

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **December 2011**. It is going out to more than **1,650** 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/ or as a PDF at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/events/2011/2011-12.pdf>.

We also have a Yahoo group, 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 YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 95 members. You can 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, Earth Forum of Howard County, Baltimore Green Forum, Northern Virginia Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- January Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Thanks to this month's editor, **Beth Lacey Gill**.

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, December 11, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm

(Video night) <http://www.motherthefilm.com/synopsis-0>

Mother: Caring for 7 Billion. Over the past few decades, some countries have undertaken coercive tactics to control population. This has made talking about population a taboo subject among environmentalist and human rights groups. Unfortunately, many of today's humanitarian and environmental crises are caused by overpopulation and they are getting worse everyday. Mother was created as a way to bring all the different groups back to the table to begin a constructive dialogue to talk about population.

Our events are always free and open to all. Please join us!

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.

January Forum - Video *Nicotine Bees* <http://pierreterre.com/video/nicotine-bees-trailer>

THE EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY

There is no December Earth Forum of Howard County. Save the Date for January 15.

Sunday, January 15, 2012

2-4:30 pm

**The Chesapeake Bay and Your Backyard
First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD**

Congressman John Sarbanes presents The Chesapeake Bay and Your Backyard, Free and open to all. Directions and details at www.earthforumhc.org.

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

There is no December Baltimore Green Forum. Save the date for January 22.

The Baltimore Green Forum

Sunday, January 22, 2012

4-6:30 pm

(the fourth Sunday of the month)

MD Presbyterian Church,
1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286

www.mpchurch.org/About.htm

TOPIC: "tba"

For updated program info, visit www.baltimoregreenforum.org OR <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/forums/baltimore> or contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234.

SIMPLICITY MATTERS OF NoVa FORUM

(fourth Sunday of each month)

Sunday, December 25, 7-8:30 pm

The **December forum** TBA. Details to follow. **We are assuming this has been cancelled, due to the date, but have not received word.**

Our events are always free and open to all. Please join us!

Where: in a private home in Vienna, VA

To RSVP: I would appreciate an email RSVP and will notify people of changes, cancellations by email, or if they leave a phone number I will call them. **Please contact** Helene Shore at Teachhss@aol.com or 703-861-6638.

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

NWEI Discussion Guides: (WOH) World of Health, (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, (CSC) Common Security Club.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Discussion circle books now cost \$21 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>

So far this year, we have started 23 circles (266 in total since 2002!). **There are no new circles scheduled this month.**

Below, you will see listed some of the "potential" circles in the works for later this winter (or later in the year) More will be added as plans become more certain.

Our circles have become so widespread 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 – The Northern Virginia Green Baggers continue to make reusable cloth bags from donated fabric and give them away in exchange for people taking a pledge to use them instead of paper or plastic. Donations of washable fabric, leftovers from projects, drapes, old tablecloths etc. are welcome. **To donate fabric or join us** to cut and sew bags please contact Helene Shore at Teachhss@aol.com

The **Voluntary Simplicity discussion circle** came to an end in May, with a potluck celebration in June. We celebrate the successful journey of 3 members who participated in 6 months of not buying anything new. See Julie Kimmels' blog, <http://nostuffexperiment.wordpress.com/> to follow her personal journey.

New discussion circles will be forming. For more information contact Helene Shore at 703-861-6638 or email at Teachhss@aol.com.

Frederick & Washington County

UU Church of Frederick (tbd) Contact Marney at marney@simplicity-matters.org for details

Carroll County

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

Howard County

Columbia Jewish Center (tbd) CS: Bonnie Sorak, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Acupuncture Associates, Columbia (WOH), CS: Laura Mueller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Robinson Nature Center (tbd) CS: Sue Muller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Harpers Choice Village Center (tbd), CS: Susie Jordan, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Laurel, (VS), Winter 2012, CS: Liz Feighner, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Home Schoolers network (tbd) CS: Dot Rockstroh, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Kid-Friendly Circle (tbd) CS: Kelsi Nibbana, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Snowden Overlook (tbd), CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com
Howard County College (GW), CS: Kim Davis/Margo Duesterhaus, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (CCIHC) Committee is actively pursuing 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, Towson Area (CSC), CS: Lore Rosenthal, contact lore@simplicity-matters.org
Baltimore, Villa Assumpta (tbd), CS: Helene Murtha, helene.murtha@yahoo.com
Baltimore, Canton Area (tbd), CS: Sarah Grannemann, contact lore@simplicity-matters.org
Baltimore "Matchmaker" Circle (tbd), CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Prince Georges County

Paint Branch UU Church (VS), Will start as soon as there is a critical mass. CS: Raman Pathik
Paint Branch UU Church (CSC), CS: Marj Donn
College Park (WOH) CS: Janice Oppelt (contact Lore Rosenthal for details)

Montgomery County

No other circles currently starting. Contact Marney at marney@simplicity-matters.org for more information about future circles.

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 fall, 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 have transitioned to a regional structure for the state. Please use 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.simplicitymatters.org/circles> , or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thurs., Dec. 1, 5-8 pm, Bethesda Green and Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light @ Redwood Restaurant, Bethesda, MD. Kick off the holiday season with an evening of casual conversation and networking and learn about the extraordinary work local congregations are doing to save energy and go green. Enjoy complimentary vegetarian appetizers courtesy of Redwood Restaurant, 7121 Bethesda Lane. Contribution: \$10 at the door helps support the good work of Bethesda Green and Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light to light the way towards a greener community. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222. More info and RSVP via Bethesda Green Meetup (<http://www.meetup.com/greenhome-113/>), Facebook event page (<http://www.tinyurl.com/bhappyhour>), or www.bethesdagreen.org.

Sat., Dec. 3, 10 am - 3 pm, The Howard County Conservancy's Natural Holiday Gift Sale & Crafts. Enjoy a lovely Saturday. Browse tables of natural gift items; create critters from seed pods and natural gatherings. Enjoy beautiful music with a cup of tea. Our popular holiday sale with local craft vendors, refreshments, decorator demonstrations and nature critter crafts for the children of all ages is FREE. www.hcconservancy.org.

Sat, Dec 3, 10:30 am -1:30 pm, Fund Our Communities Meeting, Rockville, MD The political landscape is in major flux, as exemplified by the Occupy Movement, political stalemate, and intense anger throughout the country about the economy and corporate control of politics. <http://ourfunds.org/2011/11/activists-and-organizers-meeting-dec-3-2011/>

Sat., Dec. 3, 7-9 pm, First Saturday Vegan Potluck, Ellicott City, MD: Omnivores, vegetarians, vegans and the just curious welcome. Bring a vegan dish for the number in your party plus 10. Store bought is fine. Bring reusable tableware too. RSVP by the Wed. before Bonnie Sorak at firstsatvegan@yahoo.com or call 410-465-0427. Children welcome. Free.

Sat., Dec. 3, Alternative Gift Fair, Presbyterian Church, Takoma Park, MD: This is a fun and easy way of getting all of your holiday shopping done in one place! Give gifts of donation that will touch people's hearts and make a real difference to those in need. For information about Alternative Gift Fairs, go to www.aggw.org, for questions email us at aggw_inc@yahoo.com, or call Mimi at 301-891-8891. Look on our website for more information as well as more local events.

Sun., Dec. 4, 9 am - 3:45 pm, A Day of Silence: Our Experience with John of God at La Casa, Brazil, Bethesda, MD. As an expression of gratitude for our recent 2 week experience we would like to

share this information on the possibilities of alleviating the suffering of your loved ones. Program includes prayer and meditation, two educational films, a free vegetarian lunch, and speakers' presentation with Q&A. Sessions close at certain times, please inquire. RSVP: Durga; shantiyoga2@earthlink.net; 301 654 4899. 4217 & 4209 East West Hwy Bethesda MD 20814. Red Line accessible, J-2 bus, Parking available out front or by B-CC high school.

Sun., Dec. 4, 10:30 am - 12 pm, Living upstream and working downstream, 305 W. Franklin St, Baltimore, MD. Keeping the Chesapeake Bay healthy will require clear-headed thinking on the part of every one of the 16 million of us living upstream of it. Eric Schott, Ph.D, from the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology will talk about his volunteer work with the Jones Falls Watershed Assn. which has recently merged with 4 other watershed groups to form Blue Water Baltimore. FREE. Directions and details at www.bmorethical.org

Mon., Dec. 5, 6-9pm; CSBA Green Mondays; Working Wonders, Mt. Washington, Baltimore, MD. CSBA: Chesapeake Sustainable Building Alliance. Green Mondays are first Mondays of every month! Join us for an evening of networking and sustainable holiday shopping with a local business that is incubating a big vision for sustainable home and lifestyle retailing. 1416 Clarkview Road, Suite 100. <http://www.csballiance.org/pages/monthlymeeting.html>

Mon, Dec 5, 7 pm, Tar Sands Action, nation-wide conference call. Hear what is next for this movement. <http://www.tarsandsaction.org/>

Mon-Fri, Dec 5-9, Take Back Our Capitol, Washington, DC Join thousands of 99%-ers who are coming to Washington, DC during the first week of December to take back the Capitol from corporate control. <http://www.99indc.org/#lpoint>

Tues., Dec. 6, 6-8:30 pm, Design Conversations, Windup Space, Baltimore, MD. The Design Conversations are a monthly series of events loosely curated by a group of volunteers, focusing on rotating topics that are timely and engaging. These events are always free, always at the Windup Space, and now on the first TUESDAY of every month! Design Conversations are encouraged by the generous support of D:center Baltimore and Baltimore Community Foundation. For more information, please visit www.dcenterbaltimore.com. 10 W North Ave @ Charles Street. Cash bar, AV hookup available for spontaneous presentations!

Tues., Dec. 6, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, GBI Green Building Network Meeting, Jessup, MD. The general public is always warmly invited to GBN meetings. They are held on the first Tuesday of every month, except for holidays, from at the Enviro Center. GBN meetings and activities will be announced through GBI e-newsletters and on the GBI web site. To be added to the e-mail list please click here. For further information, or to submit an event, please email Leslye@greenbuildinginstitute.org. 7761 Waterloo Rd. <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/GBN.html>

Thurs., Dec. 8, 6 - 9 pm, 11th Annual Green Tie Affair; Washington, DC. The National Capitol Region Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC-NCR), the DC Chapter of the American Institute of Architect's Committee on the Environment (COTEdc), the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), and the Association of Energy Engineers present the social event of the season! Don't miss this exciting holiday celebration for everyone involved in green and sustainable design and construction throughout the national capital region. \$25; \$35 at the door. Food, drink and merriment! Registration required. Please RSVP by noon on December 7. <http://www.cvent.com/events/11th-annual-green-tie-affair/event-summary-aeee94b4d3b444c89c6b38f9fd04cc43.aspx?i=6343b16b-83f6-4582-a41e-7a66c4aea8ca>

Fri., Dec. 9, 7-9 pm, Labyrinth Experience: Walking a Sacred Path, Glenwood, MD. This will be held at an indoor labyrinth at St. Andrews Episcopal Church Parish. Join Iris Sauber, as she facilitates this opportunity. Iris was trained at Grace Cathedral by Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress of Veriditas and is delighted to bring this work to the east coast. This is a walking meditation. The labyrinth is a symbol for our journey to source, going to the center to receive our answers and sharing the path with others. 2892 Route 97,

Glenwood, MD 21738 Cost: \$20 pp; must register in advance. For additional information or to register: www.ccccl.org or call 410-318-8877.

Sun., Dec. 10, 9 am - 12 pm, Braving the Cold--Winter Care for healthy Trees & Shrubs, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD. Join Steve Sprague from Carroll Tree Service and learn how to properly care for your trees and shrubs this winter. In an indoor and outdoor presentation, Steve will cover topics such as mulching, watering, pruning, fertilizing and how to deal with snow and ice. He will also discuss ways to monitor the landscape for health, beauty and safety and how to determine if you need to get help from a professional arborist. Free for members, \$10 non-members. To register or get more information, visit www.explorenature.org or call 443-738-9224.

Sat., Dec. 10, 10 am - 3 pm, Operation Nursery Blanket, Baltimore MD. Operation Nursery Blanket is here! Volunteers are wanted for a fun day helping to get our nursery (6131 Hillen Rd, Baltimore) ready for the winter. We'll bring gloves and hot drinks, you bring the manual labor! Please RSVP to volunteer@bluewaterbaltimore.org for the AM shift (10 am-12:30 pm), the PM shift (12:30 pm-3 pm), or both. Lunch will be provided for those working both shifts. For more information, please visit www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/events.

Sun., Dec. 11, 12:30 - 3:30 pm, Crete: The Roots of the Mediterranean Diet, Bethesda, MD. Enjoying the benefits of one of the world's healthiest cuisines wherever you live. Free presentation at Bethesda Green 4825 Cordell Ave. Suite 200 by Chef Nikki Rose, Founder of the award-winning Crete's Culinary Sanctuaries Eco-Agritourism Network and author of "Crete: The Roots of the Mediterranean Diet." Presentation followed by book signing and special Greek brunch (\$30) at Yamas Mediterranean Grill 4806 Rugby Ave. Bethesda. Space is limited. Advance reservations for both events required. Details at: <http://bit.ly/tlC9Qq> Phone: 301-312-8384.

Sun., Dec. 11, 1-2:30 pm, Natural Wholesome Gift Making, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD. Make special gifts and ornaments from your heart with natural materials and recycled products. All craft supplies included. Free for members, \$10 non-members. To register or get more information, visit www.explorenature.org or call 443-738-9224.

Tues., Dec 13, 7 pm, Montgomery Co. Maryland Native Plant Society Meeting, Kensington, MD. Holiday Social and members share night. If you have images or stories of your local or distant adventures experienced in the past year, do bring them to share! Please bring a PowerPoint presentation (on a disk or portable drive) or slides to share with the group. A slide projector (Vivitar) and carousels will be available. There will be holiday cookies or other treats to share. Beverages will be provided. Location: Kensington Library. For more information and directions go to <http://mdflora.org/>.

Tues Dec 13, 6pm East Baltimore Offshore Wind Town Hall, Rosedale Public Library, 6105 Rosedale Avenue, Rosedale, MD,
<http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/about/connect/calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2011/12/13/18/town-hall-forum-maryland-offshore-wind-power-works-for-baltimore-county/>

Wed., Dec. 14, 9th Annual Baltimore Green Week Proposal Deadline. Download your RFP application for more information on how you and your organization can participate in the 9th Annual Baltimore Green Week. Selected participants will be announced in January 2012. For more information, e-mail bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com or call 410-952-0334. <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events>

Wed., Dec. 14, 6-9 p.m., BGW - Winter Green's 4th Annual Meeting & Happy Hour, Baltimore MD. Join BGW in celebrating the end of another successful year at Winter Green's 4th Annual Meeting and Happy Hour event at Red Maple. This is an opportunity for organizers, activists and friends to share in a little food, a little dancing and a lot of fun! Contact bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com.

Wed., Dec. 14, 7 pm, Baltimore Chapter Maryland Native Plant Society Meeting, Owings Mills. Holiday Share Night at Irvine Nature Center. If you have images or stories of your local or distant adventures experienced in the past year, do bring them to share! Please bring a Power Point presentation

(on a disk or portable drive) or slides to share with the group. A slide projector (Vivitar) and carousels will be available. Please bring a dish or other treats to share. Beverages will be provided. For more information go to www.mdflora.org or contact Chris Partain cpartain@gmail.com.

Fri., Dec. 16, 7-10 pm, Annual Candle Light Service, Finksburg, MD. The Center for Conscious Living invites you to join us as we welcome in the Holy Season to a service, sing-a-long and community potluck. Bring a dish to share; suitable for all faiths. This will be held at Cedarhurst Unitarian, 2912 Club House Rd. Finksburg 21048. FREE. The Center for Conscious Living rents space from Cedarhurst but are not associated in any way. All are welcome. Visit: www.ccccl.org for more information or call 410-318-8877.

Sun., Dec. 18, 10 am - 3 pm, MNPS Field Trip: Winter Solstice Walk at Chapman Forest. Rod Simmons and Jim Long will lead us on this celebration of the winter season in Chapman Forest with its spectacular scenery and remarkable diversity of native trees. Chapman Forest, in Charles County, is one of Maryland's unique places, with over 2,000 forested acres, 2 1/4 miles of Potomac River shoreline, and a colonial tidewater historic site. For more information go to www.MDflora.org.

Tues., Dec. 20, 4 pm, Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meeting, Baltimore, MD. The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability holds regular monthly meetings usually on the fourth Tuesday of every month. All meetings are open to the public. Department of Planning boardroom, 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Fl
<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx>

Wed., Dec. 28, 9 am - 3 pm, Winter Wonderland Day Off Camp, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD. It's another day off of school! Spend it outside with us. Expect trail walks, nature games, crafts, stories, animal encounters and more. Children should wear nature-friendly clothing and bring a lunch. Ages 6-10. \$50 members, \$60 non-members (after care available until 5 p.m. for an additional fee). To register or get more information, visit www.explorenature.org or call 443-738-9224.

JANUARY PREVIEW

Sat., Jan. 8, 2-5 pm, "Inner Wisdom Beads," Private Home in Takoma, DC. Join Clay artist Linda Burns as she discusses the symbolism and power of "Inner Wisdom Beads" to help bring awareness to our inner voice while focusing our energies to set intentions for the New Year. After the talk Linda will lead us in a workshop to craft our own set of inner wisdom beads to take home. Beads are handmade and of high quality from around the globe. Cost is \$45 and includes dessert. Space is limited. For more information about inner wisdom beads. www.innerwisdombeads.com. RSVP via email to vivaitaliana@gmail.com **EDITORS NOTE: We know this date is incorrect. Please contact for clarification.**

Wed, Jan 11 – 18th Annual Environmental Legislative Summit, Annapolis, MD, details TBA

Sat, Jan 21 – CCAN Polar Bear Plunge, details, TBA

<http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/about/connect/calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2012/01/21/23/polar-bear-plunge/>

Sat, Jan 21 – National Day of Action to overturn “Citizens United”

Public Citizen, Common Cause, People for the American Way, Free Speech for People, Move to Amend
<http://www.freespeechforpeople.com/node/271>

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

Howard County Home Energy Audit Program

Apply for a free full home energy audit at www.livegreenhoward.com! Audits are awarded on a weekly basis by lottery. Hundreds of audits have been performed already, and hundreds more await! The

program is expected to continue in to early 2012. Howard County residents only. Questions? Contact energyaudit@howardcountymd.gov.

Free Adult Bicycle Commuter Workshops, Throughout Baltimore and Surrounding Counties

Bike Maryland, a non-profit organization, is available to host a free commuter workshop at your business, university or community. 15+ attendees needed.

To learn more or schedule a workshop visit: <http://bikemd.org/page.php?id=359>

Free Youth Bike Safety Rodeos, Baltimore City

Bike Maryland, a non-profit organization, is available to host a free youth bike rodeo at your place of worship, youth camp, school etc. 15+ attendees needed.

To learn more or schedule a rodeo visit: <http://bikemd.org/page.php?id=359>

Food Donations Needed at Freedom Plaza

If you haven't been down yet, you will find that a nice alternative community has developed on Freedom Plaza. (Stop the Machine, www.october2011.org). We have a full kitchen, first set up by the organization Food Not Bombs two weeks ago, but now self sustaining by an ad hoc group of people from the DC area and around the country. For example, yesterday in a 1 hour period: a farmer from West Virginia asked if we needed apples, a minister from the Rockville Unity church dropped off vegan chili, lentil stew, pasta salad and spinach hummus wraps that his church made, and a government Union brought the leftovers from their Octoberfest picnic with huge bowls of salad, potatoes, etc. All of this was given out in a few hours. Plus what we cook on site. So please come down for a free meal anytime, and bring any healthy food, produce is great, also coffee, kitchen utensils, containers, paper bowls, etc. The needs are different every day. I came down the first day, liked it, and now volunteer most days. If you need pick up of donations, you can contact me, (Bill Jenkins) at worldofmuse@aol.com

More Donation Options for the Occupy Movement

<http://october2011.org/donate>

<http://october2011.org/neededsupplies>

<http://occupydc.org/donate/what-we-need/>

<http://occupywishlist.org/> (a national project by MoveOn)

http://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/3KMM6GXHJS9XP/ref=cm_wl_search_9 (OccupyWashington DC, Freedom Plaza purchase directly thru Amazon.com)

http://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/1TA5BE7WHTKL9/ref=cm_wl_search_10 (Occupy DC, McPherson Square)

<http://nycmarch2dc.wordpress.com/donations/> (the folks who marched from Nov 10-22, from NYC to DC, to protest the Supercommittee)