

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **February 2009**. It is going out to over **1,720 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 261 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), then click on "online convos".

For our friends in Baltimore, there is also a new YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 89 members. You can also subscribe from our homepage.

This announcement is organized into five sections:

- Second Sunday Forum & Baltimore Green Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- March and April Preview
- Action Opportunities and Tidbits

Thanks to this month's editor, **Janis Oppelt**.

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## **SECOND SUNDAY FORUM**

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**Sunday, February 8, 6:30- 8:30 pm**

**This month's topic: "*Greening Our Faith Communities and Beyond*"**

**With Allison Fisher, Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light ([www.gwipl.org](http://www.gwipl.org))**

***Did you know that for several years now, faith communities in our area have been at the forefront of the eco-justice movement? They've been improving the energy efficiency of their buildings, reducing waste, and becoming advocates to their local governments. Join us to learn about the movement and how you can participate, even if you're not involved in a congregation.***

**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 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, February 22, 4:30-6:30 pm**

**THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: Intentional Communities**

(details to follow, meet representatives from several local intentional communities and co-housing project . . . brief video overview)

**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 CO<sub>2</sub> course; (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 8 circles so far in January and have another 7 scheduled to begin in February (205 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, Common Market (VS)** Intro Meeting: Tues., Feb. 3, 7 pm; First session Tues., Feb. 17, 7-8:30 pm. For details please contact Zoe Brittain, [zoe@commonmarket.coop](mailto:zoe@commonmarket.coop) or 301-663-3416.

**Middletown, The Main Cup (GW)** Intro Meeting: Wed., Feb 4, 7 pm; First session Wed., Feb. 18, 7-9 pm. For details please contact Susan Kelican, [skelican1@comcast.net](mailto:skelican1@comcast.net) or Lena Rotenberg 301-432-8721.

**North Frederick (Willowbrook), private home (HCHP)** Intro Meeting: Mon., Feb 9, 7 pm; First session Mon., Feb. 16, 7-8:45 pm, meet bi-weekly after that. RSVP and directions: Erin Kline, [emkline@verizon.net](mailto:emkline@verizon.net) or Lena Rotenberg, 301-432-8721.

**Intro meetings with dates not set yet**

**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

**Circles recently started at:**

**First Presbyterian Church (GW)**

**Green Building Institute (GW)**

**private home in Ellicott City (MF)**

**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, **beginning Feb 9-** Feb 23 at OBIC. To register and for info contact Sally Ann at [changingcourse@uucolumbia.net](mailto: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, private homes** (MF) Intro: Mon, Jan 26. First Session: Mon, Feb 9. For details contact Lore, [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)

**Baltimore, Maryland Presbyterian Church, Towson** (VS) ) Intro: Tues, Feb 3. First Session: Feb, Feb 10. 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)

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

**Baltimore Ethical Society** (tbd), CS: Karen Elliott

**Gunpowder Valley Conservancy** (tbd), CS: Karen Stupski & Peggy Perry

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

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

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

### PG County

**Greenbelt Climate Action Network** (tbd), CS: Lore Rosenthal

**Progressive Cheverly** (tbd), CS: Kathleen Turczyn

**Accokeek** (MF) spring circle, Intro meeting: TBD. CS: Linsey Shelton

### Montgomery County

**Silver Spring, private home** (EDE) Intro Meeting: Sunday Feb 22, 7-8:30 pm. We are very excited that this group has finally jelled and there are only a few places left. 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 soon. Topic TBD. CS: Diane Karlik, [dianekarlik@verizon.net](mailto:dianekarlik@verizon.net)

**Bethesda, Cedar Lane UU Church**, 9601 Cedar Lane. (MF) Intro Meeting: Wed, Feb 25, 7:30 - 9 pm. This is one of their religious education offerings. Non-members can register in person or by calling the church office at 301 493-8300. Or contact Marney for more information.

**Bethesda, private home**, (HCHP). Date TBD. If interested please contact [Marney@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:Marney@simplicity-matters.org).

**Silver Spring, UU Congregation of Silver Spring** (GW), details: TBD. CS: Paula Cote

### St. Mary's County

**Leonardtwn, Good Earth Natural Foods**, 41675 Park Avenue. (MF) Intro Meeting: Tues. Feb 10, 7 - 8:30 pm. Sign up at the store or contact Christina Allen at [allensarticles@earthlink.net](mailto:allensarticles@earthlink.net). 301-862-3421

## Washington, DC

**Washington, DC, Friends Meeting House, Tues, Feb. 24th**, 2111 Florida Ave., NW (Dupont Circle Metro), 7:30 PM, Topic: **Mindful Consumption**. We will be discussing ideas found in the following: *Mindfully Green: A Personal and Spiritual Guide to Whole Earth Thinking* by Stephanie Kaza, January 2009 Shambhala Sun, "The Green Path" and *The World We Have: A Buddhist Approach to Peace and Ecology* by Thich Nhat Hahn.

**Meeting every other month**, open to newcomers. Sponsored by WBPF.org Contact person : Bill Jenkins, worldofmuse@aol.com, (301) 699-8704

**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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**Sat, Jan 31, Washington Gardener Seed Exchange, 12:30-4 pm, 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 seed exchange. This 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: [www.WashingtonGardener.com](http://www.WashingtonGardener.com).

### **Sat, Jan 31, 3-6 pm Introduction to Permaculture, Co-sponsored by the Karme' Studio**

This workshop will introduce permaculture, a method of designing sustainable human habitats by following nature's patterns. Sustainable systems are ecologically sound, socially just, and economically viable. Permaculture offers practical ways to meet basic human needs for food, energy, water, waste recycling, shelter, and social organization without harming the environment. Workshop facilitator Karen Stupski is a Permaculture educator, a member of Heathcote Community, and Development Director for the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy. Cost: sliding scale \$20 - \$30. FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call 410-404-9107 or email [karme.wellness@yahoo.com](mailto:karme.wellness@yahoo.com). You can also visit Karme's website at [www.karmewellness.com](http://www.karmewellness.com).

**Mon, Feb 2, Leafleting with Compassion Over Killing (COK), 7:30 pm-8:30 pm, Washington, D.C.** Help COK distribute literature and educate Chrissie Hynde's fans about the many benefits of a vegetarian diet, at The

Pretenders concert, outside of the 9:30 Club at 815 V St., N.W., D.C. Details at:  
<http://www.cok.net/events/#event0690>.

**Mon, Feb 2, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance Green Gathering, 6-8 pm, Baltimore.** Hear about local art and how Baltimore's arts community is a large part of our local community. Location: Case[werks] Showroom & Gallery. For more information: [www.csballiance.org](http://www.csballiance.org) or call 410-342-1482. Address and directions: <http://www.casewerks.com/contact.php>.

**Tues, Feb 3, EcolocityDC 1st Tuesday: Food & Farming, 7:00-9:00 pm,** Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW, Washington DC 20001  
Urban agriculture is critical to reducing our carbon footprint, localizing production and developing food security. We'll begin to shape our policy covering agricultural education, technology, production, distribution and marketing. Join us with your ideas, learn what others are doing as we start a new year, a new plant-based life in the city. For more information, contact [ecolocitydc@gmail.com](mailto:ecolocitydc@gmail.com), 202 545 0869. Directions and details at [ecolocity.ning.com](http://ecolocity.ning.com)

**Tues, Feb 3, BCAN Meeting: 3 Brief Presentations 6 - 7:45 pm., Baltimore**

Main: ROADS VS. RAILS, THE ICC, TRANSPORTATION ISSUES (Greg Smith);

Brief: FEDERAL CLIMATE LEGISLATION UPDATE (Keith Harrington);

Brief: UPDATE ON THE MARCH 3RD CAPITOL CLIMATE ACTION CIVIL RESISTANCE (Ted Glick).

All Welcome, Free, sponsored by [www.baltimoreclimate.org](http://www.baltimoreclimate.org) Refreshments at 6:00 pm, Presentations at 6:15 pm. Enoch Pratt Library, Central Branch, Poe Room, 400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 Street parking is available after 6 pm. (A few blocks from Lexington Market Metro and Lexington Market Light Rail).

Join us immediately after in an eatery across the street. See:

<http://www.baltimoreclimate.org/content/1/2/61.html#rails> mail [at] baltimoreclimate.org

**Wed, Feb 4, 8:30 am-4 pm, 12th Annual Bicycle Symposium, Annapolis.** Free symposium offers an opportunity to meet and share information with advocates, planners, state and local officials, and community leaders who want more bike lanes, wider sidewalks, better trails and a statewide complete streets policy. There also will be educational exhibits and presentations throughout the day. Location: President's Conference Center, East -- Miller Office Building. For more information and to register: <http://ohbike.org/symposium>.

**Weds, Feb 4-6, Green Jobs National Conference, Washington, D.C.** Three days of educational programs, speakers and networking opportunities at this leading forum for shaping the national debate about the economic potential of investments in clean energy and green technologies. For more information: [www.greenjobsconference.org](http://www.greenjobsconference.org).

**Thurs, Feb 5, Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit at The Vegetable Garden, 11:30 am-10 pm, Rockville, MD.** 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/#event0685>

**Fri, Feb 6, Sustainable Sites (SS), 8 am-10 pm, Baltimore, MD.** The first in our series of breakfast roundtables, hosted on the first Friday of the month. Networking and light breakfast with an overview of all the SS credits and then break into roundtable discussions on how the credits are applied across the various rating systems. Co-hosted by ASLA and ASCE. Members \$15, non-members \$25. For more information, directions and details: <http://usgbcbbaltimore.eventbrite.com>.

**Fri, Feb 6, Eco/Justice Cafe, 6 pm-10 pm, Washington DC.** Hang out with friends and network with environmental and social justice organizations. Featuring music, poetry, open mic, good food, good beer, good people, good cheer, good information ... and good karma. Location: UDC Firebird Inn, Building 39, B-Level, 4200 Connecticut Avenue NW, 20008. For more information: [jfl@udc.edu](mailto:jfl@udc.edu) or call 202-545-0869. For directions and details: <http://www.dcslf.org/metnet.html>.

**Sat, Feb 8, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm, Ellicott City, MD.** Bring a vegan (no animal products) dish to share for the number in your party plus 8. RSVP via e-mail. Gathering will be cancelled if we don't receive more than six responses. Bring your own reusable picnic-ware if you can although we will have

basic table service available (for a small fee) as well as iced tea and filtered water to drink. Kids welcome! To RSVP and for directions: Bonnie Sorak at [bsorak@juno.com](mailto:bsorak@juno.com) or 410-465-0427.

**Wed, Feb 4, Climate Change Discussion Circle: Off Course, 7 pm-9 pm, Jessup, MD.**

Explore personal responses to climate change and why society has been slow to respond.

**Wed, Feb. 11, Climate Change Discussion Circle: Collision Course, 7 pm-9 pm, Jessup, MD.**

History and science of climate change and our participation.

**Wed, Feb 18, Climate Change Discussion Circle: Changing Course, 7 pm-9 pm, Jessup, MD**

Identifying new strategies and personal action to mitigate the effects of global warming

**Wed, Feb 25, Climate Change Discussion Circle: Setting a New Course, 7 pm-9 pm, Jessup, MD.**

What will it take to create a sustainable future?

For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, [info@greenbuildinginstitute.org](mailto:info@greenbuildinginstitute.org), 443-733-1234. Directions and details at <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org>. [EDITOR's NOTE: This is actually a 4-session discussion circle. You would need to sign up for all four weeks.]

**Mon, Feb 9, 6:30 pm, Tu B'Shvat Seder, Sixth and I Historic Synagogue.** Please join Shomrei Adamah of Greater Washington for a celebration of the birthday of the trees and a festive evening of song, food, and joy. Dine on a kosher meal and symbolic foods highlighting local and Israeli produce. Costs: \$18 in advance/\$20 at the door, \$12 student/service corps, and FREE for children under 18, reduced rate by offering to volunteer at the seder. Reserve your space now by emailing [lindsey@shomreiadamah.org](mailto:lindsey@shomreiadamah.org). To join the list of co-sponsors, contact Lindsey at [lindsey@shomreiadamah.org](mailto:lindsey@shomreiadamah.org) for either individual co-sponsorship of \$72 or \$180 for organizational sponsorship.

**Mon, Feb 9, 8 pm Goucher College, Kraushaar Auditorium, The 2009 Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Visiting Professor: Dr. Wangari Maathai.** Dr. Wangari Maathai, an environmental and political activist, will give a lecture titled "Environment, Democracy, and Peace: A Critical Link" In 2004, Maathai became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy, and peace. Free, but tickets must be reserved by calling 410-337-6333 or by e-mailing [boxoffice@goucher.edu](mailto:boxoffice@goucher.edu). Baltimore Commission on Sustainability <http://baltimoresustainability.collectivex.com>

**Tues, Feb 10, EcolocityDC, Transition, 7 pm-9 pm, Washington, DC.** We'll introduce the Transition model, assess our progress in the 12-step process, determine next moves, discuss hosting for 2009 training, and network with existing, emerging and planned initiatives. Bring a friend, anyone who is open to taking action and shaping the future. Location: Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW. For more information: [ecolocitydc@gmail.com](mailto:ecolocitydc@gmail.com) or call 202-545-0869. Directions and details: <http://www.ecolocity.ning.com>.

**Tues, Feb 10, Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit at Sticky Fingers Bakery, 7 am-7 pm, Washington, D.C.** Join us for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert, 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/#event0691>

**Tues, Feb 10, Leafleting with Compassion Over Killing (COK), 5 pm-6 pm, 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/#event0728>.

**Wed, Feb 11, Maryland Native Plant Society Prince Georges/Anne Arundel Chapter, 7:30 pm, Cheverly, MD.** Join us for a stimulating, but sobering, talk by Dr. Robert Fireovid on the destructive impact of uncontrolled and unsustainable growth on our ecosystems. Location: Judith P. Hoyer Early Childhood Center at 2300 Belleview Ave. Talk will be followed by discussion; refreshments will be available. Information: [Matt Salo mtsalo1@gmail.com](mailto:MattSalo1@gmail.com).

**Thurs, Feb 12, Zero Energy Homes, 7 pm-9 pm, Jessup, MD.** Greenbuilding Institute classes taught by instructor and architect Richard Crenshaw. To register: [www.greenbuildinginstitute.org](http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org), or call 443-733-1234.

**Thurs, Feb 12, DC Vegan Drinks, 7 pm-9 pm, 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 at 1136 19th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0707>

**Thurs, Feb 12, Introduction to Geothermal Energy Systems, 6:30 pm-9 pm, Jessup, MD.** This class provides a basic overview of geothermal energy systems and will include a brief discussion of financing options for residential homes. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, [info@greenbuildinginstitute.org](mailto:info@greenbuildinginstitute.org), or call 443-733-1234. Directions and details at <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org>

**Tues, Feb 17, EcolocityDC, Film: What a Way to Go: Life at the End of Empire, 7 pm-9:30 pm, Washington, DC.** A middle-class, white guy comes to grips with peak oil, climate change, mass extinction, population overshoot and the demise of the American lifestyle. Brief discussion follows. Suggested donation: \$5. Location: Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW. For more information: [ecolocitydc@gmail.com](mailto:ecolocitydc@gmail.com) or call 202 545 0869. Directions and details at [ecolocity.ning.com](http://ecolocity.ning.com)

**Tues, Feb 17, GreenAdvantage Training, 8 am-5 pm, Crofton, MD.** Get your contractors and subcontractors GreenAdvantage certified. Held at Gardiner Development, 2138 Priest Bridge Ct. Crofton, MD. \$450 includes workshop and exam. For more information, directions and details at <http://www.greenadvantage.org/>

**Wed, Feb 18, Demystifying Carbon Footprints: At Work and at Home, 6 pm-8:30 pm, Baltimore.** Davis Bookhart, Director of Sustainability for Johns Hopkins University (JHU) and Geri Nicholson, President, Sage Energy Consulting, will inform us on strategies they've used to reduce carbon footprints – and what you can do to reduce yours at home and at work. Cost: \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. Location: JHU Glass Pavilion. For more information, directions and details: <http://usgbcaltimore.eventbrite.com>.

**Thurs, Feb 19, Living without Oil, Greenbuilding Institute Classes, Jessup, MD.** Presented by John Spears, CEM. To register, visit [www.greenbuildinginstitute.org](http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org), or call 443-733-1234.

**Sat, Feb 21, Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit at Java Green, 10 am-6 pm, 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., where a portion of your bill will benefit COK. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0727>

**Sat, Feb 21, Rain Barrel Workshop, 10 pm-12 pm, Cromwell Valley Park.** Learn how to build and install your own barrel today! Cost for your barrel and kit is \$60. Gunpowder Valley Conservancy Members pay \$50. To register for free and/or to become a GVC member contact Peggy Perry, GVC Program Director, at 410-668-0118 or [little-owl@msn.com](mailto:little-owl@msn.com).

**Sat, Feb 21, Rooting DC: 2nd Annual Urban Gardening Forum, 9:30am-4 pm, Washington DC.** Attend this free forum for DC gardeners! Join us to share resources and foster partnerships between groups and individuals who are working toward common goals through gardening. Come see how your work fits into the big picture of creating a greener, healthier DC! Location: Historical Society, 801 K Street NW at Mount Vernon Square. For more information: [rootingdcforum@gmail.com](mailto:rootingdcforum@gmail.com).

**Sun, Feb 22, SPIN-Gardening Workshop, 9 am-4 pm, Washington DC.** Rooting DC/America the Beautiful Fund will host a day-long workshop in Spin Gardening—a do-it-yourself vegetable food production *system* that enables you to grow a steady and dependable supply of vegetables. The \$40 registration fee includes the cost of the *SPIN-Gardening Guide* to get you growing and lunch. **WE ONLY HAVE ROOM FOR 100 PEOPLE** so email us at [dcspingardeningworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:dcspingardeningworkshop@gmail.com) to save your spot! Location: Turkey Thicket Recreation Center, Brookland, 20001.

**Tues Feb 24, Maryland Native Plant Society monthly meeting, 7:30 pm. White Oak Library.** Topic: Winter Evergreens. Join members of the Botany Committee for a presentation on native evergreen plants, including pines and other gymnosperms, hollies, bayberries, and other shrubs, groundcovers and clubmosses, and numerous others. Some historical evergreens will also be included. Live material will be used, with an emphasis on identification. The natural distribution and habitat of each species will also be discussed. Location: Large meeting room. For more information and directions go to [www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org).

**Tues, Feb 24, EcolocityDC. Film: Organizing & Networking, 7 pm-9 pm, Washington, DC.** Come to this meeting representing yourself, your group, church or organization to connect what you and/or your group do best where you're doing it to the overall strategy to mitigate the effects of powerdown and down-scaling. Location: Emergence Community Arts Collective, 733 Euclid Street NW. For more information: [ecolocitydc@gmail.com](mailto:ecolocitydc@gmail.com), 202 545 0869. Directions and details: [ecolocity.ning.com](http://ecolocity.ning.com).

**Thurs, Feb 26, Deconstruction: Its Benefits and Costs, 6:30 pm-9 pm, Jessup, MD.** Paul Hughes, MPA, will instruct this Greenbuilding Institute class. To register, visit [www.greenbuildinginstitute.org](http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org), or call 443-733-1234.

**Thurs, Feb 26, LEED 2009 & LEED AP+ Update, 5:30 pm-8 pm, Columbia, MD.** Get a jump on LEED 2009 and the new LEED AP+ credentials. Joint presentation with USGBC/IIDA. Networking with light fare. Cost: Members \$15 and non-members \$20. For more information, directions and details: <http://usgbcbbaltimore.eventbrite.com>.

**Sat, Feb 28, Washington Gardener Magazine Day at Capital Home & Garden Show , 10 am-9 pm, Chantilly, VA.** We've partnered with the spring Capital Home & Garden Show (February 26-March 1) at the Dulles Expo Center. Our "Day" will feature several expert garden speakers presenting information about topics ranging from growing vegetables to making rain barrels. All talks are specifically tailored to the local DC-region gardener. For details, visit: [capitalhomeshow.com](http://capitalhomeshow.com) or [www.WashingtonGardener.com](http://www.WashingtonGardener.com).

**Sat, Feb 28, Winter Tree ID at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, 9:30 am, Lothian, MD.** Come and learn the fundamentals of winter tree identification using twigs and bark features. We'll spend time indoors learning the basics, and then hike the forests of this Southern Anne Arundel County sanctuary. Dress for both indoor and outdoor activities. Bring a snack or lunch, field guides, hand lens, binoculars, camera. Meet at the Visitor Center, 1361 Wrighton Road. Visit [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org) for directions. Contact: Karyn Molines, [kmolines@chesapeake.net](mailto:kmolines@chesapeake.net) or 410-286-2928.

**Sat, Feb 28, EarthSave Baltimore Veg Dinner Series 6-9 pm,** featuring On Purpose Woman magazine publisher Ginny Robertson speaking on "Being the Change that We Wish to See". Please bring a vegan dish that will serve five times the number of people in your party, plus a \$5 donation (members \$2). Or (with 1 day notice) you may enjoy dinner without bringing food for a \$12 donation (members \$10). . Write [Baltimore@earthsave.org](mailto:Baltimore@earthsave.org), or go to <http://earthsavebaltimore.org/>.

**Ongoing through Oct. 25 Green Community Exhibit, National Building Museum, 401 F St. NW, D.C.** The health of our communities, our planet, and ourselves depends on how we plan, design, and construct the world between our buildings. *Green Community* explores the origins of our precarious ecological situation and introduces communities large and small where citizens, political leaders, planning and design professionals, developers, and government agencies are working together for a more sustainable future. Red Line Metro Judiciary Square. [www.nbm.org](http://www.nbm.org)

### **For March**

**Mon, March 2, Capitol Climate Action: Mass Civil Resistance, daytime, Washington, D.C.** Join Bill McKibben, Mike Tidwell, Wendell Berry, and thousands more in this civil resistance demonstration at a coal-fired power plant next to Capitol Hill. Supported by Energy Action Coalition, Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network, 350.org, Organic Consumers Association, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and many other organizations. For more information: <http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/blog/?p=562>.

**Tues, March 3, BCAN Meeting: A Conversation With The Secretary Of The Maryland Department Of The Environment, 7 pm-8:30 pm, Lutherville, MD.** MDE Secretary Shari Wilson will discuss state activities related to the environment, with an opportunity to ask questions. Discussion followed by a brief open meeting of BCAN: [www.baltimoreclimate.org](http://www.baltimoreclimate.org) All welcome, Free, Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville, MD 21093 See <http://www.baltimoreclimate.org/content/1/2/61.html#mde>.

**Weds, March 4, Washington Gardener Magazine Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show, 10 am-10 pm, departing Silver Spring, MD and Dunn Loring, VA**

Daytrip in style to the Philadelphia Flower Show. This year's theme is "Bella Italia." The event itself features demonstration gardens, cooking classes, plant competitions, Philadelphia Green exhibits, and much more. For more information, contact Cheval Force Opp, [gardentours@gmail.com](mailto:gardentours@gmail.com), 703-395-1501. Directions and details: [www.WashingtonGardener.com](http://www.WashingtonGardener.com) or [www.chevalsgardentours.com](http://www.chevalsgardentours.com) .

**Sat, March 7, Nonviolent Communications, 9:30 am-4:30 pm, Eldersburg, MD.** Masonic Freedom Lodge, 2253 Liberty Road (five miles above Randallstown). Learn the practice of compassionate communication with a certified NVC facilitator. Fee: 63. More info: <http://www.ccccl.org/nvc.htm> or call Iris 410-318-8877

**Sat, March 7, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Ellicott City, MD.** Please bring a vegan (no animal products) dish to share (store bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 8. Please RSVP via e-mail. If we don't receive more than 6 responses then we will cancel the gathering. It's best if you can bring your own reusable picnic-ware and feel free to wash up here. We will have basic table service available (for a small fee), There will be iced tea and filtered water to drink. Kids welcome! To RSVP and for directions contact Bonnie Sorak [bsorak@juno.com](mailto:bsorak@juno.com) or 410-465-0427

**Sun, March 8, Electronic Unplugged: An E-cycling Event, Baltimore.** Bring your old televisions, computers and anything else with a plug to Temple Oheb Shalom. For information: Audrey Rothschild at [jarothschild@comcast.net](mailto:jarothschild@comcast.net) or 410-486-0368. Directions and details at [www.templeohebshalom.org](http://www.templeohebshalom.org).

**Sun, March 22, VIDEO: "Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai"** Washington, DC. 5 pm  
Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St. NW (See Feb 9<sup>th</sup> above)

#### For April

**Sat, April 4, Project Clean Stream, 9 am-12 Noon,** various locations in Central Maryland and the Eastern Shore. Volunteer to remove trash from local streams. We need site captains (to lead clean ups and orient volunteers) and general crew. Project Clean Stream is coordinated by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and supported by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. For more information, please contact the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay at 410-377-6270 or visit the website at [www.alliancechesbay.org](http://www.alliancechesbay.org).

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#### **Action Opportunities and Tidbits**

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**Help Save Songbirds! Lights Out Baltimore!** Urban areas containing glass buildings, windows, and light pollution kill millions of birds annually. Want to help Baltimore become bird-friendly and help save energy? If you're 18 or over and want to help save birds in Charm City, please contact us at [savebirds@verizon.net](mailto:savebirds@verizon.net). Lights Out Baltimore is a new project of the Baltimore Bird Club.

#### **Grass-fed, Local and Organically Raised Meats**

Winter has arrived, which means it's time to warm up your home with roasts, stews and braising! All Good Fork Foods meats are grass-fed, local and organically raised. To learn more visit [www.kolfoods.com/goodforkfoods](http://www.kolfoods.com/goodforkfoods).

*Winter Special:* Lamb, just \$9/lb (boxes from 9 to 13 lbs). Mixed cuts include lamb chops (shoulder, loin and rib), leg of lamb, rack of lamb, ground lamb, lamb shank, neck and breast. Boxes of lamb consist of a variety of cuts which are frozen, wrapped and labeled for freezer storage.

TO ORDER: Email your order to [info@kolfoods.com](mailto:info@kolfoods.com) by Wed, Feb 4. PICK UP: Wed, Feb 11, 6 pm-8:30 pm, Silver Spring, MD.