



July | August 2024

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## LEA GILMORE JOINS GIANTS OF MUSIC AND ACTIVISM IN WINNING MAJOR AWARD

by Jon Morgan

In the 24 years it has given out its signature award for music, Common Ground on the Hill has ranged far and wide to commemorate giants of art and social justice. Pete Seeger won it once. Also Richie Havens, Odetta, Jose Feliciano and Buckwheat Zydeco.

This year the nonprofit folklife center headquartered on the campus of McDaniels College found an honoree closer to home: our own Lea Gilmore, Govan's music director and minister for racial justice and multicultural engagement. She will accept the Robert H. Chambers Award for Excellence in the Traditional Arts on July 13 at the Common Ground on the Hill Roots



Music & Arts Festival at McDaniels.

"Lea's career is representative of an amazing journey of self-discovery," says Walt Michael, the executive director of Common Ground, which he founded to celebrate folk and other traditional musical art forms.

*continued on page 6*

## INTRODUCING THE ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE GOVANS CONCERT SERIES

by Marie Herrington



Ramilya Saubanova

We are delighted to introduce the brand new Artist in Residence program at Govans. The Artists in Residence at Govans will perform in concerts as part of the Govans Concert Series throughout the 2024 and 2025 seasons. We will get to know them more and more through the newsletter, and through special music offerings in church services where they will come to give "sneak peaks" of their recitals, meet congregants, etc. The first artist in residence I'd like to introduce you to is the amazing pianist hailing all the way from Tatarstan, **Ramilya Saubanova**.

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## July Calendar

4 - Independence Day (Office closed)  
5 - Office Closed  
7 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
13 - Common Ground on the Hill Roots and Arts Festival  
14 - Worship 10:30 a.m.  
14 - Pottery, Picnic, Pool Party & Petting Zoo at Woodberry Crossing, 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
14 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.  
21 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
21 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up, 4:30 p.m.  
28 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
28 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-Up

## August Calendar

4 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
4 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 4:30 p.m.  
11 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
11 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 4:30 p.m.  
18 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
18 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 4:30 p.m.  
20 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
25 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
25 - Soul Kitchen Meal Pick-up, 4:30 p.m.

## July Birthdays

1 - Sheelagh Alston, Deb Dalton  
3 - John Morrel  
12 - Tiffany James  
13 - Megan Miller  
14 - Amy Hardin  
15 - Cyntrice Bellamy, Ralph Kuncel  
20 - George Alexander  
25 - Ken Lewis  
26 - Charles Corson, Alex Short  
28 - Alice Read  
30 - Ellie Macdougall  
31 - Ben Hobbs, Doug Storey, Barb Pulyer

## August Birthdays

8 - Jim Gibbons  
10 - Jane Houck, Dana Shaw  
14 - Patsy Owen  
15 - Cynthia Jamison, Jack Weller  
19 - Chase Allston  
21 - Mary Weller  
23 - Sylvia Usher  
24 - Soren Clay-Robison  
25 - Susan Saunders  
28 - Natalie Berry  
29 - Betsy Toole

## CHURCH WORKS: NEWS FROM THE SESSION

On June 4, a Special Session meeting was held to discuss an incident that occurred during worship on May 26. The Session discussed appropriate ways to intervene in the future should something similar happen again. A letter was sent to address the incident on the 26th. If you have any questions, please speak to the Clerk of Session, Eric Johnson, Pastor Shannon or any Session member.

At our regular meeting on June 25, we approved replacing the two flat roofs above the Deacon's room and Lea Gilmore's office in the Sanctuary building that have been leaking.

The Session also hopes to hear the report from the Interim Pastor Search Committee. We hope to have some exciting news soon. Thank you.,

## RACIAL JUSTICE SANCTUARY ART PROJECT SELECTS ARTIST

A work by a noted Baltimore artist, Ky Vassor, has been selected for addition to the sanctuary, part of a project to expand the cultural heritage represented in the building. We're seeking contributions to help pay for the installation, which is scheduled for this fall. The work, a striking pair of panels, was chosen by a committee of the congregation seeking to celebrate racial diversity.



Ky Vassor

### Artist's Concept

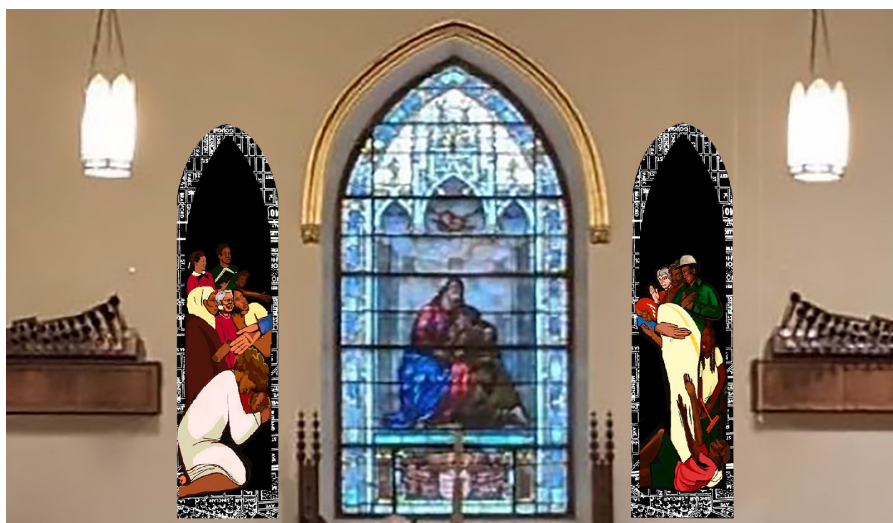
In the development of conceptual art for "Sanctuary City Part I & II," the primary focus was on uplifting Black and Brown individuals with ties to Baltimore while presenting them as unified and protected. Extensive research was undertaken on Baltimore leaders and various depictions of "Christ the Consoler" throughout history. Inspiration was drawn from Ary Scheffer's 1851 rendition, which amplified the voices of those impacted by social injustices. Each panel serves to encapsulate Baltimore as a sanctuary city, emanating from the unity and sense of protection between its neighbors.

Special thanks to the Mission Committee and a member of the congregation, Nancy Galgoci, for giving the money for the artist's fee. We are also seeking donations to fund the professional installation of the work. Please donate using the adjacent QR code or send a check to the church office marked "Art Project". Thank you.



Donate to art installation

For more examples of the artist's work, please visit: <https://www.kyartin.com/portfolio1>.



Artist's rendering

## Church Staff

Rev. Shannon Weston, Bridge Pastor  
Lea Gilmore,  
Minister for Racial Justice & Music  
Director

Marie Herrington  
Music Director

Missy Smith, Interim Christian  
Education Coordinator

Rufus Ingram, Bookkeeper

Andy Wilson, Office Manager

Sylvia Usher, Sexton

Pam Ferguson,

Director of Preschool

Gwen Lloyd, Program Director, Senior  
Network

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*Submissions for the September/  
October 2024 newsletter are due  
by August 10. Please send to  
Andy Wilson at  
[wilson@govanspres.org](mailto:wilson@govanspres.org)*

## SUNDAY MORNINGS AT GOVANS

10:30 a.m. at  
Worship in the  
Sanctuary &  
Zoom





## UPDATE FROM GOVANS' MISSION PARTNER ST. ANDREW'S REFUGEE SERVICES



The beginning of 2024 has brought fresh challenges to StARS services. The number of refugees registered with UNHCR Egypt has reached over 600,000 - almost twice as many as were registered at this time last year. This is largely driven by those fleeing the Civil War in Sudan. Official figures show that over half a million people have crossed into Egypt since the outbreak of hostilities in April 2023. These are only the people who have crossed the border officially, and the likely numbers are much higher.

StARS has done its best to meet the challenge of increased numbers, generously aided by their long term funders. The main initial needs have been for accommodation and food, and StARS has massively increased the amount of direct assistance it is giving.



*Food box distribution*

The economic situation in Egypt has compounded the problems associated with a large number of new arrivals as successive devaluations have left the Egyptian pound much weaker, and inflation has soared. Small grants for housing and other needs, along with food boxes, have been the main focus of much of our work over the last year as we have had to shift onto an emergency footing.

Cuts in services and the increasing costs of medical care in Egypt has led to an increased need for medical grants which are provided by StARS Medical Access Program. StARS is now one of the few service providers in Cairo which provides medical grants for dialysis patients for example. People fleeing the conflict in Palestine are also increasingly approaching StARS for assistance, with similar needs.



*Young Mother's Program*

Alongside the upsurge in managing the emergency situation, StARS usual work continues. The picture below shows one of our psychoeducational activities for the Young Mothers' Program. This program works with young women and girls (under the age of 21) who are alone in Cairo and find themselves pregnant, often as the result of assault in their country of origin, on their journey or in Egypt. These young women and their children are extremely vulnerable, often having no support networks at all. The Young Mothers' Program provides a safe space, psychoeducational classes in areas like breast feeding and potty training. It provides ongoing psycho-social case management and there is also a nursery which can provide a place for their children while they attend classes or counseling sessions. StARS staff also find time to relax and get together for some sharing occasions, the most recent of which was the StARS Iftar. This shared meal was attended by over 350 people from all over the world, to break the fast at the end of the day during Ramadan.



*StARS Iftar*



Scan to give to  
StARS

# YOUTH AND YOUNG FAMILIES NEWS

## SUMMER 2024 EVENTS

### July

**July 14** - Pottery, Pool Party and Petting Zoo at Woodberry Crossing

### August

**August 5-9** - Woodberry Crossing Summer Camp  
Summer Camp for Roland Park and Govans.  
Details coming. Transportation support may be needed.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Week of September 4** - Youth Servant Leader (YSL) returns for the Class of 2025

**September 8** - Rally Day! Sunday School Kickoff!

**September 15** - ROPAGOFA returns

For more information about Youth and Young Families events at Govans, contact Missy Smith ([missy@govanspres.org](mailto:missy@govanspres.org)).



## PICNIC, POTTERY, POOL PARTY & PETTING ZOO

**Sunday, July 14 @  
Woodberry Crossing  
12:30-4:00 p.m.**

Bring a dish for the potluck picnic (burgers and hot dogs provided)

## WOODBERRY CROSSING SUMMER DAY CAMP

**August 5 - 9, 2024**

**Email Missy Smith  
([missy@govanspres.org](mailto:missy@govanspres.org)) for  
more info.**





# LEA GILMORE WINS ROBERT H. CHAMBERS AWARD...continued from cover page

Honorees aren't just accomplished musicians, but also people who've demonstrated a commitment to social justice. "Pete Seeger once said we are all links in the chain," he says.

It's another in a long list of honors Lea has won for her tireless activism and musical talents. Named by Essence Magazine as one of "25 Women Shaping the World," she is a past winner of the Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues Alive award, the James Baldwin Medal for Civil Rights, and the Baltimore Creative Alliance's Golden Formstone Award. She has also been named a Baltimore Jazz Hero by the Jazz Journalists Association.

"I am thoroughly honored to receive this award," Lea says. "I cannot believe that I am joining the company of past esteemed recipients. It is profoundly moving to be recognized by your peers."

Tickets and information about the festival and award ceremony can be found at [www.commongroundonthehill.org](http://www.commongroundonthehill.org). Or reach out to our own Maria Wong ([MLWong672@gmail.com](mailto:MLWong672@gmail.com)) who is the director of promotions and development for Common Ground.

Michael, himself an accomplished musician who played in the closing ceremonies of the Lake Placid Olympics, said he's followed Lea's career with interest since she answered an ad he put in a local blues magazine looking for musicians. He was impressed with how she's combined her gospel roots with blues – and social justice. She's served on the Maryland advisory board for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and as deputy director of the ACLU of Maryland.

"Lea is a force of nature," Michael says.

Come support Lea on July 13 and hear some great music!



**COMMON GROUND ON THE HILL**  
**Roots Music & Arts Festival**  
JULY | 13 | SATURDAY | 10 AM - 10:30 PM  
**BLUES, BLUEGRASS, OLD-TIME, CELTIC, SWING**  
**and MORE!**  
ROBERT H. CHAMBERS AWARD RECIPIENT: LEA GILMORE  
Kristen Grainger & True North ✦ The Dirty Grass Players  
Guy Davis ✦ Walt Michael & Co. ✦ Nicolas Carter  
Shelley Ensor ✦ Louis Campbell ✦ Maddie Witler  
Chris Luquette ✦ Bryan McDowell ✦ Victor Furtado  
Steafan Hannigan ✦ Saskia Tomkins ✦ Paul Anastasio  
Sparky & Rhonda Rucker ✦ Marv & Kathy Reitz ✦ Tom Mindte  
Ken Kolodner ✦ Barry Mitterhoff ✦ Ben Wetherbee  
Mary Lynn Michal ✦ Michael Ronstadt & Serenity Fisher  
Tom Mindte ✦ Brennen Ernst ✦ Dave Robinson  
Harry Orlove ✦ Port Righ ✦ William Lee Ellis ✦ Andy Cohen  
Ralph Gordon ✦ Susan Haley ✦ Bob Rychlik ✦ Wayne Fugate  
Joe Selly ✦ Tim Porter ✦ Chris James ✦ Amy Ferebee  
Randy Barrett ✦ Dave Burkitt ✦ Steve Bloom ✦ Marsha Searle  
Dan Collins ✦ Josh Hisle ✦ Randy Mayer ✦ Martial Davis  
Eve Blackwater ✦ Probably Whiskey ✦ Sam Hatch ✦ Cary Wolfson  
**FOOD ✦ FINE ARTS ✦ DANCE ✦ WINE/BEER**  
TICKETS \$25-\$40; CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, VISIT  
[COMMONGROUNDONTHEHILL.ORG](http://COMMONGROUNDONTHEHILL.ORG)  
MCDANIEL COLLEGE, WESTMINSTER, MD 21157  
MSAC Maryland State Arts Council  
CARROLL COUNTY MARYLAND  
carroll county arts council



## CONTINUED PRAYER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR KAY PAPA NOU AND PEOPLE OF HAITI



Dr. Youse Fenester

Youse Fenester's comments on the killings of three American missionaries: *"I was surprised and ashamed to have learned that the country's gangs killed 2 American foreigners who had just brought help to deprived children. It hurt me so much that I can't find a way to describe it. so I was saddened by that. This situation we are experiencing here we cannot even describe. In fact, I pray as I always do so that on day peace reigns in Haïti and we can breathe another way."*



Scan QR code to give to Kay Papa Nou

Davy and Natalie Lloyd were murdered on May 23rd. Gang members entered their compound at the end of a youth service killing the Lloyds and another staff member, Jude Mortis. Davy's family were long time missionaries in Haiti and he learned Haitian Creole before he learned English.

Youse Fenester grew-up at Kay Papa Nou children's home. She completed her medical studies and her three year residence. She will soon be a fully qualified doctor in Haiti. Youse is a thoughtful young woman concerned about Haiti's future. Haiti and the Kay Papa Nou children's home greatly need our prayers. Financial support will enable the home to continue to care and support children and young adults in Haiti.

## ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE CONCERT SERIES...continued from cover page

Dr. Ramilya Saubanova is a passionate musician whose musical journey began in Tatarstan, Russia, over two decades ago, and has since taken her to numerous stages around the world. Known for her expressive performances and collaborative spirit, she shares her love for music through solo recitals, chamber ensembles, and masterclasses. Ramilya enriches the cultural landscape by organizing the Tatar Music Concert Series in the USA, blending music with history, poetry, and art to create a unique and immersive experience. This coming winter, she eagerly anticipates the release of her debut solo CD, featuring works by Medtner, Brahms, and contemporary composers Crozier and Latchford.



  
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*"Govans Presbyterian Church is a theologically progressive community  
empowering people to make the world better."*



# POTTERY, POOL PARTY, PICNIC & PETTING ZOO

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Woodberry Crossing**