January 4

Washington Ethical Society
A vibrant humanistic congregation

NEWS & NOTES

A weekly newsletter to keep you informed.

What's in this week's news?

- WES Closes on a Refinanced Mortgage!
- Aging with Intention Meeting Planned
- January's Theme: Vision
- SEEK Spotlight
- This Sunday's Events
- The Upcoming Weeks' Calendar
- Announcements!

WES Closes on a Refinanced Mortgage

WES owes the bank...a lot less money! Last week we signed a new $800,000 loan with M&T Bank, a huge improvement over the mortgage we have been chipping away at, which began over $1.7 million. This new, much lower loan (and at a lower rate, too) was negotiated by Peter Kent, and made possible by all who contributed to the Burn the Mortgage, Ignite the Future capital campaign. That campaign was spearheaded by Peter Kent as Campaign Chair and Perry Saidman as Major Gifts Chair, joined by a wonderful and hardworking committee who made personal visits to almost everyone in the society. As many of you recall, that committee benefited hugely from the expertise of our campaign consultant, Glendon Smith, who called to offer his congratulations to WES on hearing about the new loan. So many people gave generously, including significant lead gifts that--combined with the gifts of every donor--made it possible for us to achieve this milestone. Congratulations to all as we look forward to significantly lower monthly payments!

Aging with Intention Meeting Planned

Thanks to the enthusiastic participation of WES members and friends age 55+, we will continue our Aging with Intention discussion series in 2017. In fact, we will increase their frequency from quarterly to bimonthly, to be held on the last Sunday of the month.

The first session will be held at WES on Sunday, January 29, after platform in the double classroom. Simple food will be provided (think bagels). At this first gathering of the year, we'll return to our discussion of purpose and meaning in this stage of life, as well as talk about plans for the upcoming year. We will be mixing up the times and the venues this year, between WES and members' homes. Possible topics to discuss include fighting ageism and exploring end-of-life concerns, including introducing a Death Café (see deathcafe.com to learn more). We also hope to add some new topics, such as sexuality and older adults and perhaps a relevant film and discussion session. We also hope to have an opportunity for a discussion with younger adults on a related topic.

Future dates will be March 26, May 28, July 30, September 24, and November 26. If you'd like to participate or help with planning, please contact Beth Baker, bethbaker@starpower.net or Julie Campbell, juliecampbell@aol.com.

January's Theme: Vision

This month we will be exploring the theme of *Vision*. Below is a photo taken of the Martin Luther King Jr. monument in downtown Washington, D.C. taken by our 2016-2017 theme artist Carol Clayton. You can also view the theme packet on our website at **http://www.ethicalsociety.org/article/14/sundays-celebrations.** Plus, if you head over to our new Pinterest page (**www.pinterest.com/ethicalsociety**), we have pinned the links from the theme packet. We hope you will join us for our platforms this month that will also revolve around the theme:

- January 8, 9:30 & 11:30. "Vision for the Future," Russell Corbin, Peggy Goetz, and by video, Cesar, Elvis, Ingris, and Marix.
- January 15, 9:30 & 11:30. "A Tale of Two Stories," The Rev. Leon Dunkley.
- January 22, 9:30 & 11:30. "We Hold the Vision Now," Amanda Poppei.
- January 29, 9:30 & 11:30. "Heroes Every Day," Amanda Poppei.

SEEK Weekly Spotlight

Second Saturdays Are for Service Outside of WES

Volunteering at Wider Circle, January 14, 10 am to Noon **followed by lunch.** This volunteering opportunity is for anyone - children and adults. RSVPs to **Melissa** (melissas@ethicalsociety.org) are

required by Thursday evening, Jan 12 because Wider Circle needs this information.

Park at the school next to AWC warehouse. You will also need to fill a waiver when you get there. See the linked website for more information about Wider Circle.

This is especially great for our SEEK Students. We can make it Second Saturday for Service outside of WES, and then Second Sundays for Service in SEEK classrooms the following day, K-5.

This Sunday's Platform
9:30 & 11:30am.

"Vision for the Future," Russell Corbin, Peggy Goetz and, by video, Cesar, Elvis, Ingris, and Marix. Throughout our lives, we meet people who seem to embody, even radiate, Ethical Culture without ever having been exposed to it. Our WES delegation has partnered with such people in the tiny village of El Rodeo, El Salvador. How have we managed to form such tight bonds with villagers whose backgrounds are so different from our own? Our Global Connections team members Peggy Goetz and teen Russell Corbin will share their experiences and describe the spirit of Ethical Culture that is alive and thriving in our Sister Community in El Salvador. Four of our friends from El Rodeo will speak to us via video. Music by Jean Rohe.

This Sunday at WES

WEStalks, 11am, Social Hall. Water Rights - Alexis Stoumbelis presents on the topic of Water Rights in El Salvador. Alexis Stoumbelis is Organizational Coordinator for CISPES, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. CISPES is a national grassroots organization that has been working since 1980 to end U.S. intervention in El Salvador and to support the Salvadoran popular movement in its struggle for social and economic justice. She first traveled to El Salvador as a college student in a medical delegation. As Organizational Coordinator, she supports and integrates CISPES' political strategy & program, fundraising, and local chapter organizing. CISPES works with several of the social movement organizations leading the movement to guarantee water as a human right and will give an update on the dynamic political context in which this struggle is currently playing out.

Biology Reading Group, 1pm, Library. For December, January, and February the Biology group will be reading the book I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us and a Grander View of Life, by Ed Yong. For further

information get in touch with Barbara Searle, bsearle70@msn.com.

Board of Trustees Meeting, 1pm, Social Hall. All are welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Trustees! Agenda and materials are available in the Members' Access section of our website.

Information Meeting on the WES 2017 Follies, 1pm. The Follies are coming to WES Saturday, March 11, 2017, bringing you an exciting, entertaining, and high energy variety show developed and performed by our beloved WES community. Want to learn more and join in on the fun? We invite you to join us at 1pm in the Main Hall, when we'll explain the Follies concept and how you can be involved. If you already attended the meeting on Dec 18th, we invite you to join us on the 8th where we'll go a bit deeper into people's ideas and start solidifying some acts If you have any immediate questions please email Sera Morgan (SMorgan@hrsa.gov) or Shelby French (shelbyfrench2@yahoo.com).

The Upcoming Weeks at WES

Saturday, January 7

- **SURJ Workshop- Let's Talk about Racism: Inauguration Edition, 4pm, Social Hall.** This free SURJ DC training is for white people who want to practice engaging in meaningful conversations about racism and other racialized discrimination with family members and friends. (If you are a person of color interested in this event, please use this link to RSVP and we will follow up with you about a people of color cohort.) Please use this form to register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeinvfItoDC4hwdHyJVn-AVDauIk6vYaNmApcpSuwNg0hsS2Q/viewform

- **Nonviolent Direct Action Training, 1-5pm, Cedar Lane UU.** Cedar Lane will be hosting a Non-Violent Direct Action Training, led by Tracey Redd of Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100) and co-sponsored by Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Montgomery County. More details and registration can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/events/1541757429173154/

Thursday, January 12

- **Volunteer Training for Refugee Support, 7pm, Main Hall.** Lutheran Social Services will be providing training for all volunteers in WES's refugee resettlement effort. If you are on the RRT, signed up to assist in a core area of support, or just interested in knowing more about how to effectively assist families making the transition to life in the U.S., please feel free to attend.

Friday-Sunday, January 13-15

- **Jubilee Workshop, All Souls Church, Unitarian**. Jubilee Anti-Racism Training is endorsed by WES and the WES WRE group. Do you wish to nurture WES's multicultural future in the face of opposing cultural currents? Do you wish to deepen your understanding of how race and ethnicity play out in our institutions and our daily lives? Jubilee Anti-Racism Training helps participants understand what is involved in nurturing a multicultural community and working against racism in all of its forms. The workshop requires a weekend commitment, and it is worth every minute of that commitment. This 2 1/2 day workshop is open to members of any congregation in the Joseph Priestley District of the UUA. Lay leaders are especially encouraged to attend. Contact Paula Cole Jones for more information: pcolejones@gmail.com. Here is the link to register for this training.

Saturday, January 14

- **Volunteering at Wider Circle, 10 am to Noon followed by lunch.** Second Saturdays are for Service outside of WES. RSVPs to Melissa are required by Thursday evening, Jan. 12. Wider Circle needs this information. Park at the school next to WC warehouse. You will also need to fill out a waiver when you get there. See the linked website above for more information.

Sunday, January 15

- **Platform Service, 9:30am & 11:30am, Main Hall. "A Tale of Two Stories," The Rev. Leon Dunkley. "**It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness. . . ." Charles Dickens wrote these words in 1859- the same year that Charles Darwin put forward his theory of evolution and the same year that John Brown famously or infamously raided Harper's Ferry. The shape of American history depends on how we tell the story. Fifty years ago, in 1967, Martin Luther King told a story of war in an address that he delivered in New York City. Beyond Vietnam, the address that he delivered on April 4th of 1967 is regarded as King's highest achievement as well as his most costly mistake. Have we gained in these five decades the perspective that we need to determine which one of these is true? Come find out!! Music from the WES Chorus.

- **Tai Chi, 11am, front lawn.**We invite you to join us out on the front lawn (or in the Main Hall if weather doesn't cooperate) for a 30-minute session of Tai Chi. No experience necessary and perfect for all ages and abilities.

- **Schmoozapalooza Lunch, 12:45pm, Social Hall.** WES continues our lunch on every third Sunday for all who want to hang out after platform and gab with friends. Gather around tables in the Social Hall and keep on talking. Nosh on a great lunch, with vegetarian options always available. Requested donation $5. Schmoozing with your friends and licking your fingers--what better way to keep on talking, parse the platform, and catch up! (If you plan to attend the 9:30 platform, why not help out the Schmooze team and then join in the good food? Contact Julie Grimes at jwellergrimes@gmail.com to get involved).

- **Sunday Book Club, after lunch, downstairs classroom.** Kate Lang will lead a discussion of When Breath Becomes Air, by Paul Kalinithi (completed by his wife, Lucy Kalinithi). For more information, contact Rachel Hartig, rachel.hartig@gallaudet.edu.

Monday, January 16

- **Bystander Intervention Training, 2pm, Main Hall.** In a political and social environment that can feel hostile, we want to be ready to act as agents for good, keeping ourselves and others safe. Defend Yourself is a local non-profit working to empower the community to speak out against harassment. In this workshop, participants will learn to

recognize and safely respond to aggressive behavior using bystander intervention strategies. Limited to 40 participants; please sign up at **wes-bystander-training.eventbrite.com.** We will also offer childcare at this time, which will include a component of anti-bullying work. You must reserve childcare with Melissa Sinclair at melissas@ethicalsociety.org.

Tuesday, January 17

- **Building Team Meeting, 6:30pm, Adler Study.**The WES Building Team improves our community home by lowering our electric utility costs, greening our building, improving lighting everywhere, and addressing maintenance issues. We invite you to our next meeting early in the new year to discuss these issues and as we apply our hands-on skills to these challenges. To join us, please contact Rich Reis at 301-384-0540 or rich.reis1@gmail.com.

Friday, January 20

- **All WES Conversation: Who Should We Be?, 3-5pm.** Small group discussions and direction-setting for WES' role in this new time. If you are interested in supporting childcare for this event (it will be a difficult time to set up our usual childcare providers) please contact Melissa.
- **The Reistance Un-Ball, 5pm, Main Hall.** Join WES friends and the wider community in an evening of love and resistance--an Un-Ball with music, dancing for all ages, protest art-making, and letter writing. Potluck food and BYO wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages. Fancy attire not required; dress however makes you feel comfortable and empowered! To get involved, contact Shelby French at shelby.french@rescue.org or Becky Klabunde Tomer at beckyann1110@gmail.com. See the Facebook event here.
- **Still Thirsty After All These Years, Scion Restaurant, 1200 East-West Highway. 5:30-7:30 p.m.** This group is for WES adults beyond the demographics of the "Young and Thirsty" group, but still thirsty for connections, entertainment, and new experiences. We will meet for Happy Hour on the third Friday of every month. Contact Nancy McGuire (nkmontheroad@yahoo.com) or Shan Evans (sevans4406@yahoo.com for more details.

Saturday January 21

To see a long-term calendar of events, we invite you to visit our website calendar. It can be found here. (http://www.ethicalsociety.org/calendar.php)

Announcements

Jean Rohe House Concert
House Concert 6-8pm
Bethesda, MD
9237 E. Parkhill Dr. Bethesda, MD 20814
$10-20 suggested donation.
Light refreshments will be served.
Limited seating: RSVP to laundrylinemusic@gmail.com

~~~~~~

Saturday, January 7, 14, & 21
Bringing Home Baby Classes.

Know a couple who are about to become new parents? This workshop is for them! To date, there has been no known psycho-educational intervention that has successfully taught couples the skills that they will need to preserve intimacy in their relationship, keep fathers involved with the baby, and help parents understand and appreciate infant development. The Gottman Institute's research-based and research-tested Bringing Baby Home (BBH) Program is designed to prepare couples for their new life with baby and helps them to be the best parenting team possible. In a relaxed and supportive environment, new parents learn the skills needed to strengthen their relationship and foster baby's development during this challenging time.

Instructor: Robin S. Smith, LCMFT
Location: Washington Ethical Society (WES) - 7750 16th St NW Washington, DC 20012
Dates: January 7, 14, and 21.
Time: 10AM - 3PM (Lunch provided)
Seminar 1 must be taken before registering for subsequent seminars
For more information on what couples will learn in each seminar, visit the Registration Page.

~~~~~~

Faith Leaders Call on Congress to reject Mr. Trump's Cabinet of Bigotry. Please sign this letter from Faith Leaders to Congress! You do not need to be clergy to sign; lay leaders are welcome and encouraged. Find the letter here.

~~~~~~

Save the Date!!
People's Climate March. The massive People's Climate March being planned for Washington D.C. The successful 2014 People's Climate March in NYC preceded the Paris climate accord. For information see https://peoplesclimate.org/. The Earth Ethics Team will share additional information as it becomes available.

~~~~~~

Quick Links
WES Website
January's Photos
Shop Amazon Smile and It Benefits WES

Stay Connected

WES, 7750 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012

SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}
Forward this email | About our service provider
Sent by wes@ethicalsociety.org in collaboration with

Constant Contact
Try it free today