)

### TREASURER:

Kelly Chew (one-year term)

### ASSISTANT TREASURER:

Pam Pasqualini (one-year term;  
then one-year term as Treasurer)

### COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIR:

Joyce Moskovitz

### EDUCATION CO-CHAIR:

Dana Murray

### GRANTS CO-CHAIR:

Carmina Hughes

### GRANTEE CONNECT CO-CHAIR:

Judy Dobbs

### MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR:

Lynn Brynes

### NOMINATING & LEADERSHIP CO-CHAIR:

Susan Hovanec

### POST-GRANTS CO-CHAIR:

Barbara Epke

## Grants

The BWGC received 90 applications this year and will be awarding 26 grants totaling \$565,145. First-time BWGC grantees are the headliners. Eleven of the 26 organizations that will receive grants in FY 2023 are being funded for the first time, or 42 percent of the total, up from 21 percent last year. Four of the first-year grantees are also first-time applicants. Below is a list of our 25 grantees.

*\*First-time grantee*

### Advocacy

CASA of Baltimore County,  
Inc., \$25,000

### Domestic/Sexual Violence

\*Ballet After Dark, \$25,000

\*Family Crisis Center of  
Baltimore County, Inc.,  
\$15,000

House of Ruth Maryland,  
\$25,000

### Food & Hunger Services

\*Farm Alliance of Baltimore,  
\$25,000

\*Feeding the Flock, \$10,000

\*Park Heights Saints  
Community Center, Inc.,  
\$12,600

### Health Services

Health Care for the  
Homeless, \$20,000

Pro Bono Counseling  
Project, \$25,000

### Housing

Intersection of Change,  
\$25,000

Rebuilding Together  
Baltimore, \$15,000

St. Vincent de Paul of  
Baltimore, \$25,000

### Literacy/Education

Goucher Prison Education  
Partnership, \$25,000

Hampden Family Center,  
\$25,000

Immigration Outreach  
Service Center, \$25,000

The Community School,  
\$20,000

### Workforce Development

\*Empower Her Network,  
\$25,000

\*Helping Up Mission,  
\$25,000

Maryland Food Bank,  
\$25,000

\*NPower, \$25,000

PIVOT, Inc., \$25,000

### Life Skills

\*Drink at the Well, \$10,000

### Financial Literacy

Dundalk Renaissance  
Corporation, \$15,000

### Mentoring

Thread, \$25,000

### Leadership Development

\*Saint Luke's Youth Center,  
Inc., \$23,545

Face to Face Event - (continued)



JOIN US AS A

# *Social Media Ambassador*

Want to volunteer with BWGC but you don't have much time? Then being an Ambassador is for YOU!

Limited Time Commitment  
With BIG Impact!

Want to Learn More? Everything you need to know can be shared over Cocktails, Coffee or a

Call ☺. Contact Maria Darby,

[mjdarbybwgc@gmail.com](mailto:mjdarbybwgc@gmail.com)

## Grantee Connect

More than 50 past and present grantees attended Grantee Connect's Spring Forum on Collaborations on May 11. The Zoom event opened with remarks by Brooke Hisle of the Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund and John Brothers of the T. Rowe Price Foundation. Circle member Dawna Cobb moderated the discussion. Afterward, grantees went into breakout groups facilitated by directors of past grantee organizations and delved into the nuances of setting up successful partnerships, from what a true collaboration looks like to the time required to build a relationship based on trust.



Brooke Hisle  
Zanvyl and Isabelle  
Krieger Fund



John Brothers  
T. Rowe Price

## REDI

The 20+ members of the REDI Workgroup have divided into task groups to discuss, learn about, and develop possible recommendations for revisiting the language the BWGC uses. The workgroup also discussed possible educational programs for the entire membership, messaging and communications strategies, and research and discussion of our grant-giving practices. Key concepts are co-creation, collaboration, inclusion, flexibility, and iteration. The workgroup met on May 4 for a facilitated conversation designed to tease out areas of concern about changes to the vision and mission statements that were proposed last summer but were not put forth for ratification after some Circle members asked for more time to consider and discuss them.

## Your Email Inbox

Email is the Circle's primary way to stay in touch with members with notices of meetings and this newsletter. Unfortunately, your email server may perceive Circle email as spam, especially if your email is through work or an educational institution. To keep our emails coming to your inbox, put the Circle in your address book and check your spam.

## Hikes at Lake Roland

If you missed our June 1 Lake Roland hike, there's one on Saturday, June 11 (rain date June 18). Gather with other BWGC members to enjoy the beauty of nature and meet other members. Park and meet at the Falls Road Light Rail Station at 8:45 a.m. Please gather at the beginning of the boardwalk into the park, on the east side of the lot, to the right of the rail station. All Circle members are invited. Jackie Noller will lead this hike.

## Membership

### SPRINGTIME CIRCLE WORKS PROJECT



Thanks to the generosity of many members, we were able to supply three grantees with bountiful quantities of these essential items:

**Marian House:** Paper napkins, aluminum pans, peanut butter, cake mixes, bed bug mattress covers, pretzels/nuts, pasta, taco shells, canned meats.

**Caroline Center:** Cereal, granola bars, pasta, peanut butter.

**Alkimiah Community Food Kitchen:** Kosher salt, black beans, tomato paste, pasta, white rice, dried lentils, paper towels, toilet paper, canned meats.

*A very special thanks to Gail Shawe for allowing her home to be the collection site for two weeks and to Nanny Warren, Beth Lebow, and Hilary Campodonico for sorting and delivery assistance. As they say, it takes a village, and all the members of the Circle made this project a resounding success!*



### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SARA FISHMAN



One day I received a call inviting me to a meeting at the Baltimore Community Foundation at the Latrobe Building to discuss forming a women's giving circle. There were probably 10 or 12 of us there, and we learned about giving circles and how we could start one. We started with 52 women, \$52,000 to grant the first year, and, as it is said, the rest is history. I am very proud of having been in that first group who launched our Circle and even more proud of how another 450 brought us to where we are today.

Over the years, I served on the Grants Committee and the Post-Grants Committee, both of which I enjoyed. I met amazing and dedicated people in the community and worked with women in our Circle with whom I shared a common interest. I learned so much about the needs in our city; there were

many eye-openers, especially about those who were dedicating their working lives to meet the needs of the women they were serving.

I have found being a member of the Circle empowering; even if a grant is a drop in the bucket for a non-profit, that drop could make a huge difference to some woman and her children.

Since COVID arrived in 2020, I have not been active in the Circle and have somehow added a few more years. I am pleased that younger women are keeping the Circle going and are continuing to be innovative and dedicated to our mission.

## Circle Neighbors

The Membership Committee is inviting everyone to get to know other members of the BWGC who live near them. Are YOU willing to reach out to others in your ZIP code? It would be fun to meet up for a coffee, to picnic, take a walk, carpool to meetings, etc.

Please let the Membership Committee ([membership@thebwgc.org](mailto:membership@thebwgc.org)) know if you want a list of members in your ZIP code/neighborhood so YOU can reach out to fellow Circle neighbors.

## Membership

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: LISA BURGESS



A BWGC member and colleague of mine introduced me to the BWGC. As she and I were walking from lunch one day, I mentioned that I would like to be involved in supporting organizations that assist people in reaching their fullest God-given potential. She recommended contacting the BWGC, and I did so that day.

The BWGC gives me a structured method for using my resources to help women and their families. Additionally, the BWGC offers me the opportunity to leverage my resources by joining them with those of other members. This leveraging allows us to offer increased support to the services of our grant recipients—who in turn may have more and greater opportunities to offer beneficial services to women and their families.

I have learned that there is a continuous need for women and their families to have equitable access to resources that improve health outcomes and longevity.

It is my goal to be all that God wills me to be. Being a member of the BWGC is one vehicle to help me meet my objectives.

*(Note: Lisa was named Maryland Acting Deputy Secretary, Behavioral Health on March 28, 2022.)*

### PROSPECTIVE MEMBER EVENTS

An in-person coffee in April was the third prospective member event of the past year. It followed a September cocktail event and a November lunchtime Zoom. [The full video recording of the November Zoom can be viewed from the Circle's YouTube account.](#)

These gatherings are a wonderful way to introduce your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family to the BWGC. Potential members do not need to attend one of the events before joining; they can join any time.

Here is information about us and links you can share with others about BWGC:

- [Our Website](#)
- [Our Facebook Page](#)
- [Our Instagram Page](#)
- Here is the full video recording of [Michelle Siri's presentation](#) on how the grant from the BWGC has made a difference.

### DARA SCHNEE RECOGNIZED

Circle member Dara Schnee (Baltimore Community Foundation VP of Philanthropy) was honored in May by the Daily Record as one of 2022 Maryland's Top 100 Women. Congratulations, Dara!

## Education

The Education Committee continued to provide learning and understanding of healthcare inequity and disparities this spring with a full lineup of activities.

The March 16 Full Circle Meeting speaker, Dr. Matthew Frieman, who runs a COVID lab at the University of Maryland, discussed the challenges of testing and educational campaigns. ([You can see a video of this Zoom meeting here.](#))

Our April Education Meeting speakers on April 14 were Dr. Nisa Maruther and Dr. Kelly Doran, who talked about the challenges that members of minority communities face getting basic medical care and treatment for obesity and diabetes.

The spring Circle Reads book discussion on April 21 covered Dr. Damon Tweedy's "Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor's Reflection on Race and Medicine".

We look forward to seeing you next fall for more interesting speakers and events.

### *New Members:*

Meg Aldridge  
Stephanie Feldman  
Jane Goldseker  
Anne Hamburger  
Frances Lodder  
Fran Minges  
Lori Reitenauer  
Carmel Roques  
Gwen Tromley  
Helene Waranch  
Barbara Waxman

### *Thank you to our contributors:*

Dawna Cobb  
Ann Daniels  
Maria Darby  
Beth Diehl  
Judy Dobbs  
Sara Fishman  
Mary Grossman  
Laura Hahn  
Susan Perl  
Mary Ann Pinkard  
Ruth Sadler  
Peggy Sparr  
Salli Ward  
Mary Jo Wiese