

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **January 2008**. It is going out to over 1,400 people. If you do not want to receive this once-a-month email in the future, simply hit "reply" and ask to be removed.

Please also remember that if you prefer not to read this announcement in email form, you can always access it on the web at [www.simplicity-matters.org/announcements/](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/announcements/)

We also have a YahooGroup, called "DCMetroSimplifiers," with about 230 members, if you want to be involved during the month in an "interactive dialogue." You can subscribe from our homepage, [www.simplicity-matters.org](http://www.simplicity-matters.org).

For our friends in Baltimore, there is also a new YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 65 members. You can also subscribe from our homepage.

The announcement is organized into six sections:

- 1.) Community Event Summary
- 2.) Second Sunday Forum & Baltimore Green Forum
- 3.) Discussion Circle Update
- 4.) Community Events
- 5.) February Preview
- 6.) Action Opportunities & Tidbit

This is the month for Vegan awareness. Compassion Over Killing (COK) is hosting several events. Please consider taking some time to be politically active. Maryland Independent Consumers and Farmers Association (MICFA)'s and The Alliance for Global Warming Solutions will both be in Annapolis this month, lobbying for positive changes. (Scroll down to Action Opportunities and Tidbits for further details about both lobby days.)

Thanks to this month's editor, **Nicole Killion**

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## **COMMUNITY EVENT SUMMARY**

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Please scroll down for to the "Community Events" section for detailed information about the following:

- Jan 3 (Thurs), 11:30am-10pm: Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit, Rockville, MD
- Jan 3 (Thurs), 8:30pm: CD Release Party Benefit for Compassion Over Killing (COK), Washington, D.C
- Jan 5 (Sat), 12:30pm-1:30pm: Vegan Feed-In with Compassion Over Killing (COK), Washington, D.C.
- Jan 5 (Sat), 6:30pm-8:30pm: First Saturday Vegan Potluck, Ellicott City, MD
- Jan 7 (Mon): CSBA Green Gathering networking event, Baltimore, MD
- Jan 8 (Tues): 6 pm: DC Green Drinks, Washington, DC
- Jan 12 (Sat), 9am-3pm, Green Sanctuary Area Meeting/Workshop, Annapolis, MD

Jan 12 (Sat), 10am-12pm: Howard County Conservancy's Indoor "Nature Walk", Howard County, MD

Jan 12 (Sat), 6-9pm: EarthSave Baltimore's Veg Dinner Series, Owings Mills, MD

Jan 12-13 (Sat-Sun), 9-5pm: Tabling with Compassion Over Killing (COK) at the NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo, Washington, D.C.

Jan 13 (Sun), 6:30-8:30pm, "The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil", Bethesda, MD [see Second Sunday Forum, below]

Jan 15 (Tues), 7:30pm: Neighbors of Northwest Branch meeting, Silver Spring, MD

Jan 16 (Wed), 9am: Maryland Independent Consumers and Farmers Association (MICFA)'s Second Annual Lobby Day, Annapolis, MD

Jan 16 (Wed), 7:30pm: Baltimore Chapter Maryland Native Plant Society Meeting, Stevenson, MD

Jan 17 (Thurs), 11am: The Alliance for Global Warming Solutions rally, Annapolis, MD

Jan 18-19 (Fri-Sat), 7-10pm: American Conservation Film Festival, Howard County Conservancy, MD

Jan 19 (Sat), 11am-6pm: Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit, Washington, D.C.

Jan 26 (Sat), 1-4pm: Exploring Our Inner Ecology Workshop, Oakton, VA

Jan 26 (Sat), 8:30-4:15 pm: How to be Green lecture, Jessup, MD

Jan 26 (Sat), 1-3pm: Cohousing for Boomers and ... Beyond! Information session, location TBD

Jan 26 (Sat), 6pm-12am: 5th Annual MammoJam Music Festival, Baltimore, MD

Jan 27 (Sun), 3:30pm: Progressive Film Series Event, Greenbelt, MD

Jan 27 (Sun), 4:30 pm: Baltimore Green Forum, Towson, MD [see below Second Sunday Forum]

Jan 29 (Tues), 7:30 pm, Maryland Native Plant Society Meeting, White Oak, MD

Jan 30 (Wed), "2% Solution Webcast", multiple locations

Jan 31 (Thurs), "Focus the Nation", multiple locations

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## **SECOND SUNDAY FORUM**

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### **SECOND SUNDAY FORUM IN BETHESDA**

**Sunday, January 13, 2008, 6:30-8:30 PM**

**"The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil" Video and Discussion**

Cuba had totally bought into the notion of better farming through fossil fuels. So when Soviet oil was cut off in the early 1990s, the country faced an immediate crisis of how to feed its population and a longer term challenge of creating a low-energy society. Everyone lost about 20 lbs, but the island nation did not devolve into chaos; it transitioned to organic farms, urban gardens, and a more sustainable society. This 53-minute film tells, in Cubans' own words, the story of how they did it. Cuba's transition to a low-energy society is hopeful and instructive. Join us on a cold January evening to warm yourself -- in good company -- watching and discussing this video!

Where: in a private home in Bethesda, within walking distance of the Medical Center metro (Red Line), close to I-495 and Wisconsin Avenue.

To RSVP (required): Call Marney at (301) 652-0492 or e-mail [forum@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:forum@simplicity-matters.org). Please include your phone number in your message.

Help us publicize this event! Flier available to download and post (PDF, 70KB) in your workplace or neighborhood at [www.simplicity-matters.org](http://www.simplicity-matters.org)

**NEXT MONTH:** February 10, 2008 Speaker: Janet Kane. Topic: The Great Turning

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## **BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM**

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**Sunday, January 27, 2008 4:30 - 6:30 PM**

**Topic: TBA**

**MD Presbyterian Church, 1105 Providence Road, Towson**

<http://www.mpchurch.org/directions.htm>

This month's topic is still TBA. Check back on the SMEI homepage in a few days for updated info, [www.simplicity-matters.org](http://www.simplicity-matters.org)

The Baltimore Green Forum is co-sponsored by Simplicity Matters Earth Institute, Green City Baltimore, Hooked on Nature, and Network of Spiritual Progressives. Literature will be available about numerous "green" Baltimore organizations.

**For questions, to co-sponsor, or to RSVP,** contact Diane, [baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com) or 410-965-7740

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## **DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE**

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**Please note the following abbreviations:** "Voluntary Simplicity" (VS), "Choices for Sustainable Living" (CSL), "Discovering a Sense of Place" (DSOP), "Exploring Deep Ecology" (EDE), "Healthy Children-Healthy Planet (HCHP), "Globalization and Its Critics" (GiC), "Global Warming: Changing CO<sub>2</sub>urse" (CO2), "Your Money or Your Life" (YMOYL), "Simplicity Lessons" by Linda Breen Pierce (LBP), and "Low Carbon Diet" by David Gershon (LCD)

**We started a total of 29 circles in 2007** in 8 counties: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George, Washington County, Carroll, and District of Columbia

**Here are our first eleven circles, slated to begin in 2008 (including two additional counties: Frederick and Harford):**

**FOOD Pilot Circle (phone circle) First Session:** Sun, Jan 6. Contact Lena Rotenberg, 301-432-8721, [Lena@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:Lena@simplicity-matters.org)

**Frederick, FOOD Pilot Circle First Session:** Wed, Jan 9. Contact Lena Rotenberg, 301-432-8721, [Lena@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:Lena@simplicity-matters.org)

**Bethesda, FOOD Pilot Circle First Session:** Thurs, Jan 10. Contact Lena Rotenberg, 301-432-8721, [Lena@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:Lena@simplicity-matters.org)

**Westminster (CSL) First Session:** Jan 13, 2-4 pm Contact Carole [caroleflood19@yahoo.com](mailto:caroleflood19@yahoo.com)

**Baltimore, Memorial Episcopal Church** in Bolton Hill (CO2), **First Session:** Jan 13 or 20, 12:30-2:00 pm. Contact Rebecca Ruggles, rebeccaruggles@verizon.net or 410-903-9498.

**McCormick Spice Company (CSL). Intro Meeting:** Tues, Jan 15. **First session:** Tues, Jan 22. CS: Jeff Blankman. Open to employees only.

**Middletown, "Simplicity Lessons"** by Linda Breen Pierce. **Intro Meeting:** Thu Jan 17, 7pm. **First session:** Thu Jan 24. Contact Susan Kelican 301-371-3116 or [skelican1@comcast.net](mailto:skelican1@comcast.net)

**Deer Creek Friends Meeting, Harford County (VS). Intro Meeting:** Thu Jan 17, 7pm. **First session:** Thu Jan 24. Contact: Jill Sostrin, [jillybird@hotmail.com](mailto:jillybird@hotmail.com) (to be added to wait list).

**Frederick, Unitarian Universalist Church (CO2). Intro Meeting:** Tue Jan 22, 7pm; **First Session:** Tue Jan 29. Contact Marney Bruce, 301 652-0492 or [Marney@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:Marney@simplicity-matters.org)

**Pikesville, private home (DSOP) First Session:** Sun, Feb 3, 7 pm. Contact Diane Jones, Diane.V.Jones@ssa.gov

**Scaggsville, Temple Isaiah (CO2) First Session:** Wed, Feb 6. Contact Betsy Singer, [elizabethsinger446@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethsinger446@hotmail.com)

The following groups are hoping to get started later this year, details forthcoming (contact Lore at [SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com](mailto:SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com)) . . . . .:

**Downtown Frederick (EDE).** Circle forming. Contact Chris Hodge 301-865-5630 or [mdhiker2@yahoo.com](mailto:mdhiker2@yahoo.com)

**Ascension Lutheran (TBD)** CS: Katherine Jenkins

**Gunpowder Friends Meeting, Sparks, MD (VS)** CS: Linda Davis

**First Unitarian of Baltimore, downtown area (CO2)** Contact Peggy, 410-235-0660 or [pstubbs2@verizon.net](mailto:pstubbs2@verizon.net)

**Seekers Church, Takoma Park (VS)** CS: Ruth Alice White

**Parkton (HCHP)** CS: Rich Louis

**Carbon Neutrality Project, Greenbelt (LCD)** CS: Steve Kane [sr.kane@verizon.net](mailto:sr.kane@verizon.net)

**Light Street Presbyterian (regroup)** Topic: TBD

**Foundry Methodist Church, DC (CO2)** CS: Lucian Caspar, TC Morrow

**St. Columba's Episcopal, Tenleytown (CO2)** CS: John Wickham

**Paint Branch UU Congregation, Adelphi (regroup)** Topic: TBD

**River Road UU Congregation, Bethesda (CO2)** CS: Jim Fremont, Suzanne Clarke

**Cedar Lane UU Congregation, Bethesda (LCD)** CS: Mary Somers

**UU Congregation of Bowie (CO2)** CS: Ken Shilling

**UU Congregation of Annapolis, Green Sanctuary Committee** CO2 CS: Debbie Cole  
[debcole.email@yahoo.com](mailto:debcole.email@yahoo.com)

**Towson UU Congregation** Action Circle CS: Michelle Collins

**Goddard Space Flight Center (regroup)** Topic: TBD CS: Theresa Held/Michael Hartman

**Sign Language Circle** VS (discussion of "Voluntary Simplicity", in American Sign Language) CS: Roberta Merrill, location: TBD

**Baltimore "Matchmaker"** (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal, [SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com](mailto:SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com)

**Rockville/Bethesda "Matchmaker"** (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal, [SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com](mailto:SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com)

**Silver Spring/Takoma Park "Matchmaker"** (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal [SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com](mailto:SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com)

**Greenbelt "Matchmaker"** (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal [SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com](mailto:SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com)

**NW DC "Matchmaker"** (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal (and Cody Donahue) [SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com](mailto:SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com)

### **Lore's "Circles List"/"Matchmaking"**

This winter, Lore will continue "matching" and/or "pointing" people into circles. In neighborhoods where circles are already forming, she will point you in the direction of a circle nearby. In those areas where there is not a circle already being planned, she will "match" people into home-based groups. Current "matchmaker" neighborhoods include:

**Baltimore/ Columbia/ Greenbelt/ Takoma Park/ Silver Spring/ Rockville/ Bethesda/ Germantown/ NW-DC**

***NOTE: If a circle does not seem to be starting in your area quite as fast as you had hoped, perhaps you want to email Lore and offer her some assistance? She would be happy to give you a small task to lighten her load and ensure that the circle you want will come together.***

For a list of **all of our NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit  
[http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/text-based/nwei\\_7\\_guides.pdf](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/text-based/nwei_7_guides.pdf)

As the colder months arrive, many circles are forming. Please check frequently at [www.simplicity-matters.org/join\\_a\\_circle.htm](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/join_a_circle.htm) to see what is available. (If you are starting your own circle and would like to have your blurb posted on that page, please email it to [Lena@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:Lena@simplicity-matters.org) )

For more info. about our discussion circles, visit our Frequently Asked Questions page, [www.simplicity-matters.org/faq.htm](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/faq.htm), or email Lore at [SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com](mailto:SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com).

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## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

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**Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit** at Vegetable Garden, Thurs., **Jan. 3**, 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Rockville, Md. You're invited to join COK at the monthly Vegetable Garden funding day when D.C.'s vegan favorite donates 10 percent of your bill to COK. Vegetable Garden is located at 11618 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. For more information contact [info@cok.net](mailto:info@cok.net) or 301-891-2458. Details at <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0016>

**CD Release Party Benefit for Compassion Over Killing (COK)** at The Black Cat, Thurs., **Jan. 3** at 8:30 p.m., Washington, D.C. Exotic Fever Records will host a special CD Release Party Benefit for COK at The Black Cat located at 1811 14th St. N.W., D.C. Enjoy great music, vegan desserts, and help COK help animals all for \$8.00. For more information contact [info@cok.net](mailto:info@cok.net) or 301-891-2458. Details at <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0214>

**Vegan Feed-In with Compassion Over Killing (COK)**, Sat., **Jan 5**, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Washington, D.C. Join COK as we offer free samples of delicious animal-friendly fare while distributing free literature, including vegan recipes and a guide to veg-friendly dining in and around the nation's capital. January's vegan feed-in is at McDonald's in Adams Morgan at 2481 18th St. N.W., D.C. For more information contact [info@cok.net](mailto:info@cok.net) or 301-891-2458. Details at <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0043>

**First Saturday Vegan Potluck, Sat. Jan. 5th, 6:30-8:30PM, Ellicott City near Centennial Park.** The First Sat. Vegan Potluck of 2008 is fast approaching on Sat. Jan. 5th. Come chase those post holiday blues away and join us for a great meal, good conversation. Please bring a vegan dish to share (store bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 6. Please RSVP via e-mail to [bsorak@juno.com](mailto:bsorak@juno.com). We will have basic table service available, but it's better if you can bring your own reusable picnic-ware and feel free to wash up here - - instead of making so much waste for the landfill. There will be iced tea and filtered water to drink. If we don't receive more than 4 responses then we will cancel the gathering. Invite friends and the merely curious. Kids welcome!

**CSBA "Green Gathering" in affiliation with Green Drinks networking event** on Monday, **Jan. 7, 2008** at the Rawlings Conservatory in Druid Hill Park, Baltimore. The sponsors are the City of Baltimore, Woodhall Vineyards, and flutist Jan Seiden. The topic discussed will be the Urban Forest Project. The cost is \$5 and goes to CSBA. For more information please go to <http://www.csballiance.org> or call 410-342-1482.

**Tuesdays, Jan 8, DC Green Drinks get together.** We're having it at Indebledu once again. It's a cozy, warm place on a cold night. The location is 707 "G" Street NW, across from the Verizon Center just off 7<sup>th</sup> Street. We meet from around 6:00-8:30/9:00+. Come whenever you want and stay for as long as you want. Indebledu's phone number is: 202.333.2538. For more info, email [greendrinksdcc@gmail.com](mailto:greendrinksdcc@gmail.com)

**Green Sanctuary Area Meeting/Workshop, Saturday, Jan. 12, 9:00 to 3:00, Annapolis, MD** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, 333 DuBois Rd., Annapolis. This is an opportunity for area UU churches to come together to share our congregational greening efforts and energize each other. We will be focusing on green legislation, as well as, discussions around Environmental Justice, Eating Locally, Hands-on Activities, and Fundraising. Please bring a display of things you've done or any information you feel is appropriate to share. For more information, contact Debbie Cole, [debcole.email@yahoo.com](mailto:debcole.email@yahoo.com), 410-969-7986. For directions go to [www.uuca-md.org/directions.html](http://www.uuca-md.org/directions.html)

**Songs of Insects, Saturday, January 12, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon, Howard County Conservancy's Gudelsky Center Indoor "Nature Walk"** for all ages, led by Wil Hershberger, author/photographer. Meet members of the summer insect chorus. Book signing to follow. Call 410-465-8877 Details & Directions: [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org)

**EarthSave Baltimore's Veg Dinner Series** will feature on Saturday, **Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>** from 6-9, a special Meet & Greet social event at the Learning Center of Your Prescription for Health, 10210 S. Dolfield Road Owings Mills, MD. Please bring a vegan dish that will serve five times the number of people in your party, plus a \$5 donation. Or (with 2 days notice) you may enjoy dinner without bringing food for a \$12 donation. Contact Don at 410-252-3043, or go to <http://baltimore.earthsave.org>

**Tabling with Compassion Over Killing (COK) at the NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo, Sat. - Sun., Jan. 12-13, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Washington, D.C.** Join COK at the NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo at the Washington Convention Ctr. at 801 Mt. Vernon Pl., N.W., D.C., where we will be distributing free pro-vegetarian literature including vegan recipes and a guide to veg-friendly dining in and around the nation's capital. For more information contact [info@cok.net](mailto:info@cok.net) or 301-891-2458. Details at <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0215>

**Neighbors of Northwest Branch** will hold its next regular meeting on Tue., **Jan. 15**, at 7:30pm, at the White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD, just north of the interchange with US 29 (Colesville Rd.). Program includes a presentation on being a stream steward. All are welcome. For more information call 301-946-5599 or visit [www.neighborsnwb.org](http://www.neighborsnwb.org)

**Baltimore Chapter Maryland Native Plant Society Meeting, Wednesday, January 16, 7:30pm.** Louisa Thompson on "Native Plant Landscaping in Urban Conditions and Disturbed Soil." Many of us want to restore the native plant community that once existed on the land around our homes, but what if conditions are so changed that the pre-development plant community couldn't survive there now? There is no single right answer. Join us to consider the problems and possibilities. Meeting at The Irvine Nature Center, 8400 Greenspring Avenue, Stevenson, MD, 21093, in Baltimore County. For more information contact Ann Lundy at [annlundy@verizon.net](mailto:annlundy@verizon.net) or 410-366-9365.

**American Conservation Film Festival "On the Road"**, Friday, **January 18** & Saturday, **January 19**, 7:00-10p.m. Howard County Conservancy's Gudelsky Center Latest films on conserving natural landscapes/resources from Costa Rica to Alaska; films include "Gates of the Arctic" & "Bird Song & Coffee" Call 410-465-8877. Directions and details at [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org)

**Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit** at Java Green, Sat., **Jan. 19**, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Washington, D.C. Support COK while enjoying delicious cruelty-free fare and socializing with other activists! Please join us at Java Green, located at 1020 19th St., N.W., D.C., when a portion of your bill will benefit COK. For more information contact info@cok.net or 301-891-2458. Details at <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0015>

**"Exploring Our Inner Ecology" Workshop** Saturday, **January 26<sup>th</sup>** from 1 to 4 PM at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton, VA. Cost: \$25. Join EcoStewards Alliance founder, Peter Kelsey, for an exploration of the "Inner Ecology ~ Outer Ecology Model" and how you can apply it to your life. This model points us toward answers to life's most deeply held secret and some of its most fundamental questions: Where do I find happiness? Why do we humans do what we do to each other and the planet? What is my mission in life? How much is enough for me? The first part of this 3-hour workshop will introduce the model at a conceptual level. The balance of the time will be spent exploring how you can apply it in your own life. For more info visit: <http://www.ecostewardsalliance.org>

**How to be Green, Saturday, January 26**, 2008, 8:30-4:15 pm, Jessup, MD. Introductory seminars on solar electric, solar hot water, rainwater and energy efficiency. For more information, contact Leslye Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org>

**Cohousing for Boomers and ... Beyond!** Sat., **Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>**, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Information and orientation session on the benefits of cohousing for folks 50+ years young. Learn how cohousing helps you live your values! FREE but must register. Sponsored by Mid Atlantic Cohousing 501c3 non profit. Directions sent with confirmation of attendance: Ann 202 291 7892 or zabaldo@earthlink.net. Ya'll come!

**5th Annual MammoJam Music Festival**, On Saturday **January 26<sup>th</sup>**, will take place at the 8 x 10 on 10 E. Cross Street in Federal Hill, Baltimore City, from 6PM until midnight. In addition to a silent auction and great food from local restaurateurs, MammoJam is pleased to present national recording artists the Virginia Coalition, Erin McKeown, and Offbeat Magazine's 2007 "Performer of the Year" Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue to accompany festival favorites The Reserves. Tickets can be purchased for \$40 in advance or \$50 at the door, with \$80 VIP packages available. 'With our first class venue, top musical talent and media support from CN8 the Comcast Network and WTMD-FM, MammoJam is bringing support for women and families touched by breast cancer to a national stage,' said Bill Romani, founder of MammoJam. Please visit [www.mammojammusicfestival.org](http://www.mammojammusicfestival.org) for more information regarding the mission, tickets and sponsorship.

**Progressive Film Series event:** view and discuss "Peace, Propaganda & the Promised Land." Media Education Foundation produced this film to compare coverage of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict by U.S. vs. international media. Mike Daly of Interfaith Peace Builders will introduce the film and lead discussion. Sunday **January 27**, 3:30 pm, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt MD. Sponsor: Peace & Justice Coalition, Prince George's County. Contact justpeacepg@earthlink.net, Lucy Duff at 301-577-2350.

**Maryland Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting**, Tuesday, **January 29**, 7:30 p.m. Wild Orchids of North America. Join Jesse Harris, renowned nature photographer and MNPS member, for a spectacular presentation on the native orchids of North America. Jesse has traveled throughout the continent in search of wild orchids in their natural habitats and has amassed a stunning collection of photographs. Most of Maryland's numerous orchid species will be presented as well, including those that are rare or historically known from the state. White Oak Library - Large Meeting Room. For directions and more information contact Marney at 301 652-0492 or go to <http://www.mdflora.org/events/monthlymeeting0801.html>

**'The 2% Solution Webcast' - Focus the Nation: Wednesday January 30<sup>th</sup>. Multiple locations.** Use your group's fast internet connection, screen and projector to host a webcast to support global warming solutions! Join prominent climate scientists; Audiences can weigh in with cell phone voting. Our goal is 10,000 screenings. <http://www.focusthenation.org/2percentsolution.php>

**'Global Warming National Teach In' Thurs. Jan 31. Multiple locations.**

Local schools and institutions will have teach ins and will invite local political leaders to come to campus and participate in a round-table discussion: a sequel to the Power Shift conference of Nov 2007 when 8000 students from across the country convened to address climate challenge.

<http://www.focusthenation.org/nationalteachin.php>

List of MD participating organizations:

[http://www.focusthenation.org/actionmap/?type=prox&code=21045&range=150&code\\_submit=Go%21](http://www.focusthenation.org/actionmap/?type=prox&code=21045&range=150&code_submit=Go%21)

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**Looking ahead to February**

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**Hooked On Nature of Maryland** is forming a Nature Circle! A weekly gathering to celebrate and share our experiences in nature. Join us in the northwest Baltimore County area beginning Sunday, **February 3**, 4-5:30pm. Location TBA. The circles will continue for 4 weeks (2/10, 2/17, 2/24). Contact Mary Hardcastle, mary@hookedonnature.org. Visit [www.hookedonnature.org](http://www.hookedonnature.org)

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**ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS**

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**Maryland Independent Consumers and Farmers Association (MICFA)'s Second Annual Lobby Day and Legislative Brunch**, Wednesday **January 16<sup>th</sup>**, 9:00 am, Lowe House, Office Building, Room 180, 84 College Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401. Legislative session is just about to begin. Come express yourself to the delegates and senators of the General Assembly. Bring food, healthy children and wonderful fresh milk stories. We will gather in Annapolis to feed and meet with our legislators. Please join us. Liz Reitzig, 301-860-0535, Liz@micfa.net, [www.micfa.net](http://www.micfa.net)

**Prepare the Flood Gates! The Streets of Annapolis will be Flooded with Activists!**

**Join the Alliance for Global Warming Solutions** and hundreds of activists as we descend on the streets of Annapolis to demand that our elected officials find solutions to global warming. The Alliance for Global Warming Solutions is coordinating a rally on Thursday, January 17th, starting at 11 a.m. on Lawyers' Mall in Annapolis. We want Governor O'Malley and the legislature to take strong action against global warming this legislative session. For more information and detailed directions, check our web site at <http://www.alliancemd.org> Please RSVP to "info@alliancemd.org", so we can help coordinate carpools.

**The Story of Stuff – watch it for FREE!**

View this great new 20 minute online movie at <http://www.storyofstuff.com/> . Great for kids, school groups, etc. Here is what the website says: "From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. **The Story of Stuff** is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. **The Story of Stuff** exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever."