

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **December 2012**. It is going out to more than **1,560 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/2012/2012-12.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) January Preview & Beyond

Thanks to this month's editors, **Beth Lacey Gill** and **Michael Hartman**.

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

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## **SECOND SUNDAY FORUM**

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**We will be taking a break in December, but stay tuned for our special program in January.**  
[Marney@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:Marney@simplicity-matters.org)

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## **Earth Forum of Howard County**

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**No December meeting. Next meeting on January 20.**

For more information: e-mail [earthforum@firstpreshc.org](mailto:earthforum@firstpreshc.org), call 410-730-3545, or check [www.earthforumhc.org](http://www.earthforumhc.org).

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## **The Baltimore Green Forum**

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## **No December meeting. Next meeting on January 27.**

For updated program info, contact [baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com), 301-345-2234, or check [www.baltimoregreenforum.org](http://www.baltimoregreenforum.org).

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### **DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE**

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**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 three new circles scheduled for Jan/Feb, two in Howard County, one in Prince Georges County, all marked with an asterisk (\*)**

Below, you will also see listed some of the "potential" circles in the works for later this winter. 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**

\* **Oakland Manor** (PBF) Feb 2-Feb 9, CS: Florence Miller, [fam57@verizon.net](mailto:fam57@verizon.net)

\* **Oakland Manor** (CSL) Feb 16-Mar 23, CS: Florence Miller, [fam57@verizon.net](mailto:fam57@verizon.net)

**Kittamaquandi Community Church**, Olivers Carriage House (CSC) March/April (tbd) CS: Florence Miller

[hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

**Howard County Conservancy** (DSOP or MF), May 2013, CS: Florence Miller [hococlimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:hococlimatechange@gmail.com)

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

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

#### **Anne Arundel County**

**Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church**, Severna Park, MD (tbd), CS: Retta Barkley

## **Prince Georges County**

\***College Park, Old Parish House** (VS) First Session: Jan 16 CS: Carol Nezzo/Mary Jane Boatman, [mjb180@comcast.net](mailto:mjb180@comcast.net)

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org), if interested.

## **Washington, DC,**

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

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

**We have just learned of a new group in DC also starting circles.** Visit [www.janyocommunity.com](http://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](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 winter, SMEI will continue "matching" and/or "pointing" people into circles. In neighborhoods where circles are already forming, we will point you in the direction of a circle nearby. In those areas where there is not a circle already being planned, we will "match" people into home-based groups.

We 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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### **Sat, Dec 1, Natural Holiday Sale and Crafts, 9 am – 3 pm, Woodstock, MD**

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. Watch Master Gardeners create beautiful centerpieces and holiday decor... and then raffle off the creation! Our popular holiday sale with talented local craft vendors, local farms and products, delicious refreshments, and nature critter crafts for the children of all ages. FREE. [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

### **Sat, Dec 1, McElderry Park Tree Planting, 9 am – 12 pm, Baltimore, MD**

(Raindate Sun, Dec 2) Meet at Wm Paca Elementary School, 200 N. Lakewood Ave, 21224, between Orleans St & Pulaski St. Bring drinking water and snack - we provide gloves and tools. The McElderry Park Trees for Public Health initiative is a collaborative between the following: • Baltimore Tree Trust • McElderry Park Community Association • Banner Neighborhoods • Amazing Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church • Baltimore City Forestry Board • TreeBaltimore [www.baltimoretreetrust.org/](http://www.baltimoretreetrust.org/)

### **Sat, Dec 1, 1st Annual Environmental Justice & Environmental Health Disparities Symposium, 9 am – 4 pm, College Park, MD**

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. Adele H. Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20740. Register: <http://www.ceejh.org/symposium>

### **Sat, Dec 1, 14th Annual Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair, 12 – 4 pm, Takoma Park, MD**

You can buy gifts for family and friends by donating to small local non-profits, e.g. an edible tree for the Greenbelt Food Forest. All gifts include a certificate to drop into a holiday card. Children's activities, visit with Santa, cookie decorating, music all afternoon. For more information contact Mimi Ikle-Khalsa at [aggw\\_inc@yahoo.com](mailto:aggw_inc@yahoo.com). Directions and details at: <http://www.aggw.org>.

### **Sat, Dec 1, Messages from Mother...Earth Mother Workshop, 1 – 5 pm, Blueberry Gardens, Ashton, MD**

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. <http://www.blueberrygardens.org/> (south of Clarksville and Columbia) 237 Ashton Rd Ashton, MD 20861. To register, <http://messagesmother-dec.eventbrite.com>

**Sun, Dec 2, 9:00 am, Volunteer with The Nature Conservancy, Wicomico County, MD.** Join fellow volunteers this Sunday for a clean-up day on Mt. Hermon Road in Wicomico County, MD. You will need heavy duty gloves and possibly waterproof boots. If there is enough time and help, we will check signs for re-nailing or replacement, so hammers and pruning tools will be needed. Meet at the Intersection of Mt. Hermon Rd. (Route 350) and Waste Gate Rd. at 9:00 AM. Contact George Parker for more information - 757-787-1162 (h) or 757-709-1966 (c).

### **Sun, Dec 2, Recycled Gift Wrapping, 11 am – 12 pm, Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD**

Gift wrapping is not only fun, but it can be good for the environment as well! Learn some ways to reuse materials such as plastic water bottles, newspaper and cereal boxes while beautifully wrapping your holiday gifts. Bring in some presents to wrap! Free for members, \$10 for non-members. Kids of all ages. Directions and info: [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org)

### **Dec 3–6, Ecobuild 2012, Washington DC Convention Center**

Conference sessions December 3-7 and keynote and exhibits December 5-6; The 3-day Ecobuild America conference covers the ENTIRE spectrum of strategies and technologies to build faster, smarter and more sustainably. Developed by our illustrious Advisory Board, the Ecobuild America conference focuses on timely topics and real world solutions throughout EVERY phase of the project lifecycle. Targeted training is available for commercial, industrial, government, institutional and residential AEC (architecture, engineering and construction) professionals as well as educators. No matter what your discipline, you will take home fresh ideas and expert insight from industry leaders and luminaries. [www.aecocobuild.com/](http://www.aecocobuild.com/)

### **Tues, Dec 4, Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meetings, 4 – 5 pm, Baltimore, MD**

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability holds regular monthly meetings usually on the fourth Tuesday of every month. All meetings are open to the public. The Commission is made up of 21 members representing environmental groups, community organizations, labor unions, public health and environmental justice interests, and private industry.

Department of Planning, 8th Fl, 417 E. Fayette St. Baltimore, MD.

[www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx](http://www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx)

**Tues, Dec 4, Design Conversations, 6 – 8:30 pm, Baltimore, MD**

The Design Conversations are a monthly series of events loosely curated by a group of volunteers, focusing on rotating topics that are timely and engaging. These events are always free, always at the Windup Space, and now on the first TUESDAY of every month! Design Conversations are encouraged by the generous support of D:center Baltimore and Baltimore Community Foundation. Cash bar, AV hookup available for spontaneous presentations! Windup Space, 10 W North Ave Baltimore MD [dcenterbaltimore.tumblr.com](http://dcenterbaltimore.tumblr.com); [twitter.com/dcenterbmore](https://twitter.com/dcenterbmore); [facebook.com/groups/dcenterbaltimore](https://facebook.com/groups/dcenterbaltimore); [www.dcenterbaltimore.com/](http://www.dcenterbaltimore.com/)

**Wed, Dec 5, Community Gardens for the Community Professional, 3 – 5 pm, Baltimore, MD**

Are you interested in helping neighborhood groups and community associations plan a garden? Do you believe that if you build it, they will come? They might not! Learn how to help residents choose a site, and how to provide the help that is needed while empowering people to take ownership of the project. Community gardening can provide substantial improvements to people and neighborhoods! Join us to hear from the experts how to build a community garden that is sustainable for years to come. MICA Place 814 N Collington Ave. Baltimore, MD 21205. [www.cphabaltimore.org/community\\_gardens/](http://www.cphabaltimore.org/community_gardens/)

**Wed, Dec 5, Maryland League of Conservation Voters Environmental Priorities, 6 – 7:30 pm, private home, Baltimore, MD**

Please join sponsors: Gail & John Harmon and Amie Kershner And Hosts: Delegate Peter Hammen, Delegate Luke Clippinger, Martha McKenna & Marty Guinane and Jo-Ann Orlinsky For a benefit reception announcing Maryland League of Conservation Voters Environmental Priorities for the 2013 Maryland Legislative Session Guest Speaker: Senator Bill Ferguson, Invited Guest: Lt. Governor Anthony Brown \$500 Sponsor • \$250 Host • \$100 Individual [www.mdlcv.org/](http://www.mdlcv.org/)

**Wed, Dec 5, Emergency Preparedness: A panel discussion at Bethesda Green, 7 – 8:30 pm, Bethesda, MD**

Hear from a panel of experts about what resources are available in Montgomery County and how to prepare for the next disaster event. Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Ave., Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Contact: Sharon D'Emidio, [sharon@bethesdagreen.org](mailto:sharon@bethesdagreen.org), 240-396-2440, x105.

**Thurs, Dec 6, Connections Over Coffee for Women, 10 am – Noon, Bel Air, MD**

Experience heart-centered networking. \$20 for guests. Light Refreshments. The Open Door Café, 528 Baltimore Pike in the Bel Air Town Center. To register [www.GinnyRobertson.com](http://www.GinnyRobertson.com), click on Upcoming Events December.

**Thurs, Dec 6, Bethesda Green Happy Hour @ Parva Restaurant, 5 – 7 pm, Bethesda, MD**

Enjoy casual conversation and networking, hear what congregations associated with Interfaith Power & Light are doing to save energy and go green, enjoy complimentary appetizers at Parva Restaurant and Lounge, 7904 Woodmont Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814. Contribution: \$10 at the door. Contact: Dave Heffernan, [dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org](mailto:dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org), 301-767-7222. More info and RSVP via [Bethesda Green Meetup](http://BethesdaGreenMeetup.com).

**Fri, Dec 7, Audubon Tiny Tots Safari, 10:30 – 11:30 am, Baltimore, MD**

Meet at the picnic tables on the northeast shore of the Boat Lake. Tiny Tots is an early childhood environmental education program kids make a craft, play a game, and read a story. This month, mysteries abound in Patterson Park! Can you be a detective and find clues animals have left behind? We'll learn how to know an animal has been around without even seeing it. Please register at least 2 days before the program. Ages 2-5 with an adult. \$5 suggested donation per child. Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or [ppaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ppaudubon@gmail.com). [pattersonpark.audubon.org/](http://pattersonpark.audubon.org/)

**Sat, Dec 8, Drilling Down: A Conference on Fracking Risks and Action in MD, 10 am – 4 pm, 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. Tickets are going fast--get yours today! For more information, contact Megan Jenny, [megan@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:megan@chesapeakeclimate.org), 240-396-1993. Registration, directions and details at <http://mdfrackingconference.eventbrite.com/>

**Sat, Dec 8, Audubon Youth Bird Monitoring & Tiny Tots Safari, 8 – 11:30 am, Baltimore, MD**

Youth Bird Monitoring in Patterson Park (8–10 am), meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of the park. Be a citizen scientist! Audubon invites middle and high school students to Patterson Park to take part in bird watching and species monitoring. The activities are free and open to the public but registration is required. Tiny Tots Safari in Patterson Park – Animal Tracks (10:30 – 11:30 am), meet at the picnic tables on the northeast shore of the Boat Lake. Kids make a craft,

play a game, and read a story. This month, can you be a detective and find clues animals have left behind? We'll learn how to know an animal has been around without even seeing it. Please register at least 2 days before the program. Ages 2-5 with an adult. \$5 suggested donation per child. Patterson Park Audubon Center 410-558-2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

**Mon, Dec 10, Connections Over Coffee for Women, 10 am – Noon, Lutherville, MD**

Experience heart-centered networking. \$20 for guests. Light Refreshments. Home of Ginny Robertson, 517 Talbott Ave. To register [www.GinnyRobertson.com](http://www.GinnyRobertson.com), click on Upcoming Events December.

**Tues, Dec 11, Free Networking & Holiday Vendor Event, 5 – 9 pm, Columbia, MD**

Members of On Purpose Networking for Women Showcase Their Products & Services. Free for all Guests. Men & Children Also Welcome. Light Refreshments. Homewood Suites by Hilton, 8320 Benson Dr. To register [www.GinnyRobertson.com](http://www.GinnyRobertson.com), click on Upcoming Events December.

**Wed, Dec 12, Home Energy Efficiency Workshop, 6 – 7pm, Baltimore**

High energy bills stressing you out? Cold, winter drafts making your home uncomfortable? Join Retrofit Baltimore, a program of Civic Works, for information on how to make your home more energy efficient! Gather a few friends and neighbors, enjoy some snacks, and learn about the steps you can take towards making your home more comfortable and less expensive! Barclay School 2900 Barclay St Baltimore, MD 21218. Contact: Rachel Tillinghast: rtilinghast@retrofitbaltimore.org- 410-929-6171. RSVP at [www.retrofitbaltimore.org](http://www.retrofitbaltimore.org)

**Wed, Dec 12, Prince George's County Offshore Wind Town Hall, 6:30 – 9 pm, Temple Hills, MD**

The 2013 Legislative session is upon us. Before it starts we must be prepared to let our legislators know what we want for our county. Find out about clean energy opportunities, like offshore wind, that can create a local economy and jobs, cleaner air, fund a small and minority business development fund, and prevent extreme weather. There is a clean energy proposal on the table that would create jobs and clean up our air in the county. This event will have distinguished panelists, including State Delegate Michael Vaughn, followed by a Q & A session. Please join us! Hillcrest Heights Community Center (2300 Oxon Run Drive, Temple Hills, MD 20748). Questions? Please contact Vidal Hines at [vidal.hines@sierraclub.org](mailto:vidal.hines@sierraclub.org).

**Thurs, Dec 13, Geminid Meteor Showers, 9:30 pm – 2 am, Woodstock, MD**

Watch the skies with Stardoc Dr. Joel Goodman and Towson University Astrophysicist Alex Storrs. Considered by many to be the best meteor shower in the heavens, Geminids are known for producing up to 60 multicolored meteors per hour at their peak! This year the new moon will guarantee perfect "dark" conditions to view meteors and other wonders in the skies. Wear WARM clothing. Bring beach chairs and thermal cups. We'll have the hot chocolate! If raining or snowing, the program will be moved indoors. FREE. To register please go to [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

**Fri, Dec 14, Audubon Urban Bird Watching, 8 – 9:30 am, Baltimore**

Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of the park. September is the peak month for avian migration. Bring the family to Patterson Park to learn about birds that arrive in Maryland in the fall! Chesapeake Audubon Society will lead the walk and answer questions about our feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email – we have plenty to share! There is no need to RSVP for this event, just arrive ready to explore! Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

**Fri, Dec 14, Connections Over Coffee for Women, 10 am – Noon, Annapolis, MD**

Experience heart-centered networking. \$20 for guests. Light Refreshments. The Annapolitan Assisted Living Community, 84 North Old Mill Bottom Rd., To register [www.GinnyRobertson.com](http://www.GinnyRobertson.com), click on Upcoming Events December.

**Sun, Dec 16, Baltimore Free Farm Fancy Dinner Fundraiser, 5 – 8 pm, Baltimore, MD**

Join us Sunday, December 16th for our second annual Fancy Dinner Fundraiser at 2640! This year's menu will include appetizer, venison stew, as well as vegan stew, dessert, home brewed beer and wine and more! Vegan options will be available! You can also treat your ears to our local classical musical guests. There will also be a raffle with awesome prizes! The event begins at 5 pm, dinner is at 6 pm. St Johns 2640 St Paul St Baltimore MD. [www.baltimorefreefarm.org/](http://www.baltimorefreefarm.org/)

**Sun, Dec 16, Author 'Meet & Greet' with Mare Cromwell, 5:30 – 7:30pm, England Acres Farm, Mt. Airy, MD**

Come meet Mare Cromwell to learn more about her second book, *Messages from Mother... Earth Mother*. Come early to shop for free range eggs, farm-raised meats, and home-grown cakes & cookies at the wonderful farm store at England Acres Farm. [marecrom@gmail.com](mailto:marecrom@gmail.com), 301-882-7660. Details at: <http://messagesfrommother.org/events/>

**Tues, Dec 18, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive.** Guest Speaker Robin Gunkle from Evolver Baltimore, <http://www.evolvernetwork.org/baltimore/> For more info, contact Lore, [lore@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:lore@simplicity-matters.org), 301-345-2234.

**Sat, Dec 22, Audubon Urban bird watching, 8 – 9:30 am, Patterson Park**

Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of the park. September is the peak month for avian migration. Bring the family to Patterson Park to learn about birds that arrive in Maryland in the fall! Audubon's conservation director will lead the walk and answer questions about our feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email – we have plenty to share! There is no need to RSVP for this event, just arrive ready to explore! Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or [ppaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ppaudubon@gmail.com).[pattersonpark.audubon.org/](http://pattersonpark.audubon.org/)

**Fri, Dec 28, Baltimore Bike Party, 7 – 9:30 pm, Baltimore, MD**

Come ride and party through the great streets of Baltimore City with all your friends the last Friday of every month! Ride! We are here to, above all, ride our bikes! We stay together as a group and follow a pre-determined route through the city. We meet at 7pm on the last Friday of the month at the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon. 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 (~6-10mph) designed to keep everyone of all biking abilities together! Meet at the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon Baltimore. [baltimorebikeparty.com/](http://baltimorebikeparty.com/)

**Sat, Dec 29, Rebirthing Ourselves Through Sacred Silliness, 10 am – 3:30 pm, Ashton (Clarksville), MD**

We have survived the end of the Mayan Calendar and it is now time to celebrate by going deep into our Sacred Feminine through play and ceremony to rebirth ourselves into the New Year of 2013. We will make tutas, wake up our divine inner child, affirm our commitment to our wholeness to dance our way into this New Age. Co-led by Hillary Banachowski & Mare Cromwell. Sliding scale. [marecrom@gmail.com](mailto:marecrom@gmail.com), 301-882-7660. Registration and directions at: <http://sacredsilly12.eventbrite.com>

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**ACTION OPPORTUNITIES AND TIDBITS**

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**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](http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50105/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=7196) or contact David Brosch, [davidcbrosch@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:fam57@verizon.net).

**Mon, Dec 3, Best of Green Schools - Submission Deadline**

The Center for Green Schools is publishing our second annual Best of Green Schools List, highlighting schools, districts, individuals and communities in 10 categories for their efforts to create sustainable learning environments. We're calling on you to send in submissions for the best examples of green schools work across the country – from K-12 to higher education – to be recognized for a variety of sustainable measures including energy conservation, environmental innovation, collaborative platforms and policies to green U.S. school infrastructure and more. We'll be announcing our recipients in early December. [www.centerforgreenschools.org/utility-nav/blog/12-11-07/Announcing\\_Call\\_for\\_Submissions\\_for\\_Best\\_of\\_Green\\_Schools\\_2012.aspx](http://www.centerforgreenschools.org/utility-nav/blog/12-11-07/Announcing_Call_for_Submissions_for_Best_of_Green_Schools_2012.aspx)

**Tues, Dec 4, Hospital Savings Through Sustainability Webinar, 1 – 2 pm**

This free, one-hour webinar that will draw on the findings of a recent Health Care Without Harm Research Collaborative/Commonwealth Fund study, Can Sustainable Hospitals Help Bend the Health Care Cost Curve?, which shows that savings from interventions to reduce energy use and waste, and achieve operating room supply efficiencies could exceed \$5.4 billion over five years and \$15 billion over 10 years for the health care sector. In addition to detailing the study findings, the webinar will include presentations from two health systems about why they chose to focus on sustainability and what challenges and rewards are in store. [healthierhospitals.org/get-involved/events-calendar](http://healthierhospitals.org/get-involved/events-calendar)

**Tues, Dec 11, Growing Importance of More Sustainable Products in Health Care Webinar, 2 – 3 pm**

Growing Importance of More Sustainable Products in Health Care: A Panel Discussion Environmentally preferred purchasing (EPP) programs are being rolled out at many hospitals across the country. This webinar will ask leaders in the industry to look at the issue in depth and to answer the following questions: what is driving these EPP Decisions, what role does EPP have in the day to day operations, what are best practices for successful implementation and how to best partner with suppliers. Aman Singh, Editor with CSRwire will moderate a discussion between Terri Scannell from VHA, Cathy Bastian from Geisinger and Christina Vernon from Cleveland Clinic to answer these questions along with questions from attendees. [practicegreenhealth.org/webinars/greening-supply-chain-series-growing-importance-more-sustainable-products-health-care-panel](http://practicegreenhealth.org/webinars/greening-supply-chain-series-growing-importance-more-sustainable-products-health-care-panel)

**Thurs, Dec 20, Chesapeake Bay Trust Awards - Application Deadline**

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is now accepting applications for the 2013 Awards Program. These awards honor students, teachers, individuals, communities and organizations for their work to help restore the Chesapeake Bay. 2013 Teacher of the Year Award: 2013 Student of the Year Scholarship: 2013 Honorable Arthur Dorman Scholarship: 2013 Ellen Frites Wagner Award: 2013 Melanie Teems Award: For questions about the awards program, please contact Kristin Foringer, 410-974-2941, ext. 113. [www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.7956387/k.9AE2/Awards\\_Program.htm](http://www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.7956387/k.9AE2/Awards_Program.htm)

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**JANUARY PREVIEW & BEYOND**

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**Thurs, Jan 3, Connections Over Coffee for Women, 10 am – Noon, Bel Air, MD**

Our Annual “Share Your Dream” meeting. Come and share a dream/goal you have for 2013 and how the women in the group can help you reach it. \$20 for guests. Light Refreshments. The Open Door Café, 528 Baltimore Pike in the Bel Air Town Center, To register [www.GinnyRobertson.com](http://www.GinnyRobertson.com), click on Upcoming Events December.

**Thurs, Jan 10, Bees & Brewskis, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, MD**

Relax with a drink, and enjoy a presentation by bee expert Steve McDaniel. Fee. Directions and info: [www.ExploreNature.org](http://www.ExploreNature.org)