



Washington Ethical Society
A vibrant humanistic congregation

NEWS & NOTES

A weekly newsletter to keep you informed.

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WES Hosts a Bystander Intervention Training

If you saw harassment happening, would you know how to stop it? 25 people--about half WES members and half community members--were trained by Collective Action for Safe Spaces on Sunday, December 18 as part of their bystander intervention program. Learning strategies for engagement with the harasser and the victim, participants built their skills and engaged in role plays to practice together. At the end of the training, they shared that before the training they weren't sure they'd be able to step in, but now they felt empowered to act. We will sponsor another training, this one led by Defend Yourself, on Monday, January 16 at 2pm. Please register!



On the Horizon: WES Quarterly Magazine

Dear WES community,

It has been a pleasure to serve the membership as the editor of the WES Monthly Newsletter. During that time, WES has seized the opportunity to use more contemporary formats and media to get out the news



about upcoming and completed events in our society's many activity areas. Anyone can now follow us on Facebook, find information on the Web Site, and read all the news in the recently upgraded "News & Notes" -- a publication that appears in your email inbox weekly. Progress is good but it also breeds obsolescence. The Monthly is out of step. All the news comes to you weekly so what goes in the Monthly? The same thing? Stale. So, the monthly has been discontinued.

Some of us will miss the old format. I know my inbox is mostly trash so when I find a jewel like WES's "News & Notes" I'm happy it has arrived but not in the best mood to read it while I'm busy discarding spam. It is nice to sit down with a cup of coffee and a good long read. Perhaps we can bring back that experience for you. Without the Monthly, I think there is room for a Quarterly Newsletter that will take a longer view of events and allow space for new types of articles: reviews, opinion, history, etc. Wouldn't it be great if the leaders in activity areas like adult education, environment, social programs, outreach, etc. would occasionally give us a summary of what is going on, what is coming up, and how we can participate?

You'll hear about the Quarterly as plans develop. If you have some ideas, please send them to me or Amanda.

Kindly,
Paul Baker
plbaker@me.com



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 share please contact wes2017wmw@gmail.com and let us know.

The march begins at Independence Ave and Third St SW, Washington, D.C. at 10:00am on Saturday, January 21, 2017. Dress in layers, display signs and Ethical Culture

swag, bring water, and pack light. More details coming soon.



SEEK Weekly Spotlight

The Preschool and Kindergarten class showed their candles they made in class to the congregation during the SEEK Spotlight during platform. The children talked about different holidays celebrated by different communities this time of year. They learned about Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and the Solstice.



This Sunday's Platform
10:30am.

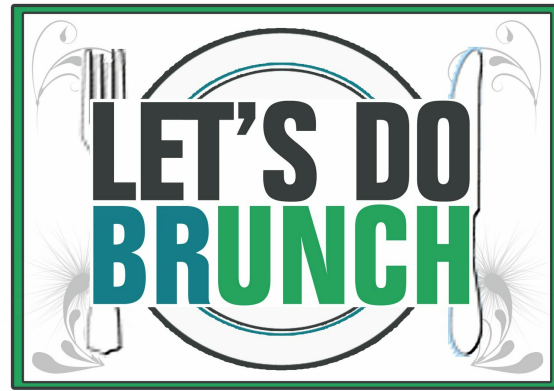
"A Gift to Each Other: Our Presence,"
Bailey Whiteman, Music Director.
December 25: for some, it's a challenging day,

This Sunday at WES

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

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 for this multi-generational platform, as we share stories about our traditions, from the silly to the sublime.

conversation.



The Upcoming Weeks at WES

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.

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

- **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/>

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 directory.

Announcements

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)

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.](#)

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**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.](#)

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Save the Date!!

People's Climate March. The massive People's Climate March being planned for Washington DC. 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.

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# STANDING DOWN IS NOT AN OPTION!

## Join us on New Year's Eve for a National Moral Revival Poor Peoples Campaign Social Justice Watch Night Service in the nation's capital.

Please join us on live-stream if you are unable to attend:  
<https://www.breachrepairers.org/livestream>

**Saturday, Dec. 31 • 10:00 pm – midnight**  
**Metropolitan A.M.E. Church**  
1518 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20005



The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II



The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.



The Rev. Dr. Traci Blackmon



The Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

The watch night service of 1862 was celebrated by enslaved and free African Americans, abolitionists, and others awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation would become law to free Blacks living in the South. The **National Moral Revival Poor People's Campaign Social Justice Watch Night Service** in 2016 will bring together diverse communities in a shared fight against extremism and commitment to advance state-based moral public policy agendas.

**We will call on people of conscious to make a moral decision to enlist in the fight against systemic racism, poverty, child poverty, extremism, denial of healthcare, voter suppression, environmental injustice, xenophobia, unchecked militarism, homophobia, transphobia, and the injustice of our current moment in history.**

**We will call for a race and poverty audit of America!**

**And we will call for a national Moral Revival Poor People's Campaign in 2017 and 2018 demanding that we address systemic policy-based racism, poverty, healthcare, and xenophobia.**

The service will include sermons and testimonies from leaders of various social justice struggles, as well as persons impacted by policy-based racism, poverty, healthcare access, and xenophobia. Religious leaders will commit to not retreat in this moment and to stand up for a moral agenda that includes **health care access for all, equality in education; criminal justice reform, economic justice, and equal protection under the law.**

**People of All Faith Traditions and Moral Conviction are Welcome.**

Sponsored by Repairers of the Breach; Healing of the Nations Ministries; Drum Major Institute; Union Theological Seminary; Auburn Theological Seminary; Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice; and a host of others.

### DEC. 31 FULL SCHEDULE

**10:00 am – 10:45 am**  
**Press Conference**  
**National City Christian Church**  
5 Thomas Circle NW, Washington, DC 20005

**11:00 am – 4:45 pm**  
**Teach-In**  
**National City Christian Church**  
5 Thomas Circle NW, Washington, DC 20005

**10:00 pm – 12:00 midnight**  
**National Watch Night Service**  
**Metropolitan A.M.E. Church**  
1518 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

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