

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **November 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/](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/announcements/) or as a PDF at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/events/2011/2011-11.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
- December Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Please note that our "partner", Chesapeake Climate Action Network is sponsoring three **Town Hall Meetings about Offshore Wind Energy** (Nov 3, 9, 16) and is inviting you (along with two other partners, 350.org and Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light) to join "**Hands Around the White House**" to oppose the **Keystone XL Pipeline** on November 6<sup>th</sup>. (Ten SMEI friends got arrested in August to speak out against this project).

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

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## **SECOND SUNDAY FORUM**

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**Sun., Nov. 13, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm**

**"Eating Local" with Diane A. Welland, dietitian, teacher, writer and consultant on food issues**  
How can you eat healthy, fresh foods, and at the same time be good to the environment? It can be a challenge to know what is available, when it is available and where to get it locally. Please join us for an information-packed presentation from a local foodie who is also a vegetable gardener. Lots to cover!

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](mailto:forum@simplicity-matters.org) . Please include your phone number in your message.

**December Forum - Video *Mother: Caring for 7 Billion.***

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**THE EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY**

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**Sun., Nov. 20, 2-4:30 pm,  
The Food in Your Future  
First Presbyterian Church of Howard County  
9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD**

Features Amanda Behrens, Manager of the Food System Map Project for Johns Hopkins University, Center for a Livable Future. She will introduce the Center's plans for mapping the food production and use in Howard County. Co-speaker, Gordon Clark, Director of Montgomery Victory Garden, will present why and how he works to bring the experience of growing and eating fresh, healthy local foods to Montgomery County school children.

Free and open to all. Directions and details at [www.earthforumhc.org](http://www.earthforumhc.org). or 410-730-3545.

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**BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM**

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**The Baltimore Green Forum  
Sunday, November 27, 2011  
4-6:30 pm**  
(the fourth Sunday of the month)  
MD Presbyterian Church,  
1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286  
[www.mpchurch.org/About.htm](http://www.mpchurch.org/About.htm)

This month's featured topic: **VIDEO: "Gaslands" and discussion on Fracking.**  
**BRING YOUR THANKSGIVING LEFTOVERS, FOR AN INFORMAL POTLUCK!**  
**(details to follow)**

The Baltimore Green Forum's format includes a short 45 min presentation, followed by break-outs into "Affinity Groups" (Food, Transportation, Energy, Economics, etc.). Breakouts this month will also include continued discussion of "**Occupy Baltimore**" and updates on the **Keystone XL Pipeline protests**, "**Move Your Money**" day, and **Offshore Wind Energy** Town Hall Meetings. As always, time is left for announcements and networking.

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

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**SIMPLICITY MATTERS OF NoVa FORUM**

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(fourth Sunday of each month)  
**Sunday, November 27, 7-8:30 pm**

The **November forum** TBA. Details to follow.

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.

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## DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

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**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 22 circles** (265 in total since 2002!). **There are 2 circles scheduled this month. Scroll down where you see the asterisks(\*), in Howard County and Anne Arundel County.**

Below, you will see listed some of the "potential" circles in the works for later this fall (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](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org) unless otherwise noted.

### VIRGINIA

**Vienna, VA** – The Nothern 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 etcs are welcome. **To donate fabric or join us** to cut and sew bags please contact Helene Shore at [Teachhss@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:Teachhss@aol.com).

### Frederick & Washington County

**UU Church of Frederick** (tbd) Contact Marney at [marney@simplicity-matters.org](mailto: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) **Thurs, Nov 17, Environmental Sustainable Discussion Circles** This class will explore the different discussion circles being offered and will determine if there is sufficient interest to start a group and the best times and dates to meet. CS: Bonnie Sorak, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Acupuncture Associates, Columbia** (WOH), CS: Laura Mueller, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Robinson Nature Center** (tbd) CS: Sue Muller, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Harpers Choice Village Center** (tbd), fall 2011, CS: Susie Jordan, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Emmanuel United Methodist Church**, Laurel, (VS), Winter 2012, CS: Liz Feighner, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)  
**Home Schoolers network** (tbd) CS: Dot Rockstroh, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)  
**Kid-Friendly Circle** (tbd) CS: Kelsi Nibbana, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)  
**Snowden Overlook** (tbd), CS: Judy Burt, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)  
**Howard County College** (GW), CS: Kim Davis/Margo Duesterhaus, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Climate Change Initiative of Howard County** (CCIHC) Committee is actively pursuing 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

None currently scheduled to begin

### Baltimore City/County

**Baltimore, Towson Area** (CSC), CS: Katie Browne, contact [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)  
**Baltimore, Villa Assumpta** (tbd), CS: Helene Murtha, [helene.murtha@yahoo.com](mailto:helene.murtha@yahoo.com)  
**Baltimore, Canton Area** (tbd), CS: Sarah Grannemann, contact [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org)  
**Baltimore "Matchmaker" Circle** (tbd), CS: Lore Rosenthal, [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto: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)

### Anne Arundel County

\*Annapolis, private home (HCHP), **Intro Mtg:** Sat, Nov 5, CS: Tracy Blair.

### Montgomery County

No other circles currently starting. Contact Marney at [marney@simplicity-matters.org](mailto: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](http://www.wbpf.org) for more information (events calendar). Contact person: Bill Jenkins, [worldofmuse@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](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) [www.hococlimatechange.org](http://www.hococlimatechange.org)  
**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 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](mailto:Lena@simplicity-matters.org)

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

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

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**Tues., Nov. 1, 6 pm, Sustainable Speaker Series presents Josh Fox and Gasland, Baltimore:** When filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease his land for drilling, he embarks on a cross-country odyssey uncovering a trail of secrets, lies and contamination through our country's natural gas drilling world, now dubbed Gasland. Fox will lead a lively post-movie discussion sharing his experiences and news of the Gasland 2 sequel. FREE (donations accepted). Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral Street. More info, [www.baltimoregreenworks.com](http://www.baltimoregreenworks.com) or [jen@baltimoregreenworks.com](mailto:jen@baltimoregreenworks.com)

**Thurs., Nov. 3, 5-8 pm, Bethesda Green Happy Hour @ The Parva Restaurant & Lounge, Bethesda, MD:** Enjoy casual conversation and networking, hear about the Bethesda Green Business Incubator, and enjoy complimentary appetizers at Parva's second floor lounge, 7904 Woodmont Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814. Contribution requested at the door. Contact: Dave Heffernan, [dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org](mailto:dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org), 301-767-7222. More info and RSVP via Bethesda Green Meetup.

**Thurs., Nov. 3, 7 pm, Healthy Food in our Schools with Anthony Geraci at the Howard County Conservancy.** Our speaker is the director of food and nutrition for the Baltimore City School System and a nationwide childhood nutrition consultant whom the White House tapped for first lady Michelle Obama's efforts in combating childhood obesity. This inspiring and energizing speaker, committed to providing fresh and local foods to our school children, will answer questions like the following: What are our kids eating today? What's happening to them as a result? How can we introduce and support healthy eating habits and menus? What does it take to change school cafeterias and home lunch boxes? Charge is \$5/family, all students free. For more information, go to [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Thurs, Nov 3, 7pm; Town Hall Forum: MD Offshore Wind Power – Montgomery Co, Silver Spring,** Learn and speak out on an energy proposal that could affect your energy costs, impact local jobs, and affect local air quality. From 6:00pm-7:00pm, attend the "Wind Jobs Potential " expo, featuring local businesses that would create offshore wind energy jobs. Featuring: State Delegates and State Senators (invited). Register Montgomery: <http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/about/connect/calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2011/11/03/17/town-hall-forum-maryland-offshore-wind-power-works-for-montgomery-county/>

**Sat., Nov. 5, 10 am - 3:30 pm, Healthy First Saturday at Port Discovery, Baltimore Inner Harbor:** Start your month off the healthy way at Port Discovery's community health fair featuring Cook and Tell with Wegmans, FIDOS for Freedom, The Baltimore Health Care Access Healthy Corner and more!

**Sat., Nov. 5, 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 reuseable tableware too. RSVP by the Wed. before Bonnie Sorak at [firstsatvegan@yahoo.com](mailto:firstsatvegan@yahoo.com) or call 410-465-0427. Children welcome. Free.

**Sun., Nov. 6, 10 am-3:30 pm, A Day Of Silence: Our Experience With John Of God in La Casa, Brazil, Bethesda:** 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. 4217 East West Hwy Bethesda MD 20814. Red Line accessible, J-2 bus, Parking available out front or by B-CC high school. Sessions close at certain times, please inquire. RSVP: Durga; [shantiyoga2@earthlink.net](mailto:shantiyoga2@earthlink.net); 301-654-4899.

**Sun, Nov 6, 2 pm, Tar Sands Action at the White House, Washington, DC.** Exactly one year before the election, we want to encircle the whole White House to ask President Obama to reject the Keystone XL oil pipeline and live up to his promise to free us from the tyranny of oil. <http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/about/connect/calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2011/11/06/20/tar-sands-action-at-the-white-house/>

**Mon., Nov. 7, CSBA Green Mondays, 6-8:30 pm, Towson, MD:** Join Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance (CSBA) for November Green Mondays at Zia's Cafe, 13 Allegheny Avenue, Towson, MD 21204. Learn about Zia's sustainable mission and food philosophy. Enjoy light fare and network with CSBA and Buy Local members. For more



information, contact Ida Cheinman, [ida@substance1511.com](mailto:ida@substance1511.com). More details and registration at <http://www.csballiance.org/pages/monthlymeeting.html>.

**Mon., Nov. 7, 6-8:30 pm, Local Food Goes Digital, Chef Tony's Restaurant, Bethesda, MD:** As part of Capital Digital Week, join us for cocktails and appetizers to learn how Foodem.com, a web-based marketplace, is connecting local farmers, food distributors and specialty food manufacturers with restaurants, schools, hotels and grocers. For more information, contact Cheryl Kollin, [Cheryl@fullplateventures.com](mailto:Cheryl@fullplateventures.com) 240-491-1958. Details and RSVP at [localfoodmovement.eventbrite.com](http://localfoodmovement.eventbrite.com).

**Mon., Nov. 7, 7-9:30 pm, Shift the Budget Debate – A Prince George's County Town Hall to Fund Our Communities, Prince George's Community College:** Put Wall Street to Work for Main Street; Bring the War Dollars Home. Panelists Congresswoman Donna Edwards, State Senator Paul Pinsky, County Executive Rushern Baker. Presenters Institute for Policy Studies fellow Karen Dolan, Fund Our Communities coordinator Jean Athey. Break-out sessions for audience discussion and action plans. 301 Largo Road, Largo MD in Marlboro Hall, Lecture Room 1097. Free admission. Contact [justpeacepg@earthlink.net](mailto:justpeacepg@earthlink.net) (Lucy Duff) or 301-577-2350, <http://ourfunds.org/>

**Tues., Nov. 8, 7 pm, Bag It – The Movie, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD:** Is your life too plastic? What started as a documentary about plastic bags evolved into a wholesale investigation into plastics and their effect on our waterways, oceans and our bodies. *Bag It* has garnered awards at film festivals across the nation, and we're certain you'll find it compelling. Join the *Bag It* movement and decide how plastic your life will be. Popcorn provided. Ages 12 & up. \$10 (free for members). Visit [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org) for more info.

**Wed, Nov 9, 7pm; Town Hall Forum: MD Offshore Wind Power – Prince George's Co, Temple Hills, MD.** Learn and speak out on an energy proposal that could affect your energy costs, impact local jobs, and affect local air quality. From 6:00pm-7:00pm, attend the "Wind Jobs Potential " expo, featuring local businesses that would create offshore wind energy jobs. Featuring: State Delegates and State Senators (invited). Register Prince Georges: <http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/about/connect/calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2011/11/09/16/town-hall-forum-maryland-offshore-wind-power-works-for-prince-georges-county/>

**Sat., Nov. 12, 9 am-12 pm, Deer Management Seminar, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD:** This seminar, featuring four morning speakers, addresses Maryland's rising white-tailed deer population and its impact on surrounding ecosystems. Topics include Lyme disease, recent population trends, Baltimore County's plans to help sustain the forests, how communities can work together to manage populations, forest regeneration and more. Information will be useful for homeowners, farmers, gardeners, hunters, naturalists and others. \$30 (\$20 for members). Visit [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org) for more info.

**Sat., Nov. 12, 9 am–1 pm, Energy Saturday, Abell:** National Design Center (NDC) is kicking off its energy savers program. Residents will learn do-it-yourself (DIY) methods for weatherizing their homes and can sign up for the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge and Civic Works' Project Light Bulb Free Home Energy Upgrade. Free event includes lunch. If you are a resident of these neighborhoods and would like to participate, contact Ben Jakubowski at 410-233-9686 x105. For more information, see [http://www.ndc-md.org/html/news\\_events.htm](http://www.ndc-md.org/html/news_events.htm).

**Sat., Nov. 12, 10 am, The Howard County Conservancy's Wonder Walk: Native American Heritage: Foods and Culture:** Who were the first people to live on the rolling hills where the Conservancy now lies? What were their lives and culture like? How did they make their living off the land? What did they eat and how did they cook? What did they wear? What were their dwellings like? Conservancy educator, Ann Strozyk, takes you on a wonderful morning of discovery of the county's early roots. Event will be cancelled if it's raining. FREE. [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Sat., Nov. 12, 10 am-3:30 pm, Recycled Treasures, Carrie Murray Nature Center:** Stop by the Nature Center and make your own craft from recycled materials! While you're here, check out all of our resident rescued animals. No pets please. [www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org/registration/](http://www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org/registration/)

**Sun., Nov. 13, 10 am, Food for Thought, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD:** In this program, subtitled *How The Things We Eat Impact Our Bodies And The World*, we will consider connections between food and people. Some topics include diets, factory farming vs. local small farms, food-talk terminology, and how food impacts the environment. We will consider questions concerning how we should care for our food, our bodies and the environment. Feel free to bring your favorite healthy snacks for the end of the program. This course is led by Jen Walker from McDaniel College. Free. More information at [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org).

**Sun, Nov. 13, 2-4 p.m., Nature Preschool Open House, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD:** Discover our unique approach to early childhood education! Parents can join our impassioned teachers in a casual, drop-in setting for some light refreshments and discuss your toddler's educational future at The Nature Preschool. Children are welcome to tag along so they can experience Irvine's learning environment for themselves. All ages. Free. More information at [www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org).

**Tues., Nov. 15, 6:30 pm, Live & Learn: A workshop to connect you to your environment, Enoch Pratt Free Library:** Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge hosts this fun, engaging session on how to save money and energy in your home. Play Energy Habit Bingo, learn how to read your BGE bill and get tools, tips and resources that you can use. Sign up to take the Energy Challenge pledge to get your free energy savers kit. Bring your most recent energy bill and enter to win a special energy savers prize! , 6310 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD. FREE (donations accepted). [www.baltimoregreenworks.com](http://www.baltimoregreenworks.com) or [jen@baltimoregreenworks.com](mailto:jen@baltimoregreenworks.com).

**Wed., Nov. 16, 7-9 pm, Rumi: Walking the Path of Love, location to be announced, Finksburg:** Center for Conscious Living invites you on this 4 week journey of the heart. All are welcome as we explore the mysticism and experience the feelings Rumi's poetry invokes. \$60 includes workbook. Personal journal necessary. Based on book: The Illuminated Rumi, but no book needed. For more info: [iris@sauberaa.com](mailto:iris@sauberaa.com). Details, directions, register [www.ccccl.org](http://www.ccccl.org) or 410-318-8877.

**Wed., Nov. 16, 7:30-9 pm, Holiday Green Designs, Takoma Park, MD:** Monthly meeting of the Takoma Horticultural Club, Holiday Design Using Natural Materials, presented by Anne Brooks, Master Gardener. Open to the public, Free. Heffner Park Community Center, Oswego Avenue. Directions and details at [www.takomahort.org](http://www.takomahort.org).

**Wed., Nov. 16, 8 pm, MVG Webinar on MD Organic Agriculture, Montgomery Victory Garden:** Our first "Know Your MD Farmer" webinar; "Challenges and Opportunities Facing Organic Agriculture in the 21st Century," with MD organic farmers Nick and Sophia Maravell. Click here for more more information and to register <http://tinyurl.com/3jb9csd>; you can also contact [gordon@montgomeryvictorygardens.org](mailto:gordon@montgomeryvictorygardens.org) or visit our website at [www.montgomeryvictorygardens.org](http://www.montgomeryvictorygardens.org)

**Wed, Nov 16, 7pm; Town Hall Forum: MD Offshore Wind Power – Baltimore, Randallstown.** Learn and speak out on an energy proposal that could affect your energy costs, impact local jobs, and affect local air quality. From 6:00pm-7:00pm, attend the "Wind Jobs Potential " expo, featuring local businesses that would create offshore wind energy jobs. Featuring: State Delegates and State Senators (invited). Register Baltimore: <http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/about/connect/calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2011/11/16/30/town-hall-forum-maryland-offshore-wind-power-works-for-baltimore/>

**Wed, Nov 16, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Legislative Preview, Randallstown Community Center, 505 Resource Drive, Randallstown, MD,** 6:30 to 8:30pm, Program starts at 7:30PM. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Dannielle Lipinski at 410.280.9855 x 203 [dlipinski@mdlcv.org](mailto:dlipinski@mdlcv.org)

**Sat., Nov. 19, 6-10 pm, "Pipe Dream" and "Downstream" movies, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Bethesda, MD:** Learn more about why the Keystone XL Pipeline is a bad idea for the U.S. Two movies about tar sands by Leslie Iwerks: "Pipe Dream" and "Downstream," followed by a panel discussion and an opportunity to write Obama about your feelings about why he should not allow the pipeline in the U.S. Obama will decide by the end of 2011. Potluck dinner 6-7 pm. More information at [www.cedarlane.org](http://www.cedarlane.org). 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD. RSVP to: Molly Hauck, [mollyhauck@verizon.net](mailto:mollyhauck@verizon.net) or 301-949-0178.

**Mon., Nov. 21, 8-9:30 pm, Native Azaleas Talk, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD:** Silver Spring Garden Club's monthly meeting. Open to all. Free. Don Hyatt speaks on "America's Treasures: Our Native Azaleas." For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, Washington Gardener Magazine, 301-588-6894, [WGardenermag@aol.com](mailto:WGardenermag@aol.com). Directions at [www.brooksidegardens.org](http://www.brooksidegardens.org).

**Sat., Nov. 26, 1-3 pm, Connecting with Mother Earth in Gratitude, Frederick, MD:** A mini-workshop & book signing with Native American author Evan Pritchard (Native American Stories of the Sacred, No Word for Time). The Dublin Roasters Coffee House, 1780 North Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701. For more information: [marecrom@gmail.com](mailto:marecrom@gmail.com) or [www.dublinroasterscoffee.com](http://www.dublinroasterscoffee.com).

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## DECEMBER PREVIEW

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**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](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**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 reuseable tableware too. RSVP by the Wed. before Bonnie Sorak at [firstsatvegan@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.aggw.org), for questions email us at [aggw\\_inc@yahoo.com](mailto:aggw_inc@yahoo.com), or call Mimi at 301-891-8891. Look on our website for more information as well as more local events.

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### **ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS**

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#### **November 5 is Move Your Money Day – Everywhere!**

The concept is simple. On Saturday, November 5th (or the preceding Friday), close out your account with your commercial bank and open an account with a local credit union where you'll save money and become part owner of your financial institution. A bank is accountable to its shareholders. A credit union is accountable to you and your fellow depositor/owners. For More Info: <http://moveyourmoneyproject.org/> OR <http://moveyourmoneyproject.org/bank-transfer-day-guy-fawkes-day> or on FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=281139538577206&ref=ts>

#### **Howard County Home Energy Audit Program**

Apply for a free full home energy audit at [www.livegreenhoward.com](http://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](mailto:energyaudit@howardcountymd.gov).

#### **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](http://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](mailto:worldofmuse@aol.com)