

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **April 2008**. It is going out to over **1,515 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/

We also have a YahooGroup, called "DCMetroSimplifiers," with about 235 members, if you want to be involved during the month in an "interactive dialogue." You can subscribe from our homepage, 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 five sections:

- 1.) Second Sunday Forum & Baltimore Green Forum
- 2.) Discussion Circle Update
- 3.) Community Events
- 4.) Looking ahead to May and Beyond
- 5.) Action Opportunities & Tidbits

With the arrival of spring and Earth Day, our Community Events Calendar is even more packed than usual!

Thanks to this month's editor, Janis Oppelt.

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, April 13, 2008, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Food for Life with Lena Rotenberg, co-founder of Simplicity Matters Earth Institute

Does it matter if you buy local or organic? How fresh, pure or clean is your food? If these and other questions about food have your head spinning every time you decide what to eat, join us and bring your questions. Lena will share her personal stories, interspersed with data culled from more than 500 articles she read while co-developing Menu for the Future, the Northwest Earth Institute's forthcoming discussion guide about food.

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. Please include your phone number in your message.

Help us publicize this event! Download and post a flier (PDF, 190 KB) in your workplace or neighborhood! Go to www.simplicity-matters.org.

This forum will follow our SimpliciTea honoring Simplicity Matters Earth Institute volunteers.

SAVE THE DATE! Next Bethesda Forum: Sunday, May 18, 2008. Speaker: Anca Novacovici of www.eco-coach.com

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

**Sunday April 27, Baltimore Green Forum, 4:30 to 6:30 pm
Addressing Climate Change through Lifestyle, Technology & Advocacy at the Local & Personal Level.**

MD Presbyterian Church, 1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286.

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

David O'Leary, Smart Energy Solutions Chair, and Cool Cities Campaign Chair for The Sierra Club MD, and a leading authority in this area, will discuss how local governments are beginning to address climate change in Baltimore County, Baltimore City and elsewhere, and how citizens impact this process. **Beth Strommen**, manager of Baltimore City's new Office of Sustainability, will summarize the new sustainability program and legislation, and how public policy interacts with action by businesses and individuals.. To co-sponsor or ask questions, contact Diane at 410-965-7740 or baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com

COME EARLY, at 3 pm – Help members of the church pull Garlic Mustard (an invasive plant) on the grounds of the church.

Help us publicize this event! Download and post a flier (PDF) in your workplace or neighborhood! Go to

<http://www.baltimoreclimate.org/x2/file/d2ddea18f00665ce8623e36bd4e3c7c5.pdf>

SAVE THE DATE! Next Baltimore Green Forum: Sunday, May 18, 2008 Topic: **Spirituality and the Environment: How Different Faiths Approach Stewardship of Creation**

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

From our friends at "Hooked on Nature":

Circles Forming... Hooked On Nature is forming Nature Circles. Join a small group of adults in your area and share stories and simple nature experiences. Visit <http://www.hookedonnature.org/naturecircles.html> to find out more. To join a circle, contact Mary Hardcastle, Maryland Coordinator, mary@hookedonnature.org

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 CO₂urse" (CO₂), "Your Money or Your Life" (YMOYL), "Simplicity Lessons" by Linda Breen Pierce (LBP), and "Low Carbon Diet" by David Gershon (LCD)

We have started 15 circles so far in 2008:

FOOD Pilot Circle (phone circle) CS: Lena Rotenberg,
Frederick, FOOD Pilot Circle CS: Lena Rotenberg,
Bethesda, FOOD Pilot Circle CS:Lena Rotenberg,

Westminster (CSL), private home CS: Carole Flood
Baltimore, Memorial Episcopal Church in Bolton Hill (CO2), CS: Rebecca Ruggles,
McCormick Spice Company (CSL). CS: Jeff Blankman. Open to employees only.
Middletown, "Simplicity Lessons" by Linda Breen Pierce CS: Susan Kelican
Deer Creek Friends Meeting, Harford County (VS). CS: Jill Sostrin
Frederick, Unitarian Universalist Church (CO2). CS: Marney Bruce,
Baltimore, Pikesville (DSOP), private home CS: Diane Jones
Hagerstown (LCD), private home CS: Danielle Conger
Silver Spring (DSOP), private home CS: Camille Freeman
Sparks, Gunpowder Friends (VS) CS: Linda Davis
Howard County, Linden-Lithicum United Methodist Church (CO2), CS: Susan Lower
Howard County, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, (CO2), CS: Wolfger Schneider

We have the following 5 circles scheduled to begin this spring, in Frederick, Washington County, Baltimore, and Howard County:

Thurs, Apr 3, Global Warming Discussion Circle. 7 to 8:30 pm, Frederick, MD. Meets every first Thurs of the month at Ten Thousand Joys Bookstore. Please buy discussion guide (\$20) at bookstore and read Chapter 1 prior to the meeting. Contact: Hillary Banachowski, 301.607.6073 or Lunachic727@earthlink.net

Memorial Episcopal (regroup) Topic: **(CSL)** Memorial Episcopal Church, 1407 Bolton Street, Baltimore, MD 21217. **First Session:** April 6th at 4 pm. More than one circle will be formed, if the response is great. RSVP to Betty Biliske, bjbiliske@verizon.net. She will arrange for you to get a book prior to Sunday, so you are ready to discuss Chapter One.

Middletown (CSL or the new MFF, TBD). Intro Meeting: Tue April 22, 7-9 PM. Contact Susan Kelican 301-371-3116 or skelican1@comcast.net

Howard County Jewish Federation Office (CO2)

Begins: Wed, May 7 at 7pm and continues on May 14, May 28, June 4 and June 11, 2008. 10630 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia MD 21044. For information and to sign up call the Federation office at 410-730-4976 or email info@JewishHowardCounty.org
[This circle is part of the Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (CCIHC), www.hococlimatechange.org]

Towson UU Congregation "Action Circle" <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/action/index.html> dates: TBD CS: Michelle Collins, for more info contact michellecollins8@gmail.com

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

Silver Spring (EDE), CS: Wendy Child

Shepherdstown Friends (TBD), CS Joan Fisher.

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

Ascension Lutheran (TBD) CS: Katherine Jenkins

First Unitarian of Baltimore, downtown area (CO2) Contact Peggy, 410-235-0660 or 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

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
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
Rockville/Bethesda "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal, SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com
Silver Spring/Takoma Park "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com
Greenbelt "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com
NW DC "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal (and Cody Donahue) SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com

Lore's "Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

This spring, 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

In any given month, many circles are forming. Please check frequently at www.simplicity-matters.org/join_a_circle.htm to see what is currently 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)

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sat, Apr 5, Peace Meal, 1 to 3 pm, Chevy Chase, MD. Spiritual Food CSA (community supported agriculture). Free monthly gathering featuring a speaker on peace-related topic, fresh vegetarian lunch, and, usually, live music and a film. April meeting for members includes open house for all interested in the upcoming summer/fall season. Location: 4209 East West Hwy, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Contact Durga at shantiyoga2@earthlink.net or 301 654 4899, x3, or check website at: www.spiritualfoodcsa.org.

Sat, Apr 5, Using Natural Light: Daylight Tube Installation Workshop, 9 am to 11 pm, Jessup, MD. Want natural lighting all year long? Learn how to install a daylight tube in your own home or business! Contact Leslye Wilson at leslye@greenbuildinginstitute.org or 443-733-1234. Directions and details: <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/>.

Sat, Apr 5, Volunteers for Project Clean Stream, 9 am to Noon, various locations. Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is currently recruiting volunteers to sign-up to lead sites and to help as crew for the annual stream and shoreline clean-up held. PCS counties include Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard, as well as the Eastern Shore. Basic supplies provided. Pick your own site or choose one from our list. For more details call 410-377-6270 x 31 or kdowling@acb-online.org. Apr 5 is also the Patuxent watershed clean-up held by the Patuxent Riverkeeper Inc. Contact Lauren Webster at Lauren@paxriverkeeper.org.

Sat, Apr 5, Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, 9 am to 12 Noon, various locations. Sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. For information, go to http://potomaccleanup.org/trash_initiative/trash_cleanup.html.

Sat, Apr 5, Electronics Recycling Event, 10 am – 2 pm, Catonsville

The Old Catonsville Neighborhood Association and The Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsor, Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 905 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD 21228, (please enter on Newburg Avenue) Do Bring: consumer electronics such as computers, monitors, fax machines, VCRs, stereos, cell phone, printers, and other miscellaneous items, televisions*. Do Not Bring: appliances, Freon containing objects, large items (e.g., treadmills). *There will be a \$10 fee for televisions. For more information contact: Joan Plisko at jplisko@hotmail.com

Sat Apr 5, 9 to 1pm, Howard County Green Fest, [Glenwood Community Center](#), 2400 Rte. 97, Cooksville

Theme - Green Buildings Inside and Out. Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (CCI-HC) will have information about discussion circles. Flyer
<http://hococlimatechange.org/x2/file/e2c420d928d4bf8ce0ff2ec19b371514.pdf>

Sun, Apr 6, CITIZEN KING. 3 pm, Greenbelt Community Church, 1 Hillside Rd (corner of Crescent Rd).

The Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition and the county chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference invite you to join in marking the 40th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Please come view the documentary The Reverend Terence Collins will introduce the film, present an update of its relevance and lead audience discussion.

Tues, Apr 8, Neighbors of Northwest Branch meeting, 7:30 pm, Silver Spring, MD. Location: White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, just north of the intersection with US Route 29 (Colesville Road.). Plans for cleanups, garlic mustard pull, and tabling on Apr 26 will be discussed. For more information, call 301-946-5599 or visit www.neighborsnwb.org.

Tues, Apr 8, USGBC Baltimore Book Club, 6 to 8 pm, Towson, MD. Discuss *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fall* (by Jared Diamond) on how principles apply to today's society. Program will be held at Ukazoo Books, which is offering a 30 percent discount when you mention the USGBC Baltimore Book Club. For more information, directions and details visit <http://usgbcbbaltimore.eventbrite.com/>.

Sat, Apr 12, EcoStewards Alliance Nurturing Nature Outing, 10 am to Noon, Turkey Run Park, VA. Join Marney Bruce and geologist Bob Root to see the wonderful display of Virginia bluebells and other spring wildflowers at this special park. For more information, go to www.ecostewardsalliance.org.

Sat, Apr 12, Living in the Time of the Great Turning Workshop, 9 am to 5:30 pm, Arlington, VA.

Exercises and guided meditations from Joanna Macy, an activist and pioneer in the deep ecology movement, and from Awakening the Dreamer Symposium. Focus on creating an environmentally sustaining, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just human presence on earth. Group interaction, video clips and presentations. Location: Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA. \$35 covers lunch, snacks and materials. More information at www.awakeningthedreamer.org or contact Mary Pike at marypike@cox.net or 703-960-0577.

Sat, Apr 12, Wildflowers for Beginners, 10 am to Noon, Scott's Run Preserve, VA (a joint VNPS & MNPS outing). The spring wildflower season will be in full bloom in mid-April. This is the perfect place to celebrate spring and see a wonderful assortment of native plants in an enchanted setting. Free; no reservations needed. For more info: www.mdflora.org/events/trips.html#scottsrn.

Sat, Apr 12, Mud Mandalas, 4 pm to 7 pm. Hemlock Overlook Regional Park, Clifton, MD. Come connect with the Earth and ourselves as we play with mud! Using nature as our medium, we will create our own personal mandalas out of mud and other found objects. Instructor: Hillary Banachowski. Fee: \$40. To register, contact jcornell@gmu.edu or visit www.exploreyournest.com.

Sat, Apr 12, "Healthy Lawns, Healthy Bay" Workshop, 10 am - Noon, CBF Headquarters, 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403

Please join us for this special workshop, presented by Shepherd Ogden, author of the "Straight Ahead Organic" and consultant to SafeLawns.org, to learn how you can have a [healthy lawn](#) (pdf) while also protecting the Bay and your local watershed. We'll walk you through the steps of lawn care, fertilizer alternatives, seasonal maintenance, and weaning your lawn from a synthetic chemical diet. You'll also learn how to reduce the size of

your lawn and create valuable habitat using native plants. Handouts will be provided. Workshop will include a brief tour of CBF's native landscape. There is no charge but pre-registration is required, please send your complete contact information to Marcy Damon at 443-482-2156, or email MDrestoration@cbf.org.

Sun, Apr 13, Park Heights community will participate in a stream clean up to clear out the banks of the Western Run Stream. 9 am - 12 noon

Part of Project Clean Stream, a state-wide effort in April to clean up 100's of tons of waste from our stream system that empties into the Chesapeake Bay. In addition to the clean up activity, 3 learning stations will be set up along the stream to do water testing. Meet at Cross Country Elementary/Middle School (6100 Cross Country Blvd). Gloves, plastic bags, and all supplies will be distributed at the school. Be sure to wear long pants and long sleeved shirts as well shoes or boots that are water resistant. We will have water and snacks for all volunteers. All volunteers must register ahead of time and children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Participating organizations: CHAI, The Associated, Jewish Volunteer Connection, J-serve, City of Baltimore, the Jones Falls Watershed Association, Living Classrooms and Parks and People. Jill Blumenthal, CHAI, Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc., 3809 Clarks Lane, Suite 1, Baltimore, Maryland 21215, 410-318-8311 ext 17, www.chaibaltimore.org, jblumenthal@chaibaltimore.org

Sun Apr 13, 10 am to 2 pm, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, Cockeysville, MD. Baltimore County Residents may drop off unwanted household chemicals, paints, pesticides, mercury thermometers, fluorescent bulbs, re-chargeable batteries, ammunition and automotive fluids for recycling or proper disposal at Texas Landfill Drop Off Center, Warren Road, Cockeysville, MD. No trash will be accepted at this event. For additional information contact DEPRM at 410 887-3745 between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Mon through Fri. [PLEASE NOTE: our friends at the Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network arranged for this special Sunday collection, so as not to violate the rules of the Sabbath.]

Sun, Apr 13, Seeds of Hope: Nurturing Just and Healthy Relationships in Our Food System, 2 to 4 pm, Baltimore. Interfaith workshop held by the Baltimore Food and Faith Project of the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. Topics to be discussed: how the food system affects the relationships that frame our lives (community, environment, health, and social and economic justice) and how we can work to improve these relationships by improving our food system. For more information, contact Angela Smith at 410-502-7577 or ampalmer@jhsph.edu. Details at http://www.jhsph.edu/clf/PDF%20Files/events/interfaith_workshop_08.pdf.

Wed Apr 16: 7:30 pm LesterR. Brown , "Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization"

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, 310 Tulip Ave, Takoma Park, MD 20912
www.earth-policy.org/Lectures/index.htm For more info.-- crossroadslecture@gmail.com
Its a fundraiser for the Crossroads Farmers Market

Thurs, Apr 17, Carbon-Buster Leadership Training Workshop,: 6:30 to 8 pm, Rockville, MD. Learn specific steps to reduce energy use, save money and help the local climate crisis as well as how to effectively spread the word to friends, neighbors, customers and colleagues. Using the Cool Capital Challenge's web-based "carbon calculator," we will track the progress our communities or businesses are making in reducing harmful emissions. Executive Office Building Auditorium, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville For more information about the workshop, email douglas.weisburger@montgomerycountymd.gov or call 240-777-7775.

Fri, Apr 18, 7 pm, and Sat, Apr 19, Sweat Lodge and Gathering, Dayton, MD. Workshop, readings and teachings with Rev. LakotaHasie Frazier (<http://www.bluebuffalo.org>). Fri--dream catcher workshop at 7 pm (\$50 exchange); Sat--lodge ceremony at 10 am and teaching at Noon (\$25 exchange). Directions (six miles west of Columbia, MD): www.edenvalleycenter.org/directions.html. Potluck dinner follows lodge. For more information or to register for the Fri workshop, contact Bette (410-531-5610; bette@justpeacecircles.org).

Sat, Apr 19, Earth Day Cleanup, 9:30 am to 12:30 am, College Park, MD. Join other citizens and UM students to clean up Guilford Run in South College Park. Supplies and refreshments provided; just show up at Hope Lutheran Church. For more information, contact janiso@erols.com.

Sat, Apr 19, Tree Planting, 9:30 am to 1 pm, Loch Raven Reservoir, Baltimore. If you like being outside in nature, care about the Chesapeake Bay and want to make a difference for future generations, volunteer and help us plant more trees! Contact Peg Perry, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, little-owl@msn.com.

Sat, Apr 19, Earth Day 2008 celebration. Common Market, Frederick, 11 AM-4 PM.

Attend this fun child-friendly event with food and many activities (details at www.commonmarket.coop). While you're there, visit Lena and Marney at the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute table to learn more about NWEI's new discussion guide about food, Menu for the Planet!

Sat, Apr 19, and Sun, Apr 20, The Year Round Vegetable Garden – An Organic Approach for Maryland, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Jessup, MD.

This two-day workshop is designed to provide a framework for creating the successful design and implementation of a productive organic vegetable garden in Central and Southern Maryland. For more information, contact Leslye Wilson, leslye@greenbuildinginstitute.org or 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Sun, Apr 20, Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, 9 am to 12 noon, various locations, through the Alice Ferguson Foundation. For information, go to http://potomaccleanup.org/trash_initiative/trash_cleanup.html.

Sun Apr 20, Celebrate Earth Day with Eugene Friesen's Voices of the Earth, 5 pm, Adelphi, MD. Music for choir and ensemble sharing a common insight: Nature is our solace, inspiration, and responsibility featuring The Jezic Community Choir and Trio Globo Eugene Friesen, cello Glen Velez, percussion and Howard Levy, piano and harmonica. Location: Paint Branch U.U. Church, 3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, MD. Tickets \$22/\$17 in advance \$25/\$20 at the door Group rates available www.jezic.org 410-374-9059.

Mon, Apr 21, Network of Spiritual Progressives meeting, 7:30 pm to 9 pm, Adelphi, MD, Special Earth Day Meeting: Music and Art for the Earth with Dr. Ross Salawitch (who will have just returned from a NASA climate expedition to the Arctic), speaking on the science of Climate Change. CCAN rep on political action and more. Free. Location: Paint Branch Unitarian Church, 3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, Maryland. For more information: nspmaryland@gmail.com and www.nspmaryland.org.

Tues, Apr 22, Celebrate Earth Day with Eugene Friesen's Voices of the Earth, 7:30 pm, Baltimore (see April 20 listing) Location: 5603 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD. Tickets \$22/\$17 in advance \$25/\$20 at the door Group rates available www.jezic.org 410-374-9059.

Tues, Apr 22, 7pm, Earth Day Rally Extraordinaire - with Democracy Now's Amy Goodman and Rev. Jim Wallis of Sojourners. Hear these two prominent national progressive leaders speak about the climate emergency and the movement to address it. Also speaking will be Betsy Taylor, founder of the 1Sky campaign, and Ted Glick and Mike Tidwell. The event will be held at GW Lisner Auditorium Tickets are \$15, \$10 for students. Tickets: https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/423/t/1906/shop/shop.jsp?storefront_KEY=488

Thurs, Apr 24, USGBC Baltimore's Third Thurs Lecture Series, 6 pm to 8:30 pm, Baltimore. Join us as we Demystify Zero Carbon at the Glass Pavilion on the Johns Hopkins Campus. \$25 for Members, \$35 for non-members. For more information, directions and details visit <http://usgbcbbaltimore.eventbrite.com/>.

Fri, Apr 25, Sustainable Community Suppers, 7 pm to 9 pm, Dayton, MD. Fourth Friday, vegetarian potluck, discussion, sharing and speakers to support environmentally conscious living. Location: 5085 Green Bridge Rd, Dayton, MD. For more information, contact Karen at 410-489-6651 or ownbeyk@yahoo.com. For directions, go to www.edenvalleycenter.org .

Fri, Apr 25, Baltimore Green Week Kick-Off Reception (free), 5:30 pm to 8 pm, Baltimore. Join us at the Walters Art Museum .on the eve of the Baltimore EcoFestival and Green Week at a reception coordinated with Art on Purpose's Community Mapping Projects for Parks. Everyone welcome! For more information: www.baltimoregreenweek.org.

Fri, Apr 25 through Fri, May 2, Baltimore Green Week, (various locations) Baltimore. This week-long program promotes environmental sustainability! Includes EcoKids section, art, over 100 vendors and exhibitors, rain barrel workshop, ask an expert booth, food, music, toxic tours and FUN! Numerous opportunities to participate: be a vendor, exhibitor, sponsor or advertise in our program. Visit www.baltimoregreenweek.org to learn more. Complete the contact us form to receive event updates.

Sat, Apr 26, Tree Plantings, 9:30 am to 1 pm, Loch Raven Reservoir, Baltimore. (see April 19 above)

Sat, Apr 26 (rain date Apr 27), Baltimore Green Week EcoFestival, 11 am to 5 pm, Baltimore (Druid Hill Park by the reservoir). Entertaining events and resources that promote sustainable living. Includes over 100 vendors and exhibitors, EcoArt gallery, green home tours, rain barrel workshop, guided nature walks, toxic tours, music, healthy food for sale, a wellness area etc. Plus an EcoKids section (part of the Greater Baltimore Leave No Child Inside Campaign) where all ages can learn simple activities for connecting children to nature. Contact maryhardcastle@comcast.net for more info on EcoKids or visit www.baltimoregreenweek.org.

Sat, Apr 26 – Maryland United for Peace and Justice Conference, “Intergenerational Peace & Justice: Saving the Earth for Future Generations”, Stony Run Friends Meeting, 5116 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm.

Including talks by Network of Spiritual Progressives, Interfaith Panel on Environmental Sustainability, Simplicity Matters Earth Institute, Global Warming Campaign. Come visit the SMEI Table to learn more about upcoming Discussion Circles. www.mupj.org

Sun, Apr 27, Mud Mandalas, 4 pm to 7 pm. Hemlock Overlook Regional Park, Clifton, MD.
(see April 12 above)

Sun, Apr 27, and Tues, Apr 29, Tree Planting Site Preparation, 9 am to 1 pm, Hydes Field, Baldwin, MD. Help make our tree plantings successful and make a difference for our environment. We need strong men and women to help us pre-dig tree holes with a gas powered tool. Contact Peg Perry, GVC at little-owl@msn.com.

Mon, Apr 28, USGBC Baltimore Region LEED Workshop–Energy Modeling, 8 am to Noon, Towson. Join us for a half-day workshop on energy modeling at the Loyola Timonium Campus. For more information, directions and details visit the events section at www.usgbc Balt.org

Mon, Apr 28, through Fri, May 2, Baltimore Green Week, various times and locations, including those below (interspersed with other events that are not part of BGW) Unless otherwise noted, events are free. For detailed information, go to www.baltimoregreenweek.org or contact Carol Silldorff, Baltimore Green Week Program Director, at Info2008@baltimoregreenweek.org

Mon, Apr 28, Baltimore Green Week Tour de Trash, 9:30 am to 11 am; (location TBD) Event is FREE. Discussion of water quality, storm water run-off, pollution, and its affect on Baltimore's Harbor and its watersheds. Includes a tour of the Waterwheel trash interceptor. Information at www.baltimoregreenweek.org

Mon, Apr 28, Baltimore Green Week City Service Information Lunch at DPW Public Works Museum, 11 am to 1 pm. Event is FREE. Posters, display booths of City agencies, Watersheds, and what they're doing to support sustainability and the environment. Information at www.baltimoregreenweek.org

Mon, Apr 28, Baltimore Green Week Sustainable City event (Location TBD) 1 pm to 3 pm. Event is FREE. Mayor Sheila Dixon will provide an overview of her vision and action plan for a cleaner greener Baltimore. A panel of speakers will discuss the City's new sustainability plan and other topics, which may include recycling, energy, bike routes, treebaltimore, etc. Information at www.baltimoregreenweek.org

Mon, Apr 28' Baltimore Green Week Green Gathering, Cafe Azafran, 6 pm to 8 pm, \$10. The Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance and the Chesapeake Sustainable Foundation will present its new program called Buy Fresh Buy Local. For information, see www.baltimoregreenweek.org.

Tues, Apr 29, Ravishing Runoff--A Call to Action on Water Issues, 7 pm, Columbia, MD. Sponsored by HoCoH20, a coalition of groups concerned about water. Featuring speakers Mike Tidwell, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper. No charge. Location: James Rouse Theatre, Wilde Lake High School, Columbia, MD. Contact coordinator Lisa Mikkelsen at lisamikkelsen@gmail.com.

Tues. Apr 29, Baltimore Green Week Green Legislation Hearing event at [Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park](http://FrederickDouglass-IsaacMyersMaritimePark) 9 am to Noon. Come hear the City Council discuss the latest green legislation being voted on in 2008. Breakfast hosted by Councilman Jim Kraft. Event is FREE. Information at www.baltimoregreenweek.org

Tues, Apr 29' Baltimore Green Week and US Green Building Council (Baltimore Chapter) Building Healthy Work Communities event. At the Stewart's Building (HQ of Catholic Relief Services). Event is FREE. 2 pm to 4 pm. Numerous organizations and the public are invited to celebrate and honor this historic building in Baltimore City. There will be building tours and a reception. Information at www.baltimoregreenweek.org

Tues, Apr 29, Baltimore Green Week Building Healthy Green Communities event at Patterson Park Library, 6 pm to 8 pm. Event is FREE. Community associations, leaders, activists, and individuals interested in taking action to better the environment and their neighborhoods are invited to attend. There will be a discussion on the fundamentals of creating healthy neighborhoods, and a presentation of ideas and action items. Information at www.baltimoregreenweek.org

Tues, Apr 29, USGBC Baltimore Sponsors Baltimore Green Week's Green Communities Day, 12 Noon to 4 pm, Baltimore, MD. Building tours and a reception will be held at the Stewart's Building, now the headquarters for Catholic Relief Services and Baltimore's first LEED building. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, directions and details visit <http://usgbcaltimore.eventbrite.com/>

Tues, Apr 29, Maryland Native Plant Society monthly meeting, 7:30 pm, Silver Spring. Join Kerrie Kyde, invasive plant specialist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), for a presentation on the rapidly-spreading, highly invasive Wavyleaf Basketgrass in Maryland. Location: White Oak Library. For more information: www.mdflora.org.

Tues, Apr 29, May 6, 13, and 20, You Shall Subdue the Earth (Genesis 1:28): A Jewish-Christian Dialogue on the Environment, 7 pm to 9 pm, Baltimore. This four-week mini-course with Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin in conversation with Rosann M. Catalano, Ph.D. is sponsored by the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies and will be held at the Grace United Methodist Church, Baltimore, MD. For more information, contact Rosann at catalano@icjs.org or 410-494-7161. Details and directions at www.icjs.org.

Wed, Apr 30, Baltimore Green Week Healthy Green Home event at Sojourner-Douglas College, 3 pm to 6:30 pm Learn how to make your home a healthier place through simple and affordable ideas. Event is FREE and hosted by numerous organizations. Information at www.baltimoregreenweek.org

Wed, Apr 30, Baltimore Green Week Public Policy and Faith and the Environment events at Grace Fellowship Church, Timonium, 6:30 pm to 9 pm. Events are FREE. Sheilah Kast, WYPR Morning Show Host, moderates these two exciting events. Join the Maryland League of Conservation Voters for the State Legislative Review, an overview of the green legislation passed in Annapolis, and a conversation on how electing pro-conservation candidates really matters. This program is followed by Faith and the Environment, a conversation by a panel of religious leaders and experts about stewardship and creation. Learn how our different faiths call us to be stewards of our environment and how we are responding to the call. Information at www.baltimoregreenweek.org

Wed, Apr 30; Thurs, May 1; and Fri, May 2, Sixth Annual International Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference, Awards & Trade Show, Baltimore. Come join the Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC) and the City of Baltimore at the Baltimore Convention Center & Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel. For more information: <http://greenroofs.org/baltimore/>

Looking ahead to May and beyond

Thurs, May 1, Baltimore Green Week Futures for the Sustainable Workforce, Morgan State University, 3 pm to 6 pm. Showcase of organizations providing job training and careers in the green economy. Hosted by Civic Works, Parks and People, and Morgan State University's Career Development Center. FREE and open to the general public and students from Morgan State. Information at www.baltimoregreenweek.org

Thurs, May 1, Baltimore Green Week brings Van Jones to Morgan State University! 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Hear one of today's leading national voices helping to create jobs for low-income and inner-city communities through the Green Industrial Revolution. Van Jones is the founder of the Ella Baker Foundation, and Green For All--both of which are dedicated environmental justice and green jobs. This event is FREE. Information at www.baltimoregreenweek.org

Sun, May 4, 5 pm, Mayfest, Bethesda, MD. Our own sustaining powers, nature's and those of the spirit, will be honored as we weave Maypole wishes for things of value we cannot consume. Location: River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, upstairs in the Fireside Room. Please bring a snack/drink and your own cup for afterward. All over age 10 welcome. For more information: www.ruuuc.org or call Helen Popenoe, 301/229-0549.

Tues, May 6, Baltimore Climate Action Network meeting, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, Ruxton, MD (Baltimore County). Optional pot luck (finger food welcome but not required). Share ideas, hear presentations about state-wide issues, and break into two groups to hear updates on local developments in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Knowledgeable speakers will be on hand. At the home of Joe Adams, 1405 Berwick Rd., Ruxton, MD 21204; Home: 410-296-6338; Cell: 410-812-1447, email joeadams@comcast.net Directions: <http://www.baltimoreclimate.org/content/1/2/56.html>.

Sat, May 10, Tree Planting, 9:30 am to 1 pm, Bee Tree Preserve, Hereford, MD. If you like being outside in nature, care about the Chesapeake Bay and want to make a difference for future generations, volunteer and help us plant more trees! Contact Peggy Perry, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy at little-owl@msn.com or 410-668-0118.

Sat, May 17, Nature Loom Weavings, 12 Noon to 3 pm, Clifton, MD. With nature as our classroom, we will be the weavers and create a natural loom. From this web, we will weave gifts from the Earth into it to create a biodegradable, earth-friendly work of art. Location: **Hemlock Overlook Regional Park**, Cost \$40. Instructor: Hillary Banachowski. To register contact jcornell@gmu.edu or visit www.exploreyournest.com

Sat, May 17, Tour of Three Special Sites, Calvert County, Maryland. Join Hayden Mathews, EcoStewards board member and regional ecohistorian, for an eye-opening tour of three special sites in Calvert County, Maryland that reveal the fascinating history of the Chesapeake Bay watershed: Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, the Calvert Marine Museum, and the Flag Ponds Nature Center. Adults \$50; Children (16 & under) \$25. For more information: www.ecostewardsalliance.org.

Sun, May 18, 1 pm to 5:30 pm, Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium, Baltimore. Through group interactions, inspiring video clips and presentations, the symposium will explore how we can help bring forth an environmentally sustainable, socially just, and spiritually fulfilling human presence on the Earth. Location: [A New Faith Community](http://www.awakeningthedreamer.org), 1635 W. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21223. Registration Fee: \$20 suggested donation to cover snacks and materials. Additional information and registration at www.awakeningthedreamer.org or contact Mary Pike at marypike@cox.net or 703-960-0577. Contact Andrea Wenger at 443-717-2660 or andrea@flowingconnections.org.

Thurs, June 5, through Sat, June 7, Native Plants in the Landscape Conference, Millersville, PA. A great way to learn about gardening and landscaping with native plants, this conference at Millersville University, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, is for home gardeners and professionals who want to learn about native plants and sustainable landscapes. Registration required. Cost: \$165 includes meals. For more information, go to <http://www.millersvillennativeplants.org/>.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

Recycling Volunteers needed at the National Cherry Blossom Festival, Apr 5-6, Apr 12-13

We would like to invite you to partner with the U.S. National Park Service and the National Cherry Blossom Festival to promote recycling at this year's Cherry Blossom Festival at the Tidal Basin on the National Mall. The Recycle on the Go recycling event will take place at the Tidal Basin on the weekends of March 29-30, April 5-6, and April 12-13. Volunteers are needed to work with the Park's volunteers and to work 3 1/2 hour shifts. Sign up at <http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/cms/index.php?id=645> or with EPA below.

Join us in this worthy recycling project by signing up as a volunteer or shift supervisor with Hope Pillsbury (phone: 703-308-7258) or Kent Foerster (phone: 703-308-0199). Please sign up for a shift of your choice (10-1:30, 12:30-4:00, or 3:00-6:30) by Friday March 14. Hanson.Deborah@epamail.epa.gov

Wed, Apr 23, Get your grocery shopping done while supporting EcoStewards Alliance (ESA), Reston and Fair Lakes Whole Foods stores. ESA will receive a 5 percent donation of the daily profits. There will also be other events during the month of April at these stores; Worm Bin demos, EcoHistory talks and Canning classes. For more information: www.ecostewardsalliance.org

Eight week dream groups, starting soon, night TBD. -- Bethesda, MD

Join with a small group of worthy companions to connect with the guidance dreams can offer in getting beneath stubborn patterns which complicate our lives. "Out of clutter, find simplicity. From discord, find harmony. In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." (Einstein) Contact: Anne Tongren, MA, theturningpoint@earthlink.net, 301/564-9550

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send Us Your Stories About Simplifying Your Life

I am working on a book about simplifying your life -- and I would like to include your story! Have you have done something large or small to simplify some area of your life, such as your living environment, your finances, your job, your kids, your schedule, or becoming more green?

Send your stories to Ramona Creel at ramona@onlineorganizing.com . Please be as detailed as you can and as honest about the struggles and difficulties you faced as you tried to simplify -- I will certainly contact you if I choose to use your story and need more details. And certainly, you are welcome to pass this message on to anyone else in your life (friend, family, client, etc.) who might have a simplicity story to share. Thanks for participating!

Have your clergy join GWIPL Earth Day sermon writing contest! This is a wonderful opportunity for your congregation to be reminded of deep faith connections to the issue of global warming and to help inspire the community to live more sustainably.

As a larger interfaith community we will be able to honor and celebrate our great clergy and lay speakers. Top Prize: \$300 worth of CFL light bulbs for your favorite soup kitchen or similar low-income community project. Two Runners-up Prizes: \$100 worth of CFL light bulbs for your favorite soup kitchen or similar low-income community project. Deadline. Please submit text of the entire sermon to Allison Fisher at Allison@gwipl.org by May 2, 2008. Winners will be announced on May 23, 2008. Submissions will only be accepted from MD, DC, or NOVA. Good luck and we look forward to reading your submissions! If you have questions, please contact Allison at 202-886-8684.

Native Plant Sales! Lots of them in April and May. Check out the calendar at www.mdflora.org