

# Takoma Park Youth Council Newsletter

## YOUTH COUNCIL DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

On March 8th, the Youth Council hosted our first public documentary screening for the community, showing the award-winning Participant Media/YouTube film *The Price of Free*. The documentary illustrates the work of Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi and his mission to end child slavery. The screening was part of CNN's #MyFreedomDay, which is a day-long student-driven event to raise awareness about

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Takoma Park Youth Council is dedicated to representing, promoting, and advocating for the interests of Takoma Park's diverse and enthusiastic young people. The Youth Council controls the content of this newsletter, the purpose of which is to inform the public of upcoming projects, initiatives and events, as well as of issues that the Council feels are important to Takoma Park's youth.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kiran Kochar McCabe -  
Chairperson, Ward 6

George Ashford - Vice Chairperson,  
Ward 2

Elliot Davey, Ward 1

Jason Kaplan, Ward 1

Adelaide Harris, Ward 2

Raffi Charkoudian-Rogers, Ward 2

Kamilla Sorenson, Ward 3

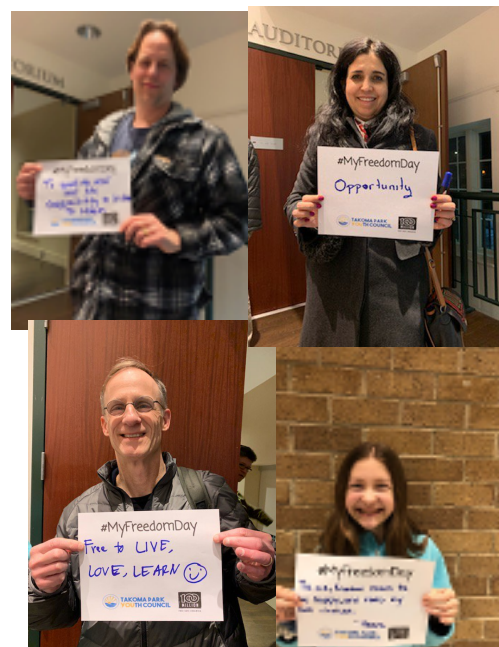
Eliza Van Camp, Ward 5

Asha Henry, Ward 6

Jennifer Rodriguez, Advisor

modern slavery, and the 100 million campaign, which is a youth led global campaign mobilizing and empowering youth leadership to ensure that all children are free, safe, and educated. While child labor isn't an issue that is visible on a day to day basis, it is something that's still very prevalent. We figured this documentary was a great way to talk about youth issues on a larger scale and raise awareness about these

obstacles our peers have to face around the world, including in the United States. Those in attendance at the screening thoroughly enjoyed the film and many participated in the Council's action after the film, where individuals wrote what freedom means to them on a piece of paper and we shared their messages on Twitter. We're looking forward to hosting more screenings like this in the future!



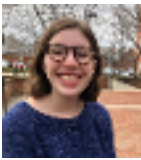
*Screening attendees posing with what freedom means to them*

# MEET THE COUNCIL!



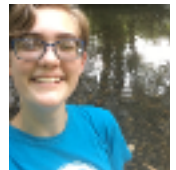
**Kiran-** Hello! I'm a graduate from the Communication Arts Program (CAP) at Blair and I've just finished serving my second term as the Youth Council's Chairperson. I love being able to connect more with Takoma Park through this position and look forward to going into the international development sector and politics when I'm older! I'm headed to American University in the fall.

**George-** I'm a rising senior at Blair High School and this is my second year on the Council. I'm honored to have served as the Council's Vice Chairperson this year. This term, I've been interested in looking into expanding Takoma's youth's access to valuable learning experiences such as getting a job and being involved in government. I enjoy skiing, hiking, and talking politics.



**Adelaide-** I'm a graduate of MBHS and just finished my second year on the Youth Council! I'm excited to be able to work to make Takoma Park a more environmentally friendly city. I love to read, watch far too many movies, and bake vegan desserts. I'm headed to Agnes Scott College in the fall.

**Elliot** - I am a graduate of Wheaton High School and just finished my second year as City Council Liaison on the Youth Council. As Liaison, it has been my job to attend City Council meetings and facilitate communications between the Youth Council and the City. I am very interested in government and politics at all levels, as well as theater, storytelling, and spending time with my cat. I am excited for what the Youth Council has accomplished this year and look forward to seeing positive change for Takoma Park youth in the future. I will be attending Oberlin College in the fall.



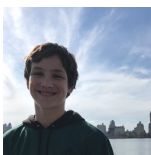
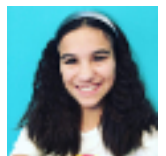
**Jason-** I am a rising senior at Montgomery Blair High School, and I just finished serving my first term on The Youth Council. I have loved getting to know the issues of our youth, and can't wait to continue working with the diverse base I have had the opportunity to represent. Outside of the Council, I enjoy wrestling, reading, and meeting new people.

**Asha** - I am a rising junior at Montgomery Blair High School and just finished my second year on the Takoma Park Youth Council. My goal this year has been to make the Takoma Park Youth Council more widely known by the local youth so that we can have a larger impact on the community. I enjoy fencing, biology and walking my dog.



**Eliza-** I am a rising junior at Montgomery Blair High School and this was my first year on the Takoma Park Youth Council. I am excited to learn more about our neighborhoods and help the City to become better and safer for kids around Takoma Park. I love to ice skate and play with my dog.

**Kam-** I am a rising 8th grader at Takoma Park Middle School and this was my first year on the Youth Council. I am interested in horseback riding and am addicted to watching movies. I am happy to be on the Council and make Takoma Park a happy and safe environment for children and adults. I also enjoy baking and take part in social activities. I hope to continue on with the Council and help Takoma Park!



**Raffi-** I am a rising 8th grader at Takoma Park Middle School. This was my first year taking part in the Youth Council and I am very excited for what's to come. I enjoy playing basketball and spending time with friends. I'm glad to be working with others to help Takoma Park.

## CHANGES TO THE CHARTER

At the beginning of the new Youth Council's term, we made a few changes to our charter (which you can access on our website). First, we officially added the position of a Vice Chairperson, and specified that the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be elected by the Youth Council. We changed the requirement for meeting attendance from 75% to attending "...meetings on a regular basis and inform[ing] the Youth Council of absences prior to meetings." We changed the term of Youth Council members so that it better lines up with the school year, and we specified that a quorum for voting on resolutions must consist of a majority of the Youth Council members.

## TEDX TALK

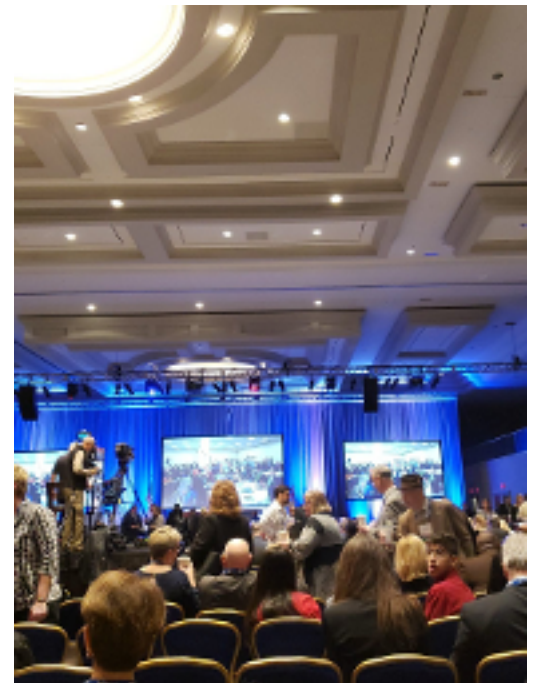
The Youth Council sponsored the student-run Youth TEDx Event that was hosted on March 9th. The event was organized by two freshmen students at Montgomery Blair High School, Marusya and Nora, and consisted of student talks and performances. The purpose of the event was to give students a forum through which to share their ideas and start conversations in the community about various issues. The event was a success and the Youth Council looks forward to its involvement in future events that promote youth voices.



*The stage at the TEDx event*

## NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CC CONFERENCE

Two members of the Youth Council, George and Jason, attended the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in early March. The National League of Cities (NLC) is an organization that advocates for local governments, and the Congressional City Conference is a yearly conference where municipal leaders gather to lobby the federal government on behalf of their constituents. This is the second year that Youth Council members have attended. George and Jason participated in the youth delegate program, and got to meet youth council members from around the country. They also attended several workshops, and learned a lot about a variety of topics including juvenile justice and social media advocacy.



*The opening session of the NLC CCC*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Takoma Park Youth Council is hosting an SSL Extravaganza on September 30th! We have coordinated a day of service with local organizations, creating an incredible opportunity for students to help out in our community and get SSL hours. The event is open to middle and high school students in MCPS. Keep an eye on our social media accounts and our email list to learn when the link to sign up goes live! Hope to see you all there!

## YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



- *Unleash your creativity!*
- *Capture your vision of our community!*
- *Win a cash prize!*

“Visions of Our Community” is a new photography contest for young people (ages 12-18) in Takoma Park and Silver Spring. The theme for this contest is “community”, which may bring to mind:

- family, friends, or other people who are important in your life;
- school, church, sports, clubs, or other group activities;
- connections to the natural world or local landscapes;
- traditions, foods, or celebrations; or
- home, neighborhoods, or favorite places to hang out.

You are invited to observe our diverse community through fresh eyes. The contest offers an opportunity to visually express your identity, your story about community, and your unique way of portraying the world around you.

Entering will be free and easy. Photographs must be taken in Takoma Park or Silver Spring between June 15 and December 1, 2019. You will be able to submit up to three photos (digital files), taken either with a camera or a cell phone.

In addition to a \$100 grand prize, \$50 prizes will be awarded for winning photographs in specific categories, as selected by a panel of judges. Separate prizes will be awarded for middle and high school students. There will be a public award ceremony, and winning photos will be exhibited at the Takoma Park Community Center and on-line.

Further details, including rules and instructions, can be found at [www.tpssvisionscontest.org](http://www.tpssvisionscontest.org). The contest is co-sponsored by Art for the People Inc., the City of Takoma Park, and the Takoma Park Photo Salon. If you have any questions or would like to help publicize the contest, please contact Keith Kozloff ([keith.kozloff@verizon.net](mailto:keith.kozloff@verizon.net)).

**“Visions of Our Community” is a new photography contest for teenagers in Takoma Park and Silver Spring. It will showcase our diverse community as seen through the eyes of its young people. Refer to the flyer above for details and submit your work by December 1st! Visit [www.tpssvisionscontest.org](http://www.tpssvisionscontest.org) for more information.**

## CONTACT US

Email: [tkpkycouncil@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tkpkycouncil@takomaparkmd.gov)

Twitter: @YouthTakoma

Fill out **this** form to keep in touch and get updates from us!

