

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

SOME INDIVIDUAL SERVICE
COMMITMENTS OF BES MEMBERS!



Ethical Culture encourages living a life of ethical commitment and action inspired by humanist values. At the Baltimore Ethical Society, we come together as a community to support organizations such as Moveable Feast, which provides meals and nutritional counseling to people struggling with HIV or cancer. But we also celebrate commitments made by individual members to worthy organizations and causes which enrich the lives of volunteers and clients alike!

CARE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE YOURSELF?

This brochure highlights some of these individual commitments of BES members. We encourage you to share your own individual commitment with others, or to contact any of these members and join them in their good work!

BALTIMORE HUMANE SOCIETY

KATHLEEN WILSBACH

Since 1927, the non-profit Baltimore Humane Society (BHS) in Reisterstown has cared for suffering and homeless animals. They have a shelter for dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats, and mice, and run a subsidized spay/neuter clinic for cats and dogs. Their pet cemetery helps fund their other work. Kathleen Wilsbach began volunteering with BHS in 1994 because at the time they were the only local shelter with a rabbit adoption program. During her 9 years on the Humane Society board, Kathleen has seen a lot of changes. Both the housing for the animals and the atmosphere for the people are brighter and friendlier. Volunteer opportunities include: walking dogs; socializing and grooming cats or rabbits; office work; volunteering at events; showcasing animals at Petsmart and Petco; gardening around the lovely grounds; and, fostering animals not ready for adoption because of health, behavioral or age issues. Baltimore Humane has been adopted by our own Sunday School student Camille as her Ethical Action project. She is collecting needed supplies including old towels and blankets, laundry detergent, paper towels, bleach and other cleaning supplies. For more information, see Kathleen or visit www.baltimorehumane.org.

CASA BALTIMORE/LIMAY

JOHN REUTER

Since 2006, John Reuter has supported Casa Baltimore/Limay, a friendship-city project that sends small delegations of Baltimoreans loaded with supplies and goodwill to a rural region in northern Nicaragua. John had a life-changing experience when he traveled with the group in 2006.

Delivering medical supplies, school books, and sports equipment, the U.S visitors are rewarded with a respectful and egalitarian working partnership with their counterparts in San Juan de Limay. The program also helps residents buy animals, whose offspring then in turn give to other families encouraging a more protein-rich diet and improved health. The program also contributes to a feeding program for 200 elderly poor as well as a nutrition development center serving 60 children. Micro-loans are made available through Casa Baltimore/Limay for housing and small businesses. John reports



that the group continues to do good work despite the constant need for more resources. If you are interested in knowing more about this great organization, speak with John or check out the group's website at www.casabaltimorelimay.org.

CHARLES VILLAGE COMMUNITY BENEFITS DISTRICT

EMIL VOLCHECK

Charles Village is a neighborhood in north Baltimore known for its active community life. Neighbors came together in the early 1990s following a daytime shooting of a prominent member of the community. They resolved to organize to keep the neighborhood safe. In 1994, residents voted to create the Charles Village Community Benefits District (CVCBD), a special benefits taxation district that provides supplementary safety and sanitation services for residents. The services are provided by the CVCBD Management Authority, which is funded by a property surtax and governed by an all-volunteer board of directors. Emil Volcheck first became involved in the neighborhood by serving as Secretary of the Abell Improvement Association (AIA). Dr. Mary Washington, who was the AIA president at the time and is now a State Delegate, appointed Emil to take her position on the CVCBDMA board. During a two-year term on the board, Emil served on the Governance and the Safety and Sanitation Committees. He improved governance by helping the board learn to comply with state transparency laws, like the Open Meetings Act, and by helping to establish a formal committee structure. He helped oversee and review the effectiveness of programs to keep Charles Village cleaner and safer. Four years after leaving the board, Emil returned in 2011 to represent the AIA again, where he continues to work for prudent management and responsible governance. His service represents part of his commitment to give back to the community. <http://charlesvillage.org>

FINAL EXIT NETWORK

EM SABATIUK

Em Sabatiuk became painfully aware of the reality of death when at 15 years old her mother suddenly died. But it was later in her life that she became concerned about the reality of her own life process and the prospect of becoming a long-term physical or financial burden to her family. This leads her to volunteer her time with the Final Exit Network (FEN). FEN defends the basic human right to die at a time and in a way of one's own choosing. Em is impressed with the strict protocols that permit self-deliverance information to be provided but not the

physical or chemical means to actually achieve it. FEN is all voluntary and composed of first responders who interview prospective clients, exit guides who usually develop a caring relationship with the individual and a medical board that determines the eligibility of the applicant. Joining FEN requires a \$50 donation, and to become a first responder/guide one must fill out an application and attend a workshop. For those who wish to have more information, go to www.finalexitnetwork.org or write to FEN, PO Box 665, Pennington, NJ 08534, or call 1-866-654-9156.

HENRY LEE WILLIS CENTER

CAROL MAYS

Carol Mays a BES member who now lives in West Brookfield, Massachusetts, donates many copies of her novel, *The Magic Makers' Carnival*, to adolescents in foster care program at the Henry Lee Willis Center in Worcester and Lawrence, Massachusetts. The Henry Lee Willis Center is the largest minority-based social and human service agency in central Massachusetts. It offers shelter, substance recovery services, foster care, adolescent residential programs, and more. Carol's book, *The Magic Makers' Carnival*, addresses empathy, isolation, and inclusiveness. Carol also donates copies of her other book, *Strategies, Poems, and Stories for Holistic Living*, to residents of the Henry Lee Willis sober living houses in Worcester. It is an update of *Images for Wholeness; Strategies, Poems, and Stories to Transcend Cultural Illusions*, which she donated to BES years ago! Carol feels she can best contribute to society through her writing, and is rewarded most when someone tells her they enjoyed the books. The Department of Children and Families has cut much funding for foster children that are referred to the center. For those who would like to contribute financially to the centers, go to their website at www.williscenter.org/donate or call 508-799-0702.

Carol is no longer in the Baltimore area but wants to stay connected to BES and remains committed to the values we honor through ethical action.

HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

KATHLEEN WILSBACH

Inspired by her first pet rabbit Clover, Kathleen Wilsbach began volunteering with the Los Angeles chapter of the House Rabbit Society (HRS), an international animal welfare and educational non-profit. When she moved to Baltimore in 1994, she founded a local chapter that now has over 800 members and has placed over 1000 rabbits in

new homes. Rabbits are the third most commonly abandoned pet at U. S. animal shelters. HRS provides foster homes and educational resources to local animal shelters to help unwanted rabbits find new homes and help owners understand rabbits better. Kathleen works to show people “that rabbits are curious, intelligent, social and opinionated individuals.”



Without a central shelter, the Baltimore chapter houses rabbits in private foster homes where they can receive personal attention and socialization. HRS provides homes with rabbit housing, supplies, food, litter and medical care. Fosterers are expected to buy fresh greens and to attend a monthly adoption day. Volunteers are needed, 1) to help foster homes housing many rabbits with cleaning, and 2) to transport rabbits from shelters, and to and from foster homes or the vet. To volunteer, or for more information, speak with Kathleen or visit www.rabbitsinthehouse.org.

LITERACY COUNCIL OF CARROLL COUNTY

EM SABATIUK

For 14 years Em Sabatiuk has volunteered for the Literacy Council of Carroll County (LCCC) and “has never had a dull moment.” Every week she has worked with one or more students, one or more times per week. Em has had a great feeling of accomplishment when one of her students can fill out a job application, become a health aide, or pass the GED exams as a result of their time together. Located at 255 Clifton Blvd, Suite 314, Westminster, MD, the LCCC mission is to provide adult learners and families with one-on-one, free, confidential tutoring to develop or improve skills in speaking, reading, writing, math, ESOL, and basic computer operation. While there is no experience necessary to become a LCCC tutor, one has to be 18, have high school diploma, and complete a 14-hour training workshop in Laubach Literacy Certification. The workshops cost \$25, and this gives you a year’s membership in LCCC. To volunteer as a tutor or to sign up for the next workshop, contact the Literacy Council: 410-857-0766 or lcouncil@carr.org.

MARYLAND ACLU OFFICE

BOBBI HAHN

The ACLU office at Clipper Mill in Baltimore addresses civil liberty cases in central Maryland and the Eastern Shore. Some issues they have worked on recently include Baltimore City public housing, the juvenile justice system, free speech, and racial profiling by Maryland police, otherwise known as "Driving While Black." Bobbi Hahn has volunteered there once a week for the last 8 years and currently works with the outreach/publicity coordinator to keep a file of all Maryland ACLU press coverage and publicity. The office currently needs volunteers in two areas, both of which require some training and a weekly long-term commitment:

1. Front desk help involving directing calls to the appropriate ACLU staff member, so familiarity with staff specialties is necessary. Hours are flexible. More information is available from Mary at 410-889-8555.
2. Taking calls on the civil rights complaint line which requires special training and good people skills. This is the first contact folks who feel discriminated against have with the ACLU. Volunteers listen and direct the callers to the appropriate resources. This line is open only from 1-3 p.m. on weekdays. For more information call Persia at 410-889-8555.

MARYLAND STATE POETRY & LITERARY SOCIETY

ROSEMARY KLEIN

A prominent force in the Baltimore literary arts community, the Maryland State Poetry & Literary Society (MSP&LS) was incorporated in 1962, and for many years, our own BES board president and poet Rosemary Klein has served as its executive director. From 1986-2001, MSP&LS published Maryland Poetry Review, a journal that featured poetry, short fiction, interviews and reviews by regional, national, and international writers and work by Maryland visual artists. Then a second journal *Attic*, dedicated to "building the literary community from the top down," had a brief but impressive life and *Poets' Ink*, a series of broadsides featuring local writers along with editing workshops and readings,



captured the imagination of local writers. The Society hosted monthly readings for decades, with its final series taking place at Minas Gallery and Clayton Fine Books & Cyber Cafe. It took an active part in ArtScape and from the Baltimore Book Festival's inception through 2009 ran the event's Creative Cafe stage. Three Conditions Press, which published several volumes of poetry and also the pamphlets of talks by Fritz Williams, BES leader emeritus, is yet another Society undertaking. The Society's history of commitment to supporting local artists and nurturing creative interchanges that enrich the city of Baltimore has been long and fruitful.

MT. WASHINGTON PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL

DALE ADAMS

A couple of years ago, responding to a request for knitters and/or crocheters to knit baby caps for the premature babies born at the Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, Dale Adams and other BES members got cracking. Dale knit about 150 caps per year! They are hard to find commercially because they have to be smaller than babies born full term. Even though she lives out of town, she still knits them and when she comes to visit her sister she delivers them to the hospital located in northwest Baltimore at 1708 West Rogers Avenue. Founded in 1922 as a home where children could safely recover from illness and surgery, the hospital now offers a wide range of caring medical treatment for a most vulnerable population – newborns. Dale urges others who would like to contribute to renew BES's commitment to this project. This might be just be the excuse you wanted to learn how to knit or crochet. She gets the patterns of the internet and says the tiny hats don't take much time to make. For more information contact Dale at dalepadams@juno.com.

Dale is no longer in the Baltimore area but wants to stay connected to BES and remains committed to the values we honor through ethical action.

PEARCE Q FOUNDATION

KEN BRENNEMAN

The Pearce Q Foundation (PQF) funds novel research for childhood cancers and financially supports families of children newly diagnosed with cancer. Before getting involved with PQF three years ago, Ken Brenneman was not looking to volunteer. Ken was drawn in because it



was his niece Pearce who founded it! On Feb 22, 2008 Pearce was diagnosed with a mass in her brain the size of a small lemon. She battled through surgery, thirty-one rounds of high dose radiation to her brain and spine, and a grueling regime of chemotherapy. Read about her story at www.pearceqfoundation.org. As a cancer survivor, Pearce now works to help others. Ken is grateful for what his experience helping Pearce has taught him: that a single person can make a difference. Being a scientist involved in research, Ken appreciates that funds raised support unrestricted research of cancer and treatment methods. PQF money also supports families managing cancer treatment for their child. PQF has helped Ken live closer to his ethical values. Feel free to volunteer to help with the Annual Family Night Roller Skating Party, the "4 Miles of Hope" Walk/Run, or "Cannon Balls for the Cure" Summer Swim Party. For details see Ken or contact the Pearce Q Foundation, Inc., 4142 Ogletown Stanton Road, Suite 227 1/2, Newark, DE 19713, 302-994-1124. Ken can help with transportation.

SAMARITAN COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

BOBBI HAHN

This food pantry, run by Memorial Episcopal Church in Bolton Hill, assists people with basic living needs. Although the church offers some optional religious meetings, the food pantry is open to all who qualify. Bobbi Hahn has worked there every week for 8 years and is impressed how it serves people really struggling to survive. There are several tasks that require volunteers either on a regular or substitute basis:

1. Work in the food pantry for several hours Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday;
2. Pick up donated food from the Maryland Food Bank or local grocery stores. Volunteers need to provide a fairly large vehicle.

For more information call Volunteer Coordinator Dale Balfour at 410-363-1359.



THE BALTIMORE ETHICAL SOCIETY

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This brochure celebrates the commitment to ethical action by individual members of the Baltimore Ethical Society and does not necessarily represent any official endorsement by BES as a whole.