



Washington Ethical Society
A vibrant humanistic congregation

NEWS & NOTES

A weekly newsletter to keep you informed.

What's in this week's news?

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Community Holiday Events



For the Baltimore, Northern Virginia, and Washington Ethical Societies at the Sinclair home, 12/18, 4pm.

The Evite for this event is here -

RSVPs on the evite no later than Thursday evening, December 15th so we know how many gingerbread houses and crafts to assemble.



Besides gingerbread houses and ornament making, there

is table tennis, a pool table, and a Wii with several fun/interactive non-violent games. There is also a kid's train set, play kitchen, large rocking horse, and a playhouse in the basement. There is space all over the house for crafts and conversation.



Hosting this event is a great joy for our family, but if you wish to help offset the cost of the gingerbread houses and ornaments, there will be a donation box near the front door. (Guide for costs: a gingerbread house alone costs about \$12 for the kit, icing, candies and wrapping to take it home.)

Please be aware that we have two cats. We will lock them up for the party, but if you are allergic to cats, make sure you are prepared.

Solstice Soundscape

Join internationally award winning percussionist Tom Teasley for an experience unlike any other – an immersion in sound and spoken word, drawing us into the quiet of the coming winter solstice. This promises to be a relaxing and connecting experience.

**Sunday, December 18, 6pm
Washington Ethical Society
7750 16th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20012**

www.ethicalsociety.org



Creating Winter Festival

When everyone arrived for Winter Festival, they were immediately greeted with a beautifully decorated lobby. The welcome table was adorned with winter pine trees, white and clear ornaments, and lights everywhere! Then once they entered the main hall, they were surrounded by the white sparkle of the lights and stars from all around. The decorations were all done by a wonderful team of volunteers coordinated by Susan Runner.

The Winter Festival performance was executed so well. The cast and crews' months of preparation really showed. Tony Nam was the show's director and writer. This year's story followed Charles, a new member at WES, as he learned about the history and helped create Winter Festival. At the end of the performance there was a large puppet, made by Susan and Johnnie Buzek, that Marty Kaufman danced around inside. The Chorus was a wonderful addition to the play. There was a solo by Elizabeth Leca that wasn't to be missed.

In between the two performances was a cookie and cider reception. The community truly came together in baking cookies of all kinds and sharing in the evening. Laura Disciullo and Lori Betsock worked really hard to make sure the cookies were organized and labeled with ingredients. They helped to make sure the cider, water, and coffee were stocked, too.

If you want to re-watch this year's Winter Festival, there is a recording of it saved in the [WES Members Facebook Group](#). There is also a digital thank you card. If you would like to add your appreciation to the folks that helped make Winter Festival happen, **[we invite you to sign the card here](#)**.

Below is a list of those who helped create the 2016 Winter Festival:



Cast

Director: Tony Nam

Barry Galef	Elise Gould	Bailey Whiteman	Moira Lee
Jeff Mehall	Marty Kaufman	Laura Delaney	Nora Ludden
Amanda Poppei	Abby Oswald	Inira Nam	Erika Pfeifer
Katrina Moncure	Eli Minicozzi	Sarah Minicozzi	Jess Minicozzi
Marcella Verchinski	Aubrey Kaufman	Ella Peterson Delaney	
Fiona Peterson Delaney	Karl Pfeifer	Caleb Grimes	Declan Nam

Chorus

Gwen Coat	Elizabeth Leca	Karen Schofield-Leca	Mibi Leuvelink
Joanne London	Ann Baker	Julie Grimes	Mierka Willis
Jen Watson	John Pfeifer	Jenny Strasburger	Perry Beider
Art Siebens	Julie Drizin		

Director: Bailey Whiteman

Crew

Michelle Kaufman -- Stage Manager	Jon Leca -- Sound & Lighting Design
John Grimes -- Light Operator	Susan Runner -- Hall Decorations
Laura Bradshaw -- Costumes	Nancy Marrucci -- Production Assistant
Susan Buzek -- Puppet Design & Construction	Johnnie Buzek -- Puppet Construction
Sharyn Newwirth -- Hall Decorations	Lori Betsock -- Reception
Laura DiSciullo -- Reception	

WES Contingent at the Women's March on Washington

WES will have a contingent, marching with other Ethical Societies and UU congregations, at the Women's March on Washington on Saturday, January 21. We are staying in touch with organizers as plans are changing rapidly, and we are excited about this chance to show the power of the people in DC. We are also coordinating housing for out of town guests; if you have a room to



SEEK Weekly Spotlight

The K-1st Grade OWL (Our Whole Lives) class shared with us about their closing celebration. We learned that having a baby is a big responsibility! Yes, it is! Children and their parents closed the 3 month class with creating a quilt about celebration and having some cake!



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

"Don't Unwrap, Unplug," Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader. Six shopping days until Christmas. Five until Hanukkah. Don't forget the kids' teachers and the neighbors. Make sure the decorations are perfect. Pick up the yule log. Wait a second...are we doing this right? Join Amanda as she considers what an unplugged holiday season might look like, and what it means to be truly present to the people and the beauty around us. Music from Josh Blinder.



This Sunday at WES

Tai Chi, 11am, Social Hall. 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 (jwellergrimes@gmail.com) to get involved).

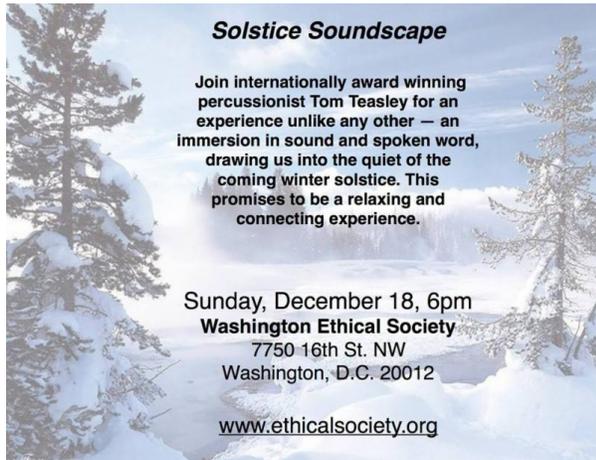
Information Meeting on the WES 2017 Follies, after Schmooze. The Follies are coming to WES Saturday, March 11, 2017, bringing you an exciting, entertaining, and high energy variety show developed and performed by our beloved WES community. Want to learn more and join in on the fun? We invite you to join us at around 1:00, at the end of Schmoozapalooza, when we'll explain the Follies concept and how you can be involved. If you have any immediate questions please email Sera Morgan (SMorgan@hrsa.gov) or Shelby French (shelbyfrench2@yahoo.com).

Sunday Book Club, after lunch, downstairs classroom. The Sunday Book Club will hold its second meeting in the downstairs classroom at 1:45, after Schmoozapalooza. Rachel Hartig will be leading a discussion of "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson. All are welcome to come and share perspectives on this troubling but compelling story. For further information, please contact Rachel (rachel.hartig@gallaudet.edu).

SOLD OUT -- Bystander Intervention Training, 2pm, Main Hall.

Community-wide Holiday Party for BES, NoVES, and WES, 4pm, Sinclair's House.
The Evite for this event is here- RSVPs on the evite no later than Thursday evening, December 15 so we know how many gingerbread houses and crafts to assemble. We will begin with an early potluck dinner. Then we will decorate gingerbread houses and

make homemade ornaments. Besides gingerbread houses and ornament making, there is table tennis, a pool table, and a Wii with several fun/interactive non-violent games. There is also a kid's train set, play kitchen, large rocking horse, and a playhouse in the basement. There is space all over the house for crafts and conversation. [Details are here.](#)



Solstice Soundscape, 6pm, Main Hall. Join international award winning percussionist Tom Teasley for an experience unlike any other--an immersion in sound and spoken word, drawing us into the quiet of the coming winter solstice. This promises to be a relaxing and connecting experience. Friends and family are welcome to join for this exceptional opportunity!

The Upcoming Weeks at WES

Friday, December 16

- **Still Thirsty After All These Years, Scion Restaurant, 1200 East-West Highway.** 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, December 17

- **Solidarity in a New Age of Resistance: Saturday December 17, 1 -3pm, All Souls Church.** Following a campaign season full of bigotry, xenophobia, homophobia, and sexism, the election results threaten our nation with a new age of oppression. For progressive people- including progressive people of faith- this challenges calls us to a new era of resistance. This panel will bring together speakers from a variety of groups (most of whom represent or serve primarily people of color) to talk about their work, what we can do to help, and what solidarity looks like going forward. Confirmed speakers so far include Parisa Nourouzi of Empower DC and Carlos Jimenez of the DC Central Labor Council. It would not be possible to address all the issues/communities impacted in a single session; this event is just one of many conversations that needs to happen as we deepen our commitment to fighting all forms of oppression and white supremacy. Solidarity in a New Age of Resistance will be held on Saturday, December 17 from 1-3pm at All Souls Church, 1500 Harvard St. NW, in Washington, DC. [Please RSVP here](#) (an RSVP is requested but not required; we just want to know how many people to expect).

Tuesday, December 20

- **Holiday wrapping event, 7 pm, Social Hall.** Do you have presents that need wrapping for Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or the New Year, but you are tired of doing it in the wee hours the night before the holiday? Come join in a simple wrapping party with friends at WES. Bring your paper and ribbons and gifts to wrap. Melissa will provide tape and light snacks. You can contact [Melissa Sinclair](#) for more information.

Sunday, December 25

- **Platform Service, 10:30 am, Main Hall."A Gift to Each Other: Our Presence," Bailey**

Whiteman, Music Director. December 25: for some, it's a challenging day, with over-excited children, pets trying to eat the wrapping paper, an inner sense of sadness. For others, it's joyful, full of traditions and merriment. And for millions in the United States and around the world, it is just another day. Let's be present for each other, listen to stories, sing, and find connection. Join Bailey and member Tony Nam with musical support from Josh Blinder, for this multi-generational platform, as we share stories about our traditions, from the silly to the sublime.

- **Potluck Brunch, 11:30 am, Main Hall.** After platform, let's enjoy a meal together. We'll set up some tables, and share food and conversation.

Monday, December 26

- **FFOIP Children's Gala and Kwanzaa Celebration, 2pm, Main Hall.** Facebook event hosted by FFOIP: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1782575995349246/> Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration observed in the United States (and in other nations around the world, most notably the Western African diaspora). It is the celebration of Family, Community and Culture. The celebration honors African heritage in African-American culture, and is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving. Kwanzaa has seven core principles. It was created by Maulana Karenga and was first celebrated in 1966-67. FFOIP will host five nights of kwanzaa, starting with the first principle - Unity - at the Washington Ethical Society (WES).

Sunday, January 1

- **Platform Service, 10:30am, Main Hall. "Envisioning a New Future" Amanda Poppei, Senior Leader.** Join us for this platform as we begin the new year together. What are you ready to say goodbye to from 2016 (maybe...all of 2016?!). What intentions will you set for the year to come? This multigenerational platform will feature music from Lilo Gonzalez.
- **Newcomers' Q and A, 11:45am, Library.** New to WES? Join us for this informal gathering to learn a little about who we are and what we do here, and to get your questions answered!

Monday, January 2

- **Mindfulness meeting, 7:30-9 p.m. Library.** This group meets monthly on the first Monday of the month for people interested in practicing meditation and living with mindfulness - or for anyone wanting to find out more about these topics. We explore both practices and ideas. Contact Trish Weil at trishweil@juno.com or Ann Baker at bakera@gao.gov.

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 7th, 14th, and 21st.

Time: 10AM - 3PM (Lunch provided)

Cost: EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION (ends on 12/18/16):

\$312 per couple for all 3 dates

\$120 for Seminar 1 - Jan 7th

\$96 for Seminar 2 - Jan 14th

\$96 for Seminar 3 - Jan 21st

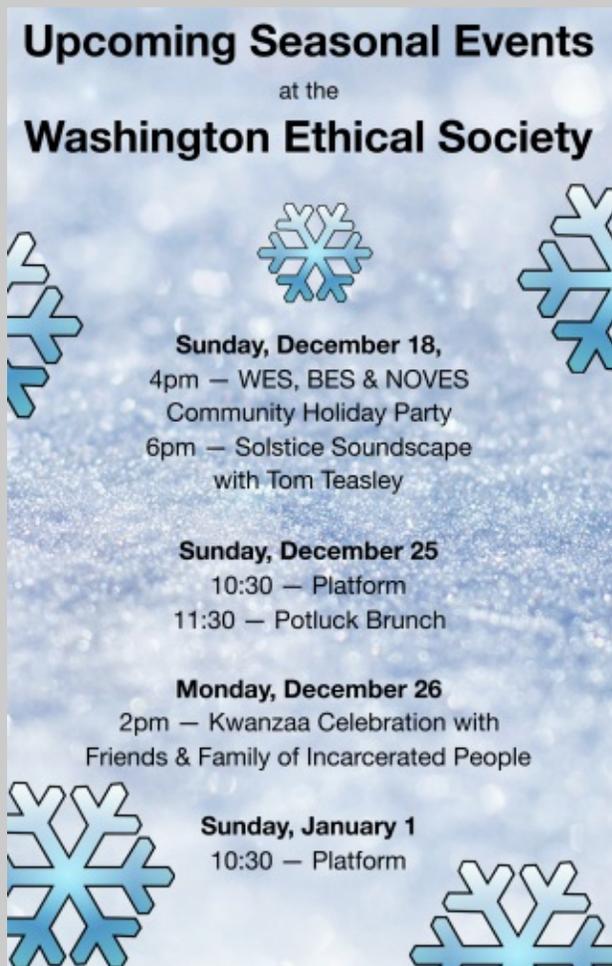
Seminar 1 must be taken before registering for subsequent Seminars
For more information on what couples will learn in each seminar, visit the [Registration Page](#).

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). (<http://www.ethicalsociety.org/calendar.php>)

A note to WES members: In the membership section of the WES website, you can find the most update membership director.

Announcements

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](#).



Upcoming Seasonal Events
at the
Washington Ethical Society

Sunday, December 18,
4pm – WES, BES & NOVES
Community Holiday Party
6pm – Solstice Soundscape
with Tom Teasley

Sunday, December 25
10:30 – Platform
11:30 – Potluck Brunch

Monday, December 26
2pm – Kwanzaa Celebration with
Friends & Family of Incarcerated People

Sunday, January 1
10:30 – Platform

Holiday Wrapping Party at WES!!!



Want some company while wrapping gifts for Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa or New Year?

Join your WES friends at WES on Tuesday, December 20, beginning at 7pm in the Social Hall.

Bring your gifts to wrap, wrapping paper and bows. Melissa Sinclair will provide tape and light snacks.

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Hands on Drums  
600 Rhode Island Ave NE

# HANDS ON DRUMS

# HOLIDAY BAZAAR

## AKOMA DRUMMERS REUNION PERFORMANCE

FREE + FAMILY FRIENDLY

SATURDAY  
**DEC**  
**17**

10AM - 7PM

### FEATURES

**LOCAL CRAFT VENDORS** plus sales on our own Ghana drums, clothing, instruments and craftworks, all day • **raffle**, all day - last call for prizes at 6:45pm • **children's drum class**, 10am • **hands-on drum circle** with Katy Gaughan, 1pm • **family capoeira** demonstration, 2pm • **Ghana fashion show**, 3pm • **performances** beginning at 4pm including: Baba Abasi's More Than a Drum Percussion Ensemble; Class recitals featuring the students of Dr Yew (Yuma Bellomee) and Kristen Arant; and a special reunion performance of the Akoma Drummers.



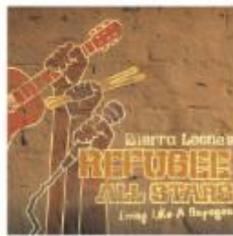
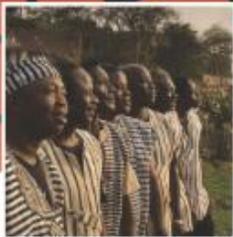
Free admission, donations support the Drumming Up From Poverty project, which is currently in the process of building a community center in Ghana. Ashe!



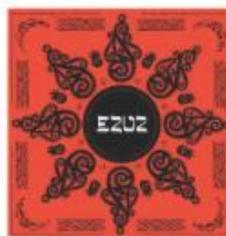
# YOU ARE NOT ALONE WE STAND TOGETHER

by Fabrangon Cheder

Please join us for an evening of high energy, danceable music from around the world as we affirm our commitment to decency, civil rights, and our common humanity.



Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, formed by a group of refugees displaced during the Sierra Leone Civil War, blur stylistic boundaries to create a fusion of West African styles and reggae.



Ezuz joyfully synthesizes Jewish music from around the world into a unique and powerful voice.

SAT, DEC 17, 2016  
7:00PM - 9:30 PM

WASHINGTON ETHICAL SOCIETY  
7750 16TH STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20012

Proceeds from the  
concert will benefit:

HIAS  
The National Domestic  
Abuse Hotline  
CASA de Maryland  
NAACP

SPONSORED BY: Fabrangon Cheder, Co-Sponsored by The Washington Ethical Society, Am Kolel, Fabrangon Chavurah, Endorsed by the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington

For tickets and information visit  
[not-alone.shorturl.com](http://not-alone.shorturl.com)



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