

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **January 2009**. It is going out to over **1,705** 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 257 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 YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 88 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.) February & March Preview
- 5.) Action Opportunities & Tidbit

Wishing you a wonderful 2009! Mark your calendars for the Environmental Summit in Annapolis on January 26. See below for more info.

**Please also note** in our DISCUSSION CIRCLE REPORT BELOW: from Jan 1st onwards books will cost \$20 plus s/h and will be ordered directly from NWEI.

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

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## **SECOND SUNDAY FORUM**

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**Sunday, January 11, 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

***This month's topic: "Not Buying It" with Jim Dieter & Helene Shore***

***Can you imagine not buying anything for an entire year? Could you go without a new spring wardrobe or a new DVD? With the exception of toiletries, food and wine, that is exactly what Vienna's Jim Dieter and Helene Shore did in 2007. They will share with us how they made it through the year, and how you can try it yourself. Join us for this fun and informative talk!***

**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!** Download and post a flier (PDF, 228 KB) in your workplace or neighborhood! Go to [www.simplicity-matters.org](http://www.simplicity-matters.org).

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## BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

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**Sunday, January 25, 4:30-6:30 pm**

**THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: "Next Industrial Revolution" – video and discussion**

<http://www.thenextindustrialrevolution.org/>

*"When we follow nature's rules, growth is good," says Bill McDonough. "The question before us is not growth versus no growth, it is: what would good growth look like? And this is a question of intent, of design. What if we grow health instead of sickness, home ownership instead of indigence, education instead of ignorance?"*

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

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

A monthly educational forum on climate and environmental issues open to the public, free of charge featuring speakers or videos, always with discussion and fellowship. For questions, to co-sponsor, or to RSVP, contact [baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com), 301-345-2234

**Co-sponsored by** Simplicity Matters Earth Institute, Green City Baltimore, Hooked on Nature, Network of Spiritual Progressives in MD, Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network, Baltimore Climate Action Network, MD League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Inc., and Parks & People.

Help us publicize this event! Download and post a flier (PDF) in your workplace or neighborhood! Go to <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/forums/baltimore.php>

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## DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

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**Please note the following abbreviations for Northwest Earth Institute guides:** (GW) Global Warming: Changing CO2urse; (CSL) Choices for Sustainable Living; (DSOP) Discovering a Sense of Place; (EDE) Exploring Deep Ecology; (HCHP) Healthy Children-Healthy Planet; (GiC) Globalization and Its Critics; (MF) Menu for the Future; (VS) Voluntary Simplicity. **Other guides:** (LBP) "Simplicity Lessons" by Linda Breen Pierce; (LCD) "Low Carbon Diet" by David Gershon; (YMOYL) Your Money or Your Life.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** From January 1st onwards, discussion circle books will cost \$20 plus s/h. They should be ordered directly from NWEI. For more info, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/order.php>

**We have started 18 circles so far this fall (197 in total since 2002!)**

**Plans have become so numerous that we are now breaking them down by county.** Please scroll down to see what is starting up near where you live. For more info, you may contact Lore at [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org) unless otherwise noted.

[Frederick & Washington County](#)

**Frederick City North, private home, (HCHP) Intro Meeting:** Mon, Jan 12, 2009, 7-8:30 PM. **First session:** Mon Jan 26. Focus on saving money. CS: Erin, [emkline@verizon.net](mailto:emkline@verizon.net) or Lena 301-432-8721

**Frederick, Common Market (VS) Intro Meeting:** Tues, Jan 27, 7 pm. For details please contact Zoe Brittain, [zoe@commonmarket.coop](mailto:zoe@commonmarket.coop) or 301-663-3416.

**Middletown, exact location TBD (GW) Intro Meeting:** mid-January or later, TBA. For details please contact Susan Kelican, skelican1@comcast.net or Lena Rotenberg 301-432-8721.

**Intro meetings with dates not set yet**

**Shepherdstown**, circle, topic TBD. CS: Rob Glenn

**Frederick, UUCF (MF)** spring circle, Intro meeting TBD. CS: Sandi Smith-Gill

Carroll County

**Westminster "Regroup"** (EDE) Contact CirclesCarroll@Simplicity-Matters.org to join the group and purchase a book. CS: Carole Flood

Howard County

**Jan 14 - Wed - 7:00-9:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church**, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045 Meets Weds through 2/18. To register or for directions: contact Caroline Smith at secretary@firstpreshc.org or 410-730-3545

**Jan 21 - Wed. - 7:00- 9:00 pm at the Green Building Institute** @the Enviro-Center, 7761 Waterloo Road, Jessup, Maryland 20794. Ongoing from 7 - 9 pm Weds, Feb 4 - March 4, 2009. Register by calling 443-733-1234 or by emailing info@greenbuildinginstitute.org and list "discussion circles" in the subject line. Info here: <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/pages/courses/ClimateChangeCircle.html>

**Jan 22 - Thurs - 7-9 pm Menu for the Future, private home in Ellicott City.** Group will continue weekly or bi-weekly for 7 additional sessions. A summer 2008 Global Warming circle has decided to continue on a related topic of food. [http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/guides/handouts/mf\\_2sided.pdf](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/guides/handouts/mf_2sided.pdf)  
Group to consider the key elements affecting the production, transportation and consumption of food and its effect on the environment. The core group is looking to add a few more folks. To join this circle, contact Mitch, 410-313-9033, mkrasnopol@gmail.com,

**Jan 25 - Sun - 12:30 PM - Owen Brown Interfaith Center** in Columbia MD (OBIC) in Sanctuary A, introductory session. Ongoing meetings Mon nights 7-9pm Feb 2- Feb 23 at OBIC. To register and for info contact Sally Ann at changingcourse@uucolumbia.net

**April 20 - Mon - 7:00-9:00 pm Ellicott City, Miller Library.** Sessions are Mon 4/27, Tues May 5 & 12, Mons May 18, & 25. Register on line at [www.hclibrary.org](http://www.hclibrary.org) /Classes tab or call Miller Library at 410-313-1950.

**Howard County, Climate Change Initiative of Howard County** Committee is actively pursuing many other potential venues. Details to follow. Visit [www.hococlimatechange.org](http://www.hococlimatechange.org) or email [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

Harford County

**Darlington, MD (private home) (CSL), Intro Meeting:** Thurs, Jan 29, 7 pm, **First Session:** Thurs, Feb 12 (?)  
CS: Jill Sostrin

Baltimore City/County

**Baltimore, Towson Area (MF)** Mondays, beginning Jan 12 or Jan 26. For details contact Lore, [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)

**Baltimore, Towson Area (VS)** Tuesdays, beginning Jan 13 or 27. For details contact Lore, [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)

**Baltimore region (DSOP)** As soon as we have 8-12 people who can agree on a night of the week, we will get started. Contact Lore, [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)

**Baltimore, Towson Unitarian Church (tbd)** CS: Marilyn Carlisle

**Baltimore, Private home in NE Balto (tbd)** CS: Dana Shaw

**Baltimore, SW Baltimore (tbd),** CS: Patsy Allen

**Baltimore, Old Otterbein UMC (tbd),** CS: June Risely

**Parkton/CSA (MF)** CS: Rich Louis

PG County

**College Park, private home (EDE or DSOP),** Intro Meeting: TBD. CS: Wendy Child, [wenchild@aol.com](mailto:wenchild@aol.com), 301-864-2474. Contact Wendy to let her know you are interested.

**Greenbelt** (VS), private home. Circle to begin in January. Let us know which night of the week you prefer. CS: Lore, [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)  
**Bowie** (MF) details TBD CS: Susan Slyter  
**Accokeek** (MF) spring circle, Intro meeting: TBD. CS: Linsey Shelton

### Montgomery County

**Rockville** (EDE) Several people are very interested in joining this wonderful discussion group, and some are in the Rockville area. But others would have to travel. We need a place to meet close to a metro stop! CS: Marney Bruce, [Marney@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:Marney@simplicity-matters.org), 301 652-0492  
**Carderock/Cabin John** Lots of interest and a group will be getting together in the new year. Topic TBD. CS: Diane Karlik, [dianekarlik@verizon.net](mailto:dianekarlik@verizon.net)  
**Bethesda** (MF) Intro Meeting: Wed, Feb 25 (time TBD) CS: Marney Bruce, [marney@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:marney@simplicity-matters.org), 301 652-0492  
**Silver Spring, UU Congregation of Silver Spring** (GW), details: TBD. CS: Paula Cote

### Washington, DC

**Washington, DC, Capitol Hill** (VS) First Session Thurs. Jan 29. Sorry, but this one filled up right away. If you are interested in another group in DC, contact Marney, [marney@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:marney@simplicity-matters.org), 301 652-0492  
**Washington, DC, Washington Ethical Society** (MF), CS: WES staff  
**Washington, DC** (tbd), Workplace Circle. CS: Sean O'Brien

### "Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

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

**We are in the process of transitioning to a regional structure for the state. Please start using the emails below for more information about circles starting in your county.**

### **SMEI Regional Coordinators:**

**Baltimore City/Baltimore Co.:** [CirclesBalto@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesBalto@simplicity-matters.org) (Lore Rosenthal)  
**Carroll Co.:** [CirclesCarroll@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesCarroll@simplicity-matters.org) (Marney Bruce)  
**Frederick & Washington Co.:** [CirclesFredWashCo@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesFredWashCo@simplicity-matters.org) (Lena Rotenberg)  
**Howard Co.:** [CirclesHoCo@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesHoCo@simplicity-matters.org) (Lore Rosenthal). See also Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (CCIHC)  
**Montgomery Co.:** [CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org) (Marney Bruce)  
**Prince Georges Co.:** [CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org) (Lore Rosenthal)  
**Washington DC:** [CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org) (Marney Bruce)  
**Elsewhere in Maryland or Jefferson Co., WV:** [Circles@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:Circles@simplicity-matters.org) or 301-432-8721 (Lena Rotenberg)

For a list of **all of our NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/volunteers/7guides.pdf>

If you are starting your own circle and would like to have your blurb posted here and on our website, please email it to [Lena@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:Lena@simplicity-matters.org)

For more info. about our discussion circles, visit our Discussion Circles page, <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/index.php>, or email Lore at [Lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:Lore@simplicity-matters.org)

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## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

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**January 1-21, 3rd Annual Washington Gardener Photo Contest** entry period. Showcasing the best in local garden photography. Over \$500 in prizes. For more information, Kathy Jentz, [Wgardenermag@aol.com](mailto:Wgardenermag@aol.com), 301-588-6894. Directions and details at [www.WashingtonGardener.com](http://www.WashingtonGardener.com)

**Thurs, Jan 1, Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit at The Vegetable Garden, 11:30am-10pm, Rockville, Md.** You're invited to join COK at the monthly funding day when D.C.'s vegan favorite donates 10

percent of your bill to COK. The Vegetable Garden is located at 11618 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0656>

**Thurs, Jan 1, Hogback Mt. / Elkwallow, 7am, SNP, VA.** Start the new year with this moderate 10 mile hike with 1600 feet of elevation gain. Some nice views and a pleasant stream. Lunch at Range Cabin. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 7:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, [mjuskelis@cablespeed.com](mailto:mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

**Sat, Jan 3, Meadowbrook Park, 10am.** Easy 2.5 mile "sneaker hike" on a paved loop around the park, checking out the ponds for winter wildlife. Meet at 10:00 at Long Gate Parkway park & ride, off Rt. 100, just east of Rt. 29. Contact Sue Muller, 301-498-8462, [sonicsue@verizon.net](mailto:sonicsue@verizon.net).

**Mon, Jan 5, CSBA Green Gathering, 6-8 PM, bluehouse, 1407 Fleet St., Baltimore, MD 21231.** This month's sponsor is Project Masters, Inc. Come here about how project management can enhance and improve your business. For more information and inclement weather information please call the CSBA office at 410-342-1482. Also, please check the website <http://www.csballiance.org/> For directions please click here <http://bluehouselife.com/hours.php> . Please note that this event is at bluehouse's Inner Harbor East location and there is parking across the street.

**Tues, Jan 6, First Tuesday Discussion: Developing a Local Economy, 7:00-9:00 pm, Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW, WDC 20001.** The current recession segueing inexorably into depression makes the introduction of parallel economies and local currencies that much more critical. We had planned to introduce this in due course, but have brought it forward as a matter of urgency, starting right off in the New Year. This meeting will feature Nick Williams of [Anacostia Hours](#) and, to be confirmed, representatives of [Time Banks](#). Members with economic, financial, accounting and commercial experience, and those familiar with local currencies and trading systems are encouraged to attend and be part of a Task Force to design and implement a DC Regional Exchange. For more information, contact Larry Chang, [ecolocitydc@gmail.com](mailto:ecolocitydc@gmail.com), 202 545 0869. Directions and details at <http://ecolocity.ning.com>

**Tues, Jan 6, Jump-Start Green Buildings: Make energy use public & online - etc. 7-8:30 PM, Towson, MD.** Citizens have demanded and won disclosure of public building's energy use. What about Baltimore County & Baltimore City? New energy efficiency technologies in layman's terms. Reducing Peak Electrical Demand avoids the need for new power plants; **Steve Welty** has written and lectured extensively about buildings and health.

Presentation followed by a brief open meeting of BCAN: [www.baltimoreclimate.org](http://www.baltimoreclimate.org) All welcome. Free. Refreshments. Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville, MD 21093 [www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org) Questions: [mail@baltimoreclimate.org](mailto:mail@baltimoreclimate.org) or 410-812-1447

**Thurs, Jan 8, DC Vegan Drinks, 7pm-9pm, Washington, D.C.** Looking to connect with other like-minded animal advocates while enjoying delicious vegan food and drinks? COK and DC Vegan are teaming up to host DC Vegan Drinks, a monthly social event, at the Science Club! The Science Club is located at 1136 19th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0655>

**Fri, Jan 9, Eco-Justice Cafe/Bazaar, 6:00-10:00 pm, UDC Firebird Inn, 4200 Connecticut Avenue NW, WDC 20008.** Featuring music, poetry, open mic, good food, good beer, good people, good cheer, good information ... and good karma. Suggested donation \$15/students \$10/kids \$5. Food and drink included. Child activities - powered by kids. For more information, contact Joe Libertelli [jlibertelli@udc.edu](mailto:jlibertelli@udc.edu) if your group would like to table or Larry Chang, [ecolocitydc@gmail.com](mailto:ecolocitydc@gmail.com), 202 545 0869 if you'd like to volunteer for the Ecolocity table. Directions and details at <http://ecolocity.ning.com>

**Sat - Sun, Jan. 10-11, Tabling with Compassion Over Killing (COK) at the NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo, 9am-5pm both days, Washington, D.C.** Join COK at the NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo as we educate tens of thousands of health conscious people about the benefits of a vegetarian diet. This free event offers health tests and screenings as well as health, medical and fitness information. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0669>

**Sat, Jan 10, Bull Run Mt. Conservancy, 8am, VA.** 6.5 – 7.5 moderate mile loop with a scenic view of Facquier County. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 8:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at

Rt. 32. Contact Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, [mjuskelis@cablespeed.com](mailto:mjuskelis@cablespeed.com).

**Sun, Jan 11, Savage Park, Wincopin Trail, 10am.** Moderate 4 or 7 mile hike along the Middle and Little Patuxent Rivers, easy except for a few hills and rocky parts. Stop after 4 miles, or continue an extra 3, including a 1:00 restaurant lunch break at Savage Mill. Meet at 10:00 at Patuxent Valley Middle School, off Vollmerhausen Road just west of Savage Guilford Rd. Call Ken Clark, 301-725-3306, [kenclark7@comcast.net](mailto:kenclark7@comcast.net).

**Tues, Jan 13, Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit at Sticky Fingers Bakery, 7am-7pm, Washington, D.C.** Join us for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert, at the award-winning Sticky Fingers Bakery, and a portion of your bill will be automatically donated towards our efforts to help farmed animals. Sticky Fingers is located at 1370 Park Rd., N.W., Washington D.C. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0657>

**Tues, Jan 13, Leafleting with Compassion Over Killing (COK), 5 pm-6pm, Washington, D.C.** Help COK distribute pro-vegetarian literature and educate the public about the many benefits of a vegetarian diet. After leafleting join us at Sticky Fingers Bakery where a percentage of your bill will be donated to COK. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/>

**Tues, Jan 13, Second Tuesday Discussion: Transition Culture, 7:00-9:00 pm, Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW, WDC 20001.** Assessment of where we are in achieving the 12 Steps to [Transition](#) for a less carbon-based future and more local resilience. For more information, contact Larry Chang, [ecolocitydc@gmail.com](mailto:ecolocitydc@gmail.com), 202 545 0869. Directions and details at <http://ecolocity.ning.com>

**Thurs, Jan 15, USGBC Master Speaker Series, 6-9 pm, Baltimore, MD.** A NIGHT WITH A VISIONARY: Sandy Wiggins, The Green Revolution & Economic Opportunities. At the Sheppard Pratt Conference Center. Directions, details and registration at <http://usgbcbbaltimore.eventbrite.com>

**Thurs, Jan 15, How to be Green (Part 1), 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Charlotte Hall, MD.** Includes a review of ways to make your home green and upgrades you can make. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, [info@greenbuildinginstitute.org](mailto:info@greenbuildinginstitute.org), 443-733-1234. Directions and details at [www.greenbuildinginstitute.org](http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org)

**Sat, Jan 17, Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit at Java Green, 10am-6pm, 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 19<sup>th</sup> St., N.W., Washington D.C., when a portion of your bill will benefit COK. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0670>

**Sat. Jan. 17, Rock Creek Park, 9AM, D.C.** Moderate 8 mile circuit hike through woods by the creek, with a quick visit to the zoo. Bring lunch and water. Depart at 9:00 from the west lot of the park & ride on Broken Land Parkway at Rt. 32. Call Tim Ryan before 9:30 PM, 410-248-2974, [timothy\\_ryan@urscorp.com](mailto:timothy_ryan@urscorp.com).

**Sat, Jan 17, Stream Watch Program: Adopt-A-Stream Training, 10-12 noon at Cromwell Valley Park.** Calling all Earth Stewards to adopt a stream and help keep our streams clean! Learn about the health of the Gunpowder Watershed, the challenges it faces and how to help protect, preserve and restore our streams. Adopt a priority stream in Hunt Valley/Loveton area or a stream in your own neighborhood. To register, call Peggy Perry, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy Program Director, at 410-668-0118 or by email at [little-owl@msn.com](mailto:little-owl@msn.com).

**Mon, Jan 19, The Salad Box and Table, 8:00-9:30 pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD.** The Silver Spring Garden Club's monthly meeting is free and open to all. The talk this month is by Jon Traunfeld, the head of the MD Master Gardener Program. For more information, Kathy Jentz, [Laserblast@aol.com](mailto:Laserblast@aol.com), 301-588-6894. Directions and details at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SilverSpringGardenClub/>

**Mon, Jan 19, MLK Anacostia EcoTour (Polar Bear Bike ride), 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM, Washington DC.** Presented by Wholeness for Humanity. START: Navy Yard Green Line Metro (US DOT Bldg). 200 M Street, SE Washington, DC 20003. No FEE - web registration required- only 10 slots left. Join us for a leisurely 12 – 15 mile bike ride through the Anacostia Watershed; get a first-hand look at the environmental achievements and contributions of concerned citizens in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area - 4 SERVICE SITES en route More info and to register (required): Event Link: <http://quest.cvent.com/i.aspx?1Q,M3,d872ffbc-d75c-4948-9841-2fc6765e38bb>

Or contact Greg Drury: 202-686-9813 [info@WholenessforHumanity.com](mailto:info@WholenessforHumanity.com)

**Mon, Jan 19, MLK Anacostia EcoTour Inaugural Dinner, 7 PM to 10 PM, Washington DC.** Presented by Wholeness for Humanity. SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, Anacostia Community Museum, 1901 Fort Place, SE, Washington, DC 20020. \$85 (discount on web registration site for limited time) only 30 slots left. MLK Council of Elders, Hon. Reverend Fauntroy and other Environment and Social Justice Dignitaries at head Table. More info and to register: <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Calendar/Calendar.aspx?cal=b2ee6937-d378-48b2-bd19-0a884a15d2e7> Or contact Greg Drury: 202-686-9813 [info@WholenessforHumanity.com](mailto:info@WholenessforHumanity.com)

**Tues, Jan 20, Day and Night Inauguration Celebration at New Deal Cafe, Greenbelt, MD, 11 am to 12pm.** Of course there'll be great food available for lunch and dinner, including three "Inauguration special" dishes created for this event. Come for Lunch, and watch the Inaugural happenings on TV. Come for Dinner and celebrate with food, drink, and Cajun Music! Starting at **7:00 pm**, the popular Cajun band Cypress Trio & Jam will entertain and guarantees a lively time. Don't worry about crowds and traveling in wintry weather, celebrate locally. New Deal Café, 113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt. [www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com)

**Wed, Jan 21, Maryland Native Plant Society Baltimore Chapter meeting, 7- 9 pm The Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD. The Geology-Soils-Plants Connection: A Baltimore Perspective** Join MNPS' Louisa Thompson for an introduction to the role of geology and soils in determining native plant communities. Our region is exceptionally diverse, with rich soils derived from volcanic rock, limestone-enriched soils in the valleys of Baltimore County, and marine sediments in Anne Arundel County. "Native" plants are native to their habitat, rather than following state lines or national borders. Knowing the individual tolerance ranges of plants allows you to "read" the underlying geology of a landscape and to plan a successful native plant garden. For more information contact Louisa Thompson ([louisagardener@comcast.net](mailto:louisagardener@comcast.net)) or Ann Lundy ([annlundy@verizon.net](mailto:annlundy@verizon.net)).

**Sat, Jan 24, Awakening Workshop, 1-5:30 pm, UU Church of Arlington, Arlington, VA.** The Workshop is committed to assisting us to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just human presence on the planet. Using video clips from some of the world's most respected thinkers including Van Jones, along with inspiring short films, leading edge information and dynamic group interactions, the Symposium allows participants to gain a new insight into the very nature of our worldview, and the opportunity we have to shape and impact the direction of our world with our everyday choices and actions. Cost: \$20 (snacks and materials). Facilitators: Mary Pike and others Additional information and registration at [www.awakeningthedreamer.org](http://www.awakeningthedreamer.org) or contact Mary Pike at [marypike@cox.net](mailto:marypike@cox.net) or 703-960-0577

**Sun, Jan 25, Introduction to Green Building, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Westminster, MD.** This seminar will provide a foundation for an understanding of green building, in general. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, [info@greenbuildinginstitute.org](mailto:info@greenbuildinginstitute.org), 443-733-1234. Directions and details at [www.greenbuildinginstitute.org](http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org)

**Tues, Jan 27, Maryland Native Plant Society monthly meeting, 7:30 pm.** Winter Fruits, Berries, Seeds and Pods. Native trees, shrubs and forbs provide an abundance of fruits, berries, and seeds that support a wide variety of wildlife throughout the winter months. Join us for this presentation on the wealth of native plants throughout the state and their importance to wildlife. Location: White Oak Library in the large meeting room. For more information and directions go to [www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org).

**Thurs, Jan 29, USGBC Baltimore Annual Awards Celebration, 6-10 pm, Baltimore, MD**  
Join Baltimore's green community at the Baltimore Museum of Industry to honor award recipients and green buildings. Directions, details and registration at [www.usgbc Baltannualawards.eventbrite.com](http://www.usgbc Baltannualawards.eventbrite.com)

**Sat, Jan 31, Washington Gardener Seed Exchange, 12:30-4:00pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD**  
Seed Exchange attendees trade seeds, exchange planting tips, hear expert speakers, and collect goody bags full of gardening treats. Subscribers to *Washington Gardener* Magazine receive a \$5 discount off the \$15 admission to the *Washington Gardener* Seed Exchange. The event is limited to 125 attendees and is expected to sell out. For more information, Kathy Jentz, [WGardenermag@aol.com](mailto:WGardenermag@aol.com), 301-588-6894. Directions and details at [www.WashingtonGardener.com](http://www.WashingtonGardener.com)

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## Looking ahead to February & March

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### **Fri, Feb 6, USGBC Breakfast Roundtable featuring Sustainable Sites, 8-10 am, Baltimore, MD**

Learn from regional experts how the sustainable site credits apply to the different rating systems (NC, CI, EB).

Directions, details and registration at <http://usgbcbaltimore.eventbrite.com/>

### **Sat, March 7, Nonviolent Communications, 9:30am-4:30pm, Eldersburg, MD 21048.**

Masonic Freedom Lodge, 2253 Liberty Rd.(5 miles above Randallstown) Come learn the practice of compassionate communication with a Certified NVC facilitator--\$63. More info: <http://www.ccccl.org/nvc.htm> or Call Iris 410-318-8877

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## ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

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**Thurs, Jan. 22, America's Redrock Wilderness Act Campaign, 7:15 pm.** The campaign to protect Utah's redrock canyonlands is the only truly national wilderness campaign outside of the Arctic Refuge. The Utah Wilderness Coalition (led by SUWA and the Sierra Club) is working to pass America's Redrock Wilderness Act, introduced into Congress by Sen. Durbin (IL) and Rep. Hinchey (NY). Maryland is important to the effort as many of its Representatives and Senator Mikulski are not currently cosponsors of the bill. The legislation would designate 9.5 million acres of public lands as wilderness, the largest remaining undesignated network of wild lands in the lower 48 states. For information, contact Brigitte, 240-506-8976, [bfzaidan@safe-mail.net](mailto:bfzaidan@safe-mail.net).

### **Mon, Jan 26, 2009 Environmental Summit and Legislative Kick-Off, 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Annapolis.** Come learn about the legislation that we will be fighting for this session and show legislators that Marylanders want them to make the environment a priority! The Environmental Summit and Legislative Kick-Off offers presentations from top state officials (Governor O'Malley, Senate President Miller, Speaker Busch, and others invited) and expert briefings on the top environmental issues. Location: President's Conference Center West, 11 Bladen St. , Annapolis , MD 21401 ( Miller Senate Building ). Reserve your free spot at [www.mdlc.org](http://www.mdlc.org). Jen Brock-Cancellieri, [jbrock@mdlc.org](mailto:jbrock@mdlc.org), 410-280-9855 ext 202, [www.mdlc.org](http://www.mdlc.org). Directions at [www.mdlc.org](http://www.mdlc.org)

**Mon, Jan. 26, Citizens' Campaign for the Environment Legislative Kick-Off, 4-8 pm, Annapolis.** Citizens' Campaign for the Environment Legislative Kick-Off at the President's Conference Center West on the first floor of the Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen St., Annapolis. Come learn about the legislation that we will be fighting for during this session of the Maryland General Assembly, and show legislators that Marylanders want them to make the environment a priority! Your presence will help reduce Chesapeake Bay pollution, curb global warming, and promote smart growth.

### **Salamander Points: [www.salamanderpoints.com](http://www.salamanderpoints.com), a daily carbon footprint calculator.**

Just like when we diet, we make the most effective changes with the little things. Check out how much carbon you've emitted today, and see what little changes will make a big impact over time. Check out the blog, lesson plans, message board, resources and 10% challenge, too.