

Beyond Borders Circles Program for Summer 2024

Travel Circle

Wednesday evenings 7:30-8:30 PM EST; **June 19, 26 and July 3**

Angela Galbreath

Angela is Beyond Borders' Communications Coordinator. When Angela lived in Haiti, she and a couple of local friends started a tour business called Sweet Escapes Haiti. They led groups all over the country and also hosted groups during the national carnival celebration every year. At the same time, she was copy editor of an English language travel magazine called Magic Haiti which was subsidized by Haiti's Ministry of Tourism. The magazine featured caves, waterfalls, beaches, restaurants, hotels, artisans, musicians and more. Wanting to be more intentional about what she was doing, she left Haiti to grow her knowledge with an MS in tourism management from Clemson University. She focused on community-based tourism. Then Port au Prince became less safe and she decided to stay with her son in the States. She can't wait to share some of her favorite spots in Haiti. You can bet Rick Steves doesn't know about these!

Angela says: "We'll start with a tour of the top 5 beaches in Haiti, then hit up the MUPANAH (which is a museum/mausoleum in the heart of Port-au-Prince), and end with the Citadelle Laferriere (UNESCO World Heritage Site). I'll make the Zoom's interactive with polls and we'll start with an ice breaker that includes introductions. We can see how else to make it interactive once we see who we've got signed up."

Prayer Circle

Monday evenings 6:30-8 PM EST; **June 10, June 24 and July 8**

Siri Craft

Siri and her husband are longtime supporters of Beyond Borders. Siri is a retired family and geriatric nurse practitioner. She's passionate about praying and connecting with others to learn and grow and encourage each other in our journeys.

Siri says: "Our hope for these meetings is to get to know one another around the subject of prayer and to pray together for the people of Haiti and our Beyond Borders team of which you are a member. Please RSVP if you can commit to these dates. Even if you must miss one, we would love to be with you when you can come. Prayer is very personal and what we share in the group will be kept confidential unless you indicate differently when you share. Please come to the first group meeting with a Scripture or other devotional/inspirational reading to share that inspires/encourages your prayer life. Also, please share what you hope for this group to be as we want to be open to input from everyone in how we spend our time together. We will plan to end the sharing part of the group around 740pm to allow twenty minutes for group prayers. I will send a ZOOM invitation to you prior to 6/10 and a reminder on 6/9 of our meeting. This will be my first time hosting a ZOOM event so I would appreciate prayers as I set up a ZOOM membership that allows for 90 minutes of time for our group. Blessings and thank you for joining with us."

Fiction Circle (Edwidge Danticat)

Thursday evenings 7:30-9 EST; **July 25, August 8, August 22**

Carol Hawke

Carole Hawke is a longtime supporter of Beyond Borders. She's a high school teacher living in Detroit, Michigan and who's been involved in faith-based and youth work in her beautiful city. Carol is also the proud single parent of three children who spent portions of their youth in foster care before being adopted as teens. Now adults, their compassion for others in difficult circumstances has been a source of beauty and challenge for Carol.

Carol says: *"Aspects of my own biography attract me to Beyond Borders and to the literature of Haitian American author Edwidge Danticat. I have been inspired by Beyond Borders' commitment to working creatively with neighbors at the grassroots level in vulnerable communities to promote wholeness of life for other neighbors. And the literature of Edwidge Danticat consistently centers characters who reach out in love— to family, to others— in spite of the deep challenges and wounds in their own lives. My thought for the book group is that it would convene 3 times for 90 minutes each, each time 2-3 weeks apart. In this way, it is not an overwhelming commitment."*

"There are several good options for discussion which we could choose from. Danticat's most recent Everything Inside is a collection of 8 short stories set mostly in Haiti and the US. Her beautiful memoir, Brother, I'm Dying is a slightly longer account of her relationship with her uncle who raised her in Haiti for several years and her father who sent for her to join the family in New York. While the characters are the focus, the backdrop is the events in Haiti and the US which drive the decisions thrust upon the family. (Disclaimer: You may cry the whole way through.) Clare of the Sea Light also sounds good (Another disclaimer: I haven't read it yet!) and touches on many themes which Beyond Borders seeks to address in the communities in which it works— the restavek system, gendered violence, and environmental impact."

Teacher Consultant Circle

Tuesday evenings 6:30-7:30 PM EST; **July 9, July 23, August 6**

Jeff Singleton

Jeff was a member of Beyond Borders' first Board of Directors thirty years ago, and has just returned, joyfully, to BB board service. He was a parish minister for ten years and a public-school middle grades teacher for thirty. Jeff is a "service-learning" enthusiast, and interested in exploring ways American classrooms might connect with the work of Beyond Borders.

Jeff says: *"In our school district in Pennsylvania, parents of 17,000 students sometimes express a desire to introduce their children to the world's great need, and to educate their hearts. In my own experiments connecting curriculum to community service, I've seen my pupils grow and change, receiving more than they give. I'm eager to know about ideas that teacher colleagues might have about connecting our teacher-work to Beyond Borders."*