

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **November 2012**. It is going out to more than **1,565 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/2012/2012-11.pdf>.

In case you are not aware, **SMEI is now on Facebook! Please "like" us:** <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Simplicity-Matters-Earth-Institute/130611396993657> Please start posting articles, thoughts, and questions there, to start some online dialogue. Consider it the SMEI "blog"!

We also have a Yahooogroup, called "DCMetroSimplifiers," with about 270 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 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:

- 1) Second Sunday Forum, Earth Forum of Howard County, Baltimore Green Forum
- 2) Discussion Circle Update
- 3) Community Events
- 4) Action Opportunities & Tidbits
- 5) December Preview & Beyond

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

Thanks also to Lisa Ferretto, for letting us borrow many of the event listings from **Green Events Baltimore**, <http://greeneventsaltimore.com/>

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, November 11, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm

"Money and Life" With Susan & Chris Belchamber leading the discussion

In your heart, you sense that we need a radically new conversation about money, don't you? The powerful new documentary, "Money and Life," addresses many of the cutting edge ideas surrounding what is becoming known as "the New Economy." Come explore perspectives on the money system and examine assumptions and beliefs about how we exchange and use money. We'll watch a number of out-takes from the film and discuss how we can begin to reclaim what we truly value. Note: You can see "Money and Life" in its entirety at the DC-area screening taking place on Nov 8; more info at <http://www.moneyandlife-dcmetro.org/>.

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.

Earth Forum of Howard County

Sunday, November 18, 2012

2 pm–4:30 pm

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD.

“Water for Food” presented by Dr. Joseph T. Spence, Director of the Beltsville Area, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, MD.

Come and learn how agricultural research is addressing water problems related to climate change, health, and population growth while providing a sustainable, safe, and nutritious food supply. Free. Refreshments. Open to all.

For more information: e-mail earthforum@firstpreshc.org, call 410-730-3545, or check www.earthforumhc.org.

The Baltimore Green Forum

The Baltimore Green Forum

Sunday, November 25, 2012

4-5:30 pm (with optional break-out groups from 5:30-6:30 pm)

(the fourth Sunday of the month)

MD Presbyterian Church,

1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286

www.mpchurch.org/About.htm

Topic: Will Candler on Climate Change

For updated program info, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234, or check www.baltimoregreenforum.org.

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

NWEI Discussion Guides: (PBF) Powering a Bright Future, (HFC) Hungry for Change, (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/Resilience Circle, (WOE) World on the Edge by Lester Brown, (SE) Sacred Economics by Charles Eisenstein

IMPORTANT NOTE: Effective Oct 1, 2012 NWEI discussion circle guides went up to \$25 plus s/h (except a few rare exceptions). 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 12 circles (278 total circles since 2002!). The topics have varied between Choices for Sustainable Living, Common Security Club, World on the Edge, World of Health, Menu for the Future, Hungry for Change, and Sacred Economics **There are five new circles scheduled this month, three in Howard County, one in Prince Georges County, one in Virginia, all marked with an asterisk (*)**

Below, you will also see listed some of the “potential” circles in the works for later this fall. 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.

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

* **Oakland Manor** (DSOP) Nov 7-Dec 12, 6:30-8:30 pm, CS: Florence Miller, fam57@verizon.net

* **Sandy Spring Friends** (VS) Next Session: Sun, Nov 11, 10:10 am, CS: Charlie Goedeke, tooldude@me.com (not too late to join)

* **Columbia Jewish Center** (MF) First Session: Sun, Nov 19, 9 am, CS: Bonnie Sorak, goecsa@yahoo.com

Kittamaqundi Community Church, Olivers Carriage House (CSC) Oct/Nov (tbd) CS: Florence Miller hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Robinson Nature Center (tbd) CS: Peggy Clark, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Harpers Choice Village Center (tbd), CS: Susie Jordan, 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 “Matchmaker” Circle (tbd, as soon as we get a critical mass), CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Prince Georges County

***College Park, Old Parish House** (VS) Intro Meeting, Wed, Nov 14, 7 CS: Carol Nezzo/Mary Jane Boatman, mjb180@comcast.net

Mt. Rainier (CSC) Fall 2012 (tbd) CS: Sam Williams, concisewilliams@gmail.com

Greenbelt (WOE) Will start as soon as there is a critical mass CS: Lore Rosenthal

Paint Branch UU Church (VS), Will start as soon as there is a critical mass. CS: Raman Pathik

Paint Branch UU Church (CSC), Will start as soon as there is a critical mass CS: Marj Donn

Montgomery County

Choices for Sustainable Living This newly revised discussion circle has several of us eager to put together a group. Our own Lena Rotenberg had a hand in developing it. We probably will start in January, so contact Marneyb@earthlink.net to be included.

Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability Discussion Circle, (will start as soon as there is a critical mass). A six-week discussion circle using the Northwest Earth Institute's curriculum. Contact Marney marneyb@earthlink.net (301) 652-0492 for more information. Learn more about this curriculum at http://www.nwei.org/discussion_courses/course-offerings/hungry-for-change-food-ethics-and-sustainability

Takoma Park (CSC) CS: Bruce Baker, email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

Virginia

***Hungry for Change: Food Ethics and Sustainability**. This Northwest Earth Institute discussion group is forming at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington on the second Tuesdays starting on November 13 at 7:30 P.M. The discussion circle challenges participants to examine their roles not only as consumers of food, but also as creators of food, of systems and of the world we all live in. Each of the six sessions includes reading, short assignments, accompanying discussion questions, and a putting it into practice list of suggested actions is included. Participants are encouraged to take a role in facilitating the discussion. Fee for the book is \$25 or \$26. Overall facilitator is Mary Pike. Please register at www.uucava.org under programs, adult education. Please also let Mary Pike, group facilitator know so that books can be ordered, marylpva@gmail.com

Washington, DC,

Dupont Circle (CSC) CS: Rob Thomason, email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

Adams Morgan (CSC) CS: Laura Gubisch, email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

We have just learned of a new group in DC also starting circles. Visit www.janyocommunity.com or <http://thejanyocommunity.wordpress.com/course/> to learn more.

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 spring, 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, Nov 1, 2 pm–3pm, Practice Green Healthcare Design & Construction Series, A Practical Approach to Reducing Water Consumption by 50 Percent, Webinar: Focus on the process of what is involved in conducting a water-usage audit, discussion of the various solutions and the economics and sustainability impacts of these solutions. For more information: www.practicegreenhealth.org/webinars/green-design-construction-series-practical-approach-reducing-water-consumption-50.

Thurs, Nov 1, 6 pm–8 pm, Baltimore Architecture Foundation's Annual Robert E. Lewis Memorial Lecture, Baltimore: Alexander Garvin, Yale professor and author of *American City: What Works, What Doesn't* will present on open spaces and park lands in urban settings. Location: Morgan State University, 1700 East Cold Spring Lane, 21251. More at www.aiabalt.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=114#Garvin.

Fri, Nov 2–Sun., Nov 4, League Cycling Instructor (LCI) Training, Baltimore: Bike Maryland partners with the League of American Bicyclists to host the upcoming LCI training. Receive certification to teach Smart Cycling to children as well as adults. The League fee is \$300. For more information: call 202-822-1333 or email education@bikeleague.org.

Fri, Nov 2, 2 pm–3pm, Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education's (CUERE) Free Fall 2012 Seminar Series, Baltimore: Dr. Chris Boone, School of Sustainability, Arizona State University presents "Urban Sustainability and Environmental Justice in Baltimore." No registration. Technology Research Center (TRC), Room 206 UMBC. Visitor parking passes for the TRC lot may be purchased for \$4 in the CUERE office in TRC 102/105 shortly before seminar. www.umbc.edu/cuere/seminarSeries.html

Sat, Nov 3–Sat, Dec 1, 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m., Irvine Junior Naturalists, Owings Mills: Every other Saturday this fall, come to Irvine Nature Center for a new nature adventure. Activities include hiking, arts and crafts, keeping a nature journal, and being part of citizen-science projects. If your child (aged 6-10) loves the outdoors, this is the program for them, and a great way to connect with new friends. Please call 443-738-9224 to pre-register as soon as possible. If programs fill, we will not be able to accept walk-ins. Location: 1201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117, www.explorenature.org/index.php

Sat, Nov 3, 9 am–12 pm, Volunteer with Audubon's Garden Team, Baltimore: Meet at the Audubon wetland garden, northwest of the boat lake in Patterson Park, and flex your green thumbs while helping us take care of native plant gardens. We need volunteers to make sure our gardens remain healthy habitats for the park's birds, bees, and butterflies. Practice gardening techniques, learn identification skills, and spend a nice morning outdoors with friends and family. This month, we are expanding our wetland garden by planting more plants for local critters. We're happy to sign off community service hours for helpful students. Contact 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. More information at <http://pattersonpark.audubon.org/>.

Sat, Nov 3, 2pm – 4pm, All Our Relations Book Launch Party for Messages from Mother.... Earth Mother, Carrie Murray Nature Center, <http://www.carriemurraynaturecenter.org/> (in Leakin Park near Woodlawn) 1901 Ridgetop Road Baltimore, MD 21207
Come join the owls, hawks, turtles, spiders and other beautiful winged and slithering ones in heralding the release of *Messages from Mother.... Earth Mother*. Mare Cromwell will share about the inspiration behind this book along with reading from one or two of the Messages. A book signing will follow. www.messagesfrommother.org

Sat, Nov 3, 8:30 am–Nov 4, 5:30 pm, Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course, Session 3—Urban Permaculture, Social & Economic Permaculture, Baltimore: Permaculture (i.e., permanent culture)—a system of designing ecologically inspired landscapes that integrate food production with energy, shelter and water. Location: 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, Baltimore, MD 21234. For more information: www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course.

Sat, Nov 3, 11:30 am–1 pm, MD Hospitals and Environmental Sustainability, Baltimore: Green Healthcare Facilities University of Baltimore Student Center, Bogomolny Room, 5th Floor, 21 W. Mount Royal Avenue Baltimore, MD 21201. <http://scpp.ubalt.edu/rosenberg2013.htm>

Sun, Nov 4, 10 am-5:30 pm, Community Forklift's Green Gift Fair Kickoff! 4671 Tanglewood Drive, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781

From November 1st-December 30th at Community Forklift, find beautiful gifts that have been lovingly made by artists and crafters, many using reclaimed materials! Join us for our Kickoff event, where we'll be spinning tunes and grilling all afternoon! On weekends throughout November-December, we'll also be having live concerts and demonstrations by the artisans, so check our website/blog calendar regularly for more special events - www.CommunityForklift.com . ALSO! If you are a musician or artisan, interested in playing music, or exhibiting or consigning your work here during the holidays, please contact Bea@CommunityForklift.com ASAP to get an application!

Sun, Nov 4, 11 and 18, 1 pm–4:30 pm, Irvine Botanical Art Classes, Owings Mills: Learn about botany as you practice traditional watercolor techniques to render detailed drawings of native plants. Instructor Molly O. Hoopes, a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists, will lead the classes. Materials' list provided. Location: 1201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. For cost and more information, see <http://explorenature.org/index.php>.

Mon, Nov 5, 9 am–3 pm, Irvine Day-Off Camp: Professional Development, Owings Mills: No school or plans today? Explore outdoors with us instead! We'll search under logs and learn about different animal habitats. Expect trail walks, nature games, crafts, stories, animal encounters and more. Children should wear nature-friendly clothing and bring a lunch. Ages 6-10. After-care available until 6 p.m. for additional fee. Irvine Nature Center 1201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. For more information, or to register, download our Day-Off Camp flyer at www.explorenature.org/index.php. Contact : 443-738-9224.

Tues, Nov 6, 8 am–3 pm, Stormwater Management Seminar, Howard County, MD: A joint event with Robinson Nature Center, Howard County Office of Sustainability and USGBC MD. If you are a local architect, engineer, landscape architect, contractor or commercial building manager, this seminar presents how stormwater management impacts future requests from your clients and creates new demand for stormwater management features, designs and improvement. www.co.ho.md.us/RNCstormwater.htm

Wed, Nov 7, Sustainable DC Meeting @ All Souls UU, 6:30-8:30 pm, Washington, DC:

We will present its review and analysis of the recommendations and explain the method used in the review. Additionally, they will share best practices in sustainability from around the globe and an overview of existing sustainability efforts within District government. After the formal presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to provide input on the analysis. For more info, contact: sustainable.future@dc.gov.

Wed, Nov 7, Rainwater Harvesting Pond Build Event, Baltimore: This event will include a hands-on installation of a 3,000 gallon RainXchange rainwater harvesting system. Location: Dundalk Community College in Baltimore County. To register, contact Andy at andydonelson@turf-equipment.com.

Weds, Nov 7, Nov 14, and Nov 28, 10 am–11:15 am, Irvine Tagalong Time, Owings Mills: Toddlers (ages 2-3 with adult) explore nature with their favorite adult during this three-week series with a new theme each week as the seasons change. \$30 members, \$45 non-members. Register by calling 443-738-9224. We do sell out, so preregistration is encouraged. Location: Irvine Nature Center 1201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117 (map), www.explorenature.org/index.php

Wed, Nov 7, 1 pm–2:30 pm, What Happens When Green Becomes Code? Interactive Webinar: WPL Publishing Co., Inc., publisher of Construction Claims Advisor and ConstructionPro Network, announces this valuable interactive webinar. For more, check www.constructionpronet.com/.

Wed, Nov 7, 2 pm–3 pm, Integrated School Health Tools for Districts, Webinar: Learn how your school or school district can implement a sustainable and comprehensive environmental health program that addresses issues such as cleaning practices, mold, chemical management, ventilation, and pest control. www.epa.gov/schools/webinars.html

Wed, Nov 7, and Thurs, Nov 8, Wildlife Habitat Council Annual Symposium on Working for a Greener World, Baltimore: Activities focus on education, collaboration and celebration. We will explore the continuing challenges our member companies face in protecting biodiversity and engaging communities while competing in a difficult economic climate. www.wildlifehc.org/whcevents/annual-symposium/

Wed, Nov 7, 14 and 28, 10 am–11:15 am, Irvine Tagalong Time, Owings Mills: Toddlers explore nature with their favorite adult during this three-week series. We will examine a new theme each week as the seasons change before our eyes. Live animal encounters, nature walks and art projects are all part of the fun! Ages 2–3 (with adult). \$30 members, \$45 non-members. To register, call 443-738-9224. We do sell out, so preregistration is encouraged for all programs. Location: Irvine Nature Center 1201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. <http://explorenature.org/index.php>

Wed, Nov 7, 12-1pm, EE Noon: Congregations and Energy Efficiency, Alliance to Save Energy Headquarters, 1850 M St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036

Religious organizations across the nation have the opportunity to cut their energy costs by up to 30% through Energy Star for Congregations program. Faith communities can also be valued partners in support of raising awareness about the importance of energy efficiency. Join the Alliance to Save Energy as Jerry Lawson, National Manager of the Energy Star Small Business and Congregation Programs, Danielle Deane, Director, Energy and Environment Program Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and Reverend Wendell Christopher, Pastor of Pilgrim A M E Church, join us to explore how Congregations can both benefit from energy efficiency retrofits through the Energy Star program, and play a role in highlighting the need for energy efficiency policies as part of solving our nation's energy challenges.

Register: <http://engage.ase.org/site/Calendar/361410703?view=Detail&id=101161>

*Please register by November 5 as space is limited. Additionally, due to the increasing popularity of these events, remote participation is limited to Alliance Associate members, government, and nonprofit participants.

Thurs, Nov 8, 6:30–9:30 pm, the DC-area screening of "Money and Life," Alexandria, VA: Join us for this one-night film event of a profoundly important new documentary detailing the cutting edge ideas around the New Economy! Become part of a new, on-going local conversation about the future of money, exchange, and how we find the means to afford what we most value in life. Meet the film maker, Katie Teague, and be part of a community discussion following the film. The comfortable venue, the Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria, has easy Metro access and parking. Ticket information, trailers and further details at: <http://www.moneyandlife-dcmetro.org/>.

Thurs, Nov 8, 4th Annual Workshop on Sustaining Nature in an Urbanizing Landscape, Laurel, MD: The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and its partners, the Baltimore-Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship, have some great speakers lined up to explore how nature, growth and the built environment can coexist in ways that benefit us all. Location: Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor's Center, Laurel, MD: Registration (\$25). www.mdflora.org/conferences.html?eventId=562082&EventViewMode=EventDetails

Thurs, Nov 8, 3 pm–4 pm, Healthy Food in Health Care (HFHC), Webinar: Health Care Without Harm is launching its HFHC webinars to support hospitals in building healthy and sustainable food services. In the first three webinars, hospitals will learn about promoting healthy beverage options, balancing menus for meat reduction, and increasing local and sustainable food purchasing. www.healthyfoodinhealthcare.org/

Thurs, Nov 8, Fixing the Future Documentary Screening, 7:00-10:00 pm at the Creative Alliance, 3134 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21224

David Brancaccio (of public radio's Marketplace and NOW on PBS) visits people and organizations across America attempting a revolution: reinventing the American economy. Baltimore independent businesses and our local money - the BNote - are highlighted as some of the most effective and innovative approaches being used across the country to create jobs and build local prosperity. \$10 admission. Complimentary tasting by Zeke's coffee and light fare provided. Representatives from the Baltimore Time Bank, Red Emma's (a worker collective), Baltimore Green Works and the Baltimore Green Currency Association will be on hand to answer questions about how you can get involved in local efforts to create a strong and sustainable economy. For tickets: www.creativealliance.org/buy-tickets or at the front desk in advance. For more information, contact the Creative Alliance at info@creativealliance.org or 410-276-1651. Directions and details at baltimoregreencurrency.org.

Thurs, Nov 8, 6 pm–8:30, Free Soil Remediation Workshop, Washington, DC:

Josh Singer (Master Gardener, 2011) and Bahiyah Parks will provide an overview of ever wanted to know about your soil--from soil types to soil remediation with composting. The evening will end with a live demonstration of vermiculture (composting with worms). Location: UDC - Van Ness Campus, 4200 Connecticut Ave., NW, Building 41, Room A03, Wash, DC 20008. To register, contact Mary Farrah, Extension Agent, Urban Gardening & Forestry Outreach at mfarrah@udc.edu.

Fri, Nov 9, 2 pm–3 pm, CUERE's Fall 2012 Seminar Series, Baltimore: Dr. Karina V.R. Schäfer, Department of Biological Sciences, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ, will present "Canopy Carbon Net Assimilation of an Urban, Naturally Assembled Brownfield Forest." Location: Technology Research Center, Room 206 UMBC. Free and no registration. Visitor parking passes for the TRC lot may be purchased for \$4 in the CUERE office in TRC 102/105 shortly before seminar. www.umbc.edu/cuere/seminarSeries.html

Fri, Nov 9, 8 am–9:30 am, Chesapeake Audubon Society Urban Bird Watching, Baltimore: Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park, and learn about birds that arrive in Maryland in the fall! If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email. No RSVP required for this free event. For more information, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. www.pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Sat, Nov 10, 1 pm–5 pm, Free Backyard Habitat Workshop, Washington, DC: Spend an afternoon with Damien Ossi (District Department of the Environment) and Karen Mullin (Maryland Audubon Society) learning about the importance of using native plants in the landscape to increase biodiversity and get your hands dirty while we install a demonstration of native plant landscaping. Info materials and "starter kits" included. Location: UDC - Van Ness Campus, 4200 Connecticut Ave., NW, Building 41, Room A03, Wash, DC 20008. To register, contact Mary Farrah, Extension Agent, Urban Gardening & Forestry Outreach at mfarrah@udc.edu).

Sat, Nov 10, 9 am–1pm, A Good Food Health Fair, Baltimore: Baltimore Food & Faith is partnering with the American Diabetes Association to co-host O Taste and See: A Good Food Health Fair. The event will feature free health screenings, cooking demonstrations, yoga sessions, a documentary film screening about Baltimore's food environment, and learning sessions. Location: Faith Presbyterian Church, 5400 Loch Raven Blvd. Please RSVP by November 2 to <http://tinyurl.com/RSVPgoodfoodhealthfair>. www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-a-livable-future/news_events/events/

Sat, Nov 10, 10 am–12 pm, Free Irvine Project FeederWatch Training, Owings Mills:

In this citizen science project, you can collect data to send to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Irvine is looking for volunteers to help us with this long-running conservation project. Participate in the project as part of Irvine's volunteer team or record data from your own backyard bird feeders. Come to Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117, for the training and find out how you can help! Ages 7 & up (with adult). <http://explorenature.org/index.php>

Sat, Nov 10, 9am to 12pm: Community Tree Planting, Parkville/Baltimore MD

Volunteers are greatly needed to help plant trees on Saturday, November 10th from 9am to 12pm at White Oak/Oakleigh Elementary School (1900 White Oak Ave, Baltimore MD 21234). Please register online at <http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/fall-tree-planting/> or by emailing Debra at volunteer@bluewaterbaltimore.org. Gloves and tools provided; bring water and wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty. Groups welcome!

Tues, Nov 13, Hungry for Change Discussion Circle, starting in Arlington, VA. (see Circle Report, above)

Tues, Nov 13, 6 pm–8:30 pm, Design Conversations #48: Streets for Cyclists, Baltimore: Monthly series of free events (always on the first Tuesday of the month) loosely coordinated by a group of volunteers, focusing on rotating topics that are timely and engaging. Location: Windup Space, 10 W North Ave. Cash bar, AV hookup available for spontaneous presentations! <http://dcenterbaltimore.tumblr.com/designconversations>; twitter.com/dcenterbaltimore; facebook.com/groups/dcenterbaltimore; www.dcenterbaltimore.com/

Wed, Nov 14, 7 pm–9:30 pm, Winter Garden Prep Talk and Bulb Sale, Takoma Park: At this free event, Kathy Jentz, Editor/Publisher, Washington Gardener Magazine, will discuss how to put your garden to bed for winter, how to get the most out of mosquito-free, cool gardening days, and how to get a head start on next spring's

growing season. The bulb sale will take place before and after the talk. Exact change and checks only; Most bulb packs are \$4 or \$5 each. Location: Takoma Park Community Center, Azalea Room, 7500 Maple Ave, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Please bring a snack to share at the refreshments table and a name tag.

Wed, Nov 14, 7:30 am–4 pm, 5th Annual Conference, Environmental Excellence in Health Care: Innovations and Collaborations, Baltimore: Regional and national health care professionals, environmental industry experts, and educators come together for learning and networking event designed to showcase innovative and collaborative opportunities and successes. The executive leadership panel, keynote address, and smaller breakout sessions will explore how facilities are working across departments and with community partners, product and service providers, and regulatory agencies to develop, implement, and assess environmental sustainability programs. Location: University of Maryland School of Nursing 655 W. Lombard Street Baltimore, MD 21201.

www.nursing.umaryland.edu/events/environmental/

Wed, Nov 14, 12:30 pm–1:30 pm, Smart Growth: Original Green, Washington, DC: Steve Mouzon, principal of Mouzon Design, presents the concept of Original Green, emphasizing sustainable places that are nourishable, accessible, and serviceable, with buildings that are durable, flexible, and frugal. Free but pre-registration is required. Walk-in registration based on availability. Location: National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. www.nbm.org/programs-lectures/programs/2012-programs/November-2012/original-green.html

Thurs, Nov 15, 12 pm–1 pm, Performing Energy Audits, Webinar: Join us for a series of Potomac Edison Trade Ally educational webinars. Topics include new enhancements to the Potomac Edison energy-efficiency incentive programs and cash incentives available for commercial or industrial energy-efficiency projects. Email to energysaveMD@saic.com or check www.energysaveMD.com.

Thurs, Nov 15, 6:30pm - 7:30pm, Messages from Mother.... Earth Mother - Author Event breathe books, llc <http://www.breathebooks.com/> , 810 W 36th Street "The Avenue" in Hampden Baltimore, MD 21211 410-235-READ (7323)

Mare will share about how the book was written and discuss some of the wisdom within it, along with read an excerpt or two. There will be a book signing following.

Fri, Nov 16, 2 pm–3 pm, CUERE's Free Fall 2012 Seminar Series, Baltimore:

Liz Barry, Urban Environment, Public Laboratory, NY, "Civic Science for Collaborative Cities": Location: Technology Research Center, Room 206 UMBC. No registration required. Visitor parking passes for the TRC lot may be purchased for \$4 in the CUERE office in TRC 102/105 shortly before seminar.

www.umbc.edu/cuere/seminarSeries.html

Fri, Nov 16, 10:30 am–11:30 am, and Sun., Nov 18, 10 am–11 am, Audubon Tiny Tots Safari, Baltimore: Tiny Tots Safari in Patterson Park–Camouflage! Meet at the picnic tables on the northeast shore of the Boat Lake. Tiny Tots is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make a craft, play a game, and read a story. This month, we will see how animals blend in with their environment, and how camouflage is important for predators and prey! Please register at least 2 days before the program by contacting the Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. Ages 2-5 with an adult. \$5 suggested donation per child. <http://pattersonpark.audubon.org/>

Sat, Nov 17, 9am to 12pm: Better Waterways Fall Cleanup, Baltimore MD

Join Blue Water Baltimore for the Better Waterways Fall Stream Cleanup on Saturday, November 17th from 9am to 12pm. We will be working at 6+ sites citywide (alternate locations available Saturday, November 10th and Sunday, November 18th). For details or to find your closest stream cleanup location, please contact Debra at volunteer@bluewaterbaltimore.org. Gloves and bags provided; bring water and wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty. Groups welcome!

Sat, Nov 17, 9:30 am–12 pm, Irvine Junior Naturalists, Owings Mills: New nature adventure every other Saturday includes hiking, arts and crafts, keeping a nature journal, and being part of citizen science projects. If your child (aged 6-10) loves the outdoors, this is the program for them! Please call to pre-register as soon as possible! Programs may fill, in which case, we will not be able to accept walk-ins. Location: Irvine Nature Center,

1201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Contact 443-738-9224 or check www.explorenature.org/index.php.

Sat, Nov 17, 6 pm–9 pm, Interfaith Power & Light's Baltimore Launch Event, Baltimore: Join people from across Baltimore's diverse religious communities for an evening of fellowship and a renewing of our shared commitment to care for the environment. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, is a climate scientist at Texas Tech University and an expert reviewer for the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. For more information, contact Josef, program@gwipl.org, 202-256-1450. Directions and details at www.mdipl.org.

Sun, Nov 18, 1 pm, Do the Math Tour Comes to Town, Washington, DC:
<http://us.math.350.org/>. Bill McKibben and 350.org are hitting the road to jumpstart the next phase of the climate movement, and they'll be in Washington, DC, on Sunday, November 18. For more information, check <http://www.350.org/>.

Sun, Nov 18, 12pm - 3pm, A Drumming and Limericks Workshop for Fun! At a private home east of Frederick, MD

Directions will be provided upon registration.

Co-Led with Leo Béle, a master drummer from the Ivory Coast, this will be a fun early Sunday afternoon of play with words and beat and drums - to bring out the silliness and joy of drumming and limericks.

Sliding Scale \$25 - \$35 (plus Eventbrite fees). To register, go to <http://drumandlimericks.eventbrite.com>.

Sun, Nov 18, 7 pm, screening of Carbon Nation, Washington Ethical Society

This 2010 documentary by Director Peter Byck is an optimistic, non-preachy film that shows how tackling climate change boosts the economy, increases national and energy security, and promotes a clean environment. A discussion will follow the screening. Free, \$5 donation suggested. Refreshments provided. WES is at 7750 16th St., near the intersection with Kalmia Road, less than one mile from the Silver Spring Metro. Park on 16th Street, or take the S4 bus to the Kalmia Road stop. For more information, contact Rich Reis at rreis@verizon.net or Carol Rawie at kenrawie@erols.com.

Mon, Nov 19, 8 pm, Smithsonian Gardens Talk, Silver Spring: Meet the author of *Guide to Smithsonian Gardens* and *Dying for the Christmas Rose*, Carole Ottesen who began writing about gardens to support her plant habit. Location: Brookside Gardens Visitors Center, 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD. Post-talk meeting refreshments are provided by Silver Spring Garden Club members. FREE and open to the public.

Mon, Nov 19, 9 am–3 pm, Irvine Day Off Camp: School Conferences, Owings Mills: No school or plans today? Explore outdoors with us instead! We'll search under logs and learn about different animal habitats. Expect trail walks, nature games, crafts, stories, animal encounters and more. Children (ages 6–10) should wear nature-friendly clothing and bring a lunch. After-care available until 6 pm for additional fee. Location: Irvine Nature Center 1201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. For more information, or to register, download our Day Off Camp flyer. Contact 443-738-9224. Fees: \$50 members, \$60 non-members. <http://explorenature.org/index.php>

Tues, Nov 20, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. Lore Rosenthal and Brother Henry: "Quantum Spirituality & Responses to 2012 and the Great Turning" For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Thurs, Nov 22, 10 am–10:45 am, Irvine Outdoor Classroom Adventures, Owings Mills: Bring your toddler to get a hands-on lesson in nature! Lessons are new each week and are taught by one of our naturalists. Pre-K to 1st grade (with adult). Free for members, \$10 non-members. Location: Irvine Nature Center, 1201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. www.explorenature.org/index.php

Sat, Nov 24, 8 am–9:30 am, Audubon Urban Bird Watching, Patterson Park, Baltimore: Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of the park. Bring the family to learn about birds that arrive in Maryland in the fall from Audubon's conservation director. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email. No RSVP required for this free event. Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com.
www.pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Sun, Nov 25, 1 pm–2:30 pm, Irvine Tree of Thanks, Owings Mills: Learn how early Americans and Native Americans lived off the land and gave thanks for what the planet provides. We will read *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein and make a "Tree of Thanks" to take home. Ages 5 and up. Location: Irvine Nature Center 1201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117. www.explorenature.org/index.php

Tues, Nov 27, 4 pm–5 pm, Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meetings, Baltimore: These regular monthly meetings of 21-member commission are open to the public. Members represent environmental groups, community organizations, labor unions, public health and environmental justice interests, and private industry. Location: Department of Planning, 8th Fl, 417 E. Fayette St. Baltimore MD. For more, see www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx.

Tues, Nov 27, 5 pm–6 pm, AIA COTE Meeting, Varied Locations: The Committee on the Environment (COTE) meets every fourth at 5 pm. Contact Mara Murdock, AIA, at 410.494.4391 or mmurdoch@murdochsmitharchitects.com or Ann Powell, AIA, at 410.347.8500 or apowell@asg-architects.com.

Thurs, Nov 29, 12 pm–1 pm, Energy Efficiency Tax Incentives, Webinar: Join us for a series of Potomac Edison Trade Ally educational webinars. Topics include new enhancements to the Potomac Edison energy-efficiency incentive programs, and cash incentives available for commercial or industrial energy-efficiency projects, and educational energy efficiency topics. Email to energysaveMD@saic.com or check www.energysaveMD.com.

Thurs, Nov 29, 6 pm–9 pm, Civic Works' Network Green, Baltimore: Are you passionate about making Baltimore a more sustainable city? Do you want the opportunity to mix with other like-minded Baltimoreans? Join our networking series! Grab an organic drink and chat it up with all of Baltimore's sustainability minded movers and shakers. Location: The Dogwood. 911 W. 36th Street Baltimore, MD 21211. Encouraged donation of \$5–\$20. All proceeds from events benefit Civic Works' Green Projects. More information at <http://www.baltimoregreencareers.org/> and <http://www.greenpartyforapurpose.org/>.

Fri, Nov. 30, 2 pm–3 pm, CUERE's Fall 2012 Seminar Series, Baltimore: Dr. David Newburn, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland, College Park presents "Residential Development in the Baltimore Region." Location: Technology Research Center, Room 206 UMBC. Free and no registration required. Visitor parking passes for the TRC lot may be purchased for \$4 in the CUERE office in TRC 102/105 shortly before seminar. www.umbc.edu/cuere/seminarSeries.html

Fri, Nov 30, 7 pm–9:30 pm, Baltimore Bike Party, Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon, Baltimore: Come ride and party through the great streets of Baltimore City with all your friends the last Friday of every month! The wheels hit the road at 7:30. We usually ride until ~9:30 with 1 or 2 stops along the way. The ride is a slow pace (~6-10 mph) designed to keep everyone of all biking abilities together. Our goal is to have a good time and build the cycling community! More information at <http://baltimorebikeparty.com/>.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES AND TIDBITS

Interested in solar energy? Join the MD SUN solar conversation!

If you've ever been interested in going solar or want to support more renewables in MD, join the MD SUN email list! We post periodic updates about solar in Maryland and information on how you can help support renewable energy in the state. Postings will include info about inspiring solar projects, exchanging practical information, as well as legislative updates on bills in the Maryland Legislature (January through April). Click here to sign up http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50105/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=7196 or contact David Brosch, davidcbrosch@comcast.net, for more information. You can choose between frequent or occasional updates.

Florence Miller is available to offer the Climate Reality Project presentation to groups. The presentation is a 90-minute talk and discussion. Florence attended the Climate Reality Leadership Corps training with Al Gore and other exceptional climate leaders in August in San Francisco, California. The training brought together passionate volunteers from around the world to equip them with the tools needed to engage communities and educate the public about climate change and how we can solve it. Please contact her at fam57@verizon.net.

On Wed, Nov 7, Bill McKibben and 350.org are hitting the road to jumpstart the next phase of the climate movement. They'll be in Washington, DC, on Sunday, November 18. The simple math goes like this, according to <http://www.350.org/>. We can burn 565 more gigatons of carbon and stay below 2°C of warming—anything more than that risks catastrophe for life on earth. There's only one problem: Fossil fuel corporations now have 2,795 gigatons in their reserves, five times the safe amount. And they're planning to burn it all—unless we rise up to stop them. That's why Bill McKibben and 350.org are hitting the road to build the movement that will change the terrifying math of the climate crisis. To find out how to join us, go to <http://us.math.350.org/>.

Fri, Nov 30, Proposal Deadline for 10th Annual Baltimore Green Week. Baltimore Green Works (BGW) have announced the release of its annual request for proposals to participate in the 10th Anniversary of Baltimore Green Week, April 20–27, 2013. BGW encourages community members to consider participating as volunteers, donors, program coordinators or program partners. This opportunity is open to anyone who has an interest in the environment and the time to coordinate and help promote their program(s). Students, teachers, businesses, non-profits, government agencies and activists are welcome to apply. Check <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/baltimore-green-week/>.

DECEMBER PREVIEW & BEYOND

Sat, Dec 1, 1pm - 5pm, Messages from Mother.... Earth Mother Workshop, Blueberry Gardens
<http://www.blueberrygardens.org/> (south of Clarksville and Columbia) 237 Ashton Rd Ashton, MD 20861
Join Mare Cromwell for a half-day workshop to learn about some of the Messages from the book at length. Every participant will receive a signed copy of the book along with other handouts. Sliding Scale: \$40 - \$60. But all are welcome at any donation level. To register, <http://messagesmother-dec.eventbrite.com>

Sat, Dec 1, 9 am - 4 pm, First Annual Environmental Justice and Environmental Health Disparities Symposium for Maryland and Washington, DC, Adele H. Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20740

Register Today At: <http://trams.jhsph.edu/trams/index.cfm?event=training.launch&trainingID=599>
OR <http://www.ceejh.org/symposium>

The Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health and the Program on Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH) are pleased to announce the "First Annual Symposium on Environmental Justice and Environmental Health Disparities in Maryland and Washington, DC."

Sat, Dec 8, Drilling Down: A Conference on Fracking Risks and Action in MD, 10:00am-4:00pm, Baltimore, MD

At the conference, you'll get the facts on the dangers of fracking. You'll meet inspiring activists on the front lines of the drilling threat in PA, NY and Western Maryland. You'll rub elbows with Maryland legislators taking the lead on addressing fracking in our General Assembly. And, you'll leave energized to join the fight in Maryland to win strong protections for our water, our health, and our climate. For more information, contact Megan Jenny, megan@chesapeakeclimate.org, 240-396-1993. Directions and details at <http://mdfrackingconference.eventbrite.com/>