

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **February 2010**. It is going out to over **1,880 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 269 members, if you want to be involved during the month in an "interactive dialogue." You can subscribe from our "Online Convos" tab of our website or directly at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/online>

For our friends in Baltimore, there is also a new YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 92 members. You can also subscribe from our "Online Convos" tab of our website or directly at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/online>

This announcement is organized into five sections:

- Second Sunday Forum, Baltimore Green Forum, Howard County Earth Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- March Preview and beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Have you been wondering what is happening in **Northern Virginia**? A group of volunteers in Vienna is organizing to offer discussion circles. Contact Helene at teachhss@aol.com or 703 759-0936. If you don't live near Vienna and want to join or start a discussion circle, SMEI may be able to help. **Contact Helene or Marney**, Marney@simplicity-matters.org. More details below in the **Discussion Circle Report**.

Visit our **newly updated website**, <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles>, for more info. See our Discussion Circle Update (below) for the appropriate person to contact for your county. Thanks to **Lena Rotenberg, our webmaster**, for all of her hard work.

Thanks to this month's editor, **Susan Belchamber**. Scroll down to "Action Opportunities and Tidbits" to learn more about Susan's article, "Is Economics a Green Issue?"

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sun., Feb. 14, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm

The American Dream -- The World's Nightmare

Michael Despines, Climate Resilience Independent Consultant

What impact do the growth in human population and consumption have on Earth's support systems? To what extent does the American Dream -- now the International Dream -- need to be changed, and how quickly? Don't miss this fact-filled presentation with an expert who has experienced different international perspectives on these issues.

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.

March forum, on 3/14, Judy Tiger from Just That Simple. www.just-that-simple.net

HOWARD COUNTY EARTH FORUM

**Sunday, February 21, Earth Forum of Howard County
First Presbyterian, Columbia, MD. 3:00–5:30 pm**

Howard County Earth Forum presents “**Building for the Future**”. Stan Sersen, LEED accredited architect and founder of the Green Building Institute

Mr. Sersen will present ideas for building sustainable environments including use of alternative energy and organic food production. Several small group discussion/action groups will follow. Refreshments provided. Free and open to the community.

At First Presbyterian of Howard County, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia. Sign-up and directions at church office 410-730-3545, ex.10 or <http://www.firstpreshc.org/Care/EarthForum/tabid/47845/Default.aspx>

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

**Sunday, February 28, 4:30-6:30 pm.
MD Presbyterian Church
1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286**
<http://www.mpchurch.org/About.htm>

In 2010 the Baltimore Green Forum is hosting a series of talks on topics relevant to the Transition Town movement with the goal of supporting the development of Transition Initiatives in the Baltimore area.

Local Transportation Transition: The Smart Jitney Plan Created by Community Solutions, presented by Sam Hopkins

A true mass transit system for the U.S. may not be possible. However, the Smart Jitney system is both possible and effective for at least local transportation. The Community Solutions organization in Yellow Springs, Ohio, has produced power point presentations and an article that explain the plan. See <http://www.communitysolution.org/transport.html>. The system will use cell phones (GPS & web access enabled) and the Internet for ride reservations and coordination. Every person may be a "driver" or a "rider" at different times. There are already commercial enterprises operating these high-tech hitchhiking schemes, such as Avego in Ireland and KoolPool in India. It's not your father's carpool!!!!

Current co-sponsors include: Simplicity Matters Earth Institute, Transition Baltimore, Network of Spiritual Progressives in MD, Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network, Baltimore

Climate Action Network, MD League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Inc., Parks & People, and the Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club.

FREE to attend, but donations to Maryland Presbyterian Church are greatly appreciated. For more program info, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

NWEI Discussion Guides: (SSW) Sustainable Systems at Work; (RE) Reconnecting with Earth; (GW) Global Warming: Changing CO2urse; (CSL) Choices for Sustainable Living; (DSOP) Discovering a Sense of Place; (HCHP) Healthy Children-Healthy Planet; (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: Discussion circle books now cost \$20 plus s/h (except SSW, which cost \$35). They should be ordered directly from NWEI. For more info, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/order.php>

We ended the year with a total of 27 circles (224 in total since 2002!). So far, we have started 2 circles and have 5 more circles scheduled for Feb/Mar-- see those with an asterick (*) below, that are open to the public.

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 unless otherwise noted.

VIRGINIA

Vienna, VA (SSW) We are organizing a discussion circle which will start soon. Contact Helene at teachhss@aol.com or 703 759-0936 for more information.

Frederick & Washington County

None currently scheduled to begin

Carroll County

Westminster "Regroup" Contact CirclesCarroll@Simplicity-Matters.org to join the group for discussions and to watch videos. CS: Carole Flood

Howard County

***UU Congregation of Columbia** (GW), **Intro Mtg:** Feb 28, **First Session:** Mar 8, CS: Sally Ann Cooper, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Oakland Mills Meeting House (HCHP) **Intro Mtg:** TBD, CS: Tracy Manning, lore@simplicity-matters.org
Howard County College (GW), **Intro Mtg:** TBD, CS: Margo Duesterhaus, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Kittamaqundi Church (GW), **Intro Mtg:** TBD, CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Howard County Conservancy (GW), **Intro Mtg:** TBD, CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Snowden Overlook (GW), **Intro Mtg:** TBD, CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Channing UU Congregation, Ellicott City (GW), CS: Dot Rockstroh, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Green Building Institute, Jessup, MD (MF), CS: Margo Duesterhaus, lore@simplicity-matters.org
Private Home (CSL) CS: Hank Grabowski, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Howard County, Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (CCIHC) Committee is actively pursuing many other potential venues. Details to follow. Visit www.hococlimatechange.org or email hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Harford County

None currently scheduled to begin

Baltimore City/County

***Baltimore, Villa Assumpta** (VS), CS: Sr. Gabriel Roeder, Every Wednesday during Lent, 6:30-8:00 pm (can make it later if this is a problem). **Intro Meeting:** Feb 17; **First Session:** Feb 24.
Villa Assumpta, 6401 N.Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21212 in the Assembly Room. **Contact:**
gabrielroeder@yahoo.com

Baltimore, Private home in Belair-Harford Rd area (VS), CS: Susan D'Arcy
Voluntary Simplicity, Monday nights, every other week in the Belair-Harford Road area. Four core members, looking for 4-6 people, in order to get started. Contact: Susan, sd_arcy@hotmail.com, 410-419-4817

Baltimore, Light Street Presbyterian (SSW), CS: Retta Barkley

Baltimore Ethical Society (tbd), CS: Karen Elliott

Baltimore region (DSOP, GW, MF, CSL) As soon as we have 8-12 people who can agree on a night of the week, we will get started. There seems to be a lot of interest in CSL. Contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org

PG County

***Greenbelt Climate Action Network** (CSL) Intro: **Tues, Mar 2**, First Session: **Tues., Mar 16** CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Paint Branch UU Church (VS), CS: Raman Pathik

Mt. Rainier (VS), CS: Joe Robbins

Montgomery County

Bethesda (RE) I am looking for people to join me (Marney) in discussing the new Reconnecting with Earth. We may **start in February**, meeting T, W, or TH. Please contact marney@simplicity-matters.org.

***Bethesda (VS) Cedar Lane UU Church** <http://www.cedarlane.org/> Intro **Thurs March 4**, meeting bi-weekly starting **Thurs. March 18**. Contact Marney@simplicity-matters.org.

***Silver Spring (MF) Washington Ethical Society** Intro **Sunday Jan. 31st** but there's still time to join in. The group will start meeting **weekly Monday Feb. 22**. Contact Ann at bakera@gao.gov or 301 858-3059.

Gaithersburg (Topic to be Determined) Folks who don't want to drive down-county are looking for others interested in a discussion circle. Please contact marney@simplicity-matters.org.

Washington, DC

Washington, DC, Join the folks of the **Washington Buddhist Peace Fellowship** to discuss diet, climate change and how our spiritual practices relate to and illuminate these issues. Please see our web site www.wbpf.org for more information (events calendar). Contact person: Bill Jenkins, worldofmuse@aol.com, (301) 699-8704

Tenleytown or on Red Line (All Topics). There is interest but we need more people. If you are interested in joining a discussion group please let me know. Marney@simplicity-matters.org, 301 652-0492

"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 (Lore Rosenthal)

Carroll Co.: CirclesCarroll@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Frederick & Washington Co.: CirclesFredWashCo@simplicity-matters.org (Lena Rotenberg)

Howard Co.: CirclesHoCo@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal).

See also **Climate Change Initiative of Howard County** (CCIHC) www.hococlimatechange.org

Montgomery Co.: CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Prince Georges Co.: CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal)
Washington DC: CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)
Elsewhere in Maryland or Jefferson Co., WV: Circles@simplicity-matters.org or 301-432-8721 (Lena Rotenberg)

For a list of our **most popular NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/volunteers/forms/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

For more info. about our discussion circles, visit our Discussion Circles page, <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles> , or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mon, Feb 1, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance (CSBA) Green Mondays, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Baltimore, MD. Join CSBA at the Woman's Industrial Exchange for networking and a brief overview about how to get your business listed on the Maryland Green Registry and to learn more about the Maryland Green Travel Program. Price includes savory treats from Sofi's Crepes as well as beer and wine. \$20 members, \$30 non members. For more information and to register by Friday, January 29, go to www.csballiance.org .

Tues. Feb 2, 'Your Planet is Hot' - A Story of Global Warming and Passion., 7 pm, Baltimore. The Episcopal Center (The Cathedral of the Incarnation) 4 E. University Parkway. This one hour multi-media event combines story-telling, music, film, and humor as Mr. Tidwell (journalist, author, host of Earthbeat Radio and Director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network) leads the audience on a fresh journey of discovery, honesty, hope, and action. Then discuss the program with its co-creators Mike Tidwell and Jay Tomlinson of CCAN. On bus routes. Free parking. Free of charge. www.baltimoreclimate.org

Wed, Feb 3, 13th Annual One Less Car Smart Transportation and Bicycling Symposium, 8:30am to 4pm. Location: 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, Maryland - Miller Building East, President's Conference Center. The Symposium will cover bicycle and pedestrian topics, as well as, presentations on smart commuting/alternative transportation initiatives. Attendees and legislators will learn about the link that exists between our reliance on the automobile, climate change, public health concerns, land use planning, alternative transportation opportunities, livable communities and more. This is an amazing Symposium and the agenda is chock-full of national expert presenters! www.onelesscar.org.

Wed, Feb 3, Design Conversation: Sustainability, 6:30-8:30 pm, 12 W. North Ave, Baltimore, MD
D:center Baltimore hosts monthly "Design Conversations" to explore how design thinking can positively change Baltimore and the world. The theme for this month will be Sustainability: diversity, interdependence, self-organization. We'll explore how these concepts with three 10-minute presentations and then 60 minutes of facilitated small group dialogue. Please join us! Geoff Stack, geoff@stackcoordination.com, 410-802-5754. Directions and details at www.stackcoordination.com/thoughts

Wed. Feb. 3, Seven Spiritual Laws of Success, 6:45-9:15pm, Cedarhurst Unitarian- 2912 Club House Rd. Finksburg, MD. This is an 8 week class, based on the book by Deepak Chopra, being offered by the Carroll Cty Center for Conscious Living. The class is open to anyone with an interest. It is being taught by Rev. Jane Brendel, a metaphysical minister with more than 30 years of experience, who graduated with Louise Hay in NY. The class is \$125 if paid in full or \$20 per session + book. More information can be found at www.ccccl.org or you can call 410-318-8877 Credit Cards Accepted.

Thurs, Feb 4, "First Thursday" Happy Hour sponsored by Bethesda Green, 5-8pm, at Black's Bar & Kitchen, 7750 Woodmont Ave, Bethesda, MD 20814. Join other local people interested in casual conversation and social networking in support of "green" business and community sustainability. Black's is donating a portion of its profits to Bethesda Green. Visit BG's website at www.BethesdaGreen.org

Thurs, Feb. 4, Compassion Over Killing Benefit at The Vegetable Garden, 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Rockville, MD; Dine in or order take-out and 10% of your bill will be automatically donated to COK. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net/events.

Thurs, Feb. 4, Leafleting with Compassion Over Killing, 5:30 to 6:30 pm, Washington, DC
Sharing literature with the public is such a simple, yet powerful way to help spread a message of compassion. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net/events.

Sat. Feb 6, Family Movie Night at Irvine Nature Center, 6-8pm, 11201 Garrison Forest Road Owings Mills, MD 21117, Join us for a fun evening for the whole family as we watch Disney's "A Bug's Life". Drinks and popcorn provided! All Ages. 443-738-9220 BortnerC@ExploreNature.org; www.ExploreNature.org

Sun, Feb 7, Gardening Like the Forest: Home-Scale Ecological Food Production With Dave Jake, 3:00 – 5:00pm, Ruscombe Mansion, Baltimore, MD. Wouldn't you like to grow an abundant food-producing ecosystem in your back yard? This FREE talk introduces the vision of forest gardening with some scientific background, a few living examples, and a sample of some useful perennial edibles you can use in your own garden! Hosted by the Greater Baltimore Permaculture Guild, please RSVP at education@heathcote.org or 410-357-9523

Sun. Feb 7, "Is That Snake Venomous?" at Irvine Nature Center, 1-2pm, 11201 Garrison Forest Road Owings Mills, MD 21117. Can you tell if a snake is venomous or not? Many people are confused about how to tell the difference. Come learn the different clues and how to identify several common snakes in the area. We will also get the chance to meet some of Irvine's resident non-venomous snakes. Leader: Rachel Felling. Ages: 5 & up. 443-738-9220 BortnerC@ExploreNature.org; www.ExploreNature.org

Mon, Feb 8, Growshop Lecture Series on Community Mediation, 5:30-8:pm, Baltimore, MD
The speaker, Joshua Becker, Community Outreach Coordinator at Community Mediation will talk to us about what mediation is, who should be using it and how. Event is free, with light refreshments at Puffs and Pastries, 830 West 36th Street, 21230. For more information, contact Christina Nutile, bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com, 410-952-0334. For detailed information visit www.baltimoregreenworks.com/events.

Mon, Feb 8: Trees and Their Care, 6-8 pm, Baltimore, MD. Think Green, Be Green discussion series sponsored by Southeast Community Development Corporation and Dundalk Renaissance. Come hear Tree Baltimore's Anne Draddy at Coburns, 2921 O'Donnell St., Canton
For more information please contact Jenny Michalak, Volunteer Maryland Coordinator for the SECDC at jmichalak@southeastcdc.org, 410-370-6482 or 410-342-3234. For more information please go to <http://www.southeastcdc.org>

Mon, Feb. 8, Irvine Book Club, 6 – 7:30pm at Irvine Nature Center, Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. We will meet on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss books relating to natural history, the environment and conservation issues, starting with "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson. Nature Book Club titles are also available in the Irvine Nature Store. Leader: Rachel Felling. No Fee. Ages: Adult (16 & up) 443-738-9220 BortnerC@ExploreNature.org; www.ExploreNature.org

Mon, Feb 8, 7:30 pm, Columbia Art Center (Long Reach village center). Stanley J. Sersen, a LEED accredited architect and founder of the Green Building Institute, will speak on how our future sustainability will depend on bringing food production into the design of our homes and offices. The salon event featuring Mr. Sersen's talk on "Agroecture—moving toward true sustainability" is sponsored by the Little Patuxent Review and the Columbia Art Center. For more information, Contact Mike Clark, 410-730-7624, clarkmj1@verizon.net

Tues, Feb. 9, COK Benefit Day at Sticky Fingers Bakery, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Washington, DC
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. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net/events.

Wed, Feb 10, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:30 pm, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd. Topic: TBA! For more info, contact lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234

Sat, Feb 13 Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium, noon-5:00 pm, Annapolis, MD

This profound inquiry into the bold vision of bringing forth and environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and social just human presence on Earth uses lecture, video clips, group exercises, and reflection to help you create your own role in this vision. For more information, contact Lynn Gardner, lynn@communitymarketservices.com, 410-227-2847. Directions and details at www.awakeningthedreamer.org

Sat, Feb. 13, Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course, 8am – 5pm, Freeland, MD. (1st day of 12 day course), Learn ethical principles and practical skills for producing your own needs from local natural resources by mimicking natural ecosystems. Topics include energy efficient site planning for house, gardens, orchard, woodlot and wildlife habitat; farm animal forage systems; beneficial microclimate; urban strategies for food and energy production; sustainable community economics and food security. Tuition \$1400 for 12 days or \$700 for 7 days. For more info contact: Karen Stupski, 410-357-9523, education@heathcote.org, details at <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course-2010> .

Sat. Feb 13, The Great Backyard Bird Count at Irvine Nature Center, 9:30-10:30am, Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Birdwatchers young and old from all over the continent are counting birds during this annual event. Our count will be shared with a national list, so come join in the fun and represent our local birds. Leader: Rachel Felling. No Fee. Ages: All 443-738-9220 BortnerC@ExploreNature.org; www.ExploreNature.org

Sat. Feb. 13, Baltimore City Schoolyard Greening and Garden Workshop for Educators, 9am-2pm, Baltimore, MD Come to the beautiful 33-acre Great Kids Farm to learn how to turn your schoolyard into an engaging educational green space, and meet other Baltimore City educators who are doing the same. Free for all Baltimore City Public School teachers and students, suggested donation \$5 for others. Please RSVP to sandy.robson@parksandpeople.org by February 5, 2010.

Sat, Feb 13, MD'S AMAZING TURTLES (PART I): LIVE AND IN PERSON, 10:00am, Woodstock, MD

The Howard County Conservancy hosts an indoor FREE TALK: Ray Bosmans, Professor Emeritus, Univ. MD. and President of the Mid-Atlantic Turtle and Tortoise Society (MATTs) and Greg Pokrywka MD FACP, co-founder and Past President of MATTs will be presenting a two-part program about identifying Maryland turtles, their habitats, and ways that you can help them to survive. A second program will include be a woodland hike observing turtles in the wild on Saturday, April 10th at 10:00 a.m. Programs will be very educational for both adults and children. FREE. For more information, contact 410-465-8877, or for directions and details visit www.hcconservancy.org

Sun. Feb 14, "Brrr...Birds in Winter", 2–3:30pm, at Irvine Nature Center, Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Resident birds are still here! What are they up to in winter? Learn why they don't migrate with other birds. A pinecone craft for the birds is included. Leader: Jennifer Muro. Registration deadline: February 13; Ages: 5 & up (with adult); 443-738-9220 BortnerC@ExploreNature.org; www.ExploreNature.org

Mon, Feb. 15, Rethink Afghanistan showing at the New Deal Cafe in Greenbelt, MD, 7pm, at the Roosevelt Center, 113 Centerway. Free screening. An optional vegan meal will be served from 6:30 pm. This recent Robert Greenwald/ Brave New Foundation documentary raises serious doubts about current U.S. policy. It explores key issues about the war in Afghanistan-- the effectiveness of military escalation, the threat of destabilizing Pakistan, the scale of civilian casualties, its potential to better Afghan women's lives, and its cost to U.S. taxpayers. (A full description is posted at www.rethinkafghanistan.com)

Mon, Feb 15, Maple Trees Printmaking Workshop, 10am – 2pm, at Irvine Nature Center, Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Icy, sweet sap and frozen trees are reason to rejoice! Come out and learn about magic maple trees and their ability to provide sweet treats for animals (including people) in February. Participants will explore print-making techniques inspired by the wonders of our very special maple trees. Bundle up – we'll be heading outside, too! Pizza lunch and drink is included. Leader: Nicole O'Kane; Fee: \$25 members, \$40 non-members. Ages: 4 – 6 years; 443-738-9220 BortnerC@ExploreNature.org; www.ExploreNature.org

Tues, Feb 16, "Greening Your Small Business" lunchtime discussion at Bethesda Green, 12 – 1pm, 4825 Cordell Avenue (2nd floor of the Chevy Chase Bank building), Bethesda, MD 20814. Bring your own "waste-

free” lunch for an engaging (and free!) discussion with author Jennifer Kaplan, focusing on ecological and economic choices that small businesses – and all of us – can make that make clear sense.

www.BethesdaGreen.org

Tues, Feb 16, 6:30-8:00 pm, Smart Energy Now Town Hall Meeting, Church of the Resurrection, 3315 Greencastle Road, Burtonsville, MD

SPEAKERS: Featured speakers will discuss how to implement energy efficiency measures in your home, what the state is doing now to promote efficiency and what still needs to be done.

VOLUNTEER: Interested in helping organize the town hall meeting? Contact Keith to learn more. Contact: Keith Harrington, 240-396-1985 keith@chesapeakeclimate.org

Thurs, Feb. 18, Sustainable Investments and the "Green Economy" at Bethesda Green, 7 - 9 pm, 4825 Cordell Avenue (2nd floor of the Chevy Chase Bank building), Bethesda, MD 20814. Economics really IS a green issue! Join us in learning about sustainable choices – for your wallet and for your community – from a panel of four local investment experts. (free/donation only). Also take part in a Community Blog Forum on this topic at: www.BethesdaGreen.org

Fri/Sat, Feb 19/20. 4th ANNUAL “AMERICAN CONSERVATION FILM FESTIVAL ON THE ROAD,” 7:00pm, Woodstock, MD. The Howard County Conservancy will show some of the country’s finest conservation film selections. The ACFF and the Conservancy seek to educate moviegoers and inspire a connection with the natural environment. Films featured on Friday night are specifically geared toward a younger audience. The films begin at 7pm; the cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Light refreshments are included. For more information and film descriptions, contact 410-465-8877, or visit www.hcconservancy.org .

Sat., Feb. 20, COK Benefit at Java Green, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Washington, DC

Support COK while enjoying delicious cruelty-free fare and socializing with other activists! For more information, contact Francesca, valente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net/events.

Sun, Feb 21, Sacred Gardening Potluck & Discussion. 5:30pm in Bethesda. Come share and learn about bringing the Sacred into your gardening efforts. We'll talk about wiser worldviews and practices to encourage 'deeper' gardening approaches that honor nature energies, focus on personal and planetary well-being, plus *have some fun*. Donation-based. Led by Mare Cromwell, Sacred Gardening specialist, author and apprentice to Cherokee Medicine Woman. <http://www.sacreddogllc.com>. To RSVP and for more information call Marney at (301) 652-0492 or e-mail marneyb@earthlink.net.

Sun, Feb 21, Mid-Atlantic Green Wedding Showcase, 1 – 5 pm., College Park, MD. Featuring the Mid-Atlantic’s most sustainable wedding vendors, eco ideas for your big day, a swanky eco-fashion show and lounge, the Man Cave for the guys, local/organic beer and wine, stylish eco swag and more. \$10 early bird; \$20 at the door. Directions and more details at www.greenweddingshowcase.com.

Mon, Feb 22: Neighborhood Natural History, 6-8 pm, Dundalk, MD Think Green, Be Green discussion series sponsored by Southeast Community Development Corporation and Dundalk Renaissance Squire's Restaurant, 6723 Holabird Ave., Dundalk For more information please contact Jenny Michalak, Volunteer Maryland Coordinator for the SECDC at jmichalak@southeastcdc.org, 410-370-6482 or 410-342-3234. For more information please go to <http://www.southeastcdc.org> .

Tues, Feb 23, 6:30 - 8pm, Smart Energy Now Town Hall Meeting, Prince George's Community College, Rennie Forum - 301 Largo Road, Largo MD 20774

SPEAKERS: Featured speakers will discuss how to implement energy efficiency measures in your home, what the state is doing now to promote efficiency and what still needs to be done.

VOLUNTEER: Interested in helping organize the town hall meeting? Contact Keith to learn more. Contact: Keith Harrington, 240-396-1985 keith@chesapeakeclimate.org

Tues, Feb. 23, Maryland Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting, 7:30pm. White Oak Library. Threatened Lands in Maryland and what MNPS is Doing to Protect Them. Unique natural features, native plants, including rare species, forests and water resources will be highlighted. This will be a great opportunity to find out more about land conservation in the state and the threats of development, roadway expansion and unwise land-use policies. Location: Large meeting room. For more information and directions go to www.mdflora.org

Fri-Sun, Feb 26-28, Green Earth Expo 2010, Baltimore Convention Center Baltimore, Md.

Green Earth Expo 2010 is open to the general public for the entire three days of the event but on Friday, February 26th, our format will focus primarily on business best practices, greening the marketplace supply chain, and Business to Business Networking. Sat, Feb 27th and Sun, Feb 28th, Our format will be focused on eco minded consumers. For your business you can become more efficient cut operational cost and increase your bottom line all while healing our planet! For your home you can learn about ways to live lighter on our planet, save energy and save lots of money while doing so. Most importantly, together we can build a sustainable future for each other and our children <http://www.projectgreenamerica.com/>

Sat, Feb 27, "Is There Hope For The Bay?" Brunch and Panel Discussion, 10 am -12 p.m., Baltimore, MD.

EPA leader, authors of two Chesapeake Bay watershed books, principal of Restore Capital and others share their experiences on the state and federal levels while uncovering ways citizens may help revitalize local waterways. Event is free and open to the public at the Baltimore Museum of Industry at 1415 Key Highway. For more info, contact Christina Nutile, bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com, 410-952-0334. For detailed information visit www.baltimoregreenworks.com/events.

Sat, Feb 27 Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium, 1:00-5:30 pm, Arlington, VA

This profound inquiry into the bold vision of bringing forth and environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and social just human presence on Earth uses lecture, video clips, group exercises, and reflection to help you create your own role in this vision. For more information, contact Mary Pike, marypike@cox.net, 703-960-0577. Directions and details at www.awakeningthedreamer.org

Sun, Feb. 28, Repower@Home house party in Bethesda, 3- 5pm.

Repower@Home is an exciting new project of the Alliance for Climate Protection <http://www.climateprotect.org/>. Our homes consume 22% of the energy used in the U.S. Join your neighbors in Bethesda to learn how to start saving money and stop wasting energy in this fun interactive gathering. For more information contact Marneyb@earthink.net.

MARCH PREVIEW (and beyond!)

Mon, Mar 1: Designing your patio for the Bay, 6:30-8 pm, Baltimore, MD Think Green, Be Green discussion series sponsored by Southeast Community Development Corporation and Dundalk Renaissance SE Anchor of the Enoch Pratt Library, 3601 Eastern Ave., Highlandtown. For more information please contact Jenny Michalak, Volunteer Maryland Coordinator for the SECDC at jmichalak@southeastcdc.org, 410-370-6482 or 410-342-3234. For more information please go to <http://www.southeastcdc.org> .

Sun, Mar 7, Smart Energy Now Town Hall Meeting, 12:30pm, Baltimore (Canton)

Learn how to save money on your energy bills at a town hall meeting at Messiah Church, located on O'Donnell Square in Baltimore's Canton neighborhood, at 1025 S Potomac St. Environment Maryland and other environmental groups will present information about the incentives and rebates offered by utility companies and the city to make your home more energy efficient, as well as discuss energy legislation being considered in the General Assembly. For more information, contact Shea Kinser at (410) 467-0439 or skinser@environmentmaryland.org.

Mon, March 8, Growshop Lecture Series on Community Organization, 5:30-8 p.m., Baltimore, MD. Lane Victorson, Faculty Field Instructor from Univ. of Maryland School of Social Work will speak on community organization. Event is located at Civic Works, 2701 St. Lo Dr., Baltimore, MD 21213 and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Christina Nutile, bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com, 410-952-0334. For detailed information visit www.baltimoregreenworks.com/events.

Mon, Mar 8: Recycling 2.0, 6-8 pm, Dundalk, MD Think Green, Be Green discussion series sponsored by Southeast Community Development Corporation and Dundalk Renaissance. Dundalk High School, Room 106 For more information please contact Jenny Michalak, Volunteer Maryland Coordinator for the SECDC at jmichalak@southeastcdc.org, 410-370-6482 or 410-342-3234. For more information please go to <http://www.southeastcdc.org> .

Fri, March 19, 2nd Annual Ecoball, 7-11 p.m., Baltimore, MD. Guests will enjoy live music by the *Mooks*, free and local food prepared *Top Chef style*, beer and wine--all while supporting BGW's year-round free and low-cost

programming. Event is \$75, \$40 with valid student ID, and being held at the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park and Museum, 1417 Thames Street, Baltimore 21231. For more information, contact Christina Nutile, bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com, 410-952-0334. Visit www.baltimoregreenworks.com/ecoball for more details.

Sat, March 20 Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium, Alexandria, VA

This profound inquiry into the bold vision of bringing forth and environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and social just human presence on Earth uses lecture, video clips, group exercises, and reflection to help you create your own role in this vision. For more information, contact Susan Trout, btsias@aol.com, (703) 706-5333. Directions and details at www.awakeningthedreamer.org

Sat, March 20, Cohousing: Growing Smart Communities, 8:30am - 6:30pm, College Park, MD.

Join us for a day-long conference on cohousing, its contribution to and its future role in creating sustainable communities. Co-sponsored by Mid Atlantic Cohousing and The University of Maryland's School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Info contact Ann Zabaldo, ann@MidAtlanticCohousing.org, 202 291-7892. Registration and details on website: www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org.

Mon, Mar 22: Sustainability for 2010. Think Green, Be Green discussion series sponsored by Southeast Community Development Corporation and Dundalk Renaissance. Location to come. For more information please contact Jenny Michalak, Volunteer Maryland Coordinator for the SECDC at jmichalak@southeastcdc.org, 410-370-6482 or 410-342-3234. For more information please go to <http://www.southeastcdc.org>.

Thurs, Mar 25, Tree Summit Conference, 7am – 4pm, Washington DC. The Casey Trees "Tree Summit" is hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, located at 777 North Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC 20002. This Summit will focus on the condition of the District's existing Urban Tree Canopy and potential strategies to increase the canopy from 35% to 40% by 2035, and brings together a multi-disciplinary group of researchers and professionals from federal, regional and local government and other communities involved in setting and implementing tree canopy goals as well as stakeholders from grassroots and community groups. Fee - \$40.00 per person (*If registration poses a financial burden, please contact Mike Galvin, Deputy Director, at mgalvin@caseytrees.org*). For more information, contact treesummit@caseytrees.org

Sat. Mar 27: A slide lecture: An Eco-History of the Harper's Ferry Region. 3:30 to 4:30 PM at the Fairfax UU Church in Oakton, VA. Join Hayden Mathews of EcoStewards Alliance and River Stories for an illustrated talk on four very special sites near Harpers Ferry, WV that will afford you new eyes with which to view regional eco-history. Tickets \$20 Adult; \$10 children with discounts for early bird reservations. Go to www.bayhistory.net or email Hayden Mathews at riverstories@comcast.net for more detailed information.

Sat. Apr 10: An Eco-History Car Tour of the Harper's Ferry Region. 8:30 to 5:00 PM beginning at the Point of Rocks, MARC Station, MD. Bring your car and join Hayden Mathews of EcoStewards Alliance and River Stories for an in depth tour of four very special sites near Harpers Ferry, WV that will open new doors of appreciation for the Piedmont. Tickets \$40 Adult; \$15 Children with discounts for early bird reservations and special discount for combo with lecture. Go to www.bayhistory.net or email Hayden Mathews at riverstories@comcast.net for more detailed information.

Sat. May 8: An Eco-History Tour of Calvert County, MD. 8:00 to 6:00 PM beginning/ending at Oakton High School and the Vienna Metro Station (Orange Line). Join EcoStewards Alliance and River Stories on a 55 passenger A/C bus w/ lavatory for an eye-opening day trip to the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Calvert Marine Museum, and Flag Ponds Beach. This will be the last time ESA offers this very popular trip. Tickets \$85 Adult; \$45 children with discounts for early bird reservation. Go to www.bayhistory.net or email Hayden Mathews at riverstories@comcast.net for more detailed information.

Sat. May 22, The Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair, Carroll County Farm Museum 500 S. Center St. Westminster, Md. 21157, 9am to 4pm. Promotes eco-friendly lifestyles, viz: renewable energy, green building, organic foods, sustainable living products and more. Contact Dan Andrews, 410-857-4129, dooze@qis.net, Cost is very reasonable and please visit: sustainablelivingmd.org

Action Opportunities and Tidbits

Read Susan Belchamber's Article

February's theme at Bethesda Green is "Green and the Economy". BG is hosting lunch-time and evening "panel of experts" discussions on these important topics (see above). Also, go to www.BethesdaGreen.org to read our editor, Susan Belchamber's, article "Is Economics a Green Issue?" (found under News/features) and add your thoughts to BG's on-going Community Blog.

Salamander Points: An Individual Carbon Counter and Local-Living Blog

Ever wonder how much you contributed today to climate change? Want to know your biggest areas of waste? Calculate your daily carbon footprint, or learn more about simplifying your life and living Carbon-Sexy in Baltimore: www.salamanderpoints.com

Pre-order a copy of "Story of Stuff"

The book **The Story of Stuff** will be released March 9, 2010. The book will include more details of topic covered in the film www.storyofstuff.org which has been out about two years and gotten national attention. Annie Leonard, the author, is asking friends to pre-order copies because all the advance sales count toward the first week of sales which will amplify the book's message of sustainability and equity. Pre-order through your local bookstore, online through Amazon, Powell's or Barnes and Noble.

You can also view Annie's new free/online video, "**The Story of Cap and Trade**" at <http://www.storyofstuff.com/capandtrade/>