

Signs of Peace Through Action

March 2023

Learning Event | *Bravery in Motion: Women's History and Future Beyond Violence* | Monday, March 27, 2023, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm ET | [Virtual Event](#) | [Register Here](#)

Bravery in Motion: Women's History and Future Beyond Violence



Bravery in Motion: Women's History and Future Beyond Violence will honor Women's History Month through a virtual learning event to refine public awareness of violence against women with an attention to the past, present, and future of women's empowerment.

In this collaborative community discussion (in which people of all genders are welcome), participants will explore a broad range of topics related to the subject of violence against women, including community support networks, grassroots resistance efforts, and public policy advancements.

To situate the contemporary state of women's affairs in the historical legacy of women's activism, Joan Winship, chair of the Calvert County, Maryland Commission for Women, will share information about the effects and influences of violence against women alongside reflections from her professional work. While Joan Winship's work on the local level with the Calvert County Commission for Women will provide valuable insight into the process of local community peacebuilding, her former position as the executive director for the International Association of Women Judges will inform our event with a rich understanding of the nuanced ecosystem of human rights institutions and programs that serve women experiencing violence.

Participants will deepen their understanding of Women’s History, explore practical, peaceful solutions to violence against women today, and discover hopeful possibilities for the future.

Register for this event [here](#).

Peace Through Action Begins Youth Program in Demonstration Peace Project



Peace Through Action is pleased to report that we have begun to deliver peacebuilding and developmental activities to youth in Calvert County, Maryland, site of our demonstration community peace project.

Our youth program, *Peaceful Leaders*, consists of a focused training on upstander intervention, the formation and support of peace clubs in schools and community youth development organizations, a summer intensive experience, and service project opportunities. We are testing the program as we implement it in Calvert County, with an eye toward making it available more broadly in 2024.

In February 2023, Calvert Peace Project peace agent Mary Bonney delivered our Step In/Up Upstander Intervention Training to youth in Calvert High School. The training gave youth a platform to discuss issues that they are facing in their social groups and school environments. Participant survey data indicates that our participants increased their ability to identify potentially harmful situations and redirect them in a positive way.

In March, our youth work continued with the formation of youth peace clubs in a county public high school and a community-based youth center.

Also in the planning is a week-long summer experience for youth this coming July.

We look forward to sharing our progress with you!

Welcome Elena Novak, Promotion Director!



Peace Through Action USA is pleased to welcome [Elena Novak](#) as our first promotion director.

As director of mission promotion and stakeholder engagement, Elena is responsible for planning, developing, implementing, and monitoring activities that increase awareness of Peace Through Action and stimulating engagement with our learning and action opportunities.

Prior to joining Peace Through Action USA, Elena worked as a senior organizer at Faith and Action for Strength Together, where they organized alongside clergy and lay leaders to win changes to local policy, including \$9 million toward a county-wide centralized pathway for accessing behavioral health services. Elena also served one year as an AmeriCorps member in Tallahassee, FL, during their undergraduate career. Elena is an active member-organizer for the National Writers Union's digital media division and a part-time independent writer and journalist. Elena holds a Master of Arts in international development and social change from Clark University.

Elena is motivated to work for Peace Through Action because they believe learning to navigate and resolve conflict can be a tool whereby people find the safety to be their authentic selves, learn to set boundaries, and achieve understanding. They hope this position will deepen their skills in

creating environments that allow people to thrive and work together toward a better and more just world.

We're glad to have Elena on our small, yet mighty employee team!

February Learning Event | Voice of Remembrance: Understanding Black History through Spoken Word Poetry

Voice of Remembrance: Understanding Black History Through Spoken Word Poetry



VIRTUAL LEARNING EVENT
THURSDAY, FEB. 23, 7:00 - 8:00 PM (ET)
Visit: peacethroughaction.org/events

Peace Through Action USA held a virtual learning event and spoken word poetry performance in honor of Black History Month. The event took place Thursday, February 23, 2023.

[*Voice of Remembrance: Understanding Black History Through Spoken Word Poetry*](#) offered a unique virtual spoken word poetry performance and community discussion. Guided by, Mallery McHenry, a Black law enforcement trainer and National Poetry Slam Champion, this event sought to enhance intercultural connections and amplify public understanding of the historical and contemporary experiences of Black Americans.

Attendees of this virtual event raved about it, describing it as “fantastic” and “profound.” Take a listen [here](#).

Featured Peacebuilder | Cara Fogarty | Social Purpose Sector Consultant | Maryland

Featured Peacebuilders

Ordinary People Doing Something Extraordinary to Increase Peace



Cara Fogarty

*Social Purpose
Sector Consultant*

Maryland

PeaceThroughAction.org/peacebuilders



*Be peace.
Choose peace.
Create peace.*

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#PeaceBeginsWithWe
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Peace Through Action USA introduces you to our most recent *Featured Peacebuilder*, [Cara Fogarty](#) of Leonardtown, Maryland.

We selected Cara as a *Featured Peacebuilder* because of her longstanding support to and advocacy for nonprofit social purpose organizations, which are centers for civic engagement, including volunteering, in their communities. Volunteering is a peaceful practice.

Cara is a senior consultant at the [Nonprofit Institute at the College of Southern Maryland](#). Cara is responsible for the Institute and its work with nonprofits in the tri-county region. She is also a [Standards for Excellence Institute](#)® Licensed Consultant. Also Cara is an adjunct professor at College of Southern Maryland where she teaches writing and communication courses.

Watch our interview with Cara [here](#).

Cara was a panelist at our [January learning event](#) on volunteering as a peaceful practice, which we organized in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service. Read more about this event and find a link to its recording [here](#).

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