

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **January 2012**. It is going out to over **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/2012/2012-01.pdf>.

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 YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 92 members. You also 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, Howard County Earth Forum, and Baltimore Green Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits
- February Preview & Beyond

Thanks to this month's editor, **Betty Wells**.

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## **SECOND SUNDAY FORUM**

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**Sunday, January 8**

**6:30 pm–8:30 pm (Video Night)**

### **Nicotine Bees**

Why are the honeybees of the world in big trouble? And why is our food supply in trouble along with the bees? Although bees have been in a slow decline for years, something else started in 2005-2006: a sharp and catastrophic collapse of bee colonies in dozens of countries simultaneously – with the same weird bee behaviors. And it seems that a certain class of pesticides, nicotine-based neonicotinoids, are to blame. If the answer is clear, why is colony collapse still called "mysterious"? Join us to see this compelling documentary!

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.

**PLEASE NOTE: There will be no February Forum in Bethesda**

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## **EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY**

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**Sunday, January 15, 2012**  
**Earth Forum of Howard County**  
**2-4:30 pm**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD.**

### **Congressman John Sarbanes presents The Chesapeake Bay and Your Backyard.**

The Chesapeake Bay is our Nation's largest estuary and a national treasure that is being destroyed daily. How can we help clean up the Bay? Speaker Congressman John Sarbanes, Maryland's 3rd District, is a national leader in protecting and preserving the Bay. He will discuss working to restore the health of the Chesapeake, promote management of storm water runoff, and increase environmental literacy. Come, hear him describe how you can make a difference, starting in your own back yard. Join us.

The Earth Forum is free and open to all. Directions and details at [www.earthforumhc.org](http://www.earthforumhc.org). Contact the Forum by calling the church at 410-730-3545 or emailing [earthforum@firstpreshc.org](mailto:earthforum@firstpreshc.org)

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## **BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM**

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**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](http://www.mpchurch.org/About.htm)

### **Tentative Topic: Peter May from Biohabitats**

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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## **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 23 circles** (266 in total since 2002!). **There are two (2) new circles scheduled this month.** Look for the asterisks (\*) in Baltimore and Howard County.

Below, you will also 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](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org) unless otherwise noted.

### **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](mailto:CirclesCarroll@Simplicity-Matters.org) to join the group for discussions and to watch videos. CS: Carole Flood

### **Howard County**

\***Columbia Jewish Center (CSL) Intro Meeting:** Tues, Jan 3, CS: Bonnie Sorak, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Location? (MF)** CS: Florence Miller, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Location? (CSC)** CS: Florence Miller/Dot Rockstroh, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Location? (WOH)** CS: Judy Burt, [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Location? (tbd)** CS: Robin Seabolt, [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), 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, Cheswolde** (CSC), **Intro Mtg:** Thurs, Jan 5 CS: Lore Rosenthal, 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**

**Greenbelt** (CSC) CS: Lore Rosenthal (will start as soon as there is a critical mass)

**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

### **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.simplicitymatters.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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On November 12th, at Baltimore's Herring Run Park, children, parents and enthusiastic volunteers gathered for the first stand-alone "Docs in the Park" event. GBCAN partnered with the City's Department of Recreation & Parks and Friends of Herring Run Parks to bring pediatricians and families together so that "docs" could model the healthy nature activities they are prescribing for patients. The doctors are leading an effort to encourage healthy, outdoor nature activity in parks. Docs in the Park activities included a nature hike led by the Natural History Society of Maryland, a build-your-own Hula-Hoop station, outdoor yoga with Holistic Life Foundation, a foot ball and Frisbee toss, the Scales & Tails wildlife exhibit from MD Department of Natural Resources, and a physician led stream study to monitor the health of Herring Run Stream. Families sampled food from vegetables grown locally at Real Food Farms, which handed out free bags of turnips, arugula, potatoes, and onions. Visit the GBCAN website to find out more about the children in nature initiative. Docs in the Park at Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park March 31, 2012. To see a full calendar, visit [www.gbcan.groupsite.com](http://www.gbcan.groupsite.com)

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## **January Events**

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**Mon, Jan 2 or 9, 6-9pm; CSBA Green Mondays**, Chesapeake Sustainable Building Alliance. Green Mondays are usually the first Mondays of every month! <http://www.csballiance.org/pages/monthlymeeting.html>

**Tues, Jan 3, Tagalong Time at Irvine Nature Center, 10-11 am, Owings Mills, MD** Toddlers explore nature with their favorite adult during this three-week series (goes until 1/17). We will examine a new nature theme each week such as Animal Hideaways or Snowy Day. Puppet shows, live animal encounters, nature walks and art projects are all part of the fun! Sign up with your little cutie to discover the wonders of wildlife this winter! Ages 2- 3 with adult. \$45 for members, \$60 for non-members. Register by calling Courtney at 443-738-9224. Details at [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org)

**Jan 9-13 – House Parties to discuss overturning “Citizens United”**  
<http://www.united4thepeople.org/action.html>

**Wed, Jan 11, Rally for Offshore Wind Power, 10:00am-12:00pm, Annapolis, MD**  
We will be gathering on Lawyers' Mall to let our elected officials know that Marylanders support offshore wind energy. For more information, contact Joelle Novey, [joelle@gwipl.org](mailto:joelle@gwipl.org), 202-256-1450. Directions and details at [www.gwipl.org](http://www.gwipl.org)

**Wed, Jan 11, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. Juanita Constible from the Climate Reality Project** <http://climateralityproject.org/> For more info, contact Lore, [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org), 301-345-2234.

**Sat, Jan 14, Forest Gardens: Productive Ecosystems at Irvine Nature Center, 10:30 am-12 pm, Owings Mills, MD** A forest garden can produce all kinds of food ranging from perennial herbs, vegetables and salads, to flour for bread foods from chestnuts or acorns, to fruits and nuts. Besides food, forest gardens also produce wood and other fiber for building, crafts and fuel. And they produce this while doing all the other great things ecosystems do, like cooling air, building soil, cleaning water and supporting wildlife. Join instructor Lincoln Smith for an informative presentation (and a short walk to our Woodland Garden) to learn more about this revolutionary gardening experience. Light snacks will be provided. Register by calling Courtney at 443-738-9224. Free for members, \$10 for non-members. Details at [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org)

**Sat. Jan 14, 10am. The Howard County Conservancy's FREE WONDER TALK: Cool Turtles & Snakes in Your Back Yard with Ray Bosmans** What IS that snake? Which turtle is that? Ray Bosmans knows them all. Come see some of his collection of live snakes and turtles – many from your own back yards, some others quite unique. Learn their special habits, amazing adaptations, and interesting stories. You'll see them – and appreciate them – with new eyes in the future! Bosmans is the President of Mid-Atlantic Turtle and Tortoise Society, and Professor Emeritus, U of MD Extension. FREE Program for all ages. [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Sun, Jan 15, 5:30 pm, private home, College Park -.** Solar cooking teacher Louise Meyer will relate her experience teaching 35 Haitian women and 5 Dominican Republic women. Fred Taylor will return to help us revisit our "vision." If you have information about the Clinton Foundation in Haiti, please let us know as we will be focusing on ways to promote sustainable technology in Haiti and the Foundation could likely be a sponsor. Jeffrey Sejour will relate his Christmas experience in Haiti. For more info, contact Carol Nezzo, [carolnezzo@gmail.com](mailto:carolnezzo@gmail.com), (301) 864-5267

**Mon, Jan 16, Gardening Talk, 8-9:30pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD** Silver Spring Garden Club's monthly meeting. Open to all. Free. 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)

**Thurs, Jan 19, 7pm. The Howard County Conservancy shows: Dirt! The Movie.** This film explores our relationship with soil, the living skin of the earth and a resource as critical to life on our planet as air and water. Narrated by Jamie Lee Curtis, this 2009 documentary was an official nominee for the 2009 Sundance Film Festival and won several other awards, including the best documentary award at the 2009 Visions/Voices Environmental Film Festival and the "Best film for our future" award at the 2009 Mendocino Film Festival. Nationally known soil scientist Patrick Drohan will be on hand to introduce the film and lead the audience discussion that follows. Dr. Drohan was instrumental in the creation and design of the Smithsonian's exhibit on soil, the most ambitious exhibition ever dedicated to soil. Refreshments provided. \$10 per family, \$12 after Jan 17th. [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Fri, Jan 20 – National Day of Action to overturn “Citizens United” – OCCUPY THE COURTS**

Public Citizen, Common Cause, People for the American Way, Free Speech for People, Move to Amend  
<http://movetoamend.org/occupythecourts>

**Sat, Jan 21, CCAN's 7th Annual Polar Bear Plunge.** The "Keep Winter Cold" Polar Bear Plunge is an ideal event to draw attention to the climate crisis in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. For seven years, groups of people who care have plunged into cold bodies of water in our region to fight climate change, bring back the Arctic sea ice, and save polar bears. The Polar Bear Plunge is the Chesapeake Climate Action Network's biggest annual fundraising event. The money we raise during the plunge goes to support our programs to combat global warming at the state level in our area.  
<http://www.firstgiving.com/chesapeakeclimate/keepwintercold2012>

**Sat, Jan 21 – National Day of Action to overturn “Citizens United” – OCCUPY THE CORPORATIONS**  
Public Citizen, Common Cause, People for the American Way, Free Speech for People, Move to Amend  
<http://www.citizen.org/occupy-the-corporations> and <http://www.freespeechforpeople.com/node/271>

**Sat, Jan 21, “Changing the Way we Eat” viewing party, 9am-5:30pm, at Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Ave., Bethesda, MD.** Join us for this FREE one-day live event of TEDxManhattan simulcast to worldwide viewing parties. Speakers address the sustainable food movement's work to shift from our current industrially-based food system to one that's healthy, nutritious, and accessible to all. Learn what's happening in our local community and meet others. Co-hosted by Bethesda Green, Full Plate Ventures, and Slow Food DC. Details and RSVP at: <http://bit.ly/rZVJwZ> Cheryl Kollin, Cheryl@fullplateventures.com; 240-491-1958.

**Sat, Jan 21, Reading the Forest at Irvine Nature Center, 10-11:30 am, Owings Mills, MD** Forests are dynamic ecosystems that provide many benefits. They are also fascinating places to explore. By learning how to read and interpret the forest community, you can uncover many hidden stories about its history, health, problems and the status of its current inhabitants. Explore the basics of Forest Forensics and how to decipher features and patterns such as witches brooms, wolf trees, nurse logs, frost cracks and more. This program is led by Rob Mardiney. Register by calling Courtney at 443-738-9224. Free for members, \$10 for non-members. Details at [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org)

**Sat, Jan 21, Justice for the Mountains: Connecting Our Faith to Central Appalachia, 1-8 pm, Washington, DC** Learn about mountaintop removal from the Central Appalachian citizens struggling to end it and stay for a screening of the award winning film The Last Mountain. The Festival Center, 1640 Columbia Rd. NW. For more information, contact Mike Little, mike@faithandmoneynetwork.org, 202-469-8512. Directions and details at [faithandmoneynetwork.org](http://faithandmoneynetwork.org)

**Sun, Jan 22, Baltimore Green Forum, 4-6 pm, Towson, MD** The purpose of the BGF is to seek to improve the quality of life in the greater Baltimore area. For more information, contact BGF, [baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com), 301-345-2234. Directions and details at [www.baltimoregreenforum.org](http://www.baltimoregreenforum.org)

**Tues, Jan 24, Volunteer Naturalist Training at Irvine Nature Center, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD** Maple sugar making has been an early spring activity for centuries. This 2-session course will teach you everything you need to lead preschool and elementary-aged students on maple sugaring school field trips at Irvine. Learn how to recognize maple trees in winter, how to tap the trees to collect the sap, and how to boil down the sap down into maple syrup and candy. We will also cover teaching techniques and other signs of winter. Register by calling Courtney at 443-738-9224. FREE. Details at [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org)

**Tues, Jan 24, 5 pm, Annual Environmental Legislative Summit; Annapolis, MD.** The 18th Annual CCE Legislative Summit in Annapolis- hear from top legislative leaders and advocates about the environmental priorities for the 2012 General Assembly Session. 2012 will be a critical year for clean air and water so we need you there. Do your part for the environment and our communities! Join us and lobby for strong environmental policy.; <http://www.mdclc.org/calendar/summit>

**Sat, Jan 28, Washington Gardener Magazine SEED Exchange in MD, 12:30-4:00 pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD** Seed Exchange attendees trade seeds, exchange planting tips, hear expert speakers, and collect goody bags full of gardening treats. Nominal fee to attend. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, [WGardenermag@aol.com](mailto:WGardenermag@aol.com). Directions at [www.brooksidegardens.org](http://www.brooksidegardens.org) and details at [www.WashingtonGardener.com](http://www.WashingtonGardener.com).

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### **Action Opportunities and Tidbits**

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**On Purpose Networking for Women** holds monthly meetings in Annapolis, Bel Air, Bowie, Columbia, Derwood, Frederick, Lutherville and Pikesville MD and Arlington VA. For more information go to [www.GinnyRobertson.com](http://www.GinnyRobertson.com) and click on Upcoming Events.

**A Course in Miracles Book Study Group**, Dates to be firmed up, starting in February during daytime hours, Westminster, MD. This will be hosted by the Center for Conscious Living. FREE and open to all with an interest. Contact: Rita 443-293-7300 or Center office 410-318-8877 to express your interest and we will advise when it is due to start. Website: [www.ccccl.org](http://www.ccccl.org) email: iris@

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### **FEBRUARY PREVIEW AND BEYOND**

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**Sat, Feb 4, Washington Gardener Magazine SEED Exchange in VA, 12:30-4:00 pm, Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA** Seed Exchange attendees trade seeds, exchange planting tips, hear expert speakers, and collect goody bags full of gardening treats, Nominal fee to attend. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, [WGardenermag@aol.com](mailto:WGardenermag@aol.com). Directions at [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org) and details at [www.WashingtonGardener.com](http://www.WashingtonGardener.com).

**Sat, Feb 18 OR Sun, Feb 19, Getting Out of Your Own Way in Your Personal Life with Ginny Robertson, 10am-5pm, Lutherville, MD.** Discover what is important to you, what you really want, what may be stopping you from having it and how to bring it into your life. Pay at the end based on value received and ability to pay. To register or for more information go to [www.GinnyRobertson.com](http://www.GinnyRobertson.com) and click on Upcoming Events FEB.

**Thurs, Feb 23, 2012 GBCAN Conference, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m + networking opportunities until 6:00 p.m., Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, MD 21209**

The conference, sponsored by GBCAN - the Greater Baltimore Children and Nature Collaborative, hopes to convene adult and youth leaders across the sectors of education, health, business, faith and the arts for a discussion and workshops about connecting youth to nature in local parks, schoolyards, and community greenspaces. Outcomes of the conference will include specific actions to increase outreach to teachers, families, childcare and health providers about where and how to have meaningful and engaging nature experiences. The conference is free and open to the public, however registration is required. **Space is limited and registration is first come, first served. Fill out the online form to register.** We will email you a confirmation within 2 business days. If all spots are full, we will place you on the waiting list. To register or organizations or individuals wishing to present a workshop at the conference should complete the form at: Register at <http://www.parksandpeople.org/play/greater-baltimore-children-and/2012-gbcan-conference/>

**Sat, Feb 25 OR Sun, Feb 26, Getting Out of Your Own Way in Your Business or Career with Ginny Robertson, 10am-5pm, Lutherville, MD.** Remember why you are in your business or career. Are you where you thought you would be? Discover what you really want and what may be stopping you from having it. To register or for more information go to [www.GinnyRobertson.com](http://www.GinnyRobertson.com) and click on Upcoming Events FEB.

**Sat, Mar 17, Marianne Williamson sponsored by Be The Change Events, 9:00-5:00pm, College Park, MD** Marianne Williamson will speak for 4 hours along with Steve Sisgold and music by Bob Sima. The cost is \$79 - \$119 per person. The event is at UMUC, 3501 University Blvd East, Hyattsville, MD 20783. Contact Janice Rosenzweig [443-465-4392](tel:443-465-4392), [heavenisathome@gmail.com](mailto:heavenisathome@gmail.com) or [www.BeTheChangeEvents.com](http://www.BeTheChangeEvents.com)